

MIZU-RYU JU-JITSU

Soke Marty Ferrick

9th Degree Black Belt - KuDan

Founder of the
Mizu-Ryu Ju-Jitsu System



Soke Marty Ferrick, born November 22, 1946 in Youngstown, Ohio, moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida in May 1976. He began his martial art career in October of 1962 training twice a week in Judo at the local roller-skating rink in Ohio. While training in Judo, his interest in other martial arts was sparked by a demonstration in Shotokan given at the Judo school he was training at. After training 1-1/2 years in Judo, he switched to Shotokan where he trained for an additional 4 years while simultaneously attending Sterling College in Sterling, Kansas. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education in 1971, Soke Ferrick was drafted to serve in the Army in Korea.

Soke Ferrick's martial arts career blossomed in Korea under the instruction of Master Nam; who he trained under while stationed on a military base in South Korea. Soke Ferrick received his ShoDan (1st degree) in Tae-Kwon-Do Moo Duk Kwan in 1972.

After being honorably discharged in December of 1972, he moved back to Youngstown, Ohio where he began training in Shotokan again. In pursuit of career objectives, Soke Ferrick accepted a position with the YMCA in Mansfield, Ohio as a physical director in 1973. This is where Soke Ferrick opened his first martial arts school immediately following his promotion to NiDan (2nd degree) in Tae-Kwon-Do Moo Duk Kwan under Master D. H. Choi. Having 3 successful years with the YMCA in Mansfield and receiving his SanDan (3rd degree), he then accepted a promotion to Executive Director of the downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida YMCA in 1976 where he opened his second martial arts school. While working at the YMCA, other martial arts opportunities were presented. Soke Ferrick began training in Ju-Jitsu via Kyoshi Shihan Rex Lee under the tutelage of Grand Master Florencio Vivistacion and Professor Moses Powell and Goju-Ryu again via Kyoshi

Shihan Lee under the tutelage of Shihan Frank Ruiz. By August 1979 he had attained his YonDan (4th degree) in Tae-Kwon-Do and Moo Duk Kwan, GoDan (5th degree) in Ju-Jitsu, GoDan (5th degree) in Goju-Ryu, and ShoDan (1st degree) in Judo under Master Daryl Sweany who became the founder of Atemi-Ryu Karate-Do.

Soke Ferrick left the YMCA in 1981 to pursue a new career in the insurance field with Allstate Insurance Company. At the same time, he opened his third school The Academy of Martial Arts in Oakland Park, Florida. With continued diligent training he received his RokuDan (6th degree) in Ju-Jitsu in February 1984.

The Academy of Martial Arts Inc. ©2005

In 1985; Soke Ferrick and Kyoshi Shihan Lee had differences of opinion and mutually decided to part ways. Soke Ferrick then founded the Mizu-Ryu Ju-Jitsu system and moved the Mizu-Ryu Ju-Jitsu School in 1987 to its present location at Collins Community Center in Oakland Park, Florida.

In December of 1995 Soke Ferrick received his SichiDan (7th degree) in Mizu-Ryu Ju-Jitsu. In May of 1997; Hanshi Ferrick began studying the art of Inayan System of Eskrima directly under the tutelage of its founder Magnisusuro Mike Inay. By the end of the year 2000, Soke Ferrick attained his HachiDan (8th degree) in Mizu-Ryu Ju-Jitsu while also becoming the Eastern United States Representative in Inayan Eskrima. In August of 2001 Soke Ferrick attained his national certification as instructor in Inayan Kadenademanano Eskrima. Immediately after Soke Ferrick began his national certification in Inayan Sinawali Eskrima and Inayan Dequerdas Eskrima which was finished at the end of 2003. Once accomplished, Soke Ferrick began training in Inayan Serrada Eskrima -moving towards attaining the rank of Guro under the Inayan System of Eskrima (thought never forgetting where his Ju-Jitsu roots are).

In August of 2003 Hanshi Ferrick was inducted to both the Gold Coast Martial Arts Hall of Fame as well as the prestigious World Head of Family Sokeship Council Hall of Fame, being recognized by both as a Gold Life achievement recipient for over 40 years of service in the martial arts community. In August of 2004 the Gold Coast Martial Arts Hall of Fame awarded Soke Ferrick the “Founders Award” recognizing Mizu-Ryu Ju-Jitsu as a extremely reality based effective system of martial arts.

In late September of 2004, after a diligent verbal and physical examination and demonstration; Soke Ferrick and the style he has worked so long and hard to fine tune was inducted into the World Head of Family Sokeship. Soke Ferrick as well as Mizu-ryu Ju-Jitsu would now be officially recognized, acknowledged and respected world wide- a true honor.

In early September of 2005 Soke Ferrick achieved his 9th degree Black belt and was awarded it at the Gold Coast Martial Arts Hall of Fame Banquet. Later in September he was also awarded “Grandmaster of the Year” by the World Head of Family Sokeship Council board of directors- this award is ONLY given by the head 10 members of the council as a unanimous vote. – Again, a true honor.

In May of 2007 he was also again awarded “Grandmaster of the Year” by the World Head of Family Sokeship Council board of directors...

Today Soke Ferrick continues to teach and promote martial arts to a select group of students, which includes his daughter Ginger, who is the Shihan of Mizu -Ryu, as well as an instructor for him on the west coast of the United States. His many years of hard work and devotion are reflected in the continuing success of his students, both in their personal lives and in their martial arts endeavors.