

Professor Michael D. Tucker

1964-2018



Mike began his martial arts training in Tae Kwon Do during January 1989 under Kwang Jang Nim Tony Thompson and Bu Kwang Jang Nim Ev Pepper at West Coast TKD. While training there, he met Professor Robert J. McKean in 1990, and began to study Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu from him. In 1992 he received his Red Belt in TKD from West Coast. After that he focused on jujitsu where he received his Shodan rank in 1994 and his jujitsu Sensei title in 1999. To date, Mike has had the honor of promoting 9 Black Belts. Mike received his most recent jujitsu rank of Rokudan and Professor title in June of 2013 from the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance. Also under Professor McKean, Mike is studying Kodenkan Bokendo and holds a Master Level Instructor Certification.

Mike began studying Combat Knife Fighting under the late Prof. Robert F. Krull in 1994 and received his Master Combat Knife Instructor certificate in August 2008. He is a founder, member and Plank Holder of the Concrete Warrior Knife Society (Member No. 4). Mike continues to study knife fighting under Prof. McKean and Master Don Richards. Professor McKean introduced Mike to Sensei Cary Takagawa in 1992, and Mike received the USJA Judo rank of Shodan from Takagawa Sensei in 1995. Mike is a USJA Silver Patron Life Member, No. 9576.

While studying judo, Mike trained with then USJA president Phil Porter, and assisted in the creation of the USJA Jujitsu Manual. He started training in Krav Maga in 1997 and received the rank of Green Belt from Mr. Darren Levine in 1999. Mike is also a signing founder of the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance, and personally witnessed the signing of the Kilohana Martial Arts Association Charter. In 2000 he met the late Professor Imi Okazaki Mullens and her husband, and they became very close friends. Prof. Imi visited and taught at Mike's dojo numerous times, and Mike is most proud to say they were on a first name basis. She shared with him many intimate stories about life in the Okazaki household, which gave Mike a much more personal connection to Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. He has also had the pleasure of training with late Professors Walter Todd and Pat Browne.

Mike grew up in a military family (around the world) and currently ran a small tech business in Silicon Valley. Mike was the head of the Danzan Ryu Jujitsu program at Pacific Jujitsu dojo in Fremont, CA.

Prof. Mike Tucker passed away in January 2018 after battling cancer for almost a year. He was a true friend to all who knew him and will be sorely missed.

“Courage, above all things, is the first quality of a Warrior”