

Remembering Hanshi George E. Anderson

-My Friend, Sensei and Mentor-

The first time I met George was in 1998 while attending a banquet after a Ju-Jitsu Championships in Reno Nevada. I entered the Hotel and quickly noticed three “white-haired” gentlemen standing together just outside the banquet hall. I immediately thought, here are the “three wise men”! As I introduced myself I learned that one gentleman was Luis Baguena, past president of the International Judo Federation (IJF) and vice-president of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation (JJIF). The next gentleman was Dr. Paul Høglund, Founder of the World Union of Karate Organizations (WUKO) and Treasurer and later President of JJIF. The other gentleman was George E. Anderson, Founder and President of the USA Karate Federation and USA Commissioner for JJIF.

*I was honored to dine with these “wise men” and learn about the Olympic Movement of Ju-Jitsu! After that most enjoyable meeting, George invited me to travel to Ohio to visit the headquarters of the **United States Ju-Jitsu Federation**. Again, through George’s introduction and assistance, I was honored to meet many ju-jitsu leaders of “**UNITED STATES JU-JITSU**” and also attend the **World Ju-Jitsu Championships** held in Berlin Germany in November 1998.*

*From the very beginning, my association with Hanshi George E. Anderson was one of mutual respect, education and a lasting friendship. I found that George was one of the most intelligent and knowledgeable instructors of the martial arts that I have ever known. In addition, I realized that George was very well “connected and respected” in the USA and Global Martial Arts Community. George had a history of being a **Leader of Martial Arts** that was second to none... He knew the history and skills of the martial arts and he knew how to establish and build premier organizations to further develop both the martial arts and their “sport venues”. As an example, it was through George Anderson’s Leadership that the sport of Karate became recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and the Olympics’ Pan American Games.*

*In pioneering the sport of Ju-Jitsu, George E. Anderson was also the **Founder** of the **United States Ju-Jitsu Federation (USJJF)**.*

After that memorable meeting in 1998 with the “three wise men”, I soon became deeply involved in furthering the growth of Ju-Jitsu in the USA. With George’s advice and encouragement, I have continued to work in the USJJF - The USA National Governing Body for Ju-Jitsu. This past spring George and I made a “road trip” to Canada to meet with Ju-Jitsu Leaders and plan for the further development of the Pan American Ju-Jitsu! And most recently (only weeks ago), we spent the weekend together working for US JU-JITSU in a Board Meeting and the 2009 National Championships. I will always remember George’s enthusiasm, humor and energy focused on whatever he was working on... He was a very positive “inspiration” to everyone around him. Through his entire life, George E. Anderson was a “Perfectionist”, a “Most Talented Leader” and the “Best Friend” anyone could ever have... We will all truly miss Our Friend and Leader, George E. Anderson... And, we will carry on George’s Legacy with us always...

Bruce R. Bethers, President - US JU-JITSU (USJJF)