



2012 MORI HAI KENDO TOURNAMENT



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JANUARY 22, 2012

SPONSORED BY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA KENDO FEDERATION
HOSTED BY TORRANCE KENDO CLUB

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: JOHN YAMAMOTO SENSEI
PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
WELCOME ADDRESS: TIM YUGE SENSEI, SCKF PRESIDENT, ARTHUR MURAKAMI SENSEI, AUSKF PRESIDENT
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: JOHN YAMAMOTO SENSEI
RETURN OF PERPETUAL TROPHIES
PLEDGE OF THE COMPETITORS: YOSHIYUKI GOYA, OCB DOJO
RULES AND REGULATIONS: TAKESHI YAMAGUCHI SENSEI, CHIEF JUDGE:

KATA DEMONSTRATION:
UCHITACHI-MINORU SAKAE SENSEI, SHO TOKYO DOJO
SHITACHI-KATSUhide KINJO SENSEI, COVINA DOJO

IAIDO DEMONSTRATION:
DENNIS RALUTIN, OCB DOJO
NARBEH BAGDASARIAN, PJCI DOJO

TOURNAMENT:

ALL KYU DIVISIONS:
0-6 KYU, 5-4 KYU, 3-1 KYU, WOMENS KYU, ADULT KYU
REGULATION: 3 MINUTES, ENCHO: 2 MINUTES, HANTEI (EXCEPT FOR SEMI FINALS AND FINALS)
ALL YUIDANSHA DIVISIONS:
1-2 DAN, 3-4 DAN, 5DAN AND UP, WOMENS DAN, SENIORS
REGULATION: 4 MINUTES, ENCHO: 2 MINUTES, HANTEI (EXCEPT FOR SEMI FINALS AND FINALS)

KYU DIVISIONS:
0-6 KYU, 5-4 KYU, 3-1 KYU, WOMENS KYU, ADULT KYU

DAN DIVISIONS:
WOMENS DAN, SENIORS

LUNCH BREAK
MOHAN KEIKO: TBA

DAN DIVISIONS:
1-2 DAN, 3-4 DAN, 5 DAN & ABOVE

CLOSING CEREMONY



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES
TORAO MORI SENSEI WITH STUDENTS IN CENTINEA VALLEY. ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, JULY 13, 1958.

A passion for kendo and fencing made Torao Mori sensei not only a legendary swordsman, but also the father of modern kendo in the United States. A champion kendoist, Olympic-caliber fencer/coach, and actor, Mori Sensei promoted kendo in many forms. The Mori Hai Tournament, held every three years, honors his dedication, spirit, and love of kendo.

Born in Kiryu, Gunma Prefecture, Japan, on June 21, 1914, Mori Sensei began studying kendo in the second grade and eventually became captain of the school's kendo team. He won the Japan National Kendo Championship while in his teens. At this time he also began studying fencing, concentrating on the sabre due to its similarity to the kendo katana. His dream was to become a member of the Japanese Olympic fencing team in the 1940 games.

Mori sensei came to the U.S. in 1939 as a reporter for the Rafu Shimpō newspaper. Tirelessly promoting kendo, he taught and performed demonstrations all along the West Coast. In 1940 he returned to Japan to prepare for the Olympics, but World War II shattered his Olympic dreams. Mori sensei actively pushed to remove the ban on kendo and other martial arts in Japan after the war. Saying "there is nothing wrong with kendo," his efforts were instrumental in helping lift the ban.

Returning to the U.S. in 1948, he met the challenge of reviving kendo in the U.S. with the same determination. As a technical director for films and television, he prepared actors like Peter Ustinov, Claire Bloome, and Rod Steiger for their swashbuckler roles. He appeared on the Johnny Carson Show and worked on films such as *House of Bamboo* and the Broadway production of *Rashomon*. An accomplished swordsman, Mori sensei's fencing skills led a ladies fencing team to a national title. His Olympic dreams were finally realized when he coached the U.S. Olympic fencing team to victory in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

In 1950 he and others established the Kendo Federation of the United States (KFUSA), and later Nanka Yudansha Kai, which was renamed the Southern California Kendo Federation (SCKF) in 1959. In 1957 he was awarded hanshi, a special title for individuals who have attained the rank of 8 dan or higher. At the time of his award, Mori sensei was the youngest person ever to receive the honor. Mori sensei passed away on January 8, 1969 at the age of 55. His wife Junice, daughter Jeannie, and son Chris still reside in Southern California. Mori sensei's dedication and spirit remains the foundation of American kendo. Southern California Kendo Federation strives to perpetuate his memory with the triennial Mori Hai Tournament.

