

In Memory of Sensei Dave Martin

By Professor Bob McKean

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Long time PJA supporter and member Dave Martin was tragically killed in an automobile collision on April 11, 2013. David was well known and respected in the Danzan Ryu and law enforcement community.

Dave retired from the California Highway Patrol in 1991 after 23 years of honorable, dedicated and professional service to the people of the State of California. He was proud to have served as a member of the California Governor's Protection Service. After his retirement from the CHP, Dave worked for several years as a correctional officer in Arizona.

Dave served with honesty and integrity. He was well known in the law enforcement community as a police defensive tactics instructor trainer, teaching academy recruits, in-service classes and instructor courses to personnel from the CHP, and other law enforcement agencies, in the methods of physical arrest & control, straight baton and the PR-24 baton.

He had been a long time member of the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation and was often invited to teach at their annual conventions during the 1970's, 80's and early 90's. Dave hosted the 29th Annual A.J.J.F Convention held in Monterey, CA. in 1977. He was also the recipient of the A.J.J.F. Police Tactics Advisor Award.

Dave had been involved in Danzan Ryu and Kodokan Judo for over 50 years and had been long time friends with the late PJA Professor Bob Krull. During the late 1970's and 1980's, Dave and Bob taught numerous women's self-defense classes and law enforcement tactics related courses together in Northern California. Dave assisted Bob in designing the curriculum for the early K.I.T.W (Knives in the Woods) combat knife training courses.

For those who knew Dave, he was a very caring and passionate man but he was a no nonsense kind of guy. He lived by Professor Okazaki's Esoteric Principles and the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and led others by example. He taught Danzan Ryu and his police defensive tactics classes with a warrior spirit with the goal of having his students be able to defend themselves in real and life threatening encounters. When lecturing the students of one of his law enforcement courses, I remember a young officer asking Dave how technical a specific technique was to be applied on a violent suspect. Dave's answer was, "It does not have to be pretty it just has to hurt."

During my law enforcement career I had the honor of attending several of Dave's law enforcement instructor development courses, and through him, I became a straight baton instructor and a PR-24 side handle baton instructor. The tactics and techniques Dave taught me stayed with me, and were sometimes used, throughout my law enforcement career. What Dave taught me helped me survive several violent and life threatening street encounters. Without Dave's coaching I may not be here today writing about his life.

Dave was my friend, a cop's cop, a real Danzan Ryu warrior and a veteran of the United States Air Force. He will be dearly missed. I'm sure he is looking down on us along with Professor Henry S. Okazaki, Professor Bill Montero, Professor Pat Browne and Professor Bob Krull, all drinking rum and coke and laughing, while they evaluate our Danzan Ryu training and wait for us to join them.