

1973 BLACK BELT HALL OF FAME

ERNEST LIEB

Ernest Lieb credits his accomplishments to the spiritual and physical way of life he has followed for the past 15 years: karate. And as director of the American Karate Association and temporary chairman of the National AAU Karate Committee, Lieb dreams of karate unity.

The 32-year-old karateka was born in Berlin during the height of Hitler's offensive against European powers. At the end of the war, Lieb's father was sent to Siberia. But after two years in a labor camp, he managed to escape, returning to his family to free them from the bonds of the Berlin wall. Escaping to West Germany, the Liebs made their home in Hanover until 1952 when they emigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago.

The family had come to know their new country less than a year when 13-year-old Ernest received serious injuries from a knife-wielding attacker. After the nightmare of his painful wounds, the teenager decided it might be a good idea to learn some form of self-defense. He started with judo, but in 1957 switched to ju jitsu and karate.

In 1959, Lieb graduated from high school and joined the Air Force. When he was transferred to Korea in 1962, he was able to resume his martial arts study and came under the tutelage of chi-do-kwan instructor Chun Il Sup. In 1963, in his first tournament as a black belt, Lieb distinguished himself by taking first place.

When Lieb was discharged from the Air Force in 1964, he returned home to Muskegon, Michigan, where he opened his own studio and began a long search for a new instructor, someone from who he could further his own karate progress. Tadashi Yamashita, well-known Okinawan stylist, turned out to be that man, and to this day Lieb praises the quality of

instruction he has received from both his Korean and Japanese instructors.

"The first instructor gave me life," Lieb says. "He taught me to be a winner . . . accept challenges and conquer them.

"I looked for five years before I found a man equal to my first sensei." Yamashita "helped me to see that there is more to karate than just one style—one way of doing things."

Perhaps that lesson explains Lieb's unrelentless drive to see all styles of American karate unite in common concern for the welfare of the ancient art of self-defense.

"A person should fight to win," Lieb stresses, "but when it's over . . . enjoy good friendship." For karate, the fight for recognition among other major sports is finally building momentum—thanks to men like Ernest Lieb.

RICHARD KIM

"Let the technique explode from within. You must fight with feeling. It is vital to draw from all of the resources of your being. To the true martial artist, the words *try* and *impossible* do not exist." So speaks Richard Kim, founder of Butokukai of America.

Born in Hawaii, Kim began his study of the martial arts with judo and karate in the early 1920s. Before World War II, he traveled to China to train in the internal system of Chinese boxing under the tutelage of Chen Chen Yuan and Hsu Chao Lai. Moving to Japan, he studied daito-ryu from Yoshida Kotaro at the Butokuden, where he became proficient in the sword, spear, bo, shuriken and kusarigama of aiki as well as the sai, nunchaku, tonfa, ni-cho kama and tekkyo of ryukyu.

After his studies in Asia, Kim returned to the United States and established the Butokukai, which has since branched into