

# TREMONT SCHOOL OF JUDO, KARATE, AND JU-JUTSU

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*February 22, 2006*

## ***Letter from the Soke:***

At the outbreak of World War II, a young Antonio Pereira, like millions of other American men, was called to service in the armed forces. The Great War, as it has been called, would change the face of the earth. It was also responsible for the creation of Mi Yama Ryu Ju Jutsu. While martial artists of China and Japan first arrived in the United States as early as the middle 1800's, most Americans had little exposure or understanding of the martial arts before the war. This was also true of the Shinan. His introduction to the martial arts took place as a result of his service in the military. From 1943 to the opening of the Hombu dojo in 1960, the Shinan worked tirelessly to train and develop what has become Mi Yama Ryu Jujitsu. He further refined and categorized these movements and techniques after his trip to Japan in the early 1960's.

While many people have assisted in the growth of the Ryu, including Sensei Vincent Mandina, with whom my father operated a sister school of Mi Yama Ryu Ju Jutsu in Washington Heights for many years, none have been more important than the head instructors and later the Dai Shihans of the system. These most senior instructors, with the full faith and trust of the Shinan, were given the responsibility to teach, preserve and by their example, grow the system. They, in essence, teach and monitor all instructors of the system. It has been their responsibility to maintain the standards of the system through the techniques and promotional procedures given to us by the Shinan.

We are very fortunate that the first of these head instructors, Sensei Pablo Martinez has returned to the Hombu dojo. In addition to this, he received the first black belt given in the Mi Yama Ryu system. As such, he has the distinction of being BB#1 in our systems ranking order. Sensei Mandina is BB#3.

From that time in the early 1960's until now in the year 2006 several other men have enjoyed the full confidence of the Shinan. Shihan William Marquez BB#4 was for many years the Shinans' choice as head instructor for students with the rank of 4<sup>th</sup> Kyu (green belt) and up. Sensei Mario Gil BB#18 was given that responsibility after Shihan Marquez. Shihan Hector Negron BB#62 was appointed after Sensei Gil and maintained the integrity and standards of the Ryu for many years.

All of our students would not have had the good fortune to experience the senior classes from any of these men had it not been for the dedication and devotion of Shihan George Klett BB#2. The first Dai Shihan of the Miyama Ryu Ju Jutsu system taught and mentored most of Shinans beginning students. For over 35 years he gave of his skill and knowledge to every student who entered the Hombu dojo. After the Shinan retired Dai Shihan Klett, Shihan Demetrios Milliaressis BB#138 was then appointed by the Shinan to serve as the Dai Shihan of the Ryu. Shortly thereafter the Shinan appointed Dai Shihan

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Dr. William Duke BB#160 to serve as his representative in the Dominican Republic and Dai Shihan D'Arcy Rahming BB#189 to be his representative in the Bahamas. All of these men served the Shinan and the Mi Yama Ryu system well. They enjoyed his full faith and trust, and in many different ways, helped in the development and growth of the system.

However, I have now decided to retire Dai Shihan Milliaressis and have appointed Shihan Lewis Palzer BB#24 as the new Dai Shihan of the Ryu. Shihan Palzer has been involved in the Mi Yama Ryu system for over 40 years and meets all the requirements set forth by the Shinan for this position. He was trusted and respected by my father and he has my full faith and confidence. I give him my best wishes and believe he will work tirelessly to grow and maintain the standards of Mi Yama Ryu.

While we look to the future, we have seen our system grow both during and after the Shinan's death. It's external growth, outside of the Hombu dojo, has been due in large part to the efforts of our Dai Shihans and the external instructors. These Okuiri's, Mokurokyu's, Menkyo's and Kaidens, along with their Dai-Shihans, both here and abroad, have helped make that future much brighter. I look forward to working with them to advance Mi Yama Ryu.

With the re-issuing of our promotional procedures and grading guidelines I believe our future will also be much clearer. All members of the system will now have the ability to research and discover for themselves, well in advance of any testing date, the exact requirements for each grade. This will eliminate any confusion as to what is expected of each and every student. Any questions regarding the specific techniques included in these grading guidelines should be directed to the Dai Shihan of the Ryu. He may be reached at **(718)731-9067**.

I am looking forward to our next testing cycle in April. It will be an opportunity to see our students demonstrate all of the movements, techniques and katas, which are the foundations and strengths of Mi Yama Ryu. It will affirm to them the legitimacy and lineage of their rank and demonstrate to all who will ever watch or feel a Mi Yama Ryu technique that the Shinan's standards have been maintained.

**In the Spirit of Miyama Ryu,**

**Soke A. Pereira Jr.**

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