

Richard Kim

A Personal Perspective

On the recommendation of my [then] kumite coach, Wally Slocki, I attended my first Richard Kim seminar in October of 1977 in Hamilton, Ontario [Canada]. Following the seminar, hosted by Mr. Don Warrenner, I was asked to attend a private gathering where I was invited to become [and accepted as] a student of the Master.

In spite the jealousy-driven incompatibility with his inner-circle I enjoyed a friendly and fruitful relationship with Sensei for many years. During that time I was a nationally rated competitor and drawing noticeable media attention which reflected favorably upon attracting new members to the Zen Bei Butoku Kai. I rarely missed an opportunity to train with Sensei or have him teach at my own dojo. I spoke favorably about him everywhere and wrote wonderfully complementary words in both newspaper and magazine articles. On my recommendation many joined the Zen Bei Butokukai, even though in those days we all thought it was the Dai Nippon Butokukai. In those days, Sensei was "THE MAN," hell, he walked on water" as far as I was concerned and I was more than just proud to be among his most trusted students.

Over the years I had heard a few rumors about Sensei questioning the veracity of his stories but never put much thought into them believing that they most likely surfaced from jealousy, and or disgruntled ex-students with axes to grind. However, after hearing an allegation that he'd plagiarized Ezio Shimabuku's 1964 publication about Okinawa's "Weaponless Warriors" [first brought to my attention by Gerry Gould, a senior karate veteran from Washington State], I began to question a few of the tall tales and other areas of his life [i.e. academic & martial art's lineage & accreditation, the war stuff, his meeting Yabu Kentsu, and his affiliation with the Busen, etc.] with a few of his students. Confiding in those few students proved disastrous as my "*confidential*" inquiries were taken straight to him. In due course, I was provided with an opportunity to speak directly to him about the allegations and rumors which were laughed away as preposterous and implausible. Unbeknown to me, from that time forward, those closest to him began to spread rumors aimed at discrediting me. Of course, that ultimately lead to our falling out; although I must admit, I didn't actually know about it until I was told that other members were being warned to "stay away from me"! One of his students, named Dennis Farbatique, even threatened to kill me! I wanted to believe that Sensei was telling the truth, and that the allegations were false, but in the end I felt as if I was played like a yo-yo. Those were very difficult times.

Not long after that I flew from Vancouver to San Francisco where I attended a BBQ at Golden Gate Park hosted by some of Sensei's old students, folks who had known him long before I ever did. During that trip I also had the opportunity to visit a several of his former senior students as well as speak on the telephone with a former work colleague of Sensei's from the Sailor's Union of the Pacific. Collectively, what I discovered wasn't terribly complimentary and it also proved that I was not alone...others had met with similar fates for "*such behavior*." Armed with my new discoveries I contacted Sensei again and succeeded in opening a new level of dialogue --- a dialogue where no punches were pulled nor quarter given. As expected sparks flew and the dialogue was lively to say the very least. I didn't always like what he wrote, nor did he like some of the things I wrote [no e-mail in those days], but at least we were straight forward, and spoke our mind. As time passed I relocated to Japan, tempers cooled and wounds on both sides gradually healed. A plethora of personal letters back and forth over the succeeding years allowed me to see that the truth can be different things to different people.

There's little doubt in my mind that Sensei was both loved, and hated, of course, the same has been said about many great people...and there can be little doubt that he was, in fact, great. I'm not sure that such a thing entitles anyone to privilege above and beyond others or even inculpability for that matter. Even those who found fault with him [including myself] never argued over the depth of his immense knowledge nor divine inspiration. I have been guilty of speaking badly of Sensei on several occasions and with the least of provocation, where it may have been more considerate of me to bite my tongue. Such is life and I can no sooner take back the hostile words spoken in anger and or written in smoldering resentment then I can hide the fact that I loved and respected him as a father---in both extremes I experienced learning and inner-growth.

I am quite certain that history will not remember Richard Kim for what, if anything, he did wrong. Perhaps it will choose, as have I, to remember him for what he accomplished and contributed, and for how he guided and inspired. In spite of our less-than-perfect relationship, which spanned across the distance of twenty-five years, Richard Kim opened many doors and provided more than ample guidance, some of which is only beginning to make sense now. I am grateful I was guided by him.

Patrick McCarthy

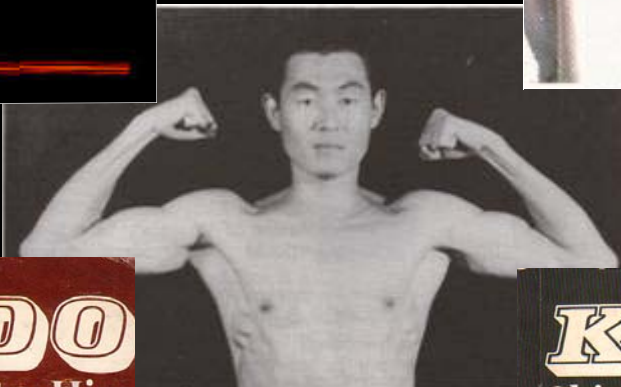
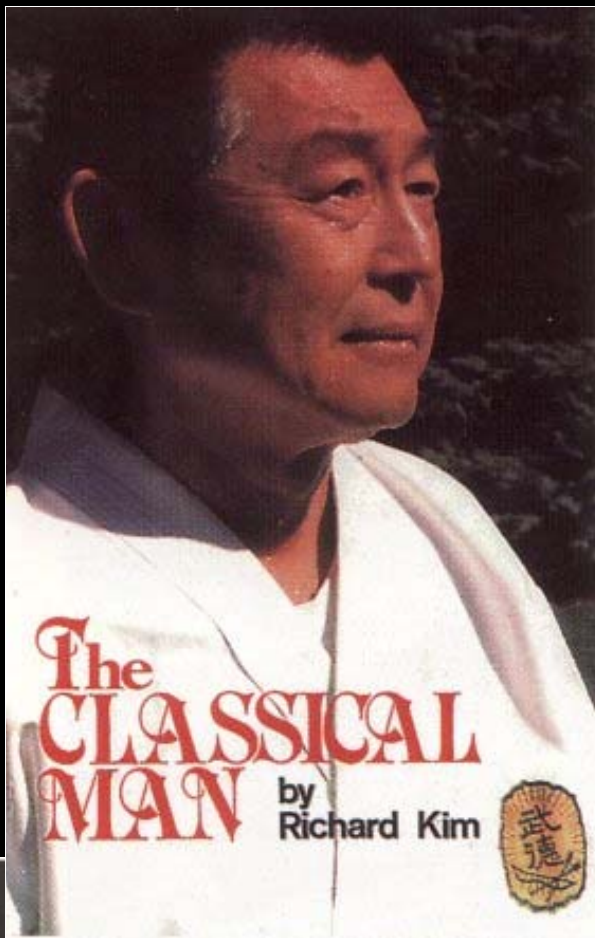
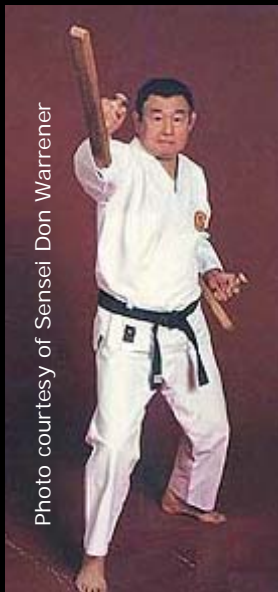
RICHARD KIM

The WEAPONLESS WARRIORS



AN INFORMAL HISTORY
OF OKINAWAN
KARATE

Photo courtesy of Sensei Don Warrener



KOBUDO

Okinawan Weapons of Matsu Higa



1

by Richard
Kim



Photo courtesy of
Sifu Hagood

KOBUDO

Okinawan Weapons of Hama Higa



2

by
Richard Kim



Butoku Kai Representation

By the authority accorded me by the Butoku Kai, Japan;
I, Richard Kim, 9th Dan Hanshi, hereby appoint
Mr. Pat McCarthy, Tokyo, Japan, as the official Butoku Kai
representative for Tokyo, Japan.

In this capacity, Mr. Pat McCarthy will direct the Butoku Kai,
Tokyo, Japan; and promulgate Shorinji Karate and other
martial arts of the Butoku Kai.

Signed, Today February 1st, 1994
Richard Kim
Richard Kim, 9th Dan Hanshi
Dai Nippon Butoku Kai

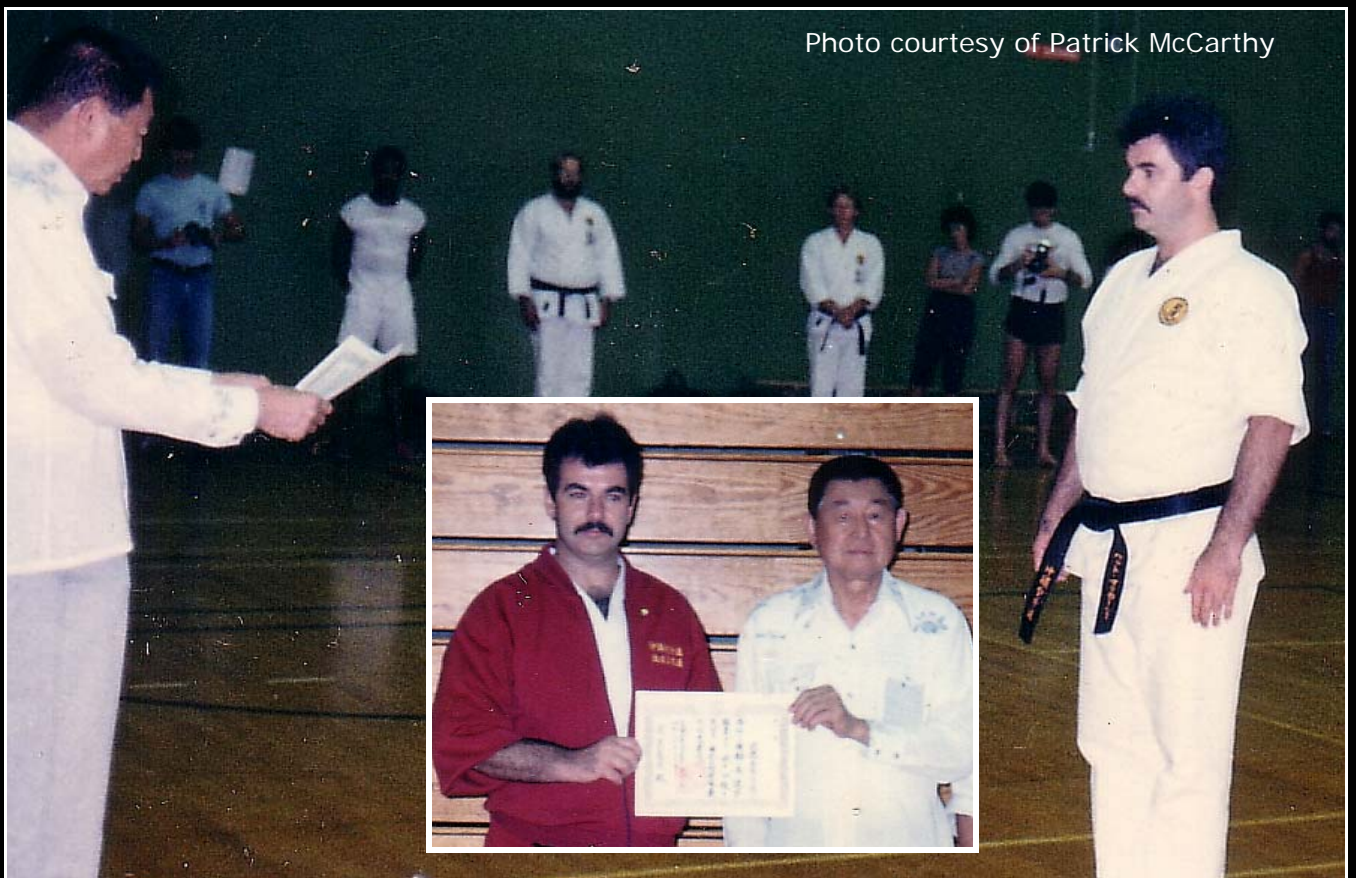
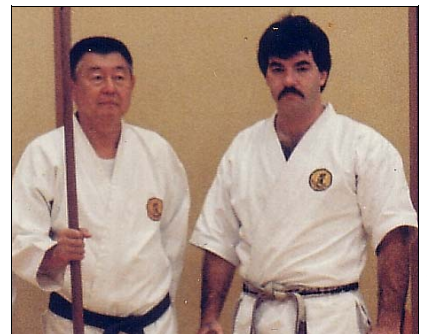


Photo courtesy of Patrick McCarthy



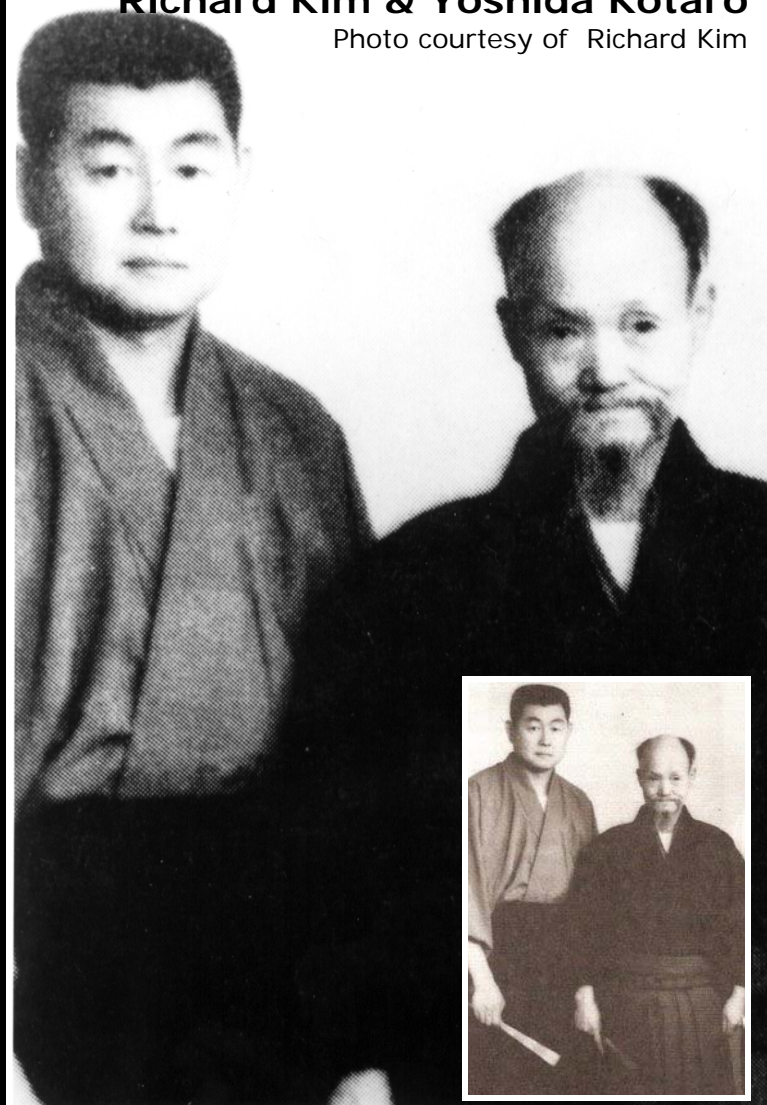
Photo courtesy of the Historical Photo Album c/o <http://www.sailors.org/history.html> [click to the 19th image]

Sun Sung (Richard) Kim age 23 of Honolulu, HI, Position: O.S. Held POW by the Japanese aboard the Harrison; civilian internee in Shanghai: Released — see more here <http://www.usmm.net/pownames.html#pw1>

In this original "show-me-the-money" picture, the Guamanian crew of the M/V Chicot waves the difference between their regular wages and SUP wages. It was another in a string of victories against flag-of-convenience shipping in the early and mid-fifties. The shipowners had hoped that since Guam was a new U.S. territory, U.S. military cargo could be borne on a Guamanian ship at a fraction of the cost of a U.S. ship. Harry Lundeborg told the government and the shipowners both--if you use a Guamanian ship as a proxy for a U.S. flag--then you've got to pay U.S. wages. The convincing came in the form of pickets that prevented the ship from loading, and the money shows that the government and the shipowners finally agreed. The Chicot beef proved that the SUP was not only capable of identifying and moving against complicated flag arrangements, but also that its own interests depended on the interests of all sailors everywhere. That concept is at the center of the proposition: the Brotherhood of the Sea.

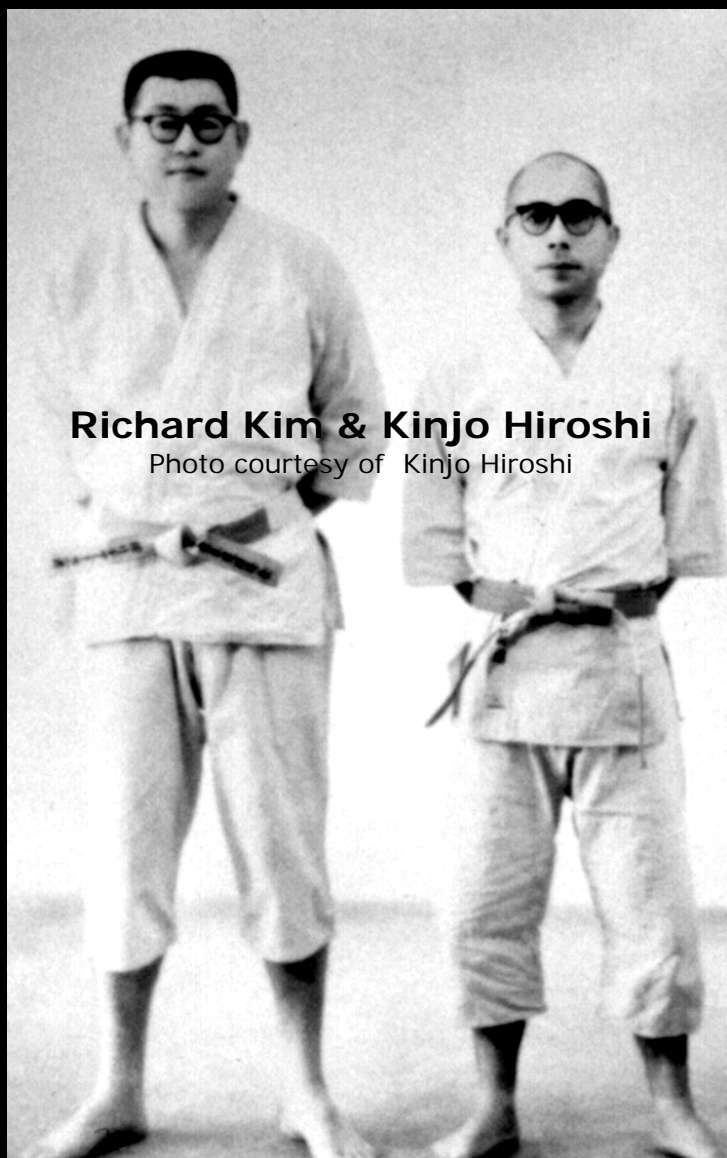
Richard Kim & Yoshida Kotaro

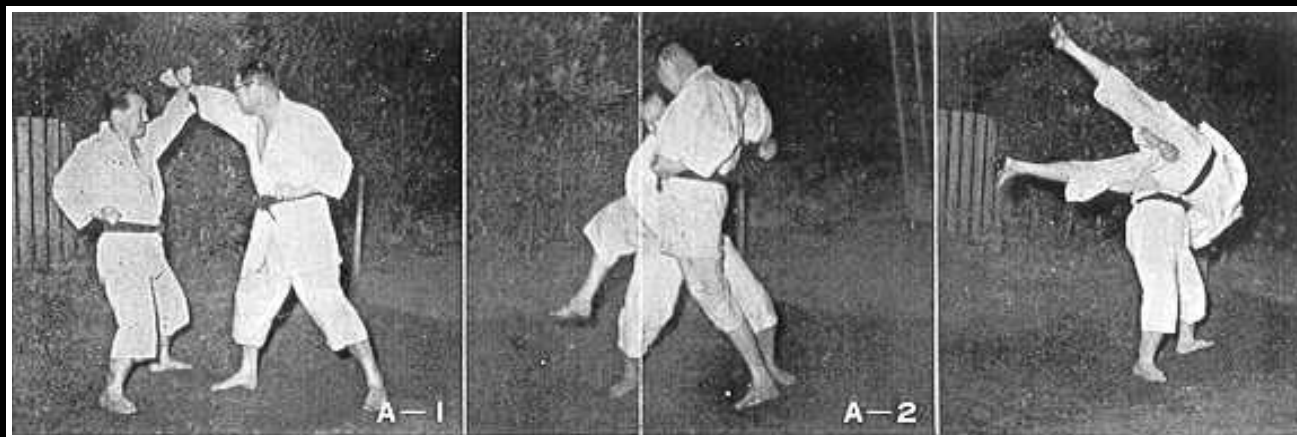
Photo courtesy of Richard Kim



Richard Kim & Kinjo Hiroshi

Photo courtesy of Kinjo Hiroshi

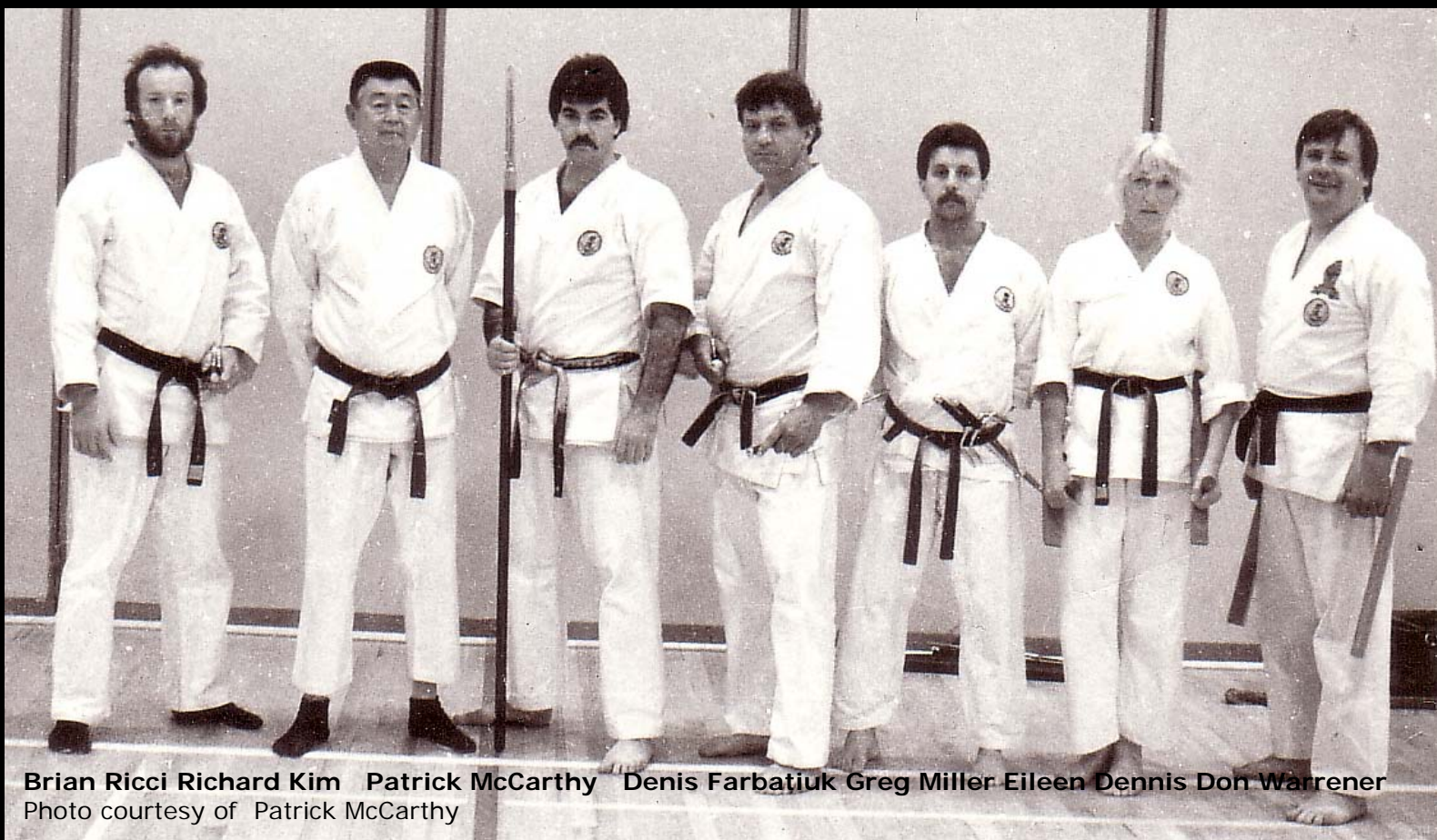




Photos courtesy of Richard Kim and Mas Oyama's from the latter's first book What is Karate?



1957 Yokohama
At the office of Richard Kim's "Pilot House"
Oyama Masutatsu, Richard Kim, Mr. Mukai & Higa Yuchoku
 Photo courtesy of Kinjo Hiroshi



Brian Ricci Richard Kim Patrick McCarthy Denis Farbatjuk Greg Miller Eileen Dennis Don Warrenner
 Photo courtesy of Patrick McCarthy



Photo by Black Belt magazine

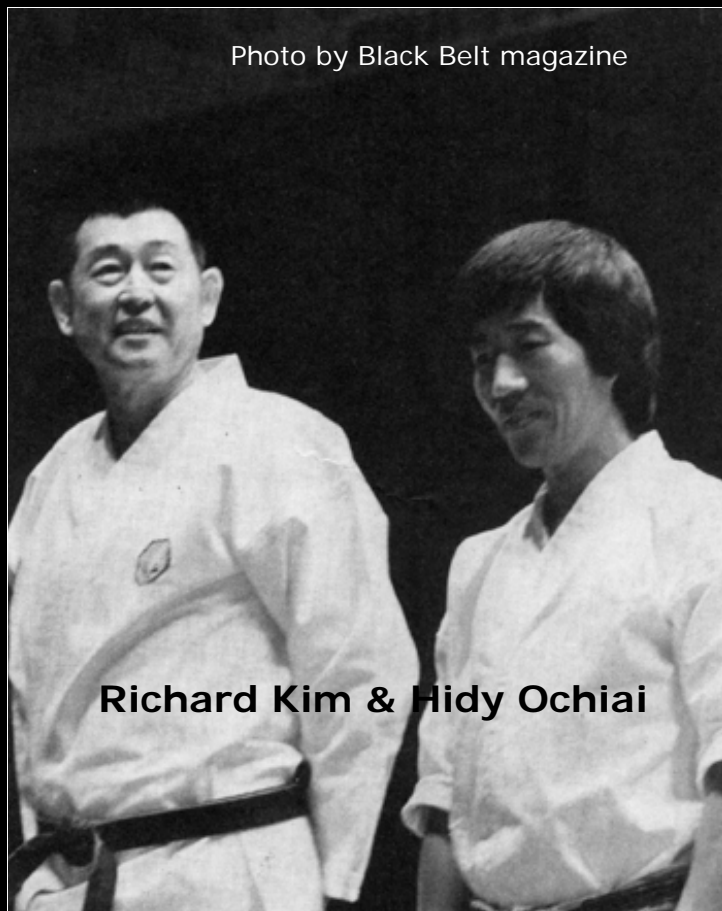


Photo by Black Belt magazine

Richard Kim & Hidy Ochiai



Nishiyama, Mabuni & Kim

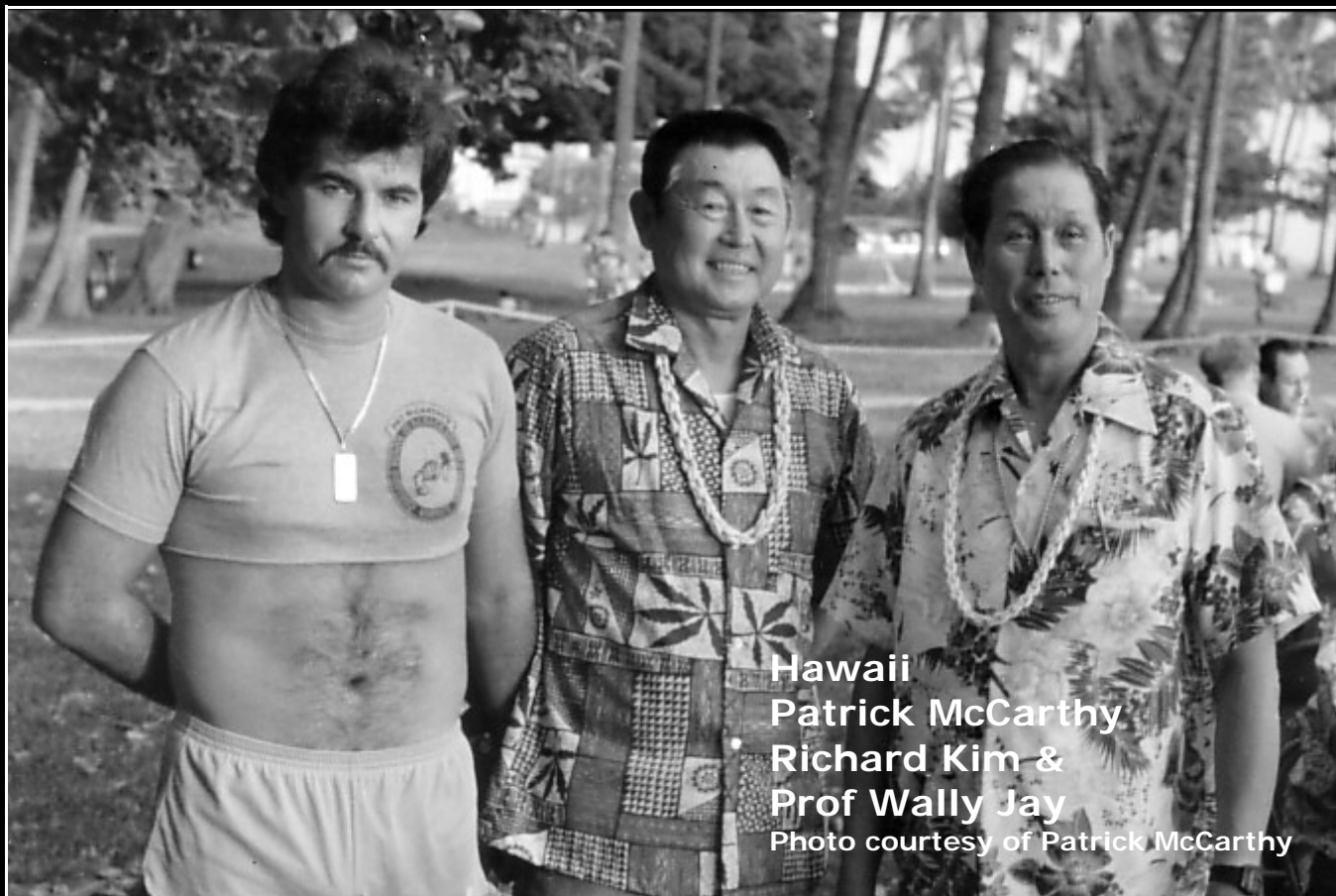
Photo by Black Belt magazine



Photo by Patrick McCarthy

Photo courtesy of Kinjo Hiroshi





Hawaii
Patrick McCarthy
• Richard Kim &
Prof Wally Jay
Photo courtesy of Patrick McCarthy

As there has long been discrepancy over the decent/nationality of his parents, I thought this 1937 application, made by a then 19 year old Richard Kim, for his SIN, might help shed some light on the confusion. My thanks to Shane Brown of Victoria [BC], Canada for locating a copy of the application from the freedom of information act.

Form 894-5 EASURY DEPARTMENT TERRAL REVENUE SERVICE		J. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER		576-07-4753	
NAME <u>Richard</u> (EMPLOYEE'S FIRST NAME)		S. (S.) [Sun Sung] (MIDDLE NAME)		Kim 500 (LAST NAME)	
934 Maunaloa Street (STREET AND NUMBER)		Honolulu T. H. (POST OFFICE)		(STATE)	
Unemployed (BUSINESS NAME OF PRESENT EMPLOYER)		5. (BUSINESS ADDRESS OF PRESENT EMPLOYER)			
19 (AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY)		7. Nov. 17 1917 (DATE OF BIRTH) (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR)		Papahāna Hawaii (PLACE OF BIRTH)	
Kim, Mary Young (FATHER'S FULL NAME)		10. Park, Pok Nam (MOTHER'S FULL NAME)		[Korean name]	
SEX: MALE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/> (CHECK (X) WHICH)		12. COLOR: WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> (CHECK (X) WHICH)		Korean (SPECIFY)	
IF REGISTERED WITH THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, GIVE NUMBER OF REGISTRATION CARD: _____					
IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS, STATE _____					
May 14, 1937 (DATE SIGNED)		16. Richard Kim (EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE, AS USUALLY WRITTEN)		(PLACE) (DATE)	
DETACH ALONG THIS LINE					

Photos courtesy of Patrick McCarthy

**University of Guelph
Gasshuku**



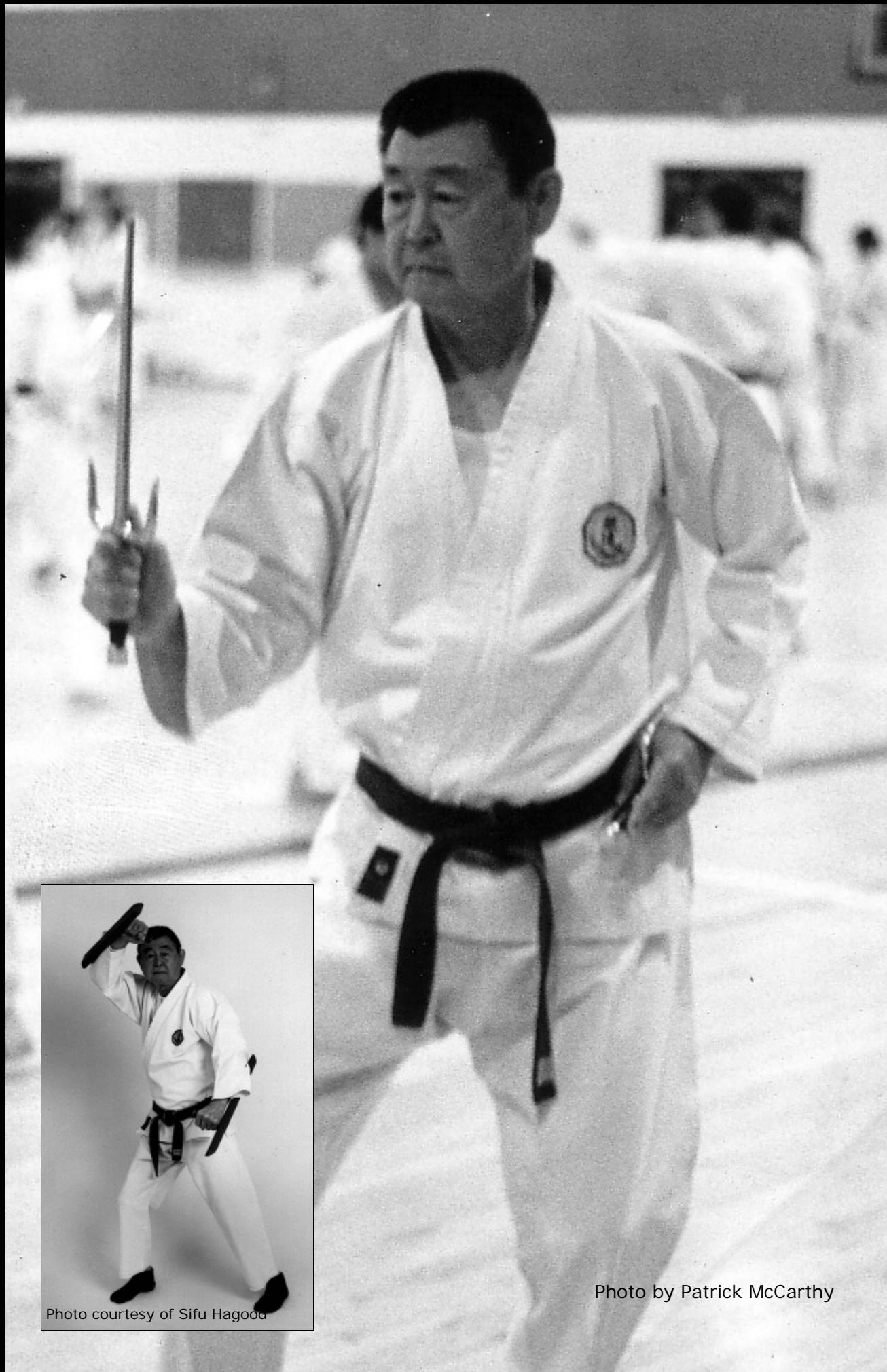
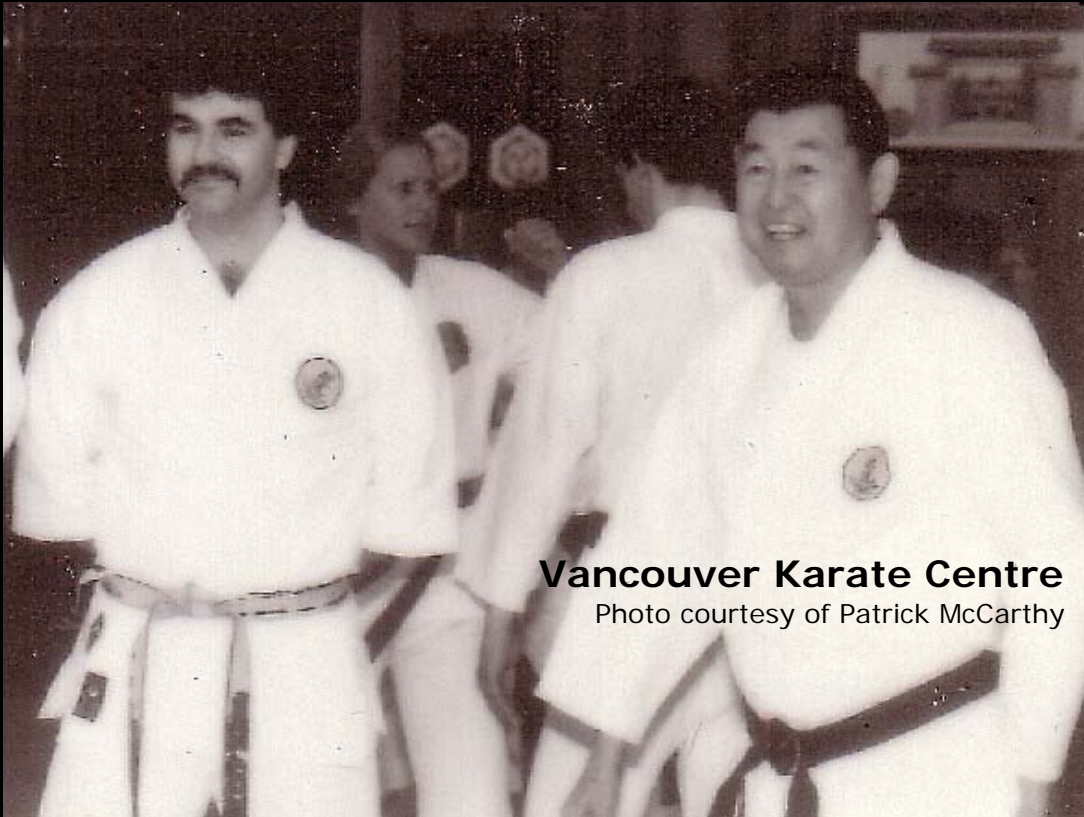


Photo courtesy of Sifu Hagood

Photo by Patrick McCarthy

Photo courtesy of Patrick McCarthy



Vancouver Karate Centre

Photo courtesy of Patrick McCarthy



Photo courtesy of Patrick McCarthy

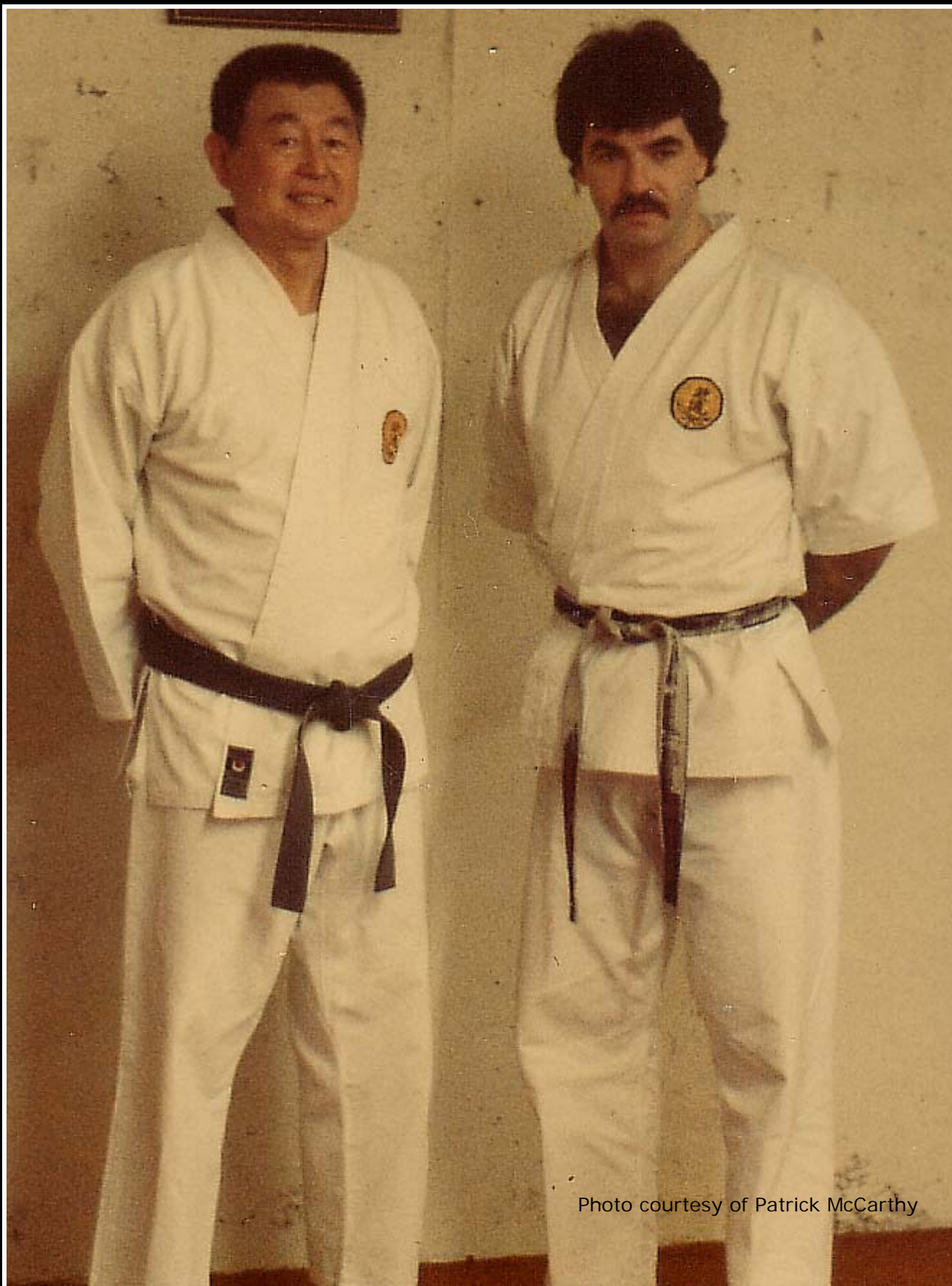


Photo courtesy of Patrick McCarthy

Mr. Pat McCarthy
Kyoshi, 7th Dan

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify to all those present that Mr. Pat McCarthy is my personal representative wherever he may reside. Among all my students that I have taught over the years; he exemplifies the perfect combination of an Academician and Professional. His expertise is beyond comparison and I am confident that he can add his invaluable sum of more ~~than~~^{to} that which any locality or country may possess. He has learned that in the martial arts we stress the 'joy of mastery' and also the realisation that we cannot know everything. He has learned to follow a creative approach to learning and teaching, to think intuitively and abstractly and perform critical analysis and especially to abhor intellectual sloth. It is a gain to any country or institution that he may teach and a loss to the place that he has left.

Sincerely,

Therese Kim

JAMES MIYAJI was my student for 42 years.
An excellent Kravut Teacher.
He has gone his own way now.
My Top students I have taught are
Peter Utben } Two of the best
Pat McCarthy } especially Utben - a genius.

Sincerely
R. Kim, Hanshi



Mr. John Finlayson
R. D. 2
Maungaturoto
Northland, N.Z.

8/9/93

I hope that this letter finds you in the best of health. As for myself, I am the same as ever.

Sorry for the delay in my letter; however, I have been away from this country giving seminars, etc.

I was surprised that you met Pat McCarthy - of all the ~~teachers~~ students that I have taught over the years, Pat McCarthy is the most talented and of whom I am very proud. He can tell you quite a bit of myself and the books that I have written.

He has informed me that he is going to your area in later August to hold clinics, probably in your place. If he does you can tell him about this letter.

When my book is on the market again, I shall advise you.

By the way how did you meet him?

You are free to write to me and I shall try my best to respond.

What style are you studying and for how long a period?

In closing all the best.

Sincerely,

Richard Kim, Hanshi, Ph.

Dr. Richard Kim, Hanshi

"Formerly one of Canada's most prominent karate teachers, Patrick McCarthy is second to none physically, which made him unparalleled in his reign as a competitive champion. Relocating to Japan where he became my personal representative, Patrick McCarthy's star is now shining on a new horizon. Of all the thousands of students that I have had over the years, Patrick McCarthy is by far the most talented."

Quote from Richard Kim, Hanshi, 10th Dan

*This is how I feel
towards you; I always considered you
as my top student*

FOREWORD

12/15/89

Pat McCarthy, without a doubt, is a person whose star is rising on the martial arts horizon.

It is simply amazing to realise that a person who is so young in years have such an incredible expertise in the martial arts, not only as a performer and teacher, but, also as a formidable competitor.

His mastery of weapons and kata, which have thrust him into the forefront of the tournament circuit, not only indicates natural talent but also gives a glimpse into the hard work and diligent application of the basics and the love of the art.

For without that type of motivation and love Pat McCarthy's star would not shine in the martial arts world. Whatever he does he does exceedingly well, and this book, Legend of the Fist, is a testament to that ability.

Richard Kim
San Francisco, Calif.
Dai Nippon Butoku-Kai

Richard Kim, Hanshi
c/o Butoku-Kai
P.O. Box 31-576
San Francisco, CA.
U.S.A. 94131

Dear Student Pat:

I hope that this letter finds you, your wife and daughter in the best of health. As for myself, I am the same as ever.

First of all, your article was excellent, and, I was very happy.

There is in the Bay Area, circulating, an article or letter written by you when you doubted the existence of the Butoku-Kai, and I believe it is circulated by those who you had trusted.

In that particular letter you deny the existence of Prince Higashifushimi Jigo, the Butokuk-Kai, you knock Kinjo Hiroshi, etc.

You are remorseful, repentant, and you have written articles in trying to express your mistake; however, these people will not let up. I am glad that you found out their true intentions.

As you are well aware, I have always said that you are talented, and now in Japan, you are learning how to bow your head.

I HAD ALWAYS HOPED THAT YOU WOULD BE MY ASSISTANT, and we could run a Kobudo Academy here in the Western World. However, Ken Tallack told me that you will never come back. I wish that you did and join me, but He told me that you have different ideas. It is alright.

When I gave you your daughter's name I became her Godfather.
Think carefully, of your future, unless the laws have ^{changed} ~~not~~, she cannot become a Japanese citizen, unless she is adopted

If you want to, you can co-author your book with me, I do not need any royalties, you can keep the monies; if I can help you in that way, I will. Good luck.

NB: How did you like the baby clothes and book that
I had sent before Christmas. I hope that you had received them

Senon



RICHARD KIM, HANSHI
P.O. BOX 31-576
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94131

Dear Student Pat:

9/14/93

Enclosed, you will find a photo of myself that you had requested it is my latest. I hope that you like it.

I am proud of you; you have accomplished a great deal. In fact you are like a son that is following in his father's footsteps.

As I have said you are destined for greatness. However, there is one facet of your character that you must, ~~1~~ emphasise must, remedy.

You must be able to forgive those who have trespassed on you.

Otherwise you must carry that missing link that can hold you back from true greatness. I am telling you this because I love you as a son.

You are the most talented student that I have ever had, ~~_____~~
~~_____~~. You are good - that should be enough
let you speak for yourself. I am proud of you that ought to be
enough. ~~_____~~

Sincerely,


Han Shi, Richard Kim, Ph.D.

N.B. There is a difference
between greatness and
true greatness. Forgive me as I am
getting on in years, my handwriting is
deteriorating. It is getting shaky.

In Memory of Richard Kim

Yesterday, my sister in budo from Niagara Falls, Deborah Toth, contacted me to convey the sad news of our teacher, Richard Kim's passing. Having been ill since April, his condition gradually deteriorated and he passed away at 8:45 am on 8 November, at 84 years old. I immediately called Kinjo Hanshi, who had been close to sensei Kim during the early days in Japan, to notify him of the sad news and he expressed his condolences saying, "*The Western karate world had just lost one of its early important role models.*"

Born in Honolulu 17 Nov 1917, Sensei Kim made important contributions to karate, traveled the world and enjoyed fruitful life. At just ten years old the martial arts called loudly to Biggie (his childhood name) as he was overwhelmed with a demonstration of karate after watching Yabu Kentsu perform in Hawaii. An ambitious & athletic youth, with a desire to travel the world and learn the martial arts, his job with the President's Shipping Line and Sailor's of the South Pacific Association, provided him with the means to see the world and learn at the source. With ports of call in Honolulu, San Francisco, Shanghai & Yokohama, Richard Kim met & studied with different Chinese & Japanese martial artist all over. Amongst the most well know he was associated with were Yoshida Kotaro, Mas Oyama, Gogen Yamaguchi & Kinjo Hiroshi.

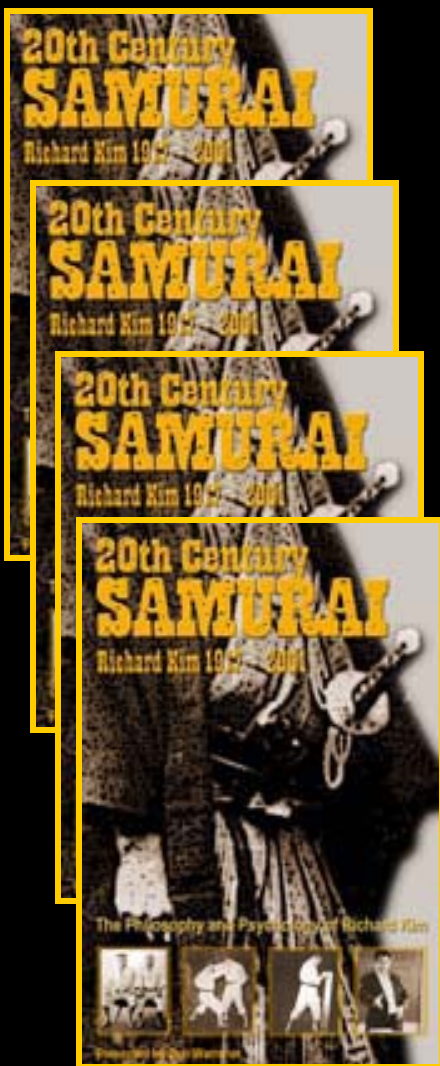
American karate icon, Peter Urban studied under Richard Kim during the 1950's in Yokohama and remained a loyal supporter for nearly fifty years. Sensei James Miyaji is another early student to have learned directly under Richard Kim from the early days in Honolulu, and has gone on to establish an important dojo in Waipahu. Richard Kim re-located to the Bay area (San Francisco) in 1959 and established his dojo at the old Chinatown YMCA producing many fine yudansha like Ben Abarca, brothers Richard & Clarence Lee, Robert Leong, and Leroy Rodriguez, to name a few of the old flock.

Pioneering his own style of karate (Shorinji Ryu can be best described as a unique hybrid of Toyama Kanken karate & kobudo flavored by Nishiyama Hidetaka's influence), Richard Kim was a noted author, lecturer, teacher and the person responsible for establishing the [Zen Bei] Butokukai in the West. Black Belt Magazine's 1967 Sensei of the Year and voted into their hall of fame in 1973 he was also nominated as director to the U.S. Team for the IAKF World Championships in 1973 by Nishiyama sensei.

Adamant about historical research, philosophy and technical theories, it was Sensei Kim who encouraged me to look beyond just punching & kicking twenty-five years ago when he compelled me to open my first book on the subject. I guess I was wise to listen and take his advice.

Richard Kim leaves behind an important legacy which will live on in the hearts and minds of the many dedicated students he left behind.

Patrick McCarthy
Student of the Master



20th Century Samurai

**It doesn't matter what you've heard...
It doesn't matter what you've read...
It doesn't even matter what you think you know...**

Something of a mystery-man, Richard Kim was a Zen priest, trailblazer and veritable pied piper of the martial arts. His charismatic personality, encyclopedic-like knowledge and penetrating wisdom made him one of the most revered teachers of our time. A tall tree in the forest of martial arts he provoked the pride of winds and was the giant upon whose shoulders many stood to see further than others. Paraphrasing the words of Zen prelate, Matsuo Basho, Kim urged us all, *"not to seek to follow in the footsteps of the men of old but rather to seek what they sought."* Hanshi of the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai, Richard Kim is remembered as an artist of life and the last of the Classical Men, and who better qualified to the present the Master's legacy than long-time Canadian student, Don Warrener.

"**20th Century Samurai**" is an informal testament to the remarkable journey of Richard Kim, and a wonderful publication that offers more than just an account of his accomplishments and contributions. Woven into the fabric of these pages is a message that transcends style. Having searched every nook and cranny leaving no stone unturned Warrener succeeds in exposing all...and, in doing so, he makes the publication mandatory reading. "TCS" should be on the bookshelf of every martial artists young and old.

CONTENTS

Introduction

Forward

Acknowledgements

Timeline

1. Dai Nippon Butoku Kai

The most complete history ever in the English language.

2. Biography of Hanshi Richard Kim

From the day he was born till the day he passed.

3. Sensei Kim's Senior Students

35 of his top students.

4. The Last of The Real Samurai

Sokaku Tokeda and Yoshida Kotaro. The most comprehensive bio's ever on these two legends.

5. Quotes From Old Magazine Articles

29 excerpts and complete articles from magazines around the world.

6. Chinese, Okinawan, and Japanese Warriors

47 Samurai Warrior stories never before in print.

7. Lectures on Philosophy & Psychology of The Martial Arts

34 complete lectures.

8. Short Stories Teaching the Philosophy and Psychology

52 awesome short stories as only he could tell them.

9. Conclusion

10. Sources of Information

It doesn't matter what you've heard...it doesn't matter what you've read...and it doesn't matter what you think you know...it only matters that you read this "TELL ALL" book to find out the truth!!!!