

Dennis Meggers

7th Degree 4/6/20113 p.s.

To the Tae Kwon Do Family:

I want to thank Grandmaster Jung for selecting the heartland of the country, and Cedar Rapids in particular, for instituting an academy of Tae Kwon Do. I am glad that his choice of location and its proximity to smaller communities in the area allowed students to come to Cedar Rapids to train in the art, including me. I believe that the Midwest, with its rural morals and ethics and family values, is important but under-appreciated. I believe that Tae Kwon Do and the Midwestern values complement one another.

I grew up in a small town some distance away from Cedar Rapids. In my youth, it was pretty much a self-sustaining community, some small businesses, hardware and appliance stores, grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, farmers and the business that catered to farmers, even a drug store; its own schools. Because the town was self-sustaining, the adults, neighbors and parents, were more interested, more involved with raising the kids to also sustain the town; teaching the kids morals, ethics and respect for one another. Neighbors were teachers, church leaders, scout leaders, employers.

This interest in involvement with others, and trying to impart values and respect for one another is my take on Tae Kwon Do. The kicks, the punches, the forms are all a means of developing focus. The art is learning to respect others and the desire to impart values to others, to be sustaining. These are both Midwestern values and Tae Kwon Do values.

I know that not everyone can have these roots. But, I can see the difference having these values and living them can make. I feel fortunate to have been in positions to influence students, other practitioners, and even everyday people. It is how I live my life.

Sincerely,
Dennis Meggers