



2016 1st SCKF OPEN MEMORIAL KENDO TOURNAMENT

January 24, 2016
Dee Hardison Sports Center
Wilson Park
Torrance, California

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Dee Hardison Sports Center, Wilson Park Torrance, CA
Sponsored by Southern California Kendo Federation
Hosted by Torrance Kendo Club

Special Thank You to:

Staff of Dee Hardison Sports Center
Torrance Community Service

Program:

(The sound of the taiko drum will officially open this tournament)

Master of Ceremonies:	Kevin Abe, 1st Vice President, SCKF
National Anthem	
Welcome address -	Jean Kodama, President, SCKF
Introduction of Guests	
Memorial Tournament Tributes	
Greetings -	Mike Murase, Budokan of Los Angeles
Pledge of the Competitors -	Noah Nakayama, ISK Dojo
Rules and Regulations -	Chief Judge, Tim Yuge
Kendo Kata Demonstration -	Uchidachi -Setsuo Tanaka, 4 dan, ISK Dojo
	Shidachi - Dennis Ralutin, 3 dan, OCB Dojo
Iaido Demonstration -	Isamu Okuno, Iaido 5 dan, Norwalk Dojo
	Narbeh Bagdasarian, Iaido 2 dan , PJCI Dojo
	Emil Nguyen, Iaido 2 dan, Norwalk Dojo
	Shauna Toh, Iaido 2 dan, Norwalk Dojo
	Korhan Tekin, Iaido 1 dan, Norwalk Dojo
Tournament Rules and Regulations	
The tournament will follow SCKF Tournament Rules and Regulations, Version 3.1, 01/2009	

TIME LIMIT
All Kyu Divisions:
3 minutes, 2 minute Encho, Hantei (Except Semifinals, Finals, & Perpetual Trophy Round)
Tsuki and points from jodan or nito will not be taken as valid.
All Yudansha Divisions:
4 minutes, 2 minute Encho, Hantei (Except Semifinals, Finals, and Perpetual Trophy Round)

Participants must supply their own set of mejirushi.
SCKF will not be responsible for lost or stolen mejirushi.

Divisions
0-6 kyu (12yrs & under), 5-4 kyu (15 & under), 3-1 kyu (17 & under),
Adult kyu (18 & over) Girls Kyu (17 & under), Women’s Yudansha,
Senior Yudansha (50 & over), 1-3 Dan, 4 Dan and above

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Photographs Courtesy of Dennis Ralutin, Noriko Horii, Richard Hill and Industry Sheriff’s Kendo Dojo



WALTER TAKESHI YAMAGUCHI
 Kendo Kyoshi 7 dan
 Iaido Kyoshi 7 dan
 April 15, 1938 ~ October 5, 2012

Walter Takeshi Yamaguchi was born in Los Angeles, California, on April 15, 1938. During WWII, the entire Yamaguchi family was incarcerated at Manzanar Internment Camp. Later the family was reunited at an internment camp in Texas. Following the end of the war, the family moved to Japan, due to his father's interest in helping Japan recover from the war. Sometime later, Walter returned to the United States as a child and resided with relatives in the Los Angeles area.

He started learning kendo in January of 1962 at West Los Angeles Kendo Dojo and later studied under the tutelage of Torao Mori sensei. He and his brother Makoto assisted when Hara sensei founded Norwalk Dojo in 1964 and Covina Dojo in 1968. In 1975, he helped establish the Costa Mesa Kendo Dojo. After receiving nidan in 1964, he continued to achieve kendo and laido ranks, eventually receiving kendo nanadan in 1988 and laido nanadan in 2001. At various times he served as head instructor at Norwalk Dojo and Costa Mesa Dojo, and later as senior advisor to both dojo.

Over the years, Yamaguchi sensei served the kendo organizations diligently and was instrumental in the development of the Southern California Kendo Federation. He served as SCKF President and coached the US kendo team in the World Kendo Championships held in Paris, France. He also served on the Board of Directors of both KFUSA and later the All United States Kendo Federation.

Yamaguchi sensei was an integral part of promotion of kendo and laido throughout the entire country. His impact on the kendo organizations will be felt for generations to come. This Memorial Kendo Tournament is a fitting event to recognize his accomplishments.





Arthur Ichiro Murakami
Kendo Kyoshi 7 dan
Iaido 6 dan
12/23/29 to 1/14/15

Arthur Ichiro Murakami was born in Long Beach, CA. At age 6, he moved to Florin, CA with his grandparents and in 1937, went to live with his mother's uncle in Lomita. This uncle was very interested in Kendo and took young Ichiro to study with Takeno Sensei in Redondo Beach.

In February 1941, he moved to Hiroshima with his grandparents, younger brother and cousin where Murakami Sensei was a student at Noboricho Grammar School and Koryo High School. He continued studying kendo while in Hiroshima.

On 8/6/45, the A-bomb was dropped and Murakami Sensei survived by sheer luck. He had to stay at the school due to an injury the day before while his classmates went into the city to help create firebreaks. He saw the bomb drop and the wave that hit blew him out of an open door, saving his life. His grandparents died of radiation poisoning but he, his brother and cousin all survived the bomb, returning to the US in 1947.

He attended Belvedere High School and East Los Angeles Junior College. In 1949 he volunteered for the U.S. Army, serving for 3 years as a combat medic in the Korean War. This was followed by an assignment at 155 Station Hospital in Yokohama, Japan. Since kendo was banned, he studied judo and karate.

At the hospital, he met (Lena) Hisako Takahashi, a Japanese civilian working for the Army. They married in 1953 and moved to the US the following year, settling in Seinan, or the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles, where they began their life together and had two children.

In 1960, Murakami Sensei returned to the study of Kendo at the request of Yutaka Kubota Sensei. He became a student of Torao Mori Sensei, practicing at Denker playground. Mori Sensei's focus on basics and a strong technical foundation strongly influenced Murakami Sensei's teaching methods in later years.

In 1965 he joined the Southern California Kendo Federation Board, serving as treasurer for 19 years. He remained on the board for the next 50 years, serving in various capacities: Treasurer, Vice President, and President. Murakami Sensei also served on the All US Kendo Federation Board as Vice President of Promotion and Examinations and as President 2006 to 2008. In 2009 The FIK honored Murakami Sensei by naming him Vice President of the American zone, covering kendo in North, Central, and South America. Two of Murakami Sensei's best friends were Takeshi Yamaguchi Sensei and Maki Miyahara Sensei. Together they travelled and shared many kendo experiences together, influencing many generations of kenshi in southern California and the U.S.

Murakami Sensei founded the Monterey Park Kendo Dojo in 1971. In 2002 the dojo relocated to the City of Industry, under the auspices of the Industry Sheriff's Youth Activity League, becoming Industry Sheriff's Kendo Dojo. Murakami Sensei actively supported teaching kendo at Chuo Gakuen on Saturdays, and was an advisor to Sho Tokyo Dojo. In 2010 the All Nations Church of Lakeview Terrace reached out to Murakami Sensei to start a kendo club at their church.

Murakami Sensei, along with Yamaguchi Sensei, helped to advise & develop Iaido in the US. He enjoyed his many trips to Iaido events with Yamaguchi Sensei, Dennis Ralutin Sensei, and all the Iaido practitioners. And he was an early and enthusiastic supporter of the Budokan of Los Angeles.

Murakami Sensei LOVED kendo and his iPod was engraved: "Kendo is my life. My life is Kendo". He believed that kendo was not about winning tournaments; it was about respect, etiquette, and fundamentals. He constantly reminded kenshi to have respect for their family, their elders, their teachers, and for their church. He taught that kendo, when followed properly, was not about trophies but about how you presented and carried yourself.



Southern California Kendo Federation senseis



Henry Asai Sensei
January 1, 1920 ~ December 24, 2015



Koji Fukawa Sensei
November 11, 1926 ~ December 21, 2015