

Grandson of the Founder of Judo Passed Away

Written by Nicolas Messner on March 9, 2020

It is with deep sorrow we inform you that Honorary President of the Kodokan Judo Institute and All Japan Judo Federation (AJJF), Yukimitsu Kano, passed away on March 8th 2020 at a hospital in Tokyo due to pneumonia. He was 87. Yukimitsu Kano was much more than his titles; he was the grandson of Jigoro Kano, the founder of judo. ([Video on Yukimitsu Kano](#))



Who does not know that name, Kano, especially in the judo world? Without Master Jigoro Kano, the sport simply would not exist. In 1882 he created judo, when he was only 22 years old. 135 years later, judo became a major Olympic sport and Paralympic sport and an educational tool for the youth of the world. While constantly evolving, it has remained committed to the values that Kano has defined.

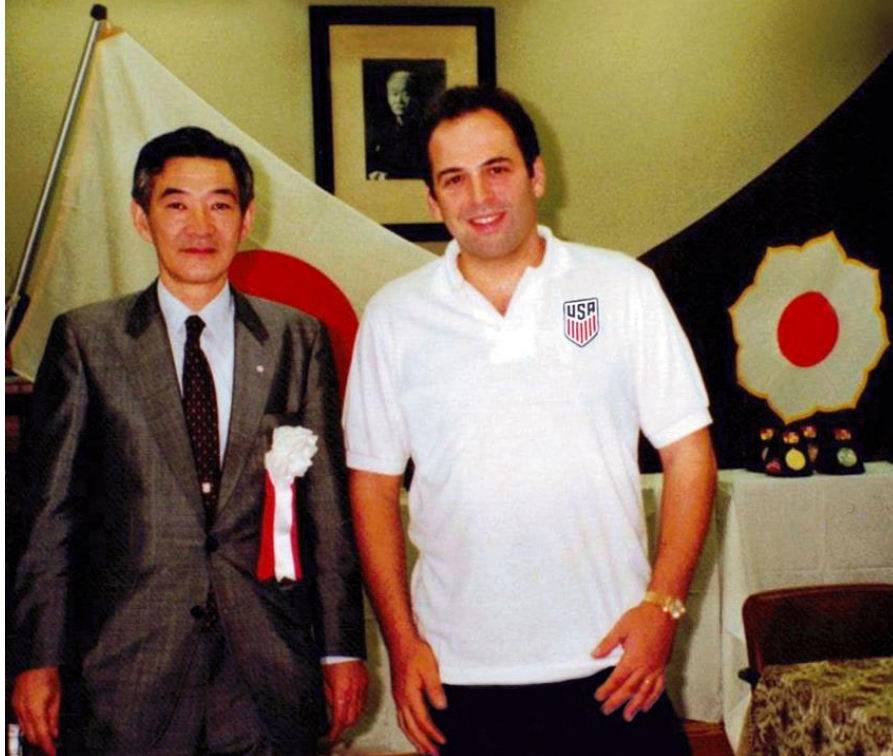
During the summer of 2017, the International Judo Federation had the privilege of meeting Yukimitsu Kano. In that exclusive interview he recalled memories of his grandfather and explained his own vision of judo, as Mr. Yukimitsu Kano has also played an important role in judo in Japan as well as in the rest of the world.

Mr. Kano explained that when he said in front of his grandfather that he wanted to find a role model and become like that person later, the founder of judo replied: “You should not try to be like somebody else. You are who you are.” This is a perfect illustration of how judo can help to build better citizens, to grow a better society. Jigoro Kano was not only teaching the theory, but he also made sure all could understand the fundamentals and he wanted his students to put his teachings into practice in society.

The whole judo family and the IJF express their deepest condolences to Mr. Kano's family, relatives and friends, to the Kodokan Institute and to the All Japan Judo Federation. Only Mr. Kano's close relatives and Kodokan employees will attend his funeral services with Akashi Kano, his eldest daughter, serving as the chief mourner. Later, a joint funeral will be held by the Kodokan and AJJF. Words of condolence should be addressed to intl@kodokan.org (Kodokan Judo Institute).

Yukimitsu Kano Profile

- April 1980 – March 2009: Fourth President of Kodokan, Second President of AJJF
- September 1980 – October 1995: President of Judo Union of Asia
- April 2009 – March 2020: Honorary President of Kodokan and AJJF



Yukimitsu Kano at the Kodokan with [Sensei Gary Goltz](#) in 1991