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Art, Life & Legacy: A Generation Passes

Some of the greatest martial art patriarchs seem to be passing as if they were all called home at once. I was lucky enough to have met some of these men during their lives, yet I feel that I have missed a great opportunity in knowing them better. I am upset with myself for taking for granted that they were here and at some level, believing that they would always be here. I think about my

own father, who I am lucky is alive and well, but I know that he will not always be here. That is

a frightening thought. Many of you have lost someone close and you know what I mean.

My heart goes out to the Songahm Tae Kwon Do family, the International Taekwon-Do Federation family, the Global Tae Kwon Do Federation family, the members of the Chang Moo Kwan, and the members of the Moo Duk Kwan as they have all lost their fathers recently. Life must continue and the legacy that these men have left literally changed the face of martial arts forever.

In the summer of 2000, **Nam Suk Lee**, the President of the Chang Moo Kwan, passed away. Grandmaster Lee was

one of Byung In Yoon's original students. In 1946, he was appointed as the first instructor of the newly formed Chung Moo Kwan. In 1947, he was appointed as the first instructor of the Tae Kwon Do department of the Korean ministry of communications. In 1961, he was appointed Director General of the Korean Tae Kwon Do Association (KTA). In 1969, he was elected Vice President of the KTA. In 1973, he served on the Council of Techniques for the KTA and was appointed to the executive council of the World Tae Kwon Do Federation. Grandmaster Lee also held the position of treasurer for the WTF and traveled extensively teaching the techniques and philosophy by which he lived his life.

In the fall, **Haeng Ung Lee**, founder of one of the most successful martial arts organizations in America, the American Tae Kwon Do Association (ATA), died. He knew that he was dying and he used the end of his time here to make sure that he had set a course for Songahm students to follow. Before his passing, he nominated Soon Ho Lee to become the Songahm Grandmaster and outlined a detailed process for him to follow in order to be recognized. I am certain that it was with mixed emotions of pride and regret that S. H.

Lee achieved the title eight months after Eternal Grandmaster Lee's death.

In April of this year, we lost **Jung Tae Park**, the founder of the Global Tae Kwon Do Federation. Grandmaster Park was a pioneer in Tae Kwon Do and began his training in 1948 before the name of Tae Kwon Do existed. In 1964, he joined the Korean army and became a leading instructor. He spent two years in Vietnam teaching Korean and American



Nam



Lee



Park