

# Grandmaster Nam Suk Lee

# Patriarch of the

# Chang Moo Kwan

## Part I

**After the shattering experience of the Korean War in 1950-53, there were many martial arts instructors that had to pull the broken threads of their lives and their schools back together. One of the surviving Chang Moo Kwan instructors has done just this. His background encompasses a dream to keep the martial arts alive in Korea during a time when each person was etching his own survival. This amazing instructor is Grandmaster Nam Suk Lee and this is his story, told for the first time ever in a martial arts magazine.**

By James & Sandra Dussault

**T**he year is 1993. There is an outbreak of war and for the next two years you can no longer train in martial arts. You, your instructor, and your fellow classmates have been enlisted to fight for your country. Upon your return you are notified that you no longer have a school and your instructor has been listed as missing in action.

Can you pull the school back together? Can you train other students who have come home from the war wanting to find some thread of familiarity they once knew?

This scenario has already taken place exactly forty years ago. And there were many instructors that had to pull the broken threads of their lives and their schools back together. One of the surviving Chang Moo Kwan instructors has done just this. His background encompasses a dream to keep the martial arts alive in Korea during a time when each person was etching his own survival. This amazing instructor is Grand-

master Nam Suk Lee. He is fulfilling his dream and is an active leader in many people's lives today.

### **The Origins of Tae Kwon Do**

Where does Tae Kwon Do originate from? Tae Kwon Do incorporates the abrupt linear movements of Japanese karate and the flowing circular patterns of Chinese kung-fu/gung-fu and chuan fa. What truly distinguishes Tae Kwon Do is its varied and uniquely powerful kicking techniques; these techniques set Tae Kwon Do apart from all the martial art systems.

The earliest known form of Tae Kwon Do is Taekyon. Evidence of this practice has been found, dating as far back as 37 B.C., in a mural on the ceiling of the Muyong-chong, a royal tomb from the Koguryo dynasty. It was unearthed by a team of Japanese archeologists.

The young aristocrats of Silla are credited with the growth and

