



Ka Leo O Kodenkan

American Jujitsu Institute

Since 1939

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"Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono"

Issue 2

AJI Loses Professor Sam C. Luke



Professor Samuel Cummins Luke, President of the American Jujitsu Institute, and President of the Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Alliance passed away on May 23, 2017 at the age of 82 at the Castle Medical Center with his wife and family members by his side. He passed away following complications after triple bypass heart surgery.

Sam was born March 11, 1935. He was a proud St. Louis School alumnus, attending from 1st grade until graduation. He received his Public Administration BA from the University of Hawaii. After college he managed several insurance companies and recently became semi-retired as an independent insurance agent. Along with being President of the American Jujitsu Institute, Sam was President of the Lin Yee Chung Association, Chairman of the Living Life Source Foundation, Lay Minister at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, and Regional President of the Association Information Technology Professionals. He was honored by the Chinese Society of Hawaii as the Model Father for 2011.

Prof. Luke is survived by his wife Florence, sons Lance (Darlene), Layne (Tessie), Larsen and daughter Lisa (Eddie) Anderson, eight grandchildren, one great grandchild, brother Vernon and sister Lynda (Ed) Lee. He is predeceased by his son Lorin and brother Kingsley. Services were held on June 17, 2017 at St. John Vianney Church in Kailua.

Prof. Sam C. Luke started practicing jujitsu at the age of 10, with his father, Samuel S. Luke serving as his instructor. He received his Shodan in 1952, and then began teaching. He was ranked as Judan by AJI. He taught at the Kamehameha School for Boys as well as the Punahou School, the Mililani Jujitsu Club in Nanakuli, the Navy Housing Area Jujitsu Club and assisted at the Nuuna Judo and Jujitsu School. He served in the Navy Reserves, the Hawaii National Guard and the Army Reserves Special Forces Paratroopers.

Prof. Luke became Secretary of the AJI in 1972 and has been President of the AJI since 2001. He served nearly as long as President of the Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Alliance, following the resignation of the first president Prof. Willy Cahill.

All of us in the American Jujitsu Institute as well as throughout the martial arts community will greatly miss Professor Luke's leadership, friendship, and support.





Sue Jennings shown with Prof. Sam C. Luke at Ohana 2016 with Prof. Okazaki in the background.

What I Learned From My Friendship With Prof. Sam Luke

By: Sensei Sue Jennings

I had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Prof. Sam C. Luke for the past several decades, both as Editor of the AJI Newsletter and as Secretary of the Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Alliance, serving the Danzan Ryu community.

I treated this time working with him as both a privilege and a huge responsibility.

As Editor of the newsletter, my job is to not only to get the news out, but to make all contributors look good and as professional as possible. Prof. Luke was always supportive of my efforts, so this made my job so much easier.

As President of the Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Alliance, Prof. Luke showed how leadership does not need to be done with an iron fist. He handled and communicated with the various leaders of the Danzan Ryu world showing respect for their positions, and the organizations they represented, but with the inner strength that he knew "they all meant well". He always looked for the good in people. When Prof. Luke spoke at a meeting, others listened. He commanded others' respect by the fact that he genuinely cared for all and what we were trying to accomplish. He earned their respect by "being respectful" and espousing love. It was all about loving your fellow man.

He was one of the best examples of actually living the Esoteric Principles of Prof. Henry Okazaki that I've seen. We should all try to emulate this and make them both proud.

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Cultural Transitions

By: Sensei Mason Bergeron

To Okinawa and Back Again: a Warrior's Dream

(Part 2 of this story)

TROPICAL ISLAND TO FROZEN TUNDRA

After six years, the Air Force decided that it needed me elsewhere. I received an official notification that I had maxed out my assignment in Okinawa, and I would be relocating to Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. I refused to believe it at first, but eventually the truth set in and I had to start making plans. I contemplated getting out of the military and finding civilian work on the island, but decided to stay in and hope to find a way back. Over the next few months, there were countless going away parties and I spent every available second with the people I had grown to love. Before I left, Shinjo Sensei presented me with two beautiful large wall scrolls that he hand painted himself. One of them reads "Onko chishin" or "Learn the new by understanding the old." The other one reads "Shiwahari deshiwa ito" or "The teacher is as the needle and the student as the thread." He insisted that I teach Karate when I arrive to my new station and return to Okinawa whenever possible. Both of these scrolls now hang proudly in my small North Dakota Dojo and remind me each day why I'm here.



THE REAL CULTURE SHOCK

The air was bitterly cold. The ground was flat and brown and due to the lack of trees and hills, you could see for miles. This indeed was the frozen tundra. I knew immediately that this would be a challenge, and wasted no time accepting it. I visited the base fitness center and offered to teach a free class three days per week. I was shocked at how easy it was! They requested to see my certificates and I was teaching classes the following month.

Getting students was not a problem in the least. Curious people with little to do consistently made their way into my class to see what it was all about. The biggest challenge that I found was starting from scratch with each and every student. In Okinawa, whether you have Martial Arts experience or not, everyone knows what it is and has a basic understanding. I remember during one of my first classes at the fitness center, I stood before two lines of students standing at attention. I explained that I had just spent the last six years in Okinawa studying under Grandmaster Kiyohide Shinjo and that the style they were about to learn is Okinawan Uechi Ryu Karate-Do.

Everyone stood silent and looked confused. One of them mustered up the courage to raise his hand and speak for the bunch as he asked, "What's Okinawa?" As I'm sure you understand by now, everything in North Dakota completely contrasts everything in Okinawa. But this....this was the *real* culture shock! I continued teaching free classes there for a year, and am very proud to say that I've been fairly successful in introducing Okinawan Karate and Kobudo to Minot Air Force Base. However, the steady influx of brand new students with no commitment or understanding of what it was they were looking for began to wear on me and on the progress of the serious students that really wanted to learn. It was time for a change.

ENTER THE MASON JUKU

I cancelled my classes at the fitness center, transformed the first floor of my house into a small Dojo and the serious students followed without question. This change obviously decreased my numbers, but absolutely increased the quality of people who train with me. This change also gave me the opportunity to open the first Danzan Ryu class in Minot (and possibly North Dakota). To see the Kodenkan Mason Juku off to a successful beginning, Professor Medici was kind enough to leave his cactus patch in Arizona for a weekend with us in Minot. The 2-day seminar was a priceless experience for everyone involved. While there were many lessons to be learned, the greatest gift for me was to see my students learn and interact with my Jujitsu teacher. Thanks to the support of my all of my teachers, the Minot students and my Okinawan wife, Yuka, I am currently teaching Uechi Ryu Karate, Ryukyu Kobudo and Danzan Ryu Jujitsu in the small, first floor Dojo of my home. Without teachers, there are no students and without students, there are no teachers. This Dojo wouldn't be here without them. My wife, while not a Martial Artist herself, has a very thorough understanding and appreciation for what we do, and has been incredibly supportive in every way. This Dojo would not be here without her.

After two years here, I have certainly learned a lot about myself and the arts I teach. This did not come as a surprise, because Medici Sensei has always "warned" me that, "you never truly understand your art until you teach it." He was correct. But a more disturbing reality that I've had to face is that there are two common approaches to teaching (and learning) in America, one more common than the other. We can attract tremendous quantities of students by making things faster, friendlier and easier.

On the other hand, we can choose to follow the ways of our teachers like a thread follows a needle. *Shiwahari deshiwa ito....*

I speak with honest, hard-earned experience when I say that of the hundreds of Dojo scattered on the tiny island of Okinawa, there is only one approach, and *nothing* about it is fast, friendly or easy. While the general understanding of Bushido is not so inherent here and the majority of people don't want to walk the path that the arts demand, I sometimes find myself amazed by the few that do. As expected, students come and students go, but there is a small handful of true Budo-ka, even here in the frozen tundra.

I have no intentions of making Minot my permanent residence, but I've accepted that this is a part of my journey and will do my best to ensure that pure Martial Arts traditions find their place in North Dakota.



The Life of Professor Libert O'Sullivan

By: Professor Hans Ingebretsen (shared with permission of the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance)

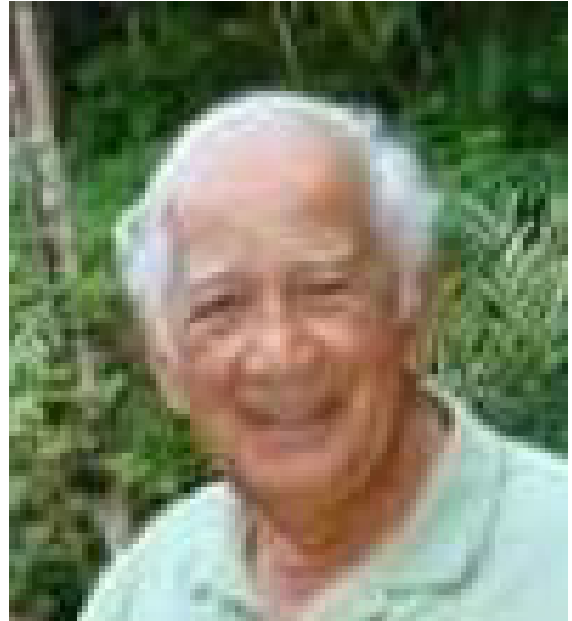
Professor Libert Kuuleilunalilo O'Sullivan, 10th dan in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu, passed away on January 31, 2017 after 86 years of bringing joy into the lives of all he touched.

Born on September 14, 1930, he was an educator who served as the vice principal at Saint Louis High School on the island of O'ahu. He is survived by his wife Beverly, to whom he was married for 60 years, as well as his sons Libert, Paul, and Douglas, and daughter Anna.

He traveled extensively, having a particular love of Germany. In fact, while visiting Germany once, he had the opportunity to make one of his signature woven hats for Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. When the chancellor put the hat on, he commented, "It's too small." With his typical aplomb, Libert answered, "Perhaps the head is too big." This was a classic example of Libert's quick and penetrating humor.

Libert worked as a docent at the Queen's Palace in Honolulu, and at many other locations, and enthralled many an ear with his great stories. He was a captivating public speaker, and he was also well known for his many appearances on local Hawaiian T.V. commercials. An excellent singer, he livened up many a party by belting out a few choice songs.

When he attended jujitsu events on the mainland, he would be surrounded by students who were thrilled to spend time with him. A tall, powerful man, he exuded power, but always held himself with an easy grace. He chose to wear a white obi, representing the full circle of training from white belt to black belt and back to white again. Always humble, his seminars were full of his sparkling wisdom and quick wit. Having trained under Professor Sig Kufferath, he was the person Prof. Kufferath turned his dojo over to when he moved from Hawaii to the mainland. Prof. O'Sullivan was also a senior advisor to the Kilohana Martial Art Association.



Many people were the recipients of his special leis that he constructed of white, black and red cloth, representing the different colored belts one wears as they progress towards mastery of the art of jujitsu. The first such lei that he made was presented as a gift to Professor Wally Jay.

A celebration of life was held for Libert on February 22, 2017 at Heieia State Park in Kaneohe, Hawaii, where the guests shared their stories of this great man. Music was provided by Makaha Sons, with Barry Flanagan, from the group Hapa, sitting in with them on guitar. Libert's son Daniel had passed away just a week after Libert did, and there was hardly a dry eye in the room when Barry sang his version of "Danny Boy."

Whether digging in a taro patch or weaving baskets and hats, Professor O'Sullivan shared the Hawaiian culture with many people, and his aloha remains with us all.

Editor's Note: Prof. Libert O'Sullivan served on the Board of the American Jujitsu Institute for years. He supported the organization and will be greatly missed by all who knew him, had the opportunity to learn from him, and appreciated his wry sense of humor.



One Man's Opinion

By Professor Carlos Gallegos

As Professor Jim Lambert calls it,

“Mat Manners.”

Throughout my many years of studying martial arts and going to clinics, I often reflect on the first clinic I attended - Ohana 1990.

A professor, I don't recall his name, was teaching a clinic on jujitsu. Professor Anton Gonzalez was assisting at the clinic. Professor Gonzalez began correcting me on a technique.

However, he stopped, and went to the main instructor to ask him how he was teaching the technique so he would not confuse me. This is a great example of good Mat Manners.

I sometimes see instructors correcting students while another instructor is teaching a clinic. This often leads to confused students and a lack of confidence in the main instructor. The result is that there is no real or deep teaching or learning taking place.

Mat Manners also apply to students.

I sometimes hear students say, “I learned it a different way,” or “I think the technique would be better like this.”

Good Mat Manners would require that you stick to the program and the technique as they are being taught. Anything less is disrespectful to the instructor and your training partner.

One last thing, which we all know already — talking while an instructor is teaching is bad Mat Manners.

Practice Professor Okazaki's esoteric principles in all that you do. Applying these principles sets the foundation of all great instruction and deep learning.



Happenings at the Mizu Shin Tao Dojo

A 150 hour Nihon Kaifuku Anma class was held at the Grizzly Creek site as well as the Dojo.

The class included anatomy, physiology, history, kappo, and the basic anma. We had three people that completed the class and qualified to be certified in the anma.

We had students that had been certified years prior to this class that attended as well. The graduates at this even were: Jefferson Thomas, Cathie Ricioli, and Jenna Poell.

Other attendees included Prof. Tom Rennie, Travis Christensen, Sensei Mike Bern, and Melissa Wiseman. The three graduates worked very diligently to complete the class and had gotten some previous instruction from Prof. Zane Graham.

We are all very proud of these graduates and are excited that they will carry on the Danzan Ryu Tradition of anma. They are anxious to move on to the Seifukujutsu techniques of the system.

Congratulations to all.

Prof. Ken Eddy.

Professor Okazaki's Kodengan Belt Buckle

By: Professor Dan Butler (shared with permission of the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance)

At the July 2016 Christian Jujitsu Association annual camp, Professor Gene Edwards shared several DZR historical items with those in attendance. One of those items was the brass belt buckle pictured above. These buckles were awarded by Master Okazaki to his top students.

The wording on the buckle states:

Prof. H.S. Okazaki's
American Jujitsu Institute
Black Belt
Organized 1939
Hawaii

The buckle (right) was given to Prof. Edwards by Hachiro Okazaki, the oldest son of Master Okazaki in July 1978. At the time, Prof. Edwards was visiting Hachiro at his residence above Nikko Restoration Massage in Honolulu, Hawaii. Prof Edwards, his future wife, Lora, and Tom and Christine King had traveled to Hawaii to interview Hachiro about his father and early DZR.

Jostens, a 120 year-old American company which continues to make yearbooks and class rings, manufactured the "first run" of buckles in the 1930's and then a second batch of buckles likely in the 1940s. Hachiro provided three "first run" belt buckles to his visitors; one each to Prof Edwards and Prof Lora Edwards, and one to Tom and Christine King. Prof Edwards also received one "second run" belt buckle from Hachiro during the visit. Jostens was contacted to determine if they could provide any additional information on the buckles, but their records only go back 10 years.



A new Black Belt at Mizu Shin Tao

By Professor Ken Eddy

Jefferson Thomas has been a student of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu since 2013 and has strived to develop his understanding of the Kodengan System several days a week since he became involved. Jefferson drives 30 miles 4 to 5 times a week to train and shows great commitment to his training. He is eager to learn, has no ego and is willing to share information with his fellow students. He shows the utmost respect, not only to his teachers, but to all that he comes in contact with. He has been making every effort to participate in everything he can and shows his willingness to receive guidance from all regardless of rank. Jefferson received his Shodan in early 2017 He will be a great asset to the Danzan community and the AJI.

Congratulations Jefferson.



What is your DZR legacy?

By Sensei David Woodland

Several decades ago Jean-Henry Fabre, a French scientist, did an experiment with Processionary Caterpillars. These caterpillars move through the forest in long processions with one leading and the others following with their heads on the 'rear extremity' of the one in front of it. Each caterpillar plods along assuming the caterpillar in front of it knows where they are going.

One day Fabre enticed the caterpillars onto the rim of a large flowerpot. He got them all connected to each other, forming a circle without beginning or end. Instinct directed them to start moving, so they went round and round the rim of the flowerpot.

Fabre assumed that eventually one of the caterpillars would realize they were on a useless march and break the circle. He was very surprised as this creeping, living circle continued to go around the rim in a mindless journey to nowhere.

They continued their relentless pace for seven days before sheer exhaustion and starvation finally overcame them. They were so focused on following the one in front that they neglected to see that in the center of the pot Fabre had placed plenty of food and water that could have saved their lives.

Fabre wondered why these caterpillars didn't stop and partake of the needed nutrients their bodies craved. His conclusion was that their instinct, habit, and past experience were so ingrained in who they were that they blindly followed the one in front of them. These caterpillars, hooked together around this pot, assumed their activity led them to achievement. In reality it led nowhere.

I believe this story illustrates the importance of helping our jujitsu students change direction and focus when needed. It also illustrates that activity will not always lead our students to accomplishment or fulfillment of their goals. We can also teach them to be aware of whom they are following.

The best sensei/professors are always effective leaders.

I believe with all my heart that the only way to be a great sensei is to teach and mentor others, to help them become great sensei's also. All the sensei that I have had the fortune to study under, (Prof. Mike Lynch and Prof. Ron Jennings) have said to me several times that their goal isn't to create black belts but to create professors that will one day be better than them and carry on DZR to future generations. The best martial artists are not remembered for what they kept to themselves or kept secret but for what they shared with others, regardless of race, gender or social standing. What a great way to create a legacy.

Tom Peters wrote, "Leaders don't create followers - they create more leaders." The idea of expanding one's own effectiveness and sphere of influence by promoting and recognizing others is certainly not new, but it is an idea that deserves a revival in some Danzan Ryu organizations.

So why don't more DZR organizations and sensei embrace the role of a mentor?

Hierarchy is a polarizing mechanism. When it's working fairly and properly, individuals can benefit. When it is corrupted or run incompetently, everybody suffers (except perhaps those few at the top). Hierarchy is a powerful tool, thrust into the hands of people who may or may not deserve it.

In the midst of a thousand civilian activities and pastimes lies the martial arts. No basketball coach or yoga teacher holds the same authority and influence over subordinates as the martial arts sensei. (Ironically, no coach or teacher could get away with the same lack of credentials and know-how as a slick, philandering martial arts 'master').

With the martial arts hierarchy working correctly students, children especially, can benefit from learning respect for superiors and by learning self-discipline, which is the cornerstone to personal success.

The benefits of DZR hierarchy.

The hierarchy of a dojo can often be a microcosm for what people can expect in the real world. Students who learn the intricacies of handling superiors, subordinates, and 'equals' can often translate those skills into the workplace and home environments.

A positive dojo hierarchy can also provide serious motivation for students to achieve. The desire to 'move up the ladder' and earn the respect that seniors have can become palpable, and students are sometimes able to push themselves beyond what they thought was attainable. It is a goal-setting ideal that can teach people to move beyond their perceived limits and take charge of their own destiny.

This may just be your most important role as a sensei - mentoring, teaching and developing the skills of your students. What happens when you don't help people develop? They quit! They move on to other organizations and/or dojos that have better opportunities for growth and advancement.

The pitfalls of DZR hierarchy.

The benefits discussed can be perverted more easily than you might suspect. The desire for respect can often lead to a lust for power. Vanity and self-importance are traits not uncommon in martial arts 'masters' who wield their position like a club. The ability to start a dojo and to have students underneath you is astoundingly easy; anyone can do it. Therefore, people that have no outlet for their self-aggrandizement will, often times, use martial arts to satisfy their needs. Command, power, and influence are highly addictive. Some sensei's enjoy seeing a little army consisting of versions of themselves, ready to listen, follow, and take commands.

One problem is that many sensei feel threatened when they develop the talents of others, especially students who have the potential to become better than they are, they see it as a threat to their position in the hierarchy.

There is no threat when there is mutual respect.

The best sensei measures success by the student that surpasses their own skills, talents and abilities. When sensei plays an active role in mentoring and training someone to exceed their skill level, there is no threat - only earned respect.

I've tried to honor my sensei and train my students to become better martial artists than I'll ever be, if they take the initiative to pursue the training and study. **That's not a threat to me** - that's my role as a sensei to guide them on the path.

As I promoted the student, the student elevated me.

Just recently I noticed something very interesting was happening in my relationship with my black belts. Something I didn't ask for, it just spontaneously started happening... before my students became black belts they addressed me as sensei. I'm sure they still felt some sense of dependence and deference toward me, as I promoted my first black belts, and then later as I recognized a few of these students with higher rank and recognized them for their achievements - those students started addressing me as "Master."

As the student excels, my role as sensei must shift from simply teaching technique to more mentoring and coaching that student to even higher levels of performance.

That's the secret to creating a lasting legacy - a Danzan Ryu organization that can be a source of inspiration and a guiding light to help students achieve their goals and learn the techniques and traditions that have benefited practitioners for generations.

Pacific Northwest News

By: Sensei Sue Jennings

In the Pacific Northwest we are getting ready for our annual summer camp, Kamp KaishinKai, which will be held August 5 and 6 on the property of Prof. Ron and Sensei Sue Jennings at Grand Mound, Washington.

Saturday will include visits from other members of our regional workouts which include Washington and Oregon. Sensei Bob Parksion of the Salem Budokai has been a regular at our regional workouts over the past 20 years. We look forward to his participation and bringing a few students to join us.

Camp itself will include classes all day Saturday followed by a group meal at the local casino which is known for its seafood buffet. Prof. Len Riley, representing ShoshinRyu, who is now living in the Seattle area, has agreed to be one of the instructors at the camp this year. Sunday will include classes for half a day, then students can travel home and prepare for the rest of their week. Those students that choose can tent out under the stars in this primitive camping environment, or stay at a local hotel nearby. Whichever manner students choose, they are required to have a good time and be safe.

At our camp, Rule #1 is Safety. Rule #2 is - Don't forget Rule #1! With Sensei John Doyle attending from LaConner, Washington - we will be well covered. John has served as both an EMT and firefighter, so the students and the firepit should all be safe!

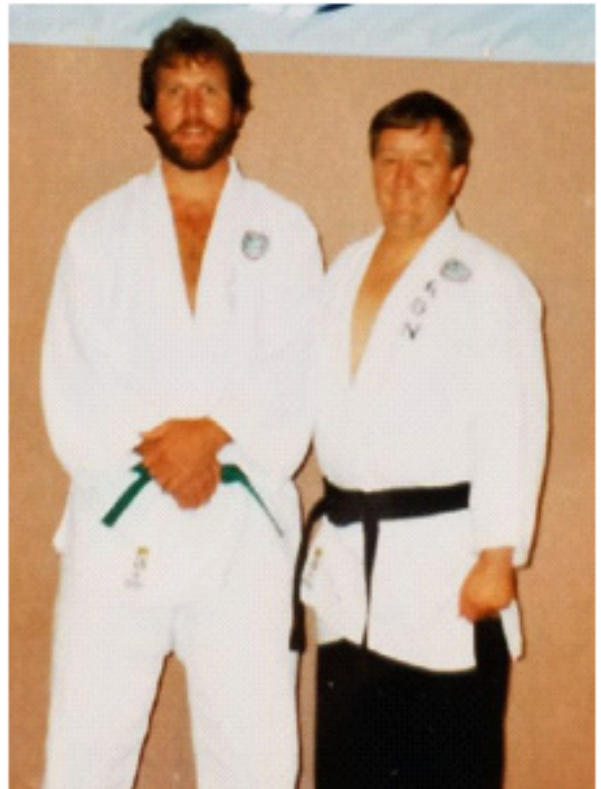
We look for this to be a smaller camp this year, but students need an event in the Northwest for those that cannot travel to the major conventions the organizations are offering.

Classes in Eatonville, LaConner, Seattle and Portland are all on the lower side with summer here, but hopefully classes will pick up as we approach the next school year.

KaishinKai Loses Dr. Scot Turner

On a very sad note, we have lost one of our KaishinKai students, Dr. Scot Turner. at the age of 58. Scot who studied with KaishinKai during the 90's and taught at the Evergreen State College prior to Sue Jennings starting a class there passed away unexpectedly following a stroke, due to an enlarged heart he never realized he had. Scot was not only a model student, but also a chiropractor, and was Ron and Sue Jennings' family chiropractor. Scot is survived by his wife Janet, and a son and daughter, and one grandchild.

One of the pleasures Scot shared with us was when we hosted the Jujitsu America National Convention in Olympia in 1997, he had the honor of escorting Prof. Imi Okazaki Mullins from the airport in Seattle to Olympia. He admitted talking to her and getting to know her was one of his highlights in all of his years of training with KaishinKai. He thought she was a very special person. After Prof. Imi Okazaki Mullins returned home she wrote us a thank you note expressing her appreciation for the event. She made special mention of Scot in her letter.



Dr. Scot Turner is shown following the Jujitsu America Convention in Tumwater, Washington, with his sensei, Prof. Ron Jennings.

To quote Prof. Imi Okazaki Mullins,

"Please convey my thanks to Scot. I enjoyed our conversation during the drive to Tumwater, and am most grateful to him for adjusting my hip and helping my friends, Clyde (Zimmerman) and Lavina. Although Scot and Sharon are but two members of your dojo, they reflect in very positive terms, the qualities of their sensei."

The photo to the right is at the 1997 Convention for Jujitsu America with Scot serving as uke for his new friend, Prof. Imi Okazaki Mullins.

A memorial will be held in July for family and friends of Scot. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a special and caring man.

We will miss Prof. O'Sullivan

But when we think about special and caring men - I will have to say one other gentlemen we've recently lost will always keep a special place in our hearts as well.

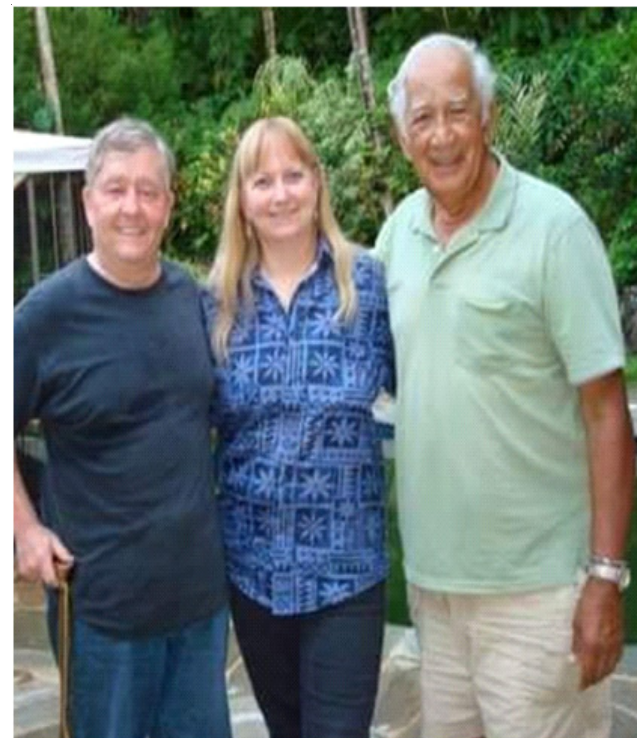
Prof. Libert O'Sullivan which we lost in January, became a man we'll never forget for what he did for our students.

My husband Ron and I travelled to Hawaii for Ohana 2001 with a group from our dojo. Several of the students that were able to attend were members of the Ossa family. This involved Solomon, Gabriel, Nicole and her fiance Andy. The Ossa family helped run a nursery, so they were amazed by the flora and fauna of Hawaii. When one of the AJI folks told us how knowledgeable Professor O'Sullivan was about the local plants, he offered to show the Ossa family some of the beautiful plants that the area boasted by driving them around and giving them his personal tour. It made a lasting impression about what a generous person Prof. Libert O'Sullivan was.

What a life experience it made for our students, too.

Ron and I were able to get to know Professor a little better each time we saw him. From all the stories we have heard of him, we wish we would have been able to have known him longer.

Photo to the right: Ron and Sue Jennings with Prof. O'Sullivan at Bruce Raney's home about a decade ago.





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