

International Taekwon-Do Federation I.T.F.



국 제 태 권 도 연 맹

Draugasse 3, 1210 Vienna, AUSTRIA

Tel. (+43-1) 292 84 67 Fax (+43-1) 292 55 09

E-Mail: director-gen@itfhq.org treasurer@itfhq.org

Website: www.iftkd.org



TO: ITF Members and all Taekwon-Do practitioners
FROM: ITF HQ
SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION
DATE: 7TH NOVEMBER 2013

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Grandmaster **Nam Tae-Hi**, who departed this world on November 7th 2013. Col. Nam played a pivotal role in helping Taekwon-Do's principle founder, Gen. Choi Hong Hi develop and spread this Korean Martial Art of Self-Defense in international arena. These dynamic team leaders are owed a tremendous debt of gratitude by all Taekwon-Do students around the globe. Please keep Col. Nam, his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers!

Curriculum Vitae of GM. Colonel. **Nam Tae-Hi** (1929 to 2013)

The person Gen. Choi described as: "His right hand man."

Was an early and senior student of GM Lee Won-Kuk, founder of the Chung Do Kwan. He shared his knowledge of the Korean Martial Arts in Army (Military Signal or Communications School) since 1947. In 1952 he traveled to the United States for military training and while there had an opportunity to demonstrate Tang Su Do on their training bases.



General Choi at an early meeting

As a young Commissioned Officer he formed the Hwa Rang Do Kwan in late 1952 - early 1953 when he was assigned to the 1st Military Training Camp on JeJu Island. It was there that he taught TangSuDo to the soldiers and was here that he came into contact with Gen. Choi who recruited him and had him assigned to the 29th Division that he was forming. There he became the TangSuDo instructor for Gen. Choi when the General formed the famed 29th Infantry “Fist” Division. Gen. Choi had him promoted from Lieutenant to Captain and Capt. Nam focused on training martial art instructors for the military.



Awarding the trophy at the championship team of 1st ITF World Championship in Canada

Col. Nam performed an historic moment in Taekwon-Do’s history when his fist broke 13 roof tiles with a fore-fist punch at a demo in front of Seung Man Rhee in September of 1954. This magical moment resulted in the Mr. Rhee directing Gen. Choi to teach this to all the Troops. It was this performance that that first skyrocketed Taekwon-Do onto its path of unprecedented growth in the Martial Arts field. He is credited with assisting Gen. Choi in creating the 1st two Korean Taekwon-Do Patterns, Hwa-Rang and Choong-Moo, circa 1955. The following year he helped his student and assistant Sgt. Han Cha-Kyo devised Ul Ji Tul with Gen. Choi.



General Choi with Malaysia 9th Degree GM. Low Koon Lin

Col. Nam as a Captain became the Director of Taekwon-Do for the Army under the command of Gen. Choi circa 1957. In 1959 he was the head of the historic Taekwon-Do Exhibition Team that Gen. Choi led to Vietnam and Taiwan. This was the 1st time Taekwon-Do was demonstrated outside of Korea. Later that year he was installed as a Director of the Korean Taekwon-Do Association.

In 1962 he helped to create the Army Taekwon-Do Team. In December of that year as a Major he was in charge of the 1st batch of Military Taekwon-Do of instructors that were officially dispatched to Vietnam. His assignment living abroad teaching Taekwon-Do to the Vietnamese troops and civilians lasted one year. This earned him the honor and distinction of being referred to as the Father of Vietnamese Taekwon-Do. It was there that Major Nam taught the 1st civilian Vietnamese student Van Binh Nyugen, a Judo man who would become 1 of only 7 promoted to 9th Dan Grandmaster by Gen. Choi (A-9-2).

As a result of the May 16th Revolution in 1961, which saw a military dictatorship take control of the government in South Korea, the new ruling military junta issued a decree directing all social organizations to consolidate and reform. This directive included the Martial Arts. As history shows, the military governments would go onto impact Taekwon-Do over the next several decades. When the Martial Art groups reorganized they did so rejecting the Taekwon-Do name that Col. Nam argued unsuccessfully for, losing to the new compromise name of Tae Soo Do.

Col. Nam was a founding member of the ITF. He served as the Chairman of ITF Promotion Committee when it was formed in 1966. Col. Nam was an ITF Vice President in 1969 and President of Asia Taekwon-Do Federation 1968. After he retired from the Military as a Colonel, he continued to work to spread Taekwon-Do worldwide visiting 24 nations in 1970, 28 in 1972 and in 1973 he moved to Chicago in America and opened a school there. Col. Nam helped to organize the United States of America Taekwon-Do Federation and was an ITF VIII Dan (8th Degree) by 1973.

ITF PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE