

Tribute to Dr. Joseph Fitzsimmons- Shichidan

Mandarin Gourmet
10145 DeAnza Blvd.
Cupertino, California
5 pm to 7 pm

PROGRAM

Welcome.....Mac Takeda

Introduction of Family Members.....Keith Watanabe

Dinner

Speakers.....Patrick Fitzsimmons
Keith Watanabe
Ferd Tihista
Mac Takeda

Presentation.....Keith Watanabe

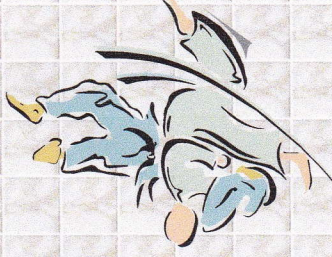
Acknowledgements.....Mac Takeda

Closing.....Mac Takeda



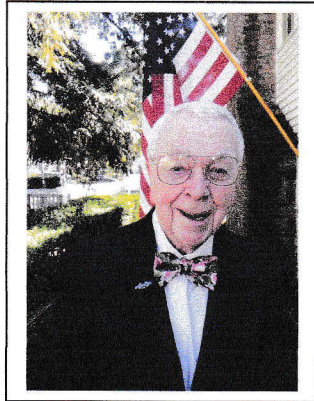
"There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." --Ronald Reagan

April 1, 2017



DR. JOSEPH J. FITZSIMMONS, M.D.
.SHICHIDAN

January 31, 1924 – March 28, 2017



As a bow tie aficionado Fred Astaire once said, "Do it big, do it right, and do it with style. Dr. Joseph Fitzsimmons was larger than life and leaves a memorable mark in our community as a true gentleman, leader, scholar, healer, judoka, father, husband, and friend. At the age of 93, Dr. Fitzsimmons passed away after a brief illness surrounded by his loving family.

Brief Background of his life

Dr. Joseph Fitzsimmons was born in Piqua, Ohio a small farming community, on January 31, 1924.

He lived in Piqua until he went into the Army during World War II, upon his return, he enrolled at Marquette University School of Medicine in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While he was still a Freshman he met Antoinette Vermilion, a Junior at Marquette Medical School. They were married on December 30, 1950 in Saint Mary's Church in Piqua, Ohio. They eventually had five children, two boys and three girls. He graduated from Marquette on June 12, 1952.

After graduation on July 1, 1952, he began his year-long General Internship. Initially he wanted to be a Family Doctor but when Dr. Walter Blount asked him to put a correcting cast on a baby's clubfoot his interest in Orthopedics sparked. He began a four-year Residency Program in Orthopedic Surgery which would lead to a Membership in the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. He finished the Residency Program in 1957 and moved the family to San Jose, California where he opened up an Office for Orthopedic Surgery until he retired at the age of sixty-five years old.

At the age of 12 years old he observed a small Japanese man on a Ocean liner that was entering Los Angeles Harbor. This Japanese man was throwing other men around like they were confetti! Interested in this Japanese man's ability to throw people with such ease motivated him to search San Jose for a Judo club. Doc enrolled his sons Pat and Mike with Santa Clara Judo Club under the auspices of Sensei Tosh Higashi.

After a month of sitting around in the Judo Club watching his sons practice Judo; he asked Sensei Higashi if he might walk around on the mat with someone. The mat was made of canvas, saw dust, and newspaper on cement). Sensei Higashi looked Doc up and down, and said, "Be careful".

It wasn't too long until Doc found himself stretched out two feet above the mat while looking at the ceiling and thinking whether he was going to die; but to his surprise the landing was wonderful. The first fall was wonderful but the next three were even better. Sensei Higashi threw him with a combination Hiza guruma and an okuri ashi harai and he did not feel a thing. At the age of 40 years old Doc was ready to sign up to begin his journey as a Judoka.

Soon after becoming a Judoka his experience as an Orthopedic surgeon was called upon to volunteer as an Emergency physician at nearby Judo Tournaments and traveling with Judo teams outside the country like Germany, Korea, Paris, Russia, China, Columbia and Italy..

Doc was always a familiar face and often the only physician at the Judo tournaments providing his own medical supplies and travel expenses to assist with the safety and medical attention to injured Judoka.

Doc has contributed countless hours and years of true volunteerism to the Judo Community. His selfless devotion and contribution to Judo has left a notable impact on each and every one of us. Doc embodies the soul and spirit of a true Judoka. He will be missed by all in the Judo Community.

Contributions to Judo

- Over 45 years to Hokka Yudanshakai
 - President
 - Board of Examiners & Board of Managers
 - USJF delegate – Board of Directors and Board of Examiners
- USJF National Organization
 - Medical Advisor
 - Various Committees such as Athlete of the year; Junior development etc.
- USA Judo
 - Medical Committee
 - Medical staff to International. World and Olympic Tournaments

Awards

- Hokka Outstanding Service award in 1965
- Koepke Award Outstanding Service to Judo 1969
- Jeremy Glick Award
- 2015 Induction into the USJF Hall of Fame
- Various other rewards

A celebrated authority wrote this about Dr. Joseph J. Fitzsimmons.

Dear Sirs:

It is my opinion that when Dr. Kano visualized the kind of man he felt would be developed by judo he had in mind Dr. Joe Fitzsimmons. In this day of doing judo for ulterior motives, whether it be for attainment of high rank or for monetary gain, or political aspirations, it is refreshing to know there are some judomen who still live and breathe the real judo philosophy.

To say that "Doc" is dedicated, humble, helpful and kind is an understatement in the extreme. It is like explaining a ray of sunshine—only those who bask in it can really appreciate its value. I am one of those fortunate people to have known and worked with Doc, and I can honestly say that it has been one of my cherished experiences in life.

— Ben Campbell



DR. JOE IN RARE MOMENT OF RELAXATION

DEVOTED DOC

Donates time and services to judo.

Judo is for PEOPLE,
not ROBOTS!

HIS RECORD

American Academy Orthopedic Surgery.
American Boards Orthopedic Surgery. Western Orthopedic Association.

Started judo, 1964. Shodan 1966.

Physician San Francisco Nationals 1965.

Physician High School Championships San Jose 1969.

Helped Senior Nationals Las Vegas and Sacramento, and World Championships Salt Lake City.

Helped Junior Nationals Long Beach, Denver, & Spokane.

Camp Bushido 1965 (Soda Springs).

Camp Bushido 1966 (Squaw Valley).

Camp Bushido 1967 (Squaw Valley).

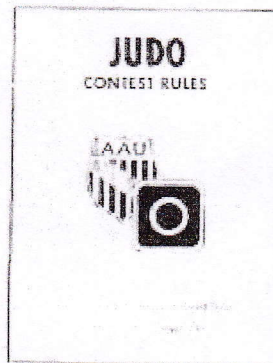
Camp Bushido 1968 (Squaw Valley).

Kan Geiko, Soda Springs 1968.

Hokka Outstanding Service Award 1965.

Koepke Award 1969 Outstanding service to judo.

Member Santa Clara Dojo, Toshio Higashi, Sensei.



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United States Judo Federation

Jeremy Glick Memorial Spirit of Judo Award

July 3, 2010

Congratulations Dr. Joseph Fitzsimmons,

The USJF Jeremy Glick Memorial Spirit of Judo Award Committee is very proud to select you as the eighth recipient of this award. The USJF truly appreciates your many years of dedication to Judo and the USJF.

The award is named in honor of Jeremy Glick who tragically gave his life in the plane crash on 9/11. Many people were in awe of Jeremy Glick's calm composure and chivalrous demeanor before his final moments of life. Especially impressive was his last conversation with his wife and how considerate of her he was.

This award is based on the spirit of Judo, courage, compassion and character. We are honored to add you as recipient of this award for your many years of leadership, development of people, development of Judo, and your courageous dedication in insuring the continued success of Judo and the USJF. You truly epitomize the spirit of this award.

Mr. Nagayasu Ogasawara, May 2002

Ms Keiko Fukuda, October 2003

Mr. Robert Brink, May 2004

Mr. Jim S. Onchi, July 2005

Mr. Noboru Saito, July 2006

Mrs. Phyllis Imada & Mr. Vaughn Imada, July 2007

Ms. Rusty Kanokogi, July 2008

Mr. John Anderson, July 2009

Dr. Joseph Fitzsimmons 2010

Sincerely,

Vaughn T Imada

*Vaughn T Imada, Vice President
United States Judo Federation*

VTI/pi

*cc: Neil Simon
Robert Fukuda
John Woods*

