

Grand Master Peter F. DeFosses



Grand Master Peter F. DeFosses – I'm known to most as Master Pete, I started self-defense training at a young age, I grew up in New York City (Queens) in the 50's, need we say anymore, if you didn't know how to defend yourself you did not have lunch money that day. At the age of 10 I started taking organized boxing lessons at the local Police Athletic League (PAL) gym; within two years at the age of 12, I also started training with a NYC-PAL wrestling coach. By the time I was in high school I had competed in both boxing and wrestling at city and state competitions with the Police Athletic League with a fair record. In high school I was

on the wrestling, football and track teams. At the same time I continued my boxing and was now starting my training in Judo at the PAL gym.

After high school I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where I served two combat tours of duty in Vietnam. This is where he was first introduced to Tang Soo Do and Sr. Grandmaster Jae Joon Kim. After Vietnam I was assigned to the US Marine's Counter Guerrilla Warfare School in North Carolina as a combat self-defense instructor. My last assignment in the Marine Corps was with the State Department in Washington DC. After completing my training I was assigned to the United States Embassy in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. While in Brazil I had the opportunity to train in Brazilian Jujitsu and Capoeira. After two years in Brazil I returned to the states and returned to civilian life.

1970's is the time that Master Pete refers to as his butterfly years in the martial arts, with starting a family, working fulltime and attending college, unfortunately it left little time and money for any type of organized training. He trained when and where he could, like a butterfly going from flower to flower, he had some great opportunities to learn without being tied to one single style. In 1976 he moved to Florida to start a new career and found Tang Soo Do. In 1982 he started training & studying Tang Soo Do full-time. 1984 he joined law-enforcement at the state level, this is where he was reintroduced to Grandmaster Jae Joon Kim. He continued to train and rise through the ranks under Sr. Grandmaster J. J. Kim in Moo Duk Kwan Tang Soo Do until his passing in 2007. During this period of time Grand Master Pete was one of the Master Instructors at the World Moo Duk Kwan Headquarters and served as one of Grandmaster J. J. Kim's technical advisors. In 1994 he founded Sebastian Karate MDK and still operates the school in Sebastian, Fl.

Not wanting to totally go out on his own after SGM Kim's passing, he started training with Grandmaster James A. Saffold also one of Grandmaster Kim's most senior students and founder of the American Kwan Tang Soo Do Federation. On November 3, 2017 Sr. Master Pete was promoted to the rank of 8th Dan Grand Master by the World Moo Duk Kwan Tang Soo Do General Federation (Korea) under 10th Dan Senior Grandmasters Yong Duk Kim pin #2, Hee Seok Choi pin #3 and Senior Grand Master Choung Koe Woong along with the American Kwan Tang Soo Do Federation under 9th Dan Grandmaster J. A. Saffold.

Today Grand Master Pete has retired from law enforcement after 25 years and continues to study, train and teach the art of Tang Soo Do, that he loves. He believes we never stop learning and that it is his responsibility to honor the past and help create the future of the martial arts through current and future practitioners. We are all one family, we learn from each other; his doors are always open and he invites all to stop by for a great workout.

If you are going to climb, you have to grab the branches not the blossoms..