

USA Karate™ Federation COMBINES HALL OF FAME with United States Jujitsu, Traditional Kodokan Judo, Police Self-Defense Institute, Kwanmukan and Central Taekwondo Association and Posthumously recognizes Hanshi George E Anderson as 10th Dan

The USA Karate Federation Hall of Fame in Akron on March 9 of this year was intended to create awareness of the efforts of Hanshi George E Anderson and those that assisted him in the formation and accomplishments of the 6 organizations participating in the Hall of Fame. Attending were individuals from 2 countries and 30 of the 50 United States.

Hall of Fame

The USA Karate Federation as the sponsor of the Hall of Fame recognized the original pioneers of the Olympic karate effort in the United States. The USA Karate™ Hall of Fame included athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, statewide organizers, and a myriad of martial artists that were needed to make “USA Karate” grown into huge program that included local and state qualifiers, league qualifiers, Junior Olympics, State Games and national championships. During its heyday as the National Governing Body (NGB), “USA Karate™” had athletes, junior and adult, every month in different countries representing the United States. USA Karate Federation is no longer the NGB but is still active in the programs created by Hanshi George E. Anderson.

Hanshi George E Anderson 10th Dan Recognition

During the ceremonies, Hanshi George E. Anderson received his 10th Dan. Hanshi Anderson passed away in August of 2009 and the awarding of the 10th dan was made by both the USA Karate Federation in Karate and the United States Ju-Jitsu Federation in Ju-jitsu. The certificates were accepted by his wife Joan Anderson (90 years old) and by his surviving children David, Lesley, Lynn and Joany. His niece Corinne Housley was also in attendance. Hanshi Anderson was a many faceted martial artist. He affected the lives each and every one of the 210 individuals who attended and were recognized as contributing to his legacy.

The USA Karate™ Federation

There have been a number of formations of the National Governing Body (NGB) for Karate in the United States Olympic Committee. Probably none are as formidable as the original “USA Karate™.” This is The USA Karate™ Federation which held a major Hall of Fame induction in Akron, Ohio, Saturday March 9, 2019. Starting out as “AAU Karate,” the movement morphed from being simple karate committee of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) in the early to mid-1970’2, to an incorporated sports committee of the AAU (NAAUKC) in the 1980’s until leaving the AAU to become the NAAUKC, Inc and finally the NGB member for Karate in the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as The USA Karate™ Federation, a position it held until 1995. Jerry Thompson was the initial chairman of the corporate entity, and later George Anderson with Patrick Hickey and Thomas LaPuppet created the “triumvirate” ultimately credited with

building the major Olympic karate effort in the United States. During this time frame many important martial artists in the United States dedicated their time and effort to the “USA Karate” effort. Among these include many Japanese instructors such as Takiyuki Mikami, Hidy Ochia, Kiyoshi Yamazaki, Minobu Miki, Koji Sugimoto, Masaharu Sakimukai, Katsutaka Tanaka and others. On the American side, in addition to Anderson, Hickey, and Lapuppet were Don Madden, Phil Koeppel, Jim Cottrell, John Nanay, Jim Mather, Robert Saal, Al and Anita Santucci, Brent Bias, Carl Wilcox, Grant Campbell, Larry Giordano, Mike Bukala, Roger Jarrett and many others too numerous to name. Many prominent athletes participated in the “USA Karate” effort including Tokey Hill, Ken Ferguson, Billy Blanks, Alberto Pena, Bill Marcum, Kathy Loukopoulos, Tyrell McGuire, Nancy Chase, David Ames, Joe Minney, Eddie Bethea, Julio Martinez, Michael Graves, and Jerry Kattawar, JR. A number of the younger competitors from the old “USA Karate” now have important positions in the current NGB such as Cedric Barksdale, Mary Crawford, Jay Farrell, Tommy Hood, Dustin Baldis, Matthew Ralph, John Fonseca, Clay Morton, Christina Mucinni, Gary Tetsui and the list goes on and on.

During its tenure as the NGB, “USA Karate” is credited with creating the first Pan American karate organization – the Pan American Union of Karate-do Organizations with George Anderson as the first president. The general secretary at the time was William Millerson who now is president of the current Pan American karate body. The United States team was the first official Pan American Karate Champions. This Pan American organization under George Anderson’s leadership and guidance is credited with placing karate as a sport in the Pan American Sports Organization games and is the reason today why US Karate athletes participate in the Pan American Games and within the Olympic Committee.

On the world Karate level, attention was turned to the United States when George Anderson was elected chairman of the powerful referee committee of the World Union of Karate-do Organizations (now World Karate Federation) and later became its first vice president and participated in the merger discussions with the International Traditional Karate Federation (which after 20 years is still raising its head in international karate politics through the United World Karate organization.) While Vice President Anderson helped organize both the medical committee and tournament administration committee of the WUKO along with Thomas LaPuppet and Michael Bukala.

In the United States, in addition to creating the largest qualifying network of karate tournaments, the “USA Karate” led the way in the professionalizing of competitions by requiring official certification, bye charts, documented registrations, and many other regulations in use by other major sports groups in the USA. Many of these improvements are still being used today with little or no modification. During this time frame George Anderson became the first karate-ka to be a member of the United States Olympic Committee and “USA Karate” held the first All American Youth Championships and first Karate Junior Olympics. None this could have happened without the contribution and dedication of numerous martial artists in many different capacities. Many of these martial artists have not received recognition for their accomplishments. The Hall of Fame activities will recognize many of these individuals for their part of the legacy that is “USA Karate” in the United States.

United States Ju-Jitsu Federation

In addition, Hanshi George E Anderson's contribution to the Olympic karate effort in the USA, he also created or was responsible for the success of the other participating organizations. The United States Ju-Jitsu Federation was his creation in the sport of Ju-jitsu. USJJF was for many years the USA member of the JJIF and is now affiliated with the World Jujitsu Federation under Giacomo Spartaco Bertolotti, one of those recognized for being a Pioneer of Jujitsu at this event. Bruce Bethers is the current president of USJJF and those recognized as Pioneers included Mario Den Edel, Patrick Hickey, Michael Antonides, Andrew Yiannakis and his wife Linda (Judo), John Chatwood, Robert Carver and Larry Feldman. Along with the USJJF, its sister organization USA Traditional Kodokan Judo also recognized Pioneers of Traditional Kodokan Judo. Those recognized included Linda Yiannakis, Dionisio de la Torre, Garry McKee, and Bill Cooley.

Police Self Defense Institute

The Police Self Defense Institute (PSDI) also participated with their Hall of Fame activities. This will recognize pioneers of Police Self-Defense Training sorely recognized as lacking during the era of the Vietnam protesters. The PSDI as it is known under the USA Karate Federation banner is a continuation of the PSDI first created by Robert A. Trias under the United States Karate Association (USKA) around 1976. Pioneers being recognized include some of the directors of this program under the USKA – TR McClanahan, Patrick M Hickey, and Joe Bonacci. Others being recognized for long-term involvement in PSDI training include George Anderson, Sheriff Larry Overholt, Joe Gabriel, Richard Fike, Ron Layton, Carl Wilcox, Ed Kuras, Max Ciscell, Curtis Smith, Robert Utsey Walter O'Neill, and others.

Central Taekwondo Association

The Central Taekwondo Association was founded by Hanshi George E Anderson in 1972. The CTA recognized its first President Woodrow Wilson and founding members Danny Stephens and Charles Goins.

International Kwanmukan

The Kwanmukan is the style of martial arts founded by Hanshi George E Anderson in 1974. Those in the Kwanmukan that were acknowledged as receiving the legacy of Hanshi Anderson were Patrick Hickey, Larry Overholt, Carl Wilcox, Pamela Hickey, Michael Bukala, David Ames, Jeff Ellis, Lesley Anderson, Michael Antonides, Larry Feldman, Joe Gabriel, Carol Hofer, Corinne Housley, Jeff Rhodes, Jeff Hudson, Brian Pendleton, Ron Layton, Lance Weimer, Larry Whelan, Michael Ayers, Bruce Bethers, Rick Fike, Steve McKay, Al Meusel and Joe Santocildes. Others such as Richard Arter, Dave Lang, Tyrell McGuire, Brian Walsh, Gerry Funelli and Robert Burns were recognized for their Distinguished service to the Kwanmukan.

Summary

USA Karate™ Federation continues today with a different mission and persona, however, it still upholds the tradition of excellence, integrity, stability and trust.

Programs of the USA Karate Federation, in addition to its Hall of Fame, include a National Training Center network, international competition for its members through the World Union of Karate-do Federations, and dan credentialing including the Central Taekwondo Association started in 1972 and which has merged under the USA Karate banner. USA Karate™ includes the Police Self Defense Institute (PSDI) a major force behind Taiho Jutsu training and views law enforcement, military, and other public safety organization's tactical defensive education as a positive, necessary, and on-going process of professional development which challenges the personal safety of every professional. In Jujitsu, the USA Karate Federation operates as the USA Sports Jujitsu Alliance, an affiliate of the US Ju-jitsu Federation with the purpose of education and dissemination of Jujitsu and the development of a national jujitsu structure ,helps facilitate the communication between jujitsu organizations in the USA and is a member of the World Council of Jujitsu Organizations (WCJJO), founded in 1977, and finally, the World Kobudokan founded for the purpose of the continuation and development of Okinawa traditional weapons training and study.