

Professor George Arrington

50 Years of Dedication to Danzan Ryu Jujutsu

When we talk about Danzan Ryu Jujutsu we find that relationships and friendships often last decades in this art. Nothing could be a better example of this than my own relationship with Prof. George Arrington.

We first met on the mat when George signed up as a student at the dojo my father, older brother and myself started in Reston Virginia back in 1970. I was 14 years old, and George was two years older. After teaching there for two years our family moved back to California and George and a few other dedicated students continued to practice what they had learned on their own, with my encouragement from 2,000 miles away. I visited them twice in 1972 and in 1973 to continue their training and in 1974, George flew out to Southern California to take his Shodan exam at the Penmar Judo & Jujutsu Kai.

George returned to Virginia and opened his own dojo and continued to immerse himself in the practice of the physical arts but also to delve into the history and traditions of Danzan Ryu, Professor Okazaki and his first-generation students who transplanted the art from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland.

In the 90's George pursued a career opportunity out in San Jose, Calif and while he was there, he sought out Prof. Sig Kufferath who was one of Prof. Okazaki's most senior personal students who was still alive and discussed how he could continue and deepen his Danzan Ryu training. Prof. Kufferath advised George to contact his most senior student, Prof. Tony Janovich and ask to join his dojo. George followed the correct protocol and requested my permission which I gave whole heartedly. Over the years at Prof. Janovich's Dojo, George proved himself as a dedicated student and received the ranks of Godan, Rokudan/Professor and Shichidan plus the Kaidensho titles of Renshi, Shihan and Hanshi. George also attended the special Okugi training that was held in 1993 and in 2003 & 2013 to honor the memory of both Prof. Okazaki and Prof Kufferath

In 1995 George created the Danzan.com website which is one of the most comprehensive martial arts websites I have ever seen. It is a treasure trove of information for both students and teachers of Danzan Ryu.

In his "spare" time George has also managed to write and publish seven books that help reveal many unknown facts and details about various aspects of our art that we may hear about from time to time but never have a source to refer to.

He also produced a DVD that documents the history of Danzan Ryu in Southern California.

George's latest project is a series videos that breaks down and describes the Japanese kanji that we have all seen in the Mokuroku, the graduation scroll that Prof. Okazaki presented to his Nidan graduates of the Kodenkan. By providing some historical context, he is able to show us how each character is written stroke-by-stroke.

Prof. George Arrington, it is my great pleasure and honor to present to you the AJJF's 50-year pin in recognition of your 50 years of dedication to the art of Danzan Ryu Jujutsu.



Michael Belzer

Kudan, Danzan Ryu Jujutsu

April 10, 2021