

# The 2011 Super Summer International Korean Martial Arts Seminar

By Chief Master Robert J. Ott

"Fresh minds, new to the world, may find lust and desire in knowledge; while minds that have experienced a true taste of living, are salacious and passionate towards the victory of understanding..."

—Chief Master Robert J. Ott

Uncertainty almost defeated our 2011 seminar before it began. The Super Summer International Korean Martial Arts Seminar of 2009 was very memorable, and very successful. Truthfully, as founder and host, I felt victory, honor, and worry—perhaps only a Flowering Warrior may deeply understand—many mentioned how they were looking forward to our next event.

After our 2009 gathering, my professional and economic security suffered, as my company's five-year military food service contract ended. We excelled at doing this and so much more. Deeply committed, my company focused on providing excellent food and service for our U.S. soldiers. Happily, we contributed, donating time, money and effort for many well deserved causes.

Without a contract, I found myself terribly lost and frustrated. An extension for our services was given with no guarantee. We faced many business, professional and even personal indignities. This uncertainty lasted for 1 year and 9 months, and each day, we continued to serve, as well as we could, with forced limitations.

I live by the principles and values of Korean martial arts, in all aspects of my life. My martial arts sustained me more than I can explain. I wanted very much to host another great seminar, but I was torn with uncertainty. I had to make a decision, could I even attempt to have another Super Seminar? Just when I finally knew that there was no way I could possibly host another seminar, as great as our 2009 event, suddenly, I really saw the light!

The answer had been directly in front of my face. The Flowering Warrior realization I had was

that without martial arts in my life I would have never been able to achieve the many victories I had. Truthfully, I would not even be alive today!

My mind was clear. I knew what I had to do. I turned my uncertainty about our 2011 Super Seminar from a "not sure" to an "I'm going to do even better than last time!"

Through advertising in Tae Kwon Do Times, reputation, relationships, credentials and the great success of the 2009 event, people came from all over the world to attend. I hosted this unforgettable event, along with many students and supporters, through Flowering Warrior Enterprises, LLC.

Our Special Guest Instructors, Grandmaster Kenneth P. MacKenzie, Grandmaster Rudy Timmerman, Chief Master John Godwin, Chief Master Kevin Janisse, Master Guy E. Larke and Master Yang Jae Sik, all attended. Also, Grandmaster Michael De Alba, Grandmaster Geoff Booth, Grandmaster James McMurray and Grandmaster Billy Lee Burchett attended this gathering for support and brotherhood. Furthermore, two months prior to the event, we were informed that the President Grandmaster Jeong Kyung-Hwa and Vice-President Master Shin Joung Kun of the Korea Taekgyeon Association would officially attend, upon request and financial consideration, from the South Korean Government. True support flowed from all directions of the Korean martial arts.

On Wednesday, August 17, official ceremonies began with an exquisitely delicious meal, catered by the Korean BBQ (Mr. & Mrs. Kang.) Our Master of Ceremonies, Grandmaster Kenneth P. MacKenzie, was very talented as he flawlessly made the special guest introductions and presented the large screen video presentation, highlighting the event preparations.

Captivating presentations about history, health and Internet marketing were given by guest speakers. Several exciting and superbly performed martial art demonstrations followed; the first being by Emily Juhl, who is the senior student of

Grandmaster Billy Burchett, then Chief Master Kevin Janisse, followed by Grandmaster Geoff Booth. Everyone performed magnificently.

Following this, the Korea Taekgyeon Association further astounded our audience by amazingly executing several different forms rarely performed in the United States. They also performed partner techniques, bringing the audience to a standing applause!

The last demonstration, performed by Cameron McFadzen, who is a nine-year-old warrior, showed the crowd true Certain Victory. Cameron McFadzen was born with ectrodactyly, a condition where both hands and feet are missing many bones and are shaped in a V. Regardless, his Flowering Warrior personality and heart of victory enables his passions to surpass his challenges.

Following Cameron's demonstration, I asked for all to come closer and watch, as I presented to Cameron McFadzen the 2011 Flowering Warrior Martial Artist of the Year Award, a six-foot, solid-wood trophy engraved with his name and title. As I shook his hand and presented it to him, tears came from my eyes, for the happiness and belief, which this boy will carry in his life. This award has not been presented in many years, only because a person who deserves such recognition, has not crossed my path.

Bright and early, before breakfast, both Grandmaster Mackenzie and Chief Master John Godwin instructed meditation. After breakfast, the training began. Through the entire seminar, there was over 30 hours of training, along with hiking, swimming, Wave Runner riding and relaxation. The Flowering Warrior Shopping Mall featured unique products, never seen on the Internet or at martial arts distributors.

A Women's Self-Defense Seminar and a Youth Self-Defense Seminar were instructed. For all attendees, a wooden engraved nameplate was carefully placed at each guest's seat, and on the last night of the event, all were given a 3 x 4 foot framed poster, with special words of appreciation. Laughter and warmth filled the air, happiness abounded. I've always believed that goodness brings goodness in life.

I was greatly honored to be given incredible gifts, which are all deeply appreciated and will always be cherished, from many of the Special Grandmaster Instructors who attended. The first was from Grandmaster Jeong Kyung-Hwa, who is the President of the Korea Taekgyeon Association, and it was an exquisitely done, handmade scroll, accomplished with such heart and passion, representing the true philosophies of the art of Taekgyeon. Next, I received a gift from Grandmaster Rudy Timmerman—a set of his unique handmade Dan Bongs (like no other in the world) and with that set, was one Ugly Stick. These items were presented to me, in a handmade case and are on display in my dojang. A formal Certificate of Appointment, naming me an American Ambassador for Cheon Ji Muye Do was presented along with an Honorable eighth-dan black belt certification in Cheon Ji Muye Do by the President/Founder, Grandmaster Wong-Ho. Lastly and all so touching to my heart, were two gifts given from Grandmaster Billy Burchett. The first being a custom made cane, designed with beautiful colors and



Master Yang Jae Sik demonstrating Korean Taekgyeon.



Group photo at the lake house



GM Jung Kyung-Hwa with CM Ott cutting the cake.



Bowling in before training.



GM James McMurray teaching techniques.



(L-R): CM Jung Kyung-Hwa, GM James McMurray, GM Rudy Timmerman, CM Ott, GM MacKenzie, GM Geoff Booth

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GM Burchett presenting CM Ott with gift.



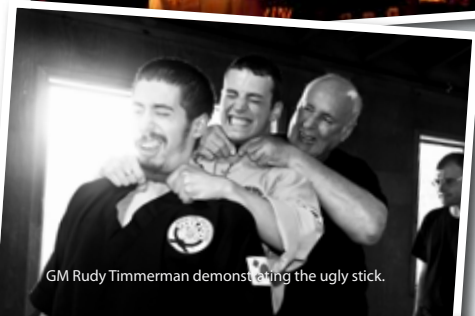
GM Mackenzie's students resting before the next training session.



Presenting Martial Artist of the Year award to Cameron.



GM Jung Kyung-Hwa & CM Ott



GM Rudy Timmerman demonstrating the ugly stick.



CM Ott reflecting.

carved out edges—a true weapon that can be taken any place. The second was a painting of me, riding on one of my favorite animals, the buffalo. It is without question, a gift from the heart. This masterful work of art was created by Grandmaster Billy Burchett's sister.

At the end of our 2011 seminar, each participant was presented three certificates from the following organizations: The National Korean Martial Arts Association, Korea Taekgyeon Association and, of course, Flowering Warrior Enterprises, LLC. These certificates were each personally signed by Grandmaster Kenneth P. MacKenzie and me.

In the big picture, success, growth and togetherness came to be. We each experienced many unforgettable moments. I will always remember when I had tears in my eyes presenting the trophy to the young warrior, presenting a gift of honor, the Flowering Warrior Sword to Grandmaster MacKenzie, and even the time both the President of the Korea Taekgyeon Association and I cut the custom designed cake together.

In any case, all the participants left knowing that, if he or she would have allowed the economy or struggles that our nations are going through to prevent their attendance, they would have only experienced a great loss!

On April 19, 2011, I received an official telephone call notifying me that Certain Victory Food Services had been awarded a new five-year contract. Pilsung!

So I share to all: Never forget that each wall was made for a reason. "To go over it, under it, around it or through it!" Don't let your challenges stop you from achieving your goals!

Recently, I was contacted by the Los Angeles region Korea Times newspaper. The article about the 2011 Super Seminar appeared in the Thursday, August 24 edition, and also in the November 2011 edition of Tae Kwon Do Times. In those articles, and in this one, I acknowledge my appreciation to all for assisting me in making this gathering a true success! 🇺🇸

To view or purchase the official album of this event, please visit [www.certainvictory.com](http://www.certainvictory.com).

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Chief Master Robert J. Ott was born and raised in Southern New Jersey. In 1995, he relocated his life to the Great Northwest and continued forward with his passion for Korean martial arts. Having lost his eye sight in 1990 as an innocent victim of a violent crime has not stopped him from living and breathing his practice. He is often called the "Flowering Warrior" for his positive attitude and strong character that he shares with all walks of life. Today, he is the President/CEO of Certain Victory Food Services, which provides the labor that feeds the third largest U.S. Army site in the country. He is also a Chairman, father and husband and even more so, a survivor.

His book is titled Certain Victory and is often used as a reading requirement for students who are getting ready to test for their black belt. For more information on his book, audio book, filmed documentary, seminars, speaking engagements or the ability to read any of his other articles that have been written in the past years, please go to [www.certainvictory.com](http://www.certainvictory.com).

