

Master Christopher D. Moore-Martial Arts Biography

I am a lifelong martial artist.

I was born on November 27, 1951 in Trenton, New Jersey. My first exposure to martial arts came at the age of eight in Great Britain while visiting my mother's family, when I attended an informal Judo class for several months. I later studied Jujitsu under my mother's ballet and fencing master in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

In 1965, my family moved to the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area and I enrolled in the American Jui-Jitsu Karate Institute (its successor is the Allegheny County Budokai, www.koseido-dojo.org), where I studied Japanese Koseido Jui-Jitsu, a classical school of Japanese Jui-Jitsu, and Koseido-ryu Karate-do under Hanshi Joseph Hedderman and Sensei Walter Mazak, until I graduated from high school in 1969. Hanshi Hedderman and Sensei Mazak learned martial arts from Pittsburgh legend Dewey Deavers, who acquired an extensive body of martial arts knowledge and expertise working with a group of Japanese circus performers!

I was first exposed to Korean martial arts, specifically Tang Soo Do, while training at the American Jui-jitsu Karate Institute, when two Air Force veteran Ee Dans who had learned Tang Soo Do while stationed in Korea, trained at the American Jui-Jitsu Karate Institute for several months. My exposure to their dynamic kicking techniques kindled a life-long interest in Korean martial arts and led me to study Taekwondo soon after graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Philosophy in 1973. I began studying Taekwondo under Mr. Peter Regallo in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania in 1973 and continued until 1981, when Mr. Regallo closed his school. I was promoted to Il Dan first degree black belt in Taekwondo by Mr. Regallo in 1979.

I have been both privileged and honored to train under a number of exceptional, even legendary, martial artists including Hanshi Joseph Hedderman and Grandmaster Kyu Ha Kim. I have also trained with a number of martial artists too numerous to mention and in a variety of disciplines before returning to the study of Judo when I enrolled in Grandmaster Kyu Ha Kim's Judo and Taekwondo school

in Brentwood, Pennsylvania in 1985 (www.spiritforgema.com, Legacy). I studied both Judo and Taekwondo under Grandmaster Kim for twenty-eight years, for much of that time as one of his senior students. While training under Grandmaster Kim, I attained the rank of Yukdan, 6th Degree black belt, in Taekwondo (2008) and Yodan, 4th Degree black belt, in Judo (2011).

In 2013, I founded, Spirit Forge Martial Arts, www.spiritforgema.com, located in the Pittsburgh Barbell facility in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, where we practice and teach Judo, Taekwondo and Self-Defense to students of all ages.

I am currently ranked as Childan, 7th Degree black belt in Taekwondo by the Kukkiwon in Seoul, Korea and Rokudan 6th degree black belt in Judo by the United States Judo Association. I am a lifelong strength athlete and coach and have integrated modern approaches to strength and conditioning into the training curriculum of Spirit Forge Martial Arts.

I have been married to my wife, Patricia, since 1972. We have one child, Timothy L. Moore, born in 1981, a Taekwondo Sadan 4th degree black belt and practicing attorney.

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