



What does Master Otsuka think?

"It is obvious that these kata must be trained and practiced sufficiently, but one must not be "stuck" in them..." ~ Master Hironori Otsuka emphasizing the importance of flexibility in training.



Shihan Dale Coker



OSU, Upcoming in 2026 we have many more successes to strive for. I encourage all of you to GO for it. Tests yes, but also training the mind, enduring life's challenges and yes, we anticipate more blackbelt exams! Give your best and we'll see you soon! OSU

Sensei David's Corner



OSU Everyone!!! Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter we trust will be a guide to some of the most recent events throughout JKI but also training insights I want to share here with everyone from time to time.

We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with everyone in the greater JKI community in order to work toward enhancing experiences, training, and knowledge of Wado-Ryu Karate! Our Anniversary on February 14 is a day to remember that we've come so far and we look forward to seeing all of you in the years to come!

In February we have Master Moran and in addition many new Senpai and Kohai to help in classes I hope you seek out for the upcoming March 14, 2026 Belt tests! See you all in the Dojo!! OSU

Newest Senpai (in alphabetical order): Senpai Greg, Senpai Kyle, and Senpai Riggs

Newest Kohai (in alphabetical order): Kohai Emmett(JI), Kohai Jade(WA), Kohai Jennings(JI), Kohai Katja(WA), Kohai Princess(WA, Kohai Oliver(JI), Kohai Sophie(WA) and Kohai Xavier(WA).

Sister Dojos to West Ashley, SC JKI!

Sensei Theraun – [James Island, SC JKI](#)
Sensei Todd – [North Charleston, SC JKI](#)
Sensei Ben – [West Salem, NC JKI](#)

Exercising, Staying Fit, & Avoiding Injuries

Warm-Ups! Ever wonder exactly why we warm up before class? We all need to limber up a little, some of us a LOT but we warm up and stretch and get our blood pumping so we can work into it gradually but more importantly to avoid injuries. In some arena we technically should warm up 2/3 as much AFTER a workout. That means if you warm up as we do for about 10 minutes, you should stretch about 30 minutes after the dojo. We won't spend that time but we will recommend you do that on your own. Hopefully this keeps everyone in the game!



Japan Karate Institute Quarterly Newsletter

Jan-Mar 2026



JKI West Ashley, SC Events!

19 JAN – Began our New Mon/Wed 5:30PM Classes for White to Orange. Anyone can join but we will only focus on White through Orange Belts.

10 & 12 FEB 6:00PM Pre-Tests (No Other Classes will be given those days).

14 FEB – Our JKI Anniversary (Read more Below).

20-21 FEB – Master Moran - Pressure Point Classes (See MyStudio App)

14 MAR – Belt Tests (Red and Below, See MyStudio App once invited!

28 MAR – Sensei David - Kushanku Class, “Those serious about being a black belt should absolutely attend this class!” ~ Sensei David

JKI James Island, SC Events!

7 FEB - Pre-Tests (see as advertised)

28 FEB – Belt Test (Red and Below as advertised).

11 MAR - Kumite Night 6:45PM-8PM

JKI Winston Salem, NC Events!

28 FEB – Gun and Knife Defensives Seminar

28 MAR – All Belts Test (Red and Below as advertised)



Osu
Everyone.

I hope we
will all

remember **February 14 is our 41st Anniversary**. Here is a short reminder how JKI got to 41 years of karate business.

In 1971 I joined a dojo in Birmingham Alabama, Japan International Karate Center. My Sensei and founder of this school was Ronald Woodard. He was sent over to Alabama, his original home place, by Soke Kiyoshia Hirano, to open the first JIKC dojo in the US mainland in 1971. Both of these men were skilled in karate but also very adapt in business. Back then we trained normally 4-6 days per week. I became a Shodan in 1973 and later became an Instructor for my Sensei in one of the locations around Birmingham Alabama. Within a few short years JIKC had dojos in several states with 1000s of students. In 1977 I moved back to Charleston SC with my former wife, her daughter and our son. I kept teaching privately, hit and miss, but kept training. I also was in touch with Sensei Woodard and went back often to train in Alabama. By 1982 I was teaching a little more consistently, but did not charge anyone. Come 1985, February 14, I was ready to take this much more seriously and opened a small dojo in the fellowship hall of the Goose Creek Pentecostal Church. I fully committed and by 1992, we had 5 dojos with over 1000 students. There have been ups and

Shihan Dale Coker, Founder, Chief Instructor JKI, USA

Sensei David Mitchell, Asst. Chief Instructor for JKI, USA



downs, but thanks to the many numerous people who came along side of me and became Sempai, and later Sensei, this organization is still thriving in multiple locations. JKI owes its success to God first, Soke Hirano, Soke Woodard and all you wonderful dedicated instructors, students and parents.



My best heartfelt
OSU and *Domo*
Arigato to you all,
Shihan Dale A. Coker

UPHOLDING the principle of propriety means doing the right thing (based on the standards set by a higher authority, usually).

And “Courtesy”? Say hi, greet one another with respect, take one second to acknowledge someone (if they are not already in a conversation of course). Open a door for someone, thank someone. Be Courteous and you’ve Got it!

KNOWLEDGE of WADO-RYU & JKI

What does it mean to “Uphold the principles of propriety and courtesy”?

Have you ever wondered why this is the first precept of the Dojo Kun? It’s important is why. Let’s see.

First, “Principles” are a rule of standard, what we hold to be law or truth. We all get this one, there are rules and we should follow them. Dojo etiquette for example says we should bow before entering or leaving the dojo floor – Got it!!??

Second, what does “Propriety” mean? Conforming to some known conventional standards of behavior or morality. This is key, not everyone knows the same standards so we remain observant and try to understand.