



Torrance, CA... Grandmaster Nam Suk Lee passed away in his sleep on August 29, 2000, in Torrance, California. Grandmaster Lee, who died from a massive stroke, was in declining health after surgery in early May 2000.

In the late 1930's Grandmaster Lee developed what would later be called Chang Moo Kwan by studying Shotokan from a discarded Chinese translation of Giehin Funikoshi's original Karate textbook. In 1946, following WW II, Nam Suk Lee met Byung In Yoon, and they began teaching at a Seoul, Korea, YMCA. Together they helped to rebuild the Korean spirit through rigorous martial arts training of their students. In the early 1950's the Korean War split the peninsula, and Byung In Yoon was one of the casualties. Once the war ended, Grandmaster Lee became Chang Moo Kwan's second grandmaster and began promoting Chang Moo Kwan throughout Korea. From the 1960's through the 1970's, Grandmaster Lee traveled worldwide to promote Chang Moo Kwan and martial arts goodwill.

In 1984, Grandmaster Lee settled in San Pedro, California, to be closer to his four sons and one daughter. In 1997, he returned to teaching at the San Pedro YMCA Dojang with Chang Moo Kwan Masters Jon Wiedenman and George Fullerton. They urged Grandmaster Lee to teach them about traditional Chang Moo Kwan. For the first time in almost 30 years Grandmaster put on a dobok and instructed formal classes.

When asked by Weidenman what he most wanted his students to keep in their minds while training, he said, "Cultivate capability." Upon his death, Wiedenman declared his teacher Supreme Grandmaster as tradition dictates, and designated him as a tenth degree. Photo courtesy of Jon R. Wiedenman, White Tiger Chang Moo Kwan



***Grandmaster
Lee Nam Suk
Dies at 75***