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미국태권도고상사회

U.S. Taekwondo Grandmasters Society

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PRESS RELEASE

The Annual Board of Directors meeting, general meeting, and Hall of Fame event of the U.S. Taekwondo Grandmasters Society was held in Dallas, Texas, March 31 – April 2, 2023

The 2023's Annual EC meeting on Friday at 9 AM, annual meeting at 5PM, and Hall of Fame event of the U.S. Taekwondo Grandmasters Society (USTGS) on Saturday at 7PM were held in Dallas, Texas, from March 31 - April 2.

The USTGS (President GM John Jong-hyun Choi), composed of the 8th and 9th Dans, the highest Taekwondo grandmasters' attainment in America, participated in the 2023 event held in 4 years after the pandemic with 129 regular and associate members from 36 states: the 18th ordinary general meeting, the 15th induction into the Hall of Fame. The 3rd Taekwondo Grandmasters Myungin Induction Ceremony was held at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel, Grand Volume Hall, in Dallas, Texas. It was held successfully. In addition, in its celebration of the 20th anniversary of the USTGS founding, Kukkiwon President Lee Dong-Sub attended and gave congratulatory remarks at the Hall of Fame and Celebrity Awards ceremony. Appreciation plaques were awarded to 2019 Hall of Fame winner GM Kim Tae-Yeon, who donated \$30,000; One Korea founder, Dr. Ryu Jai-poong, presented \$20,000 to USTGS; Retired Judge Roy Curbin. Retired Judge Richard Sacks, Vice Chairman of the US Hall of Fame Establishment Organization were also recognized. Following the 20th-anniversary celebration cake, the president of Kukkiwon, Senior advisor Kim, Yoojin (92 yrs.), Honorary president Won Chik Park, and GM Jin Song Chung, Soo Kon Kim, and present president's celebration cake and photo-taking ceremony were held.

The 15th U.S. Taekwondo Hall of Fame winners held in 2023 include G.M. Song Oh Yang for the Ambassador of the Year Award, GM Jin Song Chung for the Great Leader Award, GM Jong Keun Park, GM Pyoung Hoe Koo, and GM Jin Young Kim for the Lifetime Taekwondo Award, Taekwondo Ambassador Award, GM Jack Corrie, Taekwondo Literature Award, GM Jin Yong Kwon, Peace Prize, GM Inseon Kim, Referee of the Year Award, Master Valerie Long, Coach of the Year Award, Master Dong S. Lee, followed by the 3rd Myungin award ceremony was given to GM Yung Ho Jun, by the president of Kukkiwon Lee, Dong Sup, honorary president Won Chik Park, 3rd president Jung Jin-song Chung, 4th president Soo-kon Kim, current president John Jong-hyun Choi, and the first Myungin award winner, Senior advisor GM Yoo Jin Kim. A commemorative ceremony was held to hand over the banner inheriting the tradition.

Before the event, on April 1 (Sat), in the morning, there was a Health seminar (VP SangSoon Koh), an American public-school Taekwondo education success story (VP Kyung Won Kim), and seminars for members of Will and Living Trust (Tae Suk Chung).

Before the award ceremony, the annual general meeting began with a silent memorial service by looking at the screen portraits of the senior great Grandmasters and elders who passed away after dedicating their lives to the development of Taekwondo in the U.S.: Virginia's Great GM Joon Rhee, Soon Ho Kim; Chicago region's GM Cha Kyo Han, Young Rae Cho, Tae Hee Nam, Yoo Seung Kim,

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Nak Yong Chung, Mon Ho Hong, Byung Dae Suh, Yoon Bok Roh, Young Chul Cho, Kyu In Baek, Yong Bum Cho, Kee Jin Chang, Ji Young Eum, Chung Il Kim, Nam Gon Hyung; in Seattle's region, GM Tae Hong Choi; in Detroit's GM Chang Soo Lim, Sang Gyu Shim, Jae Joon Kim; in New York region, Jo Sihak, Jang Young-jun, Kim Jeong-gu, Son Deok-seong, Hwang Ki, Kim Ki-hwang, Kim Sang-soo, Park Yeon-hee; New Jersey area's GM Kim Ki-joong, Jeong Seok-ju, Ma Jung-geun, Jeon In-mun; in Oklahoma state, Kim Man-seok, Jack Hwang, Haeng-woong Lee; in Dallas area, Choo Gyo-seong, Choi Hwa Sung, Ahn Ye-mo, Peter Kim; in Los Angeles area, Jung Jong-gyu, Kim Dae-shik, Kwon Bu-gil, Lee Nam-seok, Kim Tae-young, Jeon Gye-baek, Choi Kwon-seong, Han Chun-hwa; in Iowa area's GM Kim Jong-un, Shin Seok-ki; in Oakland, GM Kang Myung-gyu; in San Diego, GM Nam-Seok Baek; Sang-Kim from Texas, GM Kyu-Ha Cho from Houston; GM Yong-Ok Jeong from North Carolina; Soo-Young Cha from Maryland; GM Cha-Seok Park, Young-Chi Kim from Georgia; GM Moo-Young Lee, Young-Soo Do, Jeong-Nam Lee, Jeong-Soo Park, Myung-Geun Oh, Taeyoung Choi from Florida; Jongse Lee of Philadelphia; and Donald Kimm and David Lee, who perished at a young age.

Following the demonstration by the demonstration team (Director Lion Changik Choi), the introduction of the president's team (Jong-Hyun Choi, Vice-President Jae-Gyun Shin, Jong-Cheol Jang, Haeng-Soon Park, Gyeong-Won Kim, Sang-Soon Koh, Secretary-General Jin-Yong Kwon, Treasurer Gwang-Hyun Lee, and Director of Events and Websites Jin-Hwang Kwon), the new committee. There were introductions of the chairpersons, Women's Division Director Yoon, Young-mi, Poomsae Division Director, Pok-Sun Yang, Demonstration Team Director Choi, Lion Changik, and a brief introduction of next year's 2024 convention (Preparatory Committee Chairperson Kim Cheol-hoe).

The U.S. Taekwondo Grandmasters Society has been inducted into the Hall of Fame every year, selecting high ranks who have made outstanding achievements in the development, education, publicity, and distribution of Taekwondo with the United States every year has been chosen.

Meanwhile, a meeting between the U.S. Taekwondo Grandmasters Presidency and the Kukkiwon president was held in the middle of the event and at 8:00 in the morning on April 2. The chance for mutual growth and candid conversation was taken as an opportunity to settle the estranged relationship and take a leap forward in the U.S. was successfully prepared by the Kukkiwon president and the USTGS president.

President John J. Choi
April 22, 2023

Source: U.S. Taekwondo Grandmasters Society (<https://www.usgrandmasters.com/>)

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