



GMA News June 09

Congrats to Our New Black Belt and Other Awards:

We had some milestone promotions in the HKD program in the month of May. Congrats to our new black belts Miss Amy Law, Mr. Vince Kreipke, Mr. Zach Koch, and Mr. Nathan Kross. Also, Mr Yoshida promoted to 3rd dan.

Congrats to our recent lil' dragon graduates: Keaton Eisenhut, Aileen Pettigrew, and Kaili James.

A special congrats and thank you to two students who received GMA's highest honor, the gentry or kunja certificate: Mr. Vince Kreipke and Miss Mary Weston.

Break-a-thon Results

Thank you to everyone who worked very hard to make our break a thon and annual picnic a success. Our final tally was approximately \$1,900. Also a special thanks to our sponsors lumber companies who donated part of the wood: Bender Lumber, Black Lumber in Greencastle, and 84 lumber.

SUMMER ATTENDANCE REWARD and Referral Program

As usual we have our summer attendance reward program starting in June. Look for details on how you can be a part of a celebration at the end of the summer for strong attendance during the hot summer months. We also have a special summer referral program. See the handout in class for details.

Upcoming Events

June 5-7	TTCA Summer Camp
June 12 th	TTCA testing
June 13 th	Hoosier Open BJJ Tournament
June 13 th	TKD BB prep class 9:30-11:00
June 13 th	Teen/adult movie night rescheduled 7:00-10:00
June 15-19	Hapkido Day camp 9:00-3:30 HKD testing Friday 19 th
June 19-21	Tai Chi seminar with Master Chen, Bloomington
June 27 th	BB prep class 9:30-11:00
June 27 th	Demo Team 11:00-12:00
June 27 th	Stickfighting 1:00-3:30

Fathers' Day Invitation

After inviting the mothers to join the kids in class for mother's day, we would be in trouble if we didn't offer the same to our fathers. Dads, Grand-dads, etc. are welcome to join their kids in class the week following Fathers day—June 22-26.

Happy Birthday to These Students

Alex Hermann	6-09	Morgan Williams	6-19	Hannah Mantesta	6-25
Sydnee Twardoski	6-18	Sarah Smith	6-21	Bobby Brouse	6-26
Malachi Waples	6-18	Jia Jones	6-21	Mandi Kestler	6-27

Training Anniversary

Congrats to those students who are celebrating a year or multiple years of training with us:

Timothy Thomas (LD, TKD 6 yrs)	Rebekah Wiley (TKD 3 yrs)	Cody Craig (BJJ 1 yr)
Abigail Farmen (TKD 5 yrs)	Tyler Stocke (BJJ 2 yrs)	Zac Speer (TKD 1 yr)
Noah Wilson (LD, TKD 6 yrs)	Lane Stocke (BJJ 2 yrs)	
Gabe Wilson (TKD 6 yrs)	Vince Kreipke (BJJ 2 yrs)	

Quotes of the Week

Following up on our discussion of having a pro-active attitude, we will be talking about commitment and follow through.



Please Keep Us Posted

A reminder as summer approaches: if you have vacation plans, we would appreciate being kept informed, so we don't worry if we miss you in classes. Thanks.

Memorial Day Musings

I hope that everyone took a minute during the cookouts and other activities to reflect on the spirit of the Memorial Day holiday. The martial arts are by definition related to things of war (the role of the military), and there tends to be a quasi-military culture in many martial arts schools. I also believe that there is a tendency to romanticize what we do in the dojang as being closely related to warrior traditions of old. But there is fighting and then there is “fighting.” I might feel a bit of a kindred spirit to those who have served, and while I often am taken for a former drill sergeant, I have never had the honor of serving. I personally try to avoid making parallels to what we do and what those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice experienced.

While I am a fan of MMA, a personal pet peeve of any combat sport including the UFC is hearing fighters make comments comparing themselves to “warriors” and going to battle, or how it is going to be a war in the ring. Last I checked, a symmetrical, mutually agreed upon contest between evenly matched (at least in theory) competitors, even when there is a chance of bodily harm, is not the same as facing the possibility of death. To be blunt, no one soils themselves or is psychologically traumatized after a bout in the UFC. On a tangential note, those who compare themselves to “predators” stalking prey really don't understand the unfair concept of predation—a distinction that those of us in self defense must make. If they were truly predators, they would jump their opponents as they were walking to the ring, or kidnap their opponent's families and hold them hostage to ensure victory. Or randomly get the jump on the fighter who is fighting the match before him and still call it a victory. My point is that all sport and martial arts training, even with all its role playing, isn't the same thing.

Apparently, the debate of the usefulness and transfer of combat sport to military purposes has been long standing. I just finished a book that pointed out that the most militaristic societies of the ancient world—Sparta and Rome—both found pankration (the ancient Greek version of MMA) to be a waste of soldiers' time. While they both deal with fighting, as before, there is fighting and then there is *fighting*.

And yet I mentioned that in a way I still find myself somewhat connected to our true warriors. Perhaps martial arts can no longer prepare us for the modern battlefield physically, but I maintain that it can give us the proper character that society needs to produce good soldiers. When we teach our students about the Hwarang maxim “never retreat in battle” we point out that for most of our students, battle doesn't mean real conflict but any given number of obstacles in our life. Regardless of the type of struggle we must engage in or how high the stakes, we need to have the courage to make the stand and the fighting spirit to persevere until the battle is won. While Memorial Day commemorates this on a grand scale, I believe those qualities are instilled through gradual lessons. But you have to learn them somewhere. As the Duke of Wellington put it “the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton [school].” It is my hope that we better prepare our students for life's battles, both big and small.

If I may, I will make my point—rather grandly—by memorializing the first of this country's fallen heroes. Jonas Clark pastored the church in Lexington. The first shots of the revolutionary war were fired outside its front doors. I have heard it said that Clark was asked if and how he could know his parishioners would answer the call to fight. He was reported to have replied something to the effect, “because, that is exactly what I have been teaching and preparing them for.” I can only hope that our students, in their effort to become more, to become gentry, will be able to answer whatever call to duty they might receive. We owe it to those who answered the call with their noblest of sacrifice, and God bless them for it. --BLS