

My Dearest Students & Dojo Family:

It is with the deep sorrow and profound sadness that I announce the passing of our Shihan and my Sensei, Shihan Paul Arel.

Many of you have been blessed by meeting and working with our Shihan here at our dojo as well as many International Kokondo Association (IKA) events, some of you as recently as our December 5-7, 2008 seminar – this was the final time he taught anyone in his nearly 59 year devotion to authentic martial arts. Three of our students were the final students promoted to the rank of black belt by Shihan Arel. Shihan Arel commented frequently throughout the years and he was empathetic in my conversations with him during our most recent seminar about your enthusiasm in the dojo and how it impressed and encouraged him. He made it very clear that he loved and cared for all of you.



His spirit and legacy will continue to live on with us always. I would like to thank all of you for your commitment to not only our dojo, but to the entire organization of the IKA, and Shihan Arel. He will continue to be my inspiration as a student & teacher, and will be the guide for our entire martial arts organization.

If you would like to send his family your condolences you can forward them to:

Sue, Jaimie, & Alison Arel
343 Clark Street
South Windsor, CT 06074

Additionally, in February the International Kokondo Association (IKA) will be holding a special memorial celebrating the life and impact of this legendary martial artist & man. Tickets for the event can be purchased (whether or not you can attend). The funds will be used to support the Arel family. Additionally, a percentage of the funds will be donated to St. Jude's. I would ask you to strongly consider purchasing a ticket when the announcement is released in the dojo, on our website, and on the IKA's world HQ website.

This is a difficult time for all of us, but I'm proud and know Shihan was proud of all of you. His legacy will continue always.

Respectfully,

Sensei George M. Rego, Chief Instructor FJJA
Regional Supervisor, International Kokondo Association (IKA)

