

# Professor Gerald L. Halligan



Gerald L. Halligan is grateful for the recognition as “Professor” within the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance, through the recommendation of Prof. Robert McKean in June 2014. This promotion included a copy of the Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Mokuroku (Jenkins version) at the Martial Arts Service Dojo, Naperville, Illinois in the presence of Prof. Maureen Browne, sister of the late Prof. Patrick Browne.

Foundation training began with introduction to Kodokan Judo by Sensei Eric Joseph at Kin Tora Judo Dojo, Buffalo, New York (May 1974). The instruction was overseen by the late Sensei Anthony Grisanti (Rokudan) and his brother, the late Sensei Martin Grisanti (Rokudan). Also, Halligan was privileged to receive competition preparation & introduction to advanced Katas of the Kodokan from the late Dr. Sachio Ashida, (Kudan), advisor to the Niagara Judo Yudanshakai and former USA Olympic Judo Coach. Through Dr. Ashida’s intervention, Halligan’s ranks of Shodan (July 1980) & Nidan (January 1985) were certified by Kodokan Membership (Tokyo, Japan).

Introduction to Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujutsu came in April 1979 from Prof. Steven McLaughlin (Reno, Nevada) during a trip to Buffalo, N.Y.. McLaughlin came to the Kin Tora Judo Dojo offering to do a demonstration of Danzan Ryu jujutsu. Halligan responded to his request for an Uke and a new path along “The Way” opened up.

From 1979 to 1983, Halligan corresponded with McLaughlin and traveled each summer to train at the Bushidokan in Sparks, Nevada. In 1984, with a letter of introduction, Halligan drove to Corning, New York, seeking instruction from Sensei Roy Lonnborg who held classes at Corning Community College (Corning, New York) and later at Cornell University (Ithaca, New York).

Sensei Lonnborg oversaw training & promotions from Shodan (1990) through Sandan (1997). These ranks were certified by the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation along with a personalized copy of the Mokuroku (Estes version) signed by the late Prof. Lamar Fisher (Hanko - November 1990). During this time period, Halligan attended special training sessions & camps conducted by Prof. Patrick Browne (Chicago, Illinois). On June 1, 2001, an unexpected honor was given to Halligan with recognition as Sandan

by the late Prof. Lono Ancho within his Kodenkan Jujitsu School (California/Hawaii – certificate with hanko, and signed by Prof. Ancho).

Advancement to Yodan (2005) was overseen by Prof. Tom Ryan (Lexington, South Carolina). Subsequently, through the recommendation of Prof Ryan, A.J.J. F. Board of Professors granted the ranks of Godan (2008) and Rokudan (2013).

Supplementary Training:

1. Atemi Training 1996 – Davis, California (A.J.J.F.)
2. OKUGI 2003 (Certificate with hanko, signed by Prof. Anthony Janovich)
3. Knife in the Woods - 3 clinics - Buffalo, NY (2004); Buffalo, NY (2007); Cuba, NY. (2010) - sponsored by Pacific Jujitsu Alliance.

Sensei Halligan's first DZR classes were held in his garage (1986). In 1991, Halligan moved classes to Kin Tora Dojo, registering Tora Getsu Kodenkai with the A.J.J. F. To honor the spirit of the late Prof Patrick Browne, (1947 -1996), the school's name was changed to Konjo Jujutsukai..The word Konjo meaning "tenacity; never giving up".

Inspired by the dedication and tireless help of Sensei Robert Kunkel, weekly instruction and attendance at Regional, Divisional & National clinics, camps and competitions, produced ten A.J.J.F. Certified Shodans. Four of these jujutsuka continued on to the rank of Godan. With continued personal effort, two of these senior instructors received title of Professor: Martin Brzykcy (American Judo & Jujitsu Federation) and Robert Korody (Pacific Jujitsu Alliance).

With thanks & gratitude for collective energy from all these teachers, and others unnamed, the transformational power of Danzan Ryu Jujutsu is a life-long process experienced by this practitioner and an unrepayable debt to Professor Seishiro "Henry" Okazaki.