

7th July 2007

Dear Genbukan/KJJR members,

We hope you are all well and training earnestly. As you know the Japan TaiKai this year will mark Sensei's 60th birthday. In Japan this is called "Kanreki" and is a very special occasion. It will be even more special for Sensei because many people will be traveling from all around the world to participate in this TaiKai.

In Japan for Sensei's birthday, everyone in the dojo helps to buy Sensei a birthday present from all the students at Honbu and it has become a nice tradition for us here. We know many Dojo-cho and their students also send Sensei greetings and presents. For all of us, as Sensei's students, it is both an honour and a joyful occasion to celebrate his birthday. The work and dedication that Sensei puts into our organization is tremendous. So each year we like to present a gift to Sensei on his birthday from all of his students at Honbu.

This year, as it is a special birthday year for Sensei, we would like to share our appreciation with every other member of the Genbukan and KJJR. We as the Shihan-Kai would like to give all members of the Genbukan and KJJR, Dojo-cho and their students, an opportunity to give something back to Sensei. It would be wonderful indeed for all of us to join force and make a collection for Sensei's birthday present, everyone together. We would like to stress that this is not obligatory. Seeing this year marks Sensei's 60th birthday it would be nice for everyone to participate.

We have almost two months before Sensei's birthday, so we would like to give people plenty of time to make a gesture if they so wish. It is our wish to present Sensei with two gifts one on his birthday and one at the TaiKai. For Sensei's birthday we would like to present Sensei with a gift, which we believe Sensei will appreciate and use frequently; a high definition video-camera. Secondly we would also like to present Sensei with a tailor-made or brand name suit at the TaiKai later this year.

This year is very hard for some, especially those of you coming to the Japan TaiKai. We do not ask for your help lightly, and as we said before this is not obligatory, it is an idea from us as Sensei's students.

For interested members, and we hope as many people as possible can, we recommend that Dojo-cho's collect monies from their students and send by PayPal or postal order to Japan along with a list of donors so we can put their names on the website, to thank them all. Everyone is free to chose the amount they send, we suggest Dojo-cho to make a contribution of between \$30 to \$50, Yudansha (black belts) between \$20 to \$30 and all other members \$10 or whatever they feel like contributing. Again, do not feel you are under pressure to contribute; we would like members to do this from the heart.

Monies received up until the 17th August will go toward the video camera and monies received after this date until the 1st October will be go toward the suit we have in mind for Sensei.

We will also be dealing with questions you may have with regards to contributions on the website.

Dear members, thank you all for your time. We all look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Honbu-Dojo, Shihan-Kai;

Okayasu Yoshikazu, Nagamoto Jin, Roy Ron, James Wright, Tamemura Koutaro,
Nicola D'Onofrio