



United States Judo Association Newsletter

May 2022



Photography by C.H. Halporn



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May 2022 Promotion Board Committee News

USJA Judo ranks are a measure of a student's achievement in Judo. They are a testimony of skill, knowledge and sportsmanship, attained through diligent study, practice, tournament participation and devotion to Judo. Congratulations to the following January 2022 promotions:

Christopher Jones	Shodan	North Star Martial Arts
Robert Moore	Shodan	Pro-Fit Judo
Christopher E. Jones	Shodan	Roanoke Judo Club
Michael Elliott	Nidan	Bowling Green Kentucky Judo Club
Michael L. Stone	Rokudan	Harrisburg Brazilian JuiJitsu & Judo LLC
Dr. Ronald Allan Charles	Kudan	Samurai Judo Association.

Certified Rank Examiner Program

If you are interested in becoming a Certified Rank Examiner, complete the CRE Application and a mock Promotion Packet, forward to the National Office and someone from the CRE Committee will follow up with you on next steps.

For additional information, log on to:
<https://www.usja.net/>, Dashboard, Committees, CRE.

USJA Judo Rank Promotion System – DO YOU KNOW?

Club promotions are not a valid rank credential.

To ensure your students continue to be motivated, conduct timely promotions.

We have students that have been in the same rank for multiple years.

No jump promotions (skipping a grade) are permitted in the USJA Rank System.

Once a student is registered in any Judo rank, he/she can be promoted only to the next higher rank and must fulfill all of the requirements for that rank before being promoted.

If you have lost or forgotten your sign-on to USJA.net, contact the USJA National Office and they will assist you with retrieving your username and password.

All submissions to The *United States Judo Association Newsletter* are carefully reviewed by the Editor. If you wish to submit materials please send those articles, photos, regional, national or international tournaments/camps, or such items to the Editor at americanjudomag@gmail.com. When submitting photos, please send them in digital format with a relevant caption and credit to the photographer; action and group photos are welcomed, without shadowy faces that are unrecognizable, or totally black backgrounds. **The copyright for all articles/photographs remains with the authors/photographers.**

USJF/USJA Grassroots Judo™
Junior, Senior, Veteran, Novice,
Team, and Kata National Championship
Saturday/Sunday July 23-24, 2022



For complete information and application:

<https://usopenjudo.com/>



Celebrating our Military Connections

by Donna Turk, Rokudan,
Assistant Head Coach of the Pensacola Judo Training Center

The Pensacola Judo Training Center is located at 3357 Copter Road, Suite #4, in Pensacola, Florida pensacolajudo.weebly.com

Earl Wright, Nidan, is the Head Coach and Donna Turk, Rokudan, is the Assistant Head Coach.

We are a non-profit club and welcome all individuals and families.

Pensacola Judo Training Center is committed to spreading the art of Judo to the best of our abilities in the spirit of jita-kyoei, mutual benefit.

At Pensacola Judo Training Center, we look forward to providing support, education, and a community of like-minded people to help foster the growth and expansion of judo in the United States.

Located in the Florida panhandle, we have several military facilities in the area.

Military personnel and their families from Tyndall AFB, Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB frequent our dojo when stationed here.

Donna Turk recently presented one of our new USJA Military Challenge coins to Coach Wright for his 30 years of service to the judo community, but also for his service to the United States Marine Corps. Coach Wright served 20 years in the Marine Corps including 5 combat tours. Coach Wright started judo in the United States Marine Corps while stationed at Camp Geiger, North Carolina. He trained in every European and Asian country while traveling the world with the Marine Corp.



Coach Wright is a 3-time US Open Masters gold medal champion (2010, 2011 and 2022.) He is a 2-time US Senior Nationals gold medal champion (2011 & 2013). He was the silver medalist at the President's Cup in 2011 and a World Master Athlete Bronze in 2009. Coach Wright has started a number of judo programs in the Pensacola area including Judo for Christ at Olive Baptist Church and the Naval Air station in Pensacola and Corry Station Naval Base. He is the Head Instructor for the Escambia County Sheriff's Department's Young Cadets program. Thank you, Coach Wright, for your service in the military and your ongoing commitment to the positive growth of the youth of our community.

Coach Earl Wright, Donna Turk

Coach Wright and Coach Turk also presented Military Challenge coins to two additional students at Pensacola Judo Training Center. The first was awarded to Commander Dominick R. Fernandez, Medical Corps, United States Navy for his service to the military and his continued growth as a judo student.

CDR Fernandez's career has taken him to all corners of the United States, an overseas assignment and numerous deployments. He has participated in military operations and humanitarian missions in Kuwait, Horn of Africa, Kenya, Jordan and twice deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He started his martial arts journey while he was in medical school. In his three years at PJTC, he has competed in local tournaments as well as the 2021 US Open. He and his children attended Greatest Camp on Earth where he earned his Yonkyu. This summer, the Gentle Way will guide the Fernandez's martial arts journey to an overseas assignment in Western Japan. Best of luck to the Fernandez family.



Coach Earl Wright, Dominick Fernandez



Our third Challenge Coin was presented to Dr. Austin Stokes. He is an emergency room doctor at West Florida Hospital and Springhill Medical Center in Mobile, Alabama. He has been on the front lines since the beginning of the pandemic, treating patients directly that have complications with COVID. He served his country as a US Marine Infantry for four years. Dr. Austin was recently promoted to Sankyu. Thank you Dr. Austin for your service with the military and your on-going service to those in need of medical care.

Donna Turk, Austin Stokes



Austin Stokes, Coach Earl Wright,
Dominick Fernandez
and Donna Turk



Pensacola Judo Training Center (Awards night)



Samurai Invitational Tournament April 2022

Reported by Don Ort

The Samurai Judo and Jujitsu Academy, a club affiliate of Samurai Judo Association of the USJA, held its first free developmental tournament, open to all members of the dojo. It began with our National Anthem.



Sensei Ricky Herndon, 2nd dan, runs the judo and jujitsu school located in Northwoods Mall in North Charleston, SC. The mall has many establishments under the same roof and is the largest in the entire city.



The Samurai Invitational Judo tournament provided an opportunity for most students to participate in their first tournament. We used standard brackets for age, weight and skill to ensure safety and competitiveness of each match. Most club members experienced the adventure of a tournament for the first time, including such things as getting ready for their matches, how to enter and exit the contest area, and experiencing referee commands. Each match was supervised by a certified referee under the tutelage of John Merwin, 1st dan, following current International Judo Federation rules. A large television on the far side of the main tatami area allowed spectators to see how things were scored. The plan was to conduct an in-dojo event to give shiai experience, for the most part, to first-timers; to guide referees according to latest rules; and to generate interest in judo by providing seating and explanations to spectators, many of whom were family to the competitors but some who wandered in from the mall. At our next developmental tournament part of the session will involve teaching supportive parents how to work the tables and scoreboard to prepare them to assist at a real tournament. All in all, it was a fun day, with no injuries or bruised egos. Participants received place awards presented by Herndon Sensei's sensei, Dr. Ronald Allan Charles.



More of these events are being planned. Other clubs might like to try such an activity. Please contact Ricky Herndon for further information at (843) 343-9892 or SamuraiJudoJujitsuacademy@gmail.com.



Don Ort, 2nd kyu, is a certified coach and referee and assists with instruction at Samurai Judo. He serves the club as *czar* of recruitment and minister of propaganda. Don began judo at age 66 and loves working with younger judoka.



The USJA Armed Forces Military Tribute Challenge Coin

We are happy to announce you too can be part of Armed Forces Judo history with the USJA Armed Forces Military Tribute Challenge Coin.

For a donation of \$25 (which includes shipping) you can own a little part of history.



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SIGNATURE _____

For information about the history of challenge coins go to:

<https://www.tempetrophy.com/military-challenge-coins-and-their-significance-to-soldiers/>



2059 Merrick Road #313 Merrick, NY 11566

(516) 366-3311

<https://www.usja.net/>



Olympian Jim Bregman

An Advocate for American Judo

by Abdul Rashid

Abdul Rashid conducted an extensive interview with Judo Olympian,
USJA founder and past President Jim Bregman.

He shares his martial arts journey in great detail, from his initial lessons at the Washington Judo Club, training under notable figures such as Jimmy Takemori, Donn Draeger and Takahiko Ishikawa. Let him take you back in time to a different era as you read about his experiences, training in Japan and preparing for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

All proceeds from the sale of this book
will be donated to the USJA.

Please use this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/Olympian-Jim-Bregman-Advocate-American/dp/B09WHKQ15Z?pldnSite=1>

