

Our Famous Dojang

July 15th 2010

Last Saturday I went to the 11 o'clock class, curious to see the KTA visitors. Despite the thick heat of the day, the class was packed. Five rows across, at least twelve deep. The kihap was deafening! Then Mr. Kim put us through our paces: punches, blocks, roundhouses and turning sidekicks. I couldn't help glancing over at the cameras that our guests had trained on the class, hoping they were getting the good stuff.

By the end of class, everyone was soaked through. A perfect time for pictures, right? We sponged off our brows, arranged ourselves by rank, and the photographer took pictures from every angle. Then the representative from KTA stepped forward to present Mr. Kim with an award and to say a few words. The words were in Korean, however, so we needed a translator. Mr. Kim called Jed forward to help.

Now, one of the things I love about JH Kim Taekwon Do is the sheer variety of students, and how we all come together as a family. So there we stood, all shapes, sizes, ethnicities, ranks, and ages, watching a red headed American acting as a translator for the Korean representatives of the KTA. Even Mr. Kim seemed amused.

But what the KTA said was quite moving.

He told us that we were in the presence of the most famous Grandmaster, of the most famous dojang in the world. Clearly, we were incredibly fortunate to be a part of this school. Mr. Kim, of course, was his warm and charming self. He accepted the award on behalf of all of us.

You could feel the significance of the KTA's words sink in to the entire group. I have always appreciated the level of learning, skill and community that Mr. Kim engenders. But to be part of a world-renowned school! It was a proud moment.

Linda Button