



Dear Sensei, Sempai, and all members of the dojo family,

Another year has come to a close and we once again, are left with memories both joyful and painful. The year began with the death of my dear wife of more than 50 years. And throughout the difficult times over the past year the compassion and support I have received from all of you has been tremendous comfort. It reminds me that we are a family that pulls together in difficult times.

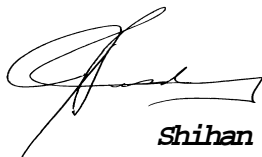
As the year draws to a close, we hear of the passing of a dedicated and skillful student and teacher of more than 20 years. Sensei Barron had a dojo in Yankton South Dakota for nearly 15 years teaching the traditions of Sho-Rei-Shobu-Kan Okinawan Goju Ryu Karate and touching the lives of many people. He died suddenly on the 13th and will be greatly missed by all of us.

The yin and yang of life always reminds us we have both sorrow and joy. Once again the convention was a good time for us to come together and share with dojo brothers and sisters from across the country. Every year watching students new and old makes me proud to see so many working together to strengthen and carry what we have built to their communities.

In November I was awarded an eighth degree black belt in Judo. This represents many years of training, competing, teaching and consulting. I am honored to receive this prestigious recognition from my peers.

As we look forward to the next year, let us dedicate ourselves to leave our mark on the world we inhabit and on the many students with whom we share our skills. Have a wonderful holiday season and a joyful new year.

With Warm Regards,


Shihan

