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TWD *TaeKwonDo* **TIMES**

NOVEMBER 2013

**KICKIN' IT
WITH KICKPICS'
STACE SANCHEZ**

**martial
inheritance
MASTER ERIC
KOVALESKI**

MARTIAL ARTS

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WORLD

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SPOTLIGHT

BLACK BELT FAMILIES

Grandmaster
Mackenzie
DoJuNim
Ji Han Jae

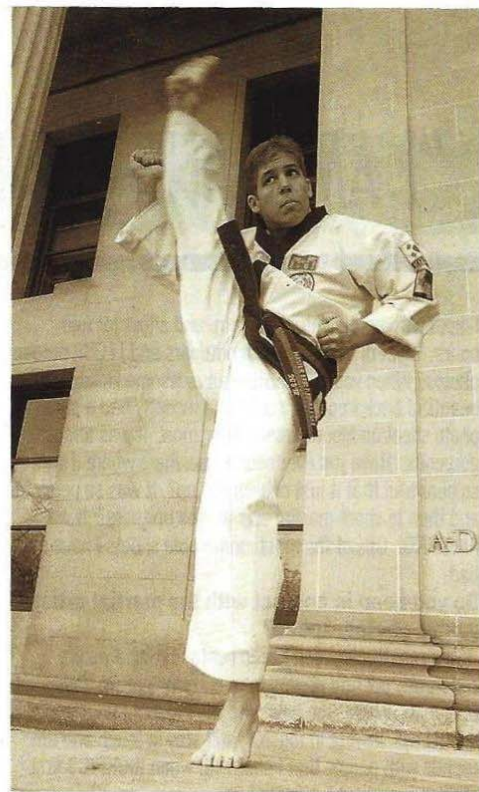
**THE TRUE STORY OF
HAPKIDO'S FOUNDER**

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MARTIAL INHERITANCE

one of those rare individuals.

His father Kwan Jang Nim Robert Kovaleski began Tang Soo Do in the 1960's (the golden age of the martial arts in the US) under Grandmaster Frank Trojanowicz and in turn started teaching the ancient art of "Korean Karate" as it was referred to by many. His son Eric started learning the art at the early age of 3. The young father glowed with pride as his second son learned and picked up his "hyungs" (forms) and techniques so fast. Growing up was actually pretty neat in that all of my friends really respected and were in awe of Eric's martial arts skills.

In school he played baseball, basketball, golf, football and even tried wrestling, but Tang Soo Do had always stayed his true love. He started competing at a national championship around the age of 8. It was held at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. It was one of the largest and most popular tournaments on the east coast. He was hooked! It was but the start of a long and amazing tournament record. But, sadly all things come to an end.

In the 31 years of his martial arts career, Master Kovaleski has faced many difficult obstacles. He's had operations on his right radius, a total

Centuries ago it was natural to carry on the family business, but the late 20th Century laid waste to such so-called "outdated" ideas. While in some cases the new thinking was for the better, it destroyed many proud family and

cultural traditions. In a few rare cases these traditions and trades are still passed on from parent to child reestablishing familial bonds and carrying the wisdom of the elders with the pragmatism of the newer generation. My fellow Tang Soo Do instructor, journalist and friend Eric Kovaleski is

reconstruction of his left knee, as well as neck surgery as a result of two terrible car accidents.

Despite these setbacks, he truly believes has been blessed so much in his life and feels he has been able to accomplish so much, such as his "Special Needs" Karate program.

by Master Guy Edward Larke



Master Eric Kovaleski is now the owner of two martial arts studio's, Master Kovaleski's Karate Usa, in Pennsylvania and is the President of the International Tang Soo Do Moo Duk Kwan Association- Moo Duk Kwan (of which his father KJN Kovaleski was the founder and movie star Grandmaster Cynthia Rothrock is the West Coast Director.) Master Kovaleski was also appointed the "East Coast Director" for the World Tang Soo Do General Federation.

Kovaleski decided to put his first championships together back in 1997. It was held at the Catholic Youth Center in Scranton, Pa. They have since made their championships an open event, open to all martial arts styles including Tang Soo Do, Tae Kwon Do, Karate and Kung Fu. In 2011, due to the size and location of the event they became a National Championships, with all 1st- 4th place winners earn-

ing a spot on the USA National Karate Team.

est martial artists of all time could be honored. It became the annual Legends of the Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

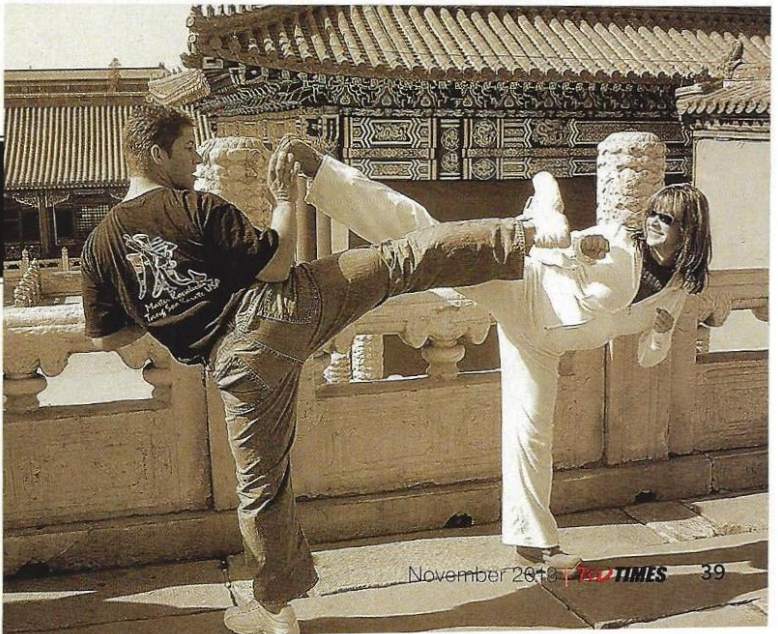
At their first event in 2011, they inducted such greats as Grandmaster Woo Jin Jung, Grandmaster Jae Chul Shin, Grandmaster Ji Han Jae, Grandmaster Jhoon Rhee, Grandmaster Cynthia Rothrock, Master Wesley Snipes, and Smokin' Joe Frazier.

Later that year Kwan Jang Nim Kovaleski, Master Cynthia Rothrock and Master Kovaleski, traveled with a team of 30 others to South Korea to trace back their martial heritage in Tang Soo Do. The tour was based around meeting these "Grandfathers" of the now World Tang Soo Do General Federation - Moo Duk Kwan

Since then, father, son and Master Jose Torres, returned to Korea for the monumental 1st World Tang Soo Do Forum in Seoul. During the event Master Kovaleski and Master Torres volunteered to collaborate with the Korean federation to have the 1st World Tang Soo Do Championships in August of 2014. The event will bring grandmasters,

masters and fighters from every corner of the globe to the home of Tang Soo Do; and with it, an opportunity

to meet the oldest living masters of the extraordinary martial art of Tang Soo Do. **T&D**



As the USA National Karate Championships grew, discussions began about hosting an awards ceremony where some of the great-