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June 7, 2016

**RE: SUCCESSION OF THE NATIONAL KARATE JIU JITSU UNION, INTERNATIONAL**

To whom it may concern:

After almost 53 years of studying and teaching budo, it is now time for me to appoint the next Director of the National Karate Jiu Jitsu Union International (NKJUI).

As of this date and without hesitancy, that I fully support and appoint, Steven E. Johnson, Shihan, to the position of Director or Kaicho for the National Karate Jiu Jitsu Union International.

At the age of fourteen, Steve was my direct student from 1974 to 1991. He was promoted by me, as a beginner at white belt (10 kyu) through 4<sup>th</sup> level black belt (yondan). Subsequently being cross-ranked to yondan by Kuniba Shogo (deceased), Soke of Motobu-Ha Shito-ryu Karate-Do and Head of Seishin-Kai Karate Union. Soon after Steve's promotion, I advised him to acquire additional training under Kuniba Soke and his upper-level yudansha, of which he pursued, time allowed.

Due to military orders, Steve was assigned duties in Yokosuka, Japan, where he and his wife, Linda resided from 1997 – 2003. While in Japan and after work, Steve trained with numerous sensei in the arts of Aikido, Judo, Chito-Ryu, Shorin-Ryu, Isshin-Ryu, Wado-Ryu, Shotokan, Itosu-Kai Shito-Ryu and Kobudo.

In 1999, Steve was tested and promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> level black belt (godan) in Motobu-Ha Shito-Ryu Karate-Do. His menjo was signed by Tatsuno Kunio, Soke (deceased) of the former Seishin-Kai Karate Union, however his sensei was Masuaki Minamide, Shihan (deceased). By authority of Tatsuno, Soke, Steve opened and operated three dojo, two of which was on a military command center and the third in the Japanese community.

While in Yokosuka, Steve served as the Vice-President and International Representative for the National Karate Kobudo Federation (NKKF) from 1999-2001, obtaining the rank of 6<sup>th</sup> level black belt (rokudan) and Shihan title from Kyoshi Bill Woodard. He later served in multiple positions for Hanshi Hugh Kelley of United Martial Arts Association International (UMAIAI) and was promoted to the rank of 7<sup>th</sup> degree black belt level nanadan).

Sincerely,

Tola E. Lewis, Jr., Kaicho (Retired)  
National Karate Jiu Jitsu Union International

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