California GKK Members Will Go to Japan

by Dan Taylor

The demise of the Samurai class in the late 19th century, left many with no venue for training. Fearing that their ancient traditions would be lost, these former warriors assembled and formed the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai (Greater Japan Martial Virtue Society). With an emphasis on the martial virtues they had previously established under their Bushido Code, the modern Budo philosophy was developed and the Samurai of old became the Budoka of today. Many renowned leaders and practitioners of traditional martial arts joined the DNBK. It was the official martial arts institution sanctioned by the authority of the national government of Japan. In 1933, Miyagi Chojun, the founder of Goju-Ryu Karate-Do, demonstrated his art at the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai, where it was subsequently accepted as a Japanese Martial Art. For more information about the DNBK, visit their site at Dai Nippon Butoku Kai .
During the past year, it has been my privilege to meet several members of this prestigious society including its international director Dr. Tesshin Hamada, Hanshi. Hamada Hanshi has graciously invited me to select some of my GKK students to travel to Japan and demonstrate Goju-Ryu Karate-Do at the DNBK’s World Butoku Sai to be held in Kyoto on April 29, 2008. The magnitude of this honor is beyond anything that I can describe and is overshadowed only by the enormity of the accompanying responsibility. As the DNBK is the official martial arts organization of Japan, this event will be attended by members of the Japanese royal family, as well as other important dignitaries from around the world. It is with an enormous sense of humility that we presume to represent you and the entire GKK by our attendance at such an event.

Accompanying me on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will be the following GKK members:

Robert DaLessio, Yondan, Renshi
Brandon Wainwright, Shodan
Greg Rader, Shodan-Ho
Christian Rader, Ikyu
Ilea Jackson, Ikyu
Chris Duarte, Ikyu