

An American Karate Icon and Grandmaster Turns 70

How would you like a career where you could spend as much time as you like on your hobbies, travel to over 60 countries on all seven continents, meet important and interesting people; dine with presidents, and be treated like a king? How about staying strong, healthy and fit—even into your 70's! This is the life of Akron, Ohio, native George E. Anderson. From an austere beginning teaching Karate at the University of Akron Taekwondo Karate Judo Club in Akron, Ohio, Anderson's experiences include every martial art imaginable, allowing him to become the greatest living World leader of the Martial Arts in the United States.

Eastern military philosophers were advised to choose death before life so to celebrate battle with an uncluttered mind. George Edward Anderson, an American Karate icon and recent septuagenarian, has celebrated life, and what a life he has. Making Martial Arts his second career, he owned a roofing company in Akron, Ohio before fully immersing himself in the Martial Arts, his Arts. His accomplishments far outstrip any recent Martial Artist in memory. Life to Anderson was a choice to help. Anderson chose life and he viewed it as an opportunity to help. He understands it as his duty to represent his forebearers; wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Both in the family sense and in the area of the Martial Arts community he created. Reminding us of the ways of the Martial Arts and its teachings.

Grandmaster Anderson's life is an example of the rewards that one gets from a lifetime of involvement in the Martial Arts. The Martial Arts



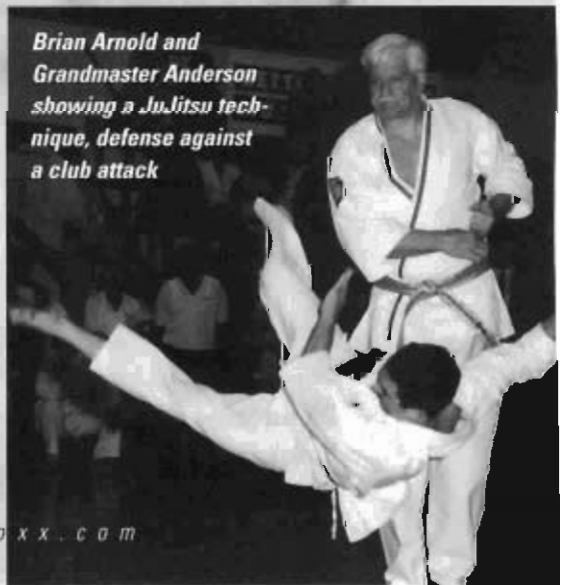
have kept him strong and fit. He still has a full workload of teaching and running his Martial Arts organizations, sometimes working with a schedule that exceeds 12 hours a day. Working out with weights at the gym, he can still stack the deck on leg presses and bench-press over 225 pounds. His floor classes regularly wear out people much younger than himself. He has retained his flexibility while still being able to perform high-level kicking techniques. He has finely honed his skills and tremendous power; as anyone on the receiving end can attest.

The Martial Arts have done more than just keep him physically fit. They have provided him with a global wealth of other experiences. He has traveled and taught Karate in over 60 countries on 7 continents, organized World Cups and World Championships, and presided over

Karate the first time it was included in the Pan-American Games. He has visited almost all fifty states for competitions and seminars. This has given him a vast World experience and the opportunity to make friends from many different cultures and walks of life. Many of these friends have become his Martial Arts students.

There are many individuals who feel a sense of gratitude for the opportunities he created for them. Many young people gained the opportunity to compete nationally and internationally at major events and in cultural exchanges. He enabled many adult competitors and well-known Martial Artists to participate at high levels of competition. International events which held high level positions and certifications within national and international organizations. Law enforcement officers who benefited from this training say "they received feel a special kind of affinity." Of these individuals, many have grown to become well-known Martial Artists in their own right, thanks to the opportunity given them through George.

Brian Arnold and Grandmaster Anderson showing a JuJitsu technique, defense against a club attack



Anderson's Martial Arts History

The 1950's and 1960's:

Anderson began his martial arts training around the age of 18. In the 1950's there was a smattering of "Karate" throughout the United States. Much of the training at this time was at the hands of returning military personnel posted in the Orient. Japanese and Korean instructors had begun moving onto the East and West coasts, but had not (for the most part) found their way into the center of the country. Starting in 1950, George Anderson began training with some of these returning military personnel. Started with basic Jujitsu and Wrestling he sought to improve his knowledge he progressed though a rough Shotokan style of

Karate, then Judo and Kung Fu.

In the time after the Korean War, many Koreans immigrated to the US bringing with them TaeSooDo as the Korean Martial Art was then called. One, Il Joo Kim, was to come to Akron, Ohio. Asked to help, Anderson sponsored his entrance into the United States in the early 1960's. Kim then formed the Taekwondo Association of Ohio of which Anderson became the General Secretary. This became the first of many Martial Arts organizations that Mr. Anderson would become involved as an active participant and earned his black belt. Kim and his partner, Tong Choo Choi quickly became a magnet for serious Martial Arts students around the region who were hungry for good training. The going was hard, the classes invigorating, and the competition for senior student status was intense. Contact and intimidation in the dojo and at tournaments was the norm. It was not uncommon for someone to be run into a wall by a kick. Inevitably, the wall would be next to Kim's office. The office would shake and Mr. Kim would come running out demanding to know who did this and telling us to control ourselves.

Finally, tournament Karate of the late 1960's and early 1970's began to take shape as we know today. During this time period, Anderson spent much of his time with the East Coast Korean Karate Group including Ki Whang Kim, Richard Chun, Henry Cho, Kang Rhee, Kim Soo Jin, Jhoon Rhee, Mahn Soo Park and Chong Lee.

The status of karate competition in the late 1960's and early 1970's left much to be desired. It was not uncommon to find unorganized events that lasting well into the next morning with a myriad of referees having their own thoughts about what should and should not be called a point. It was not uncommon at these events for Anderson and his students to take over and pull the tournament out of the quagmire. Before long, George was receiving invitations to run events because of his organizational skills. The most notable saving of a tournament was at the 1977 AAU Karate National Championships in Virginia Beach. The promoter, for whatever reason, could not be found, no one was in charge, and decisions could not be made. Anderson moved his staff into the competition at the request of the AAU National Chairman and completed the championships successfully. This brought him respect and

Continued next page



Above left, George Anderson demonstrating a strong front kick against a round house kick. Below Mr. Anderson at a USA Karate Junior training camp, Cedar Lakes, West VA.



national attention as a capable leader and administrator.

However, it was the signature AAU National Championships that he hosted in 1979 set the stage for and raised AAU Competition to a new national level. Referees had now become well versed in the rules and the roles of the competitors and coaches were defined. Coaches started specifically training students for competition under the new rules. Pre-registration became the norm as divisions were scheduled out, referees were even fed. Most important, however, was the groundwork behind the event, the pageantry, and the follow through which instill standards still hard to compete with today. Beginning with the Grand March, competitors from each state marching in together behind the color guards, all the pomp, circumstance and clockwork like procedure provide the participants a truly exhilarating and national experience.

The 1970's:

With the emergence of National Organizations in the late 60's and early 70's, Anderson's Central Taekwondo Association allowed Anderson to extend his influences bringing him the attention of Korean Martial Arts organizations and other national Karate organizations.

In the mid-1970's Anderson was asked to join the United States Karate Association (USKA) by Phil Koeppel under Grandmaster Robert A. Trias. USKA was the oldest martial arts organization in the US, holding the first US

National Championships in the early 60's.

Choosing to affiliate with the USKA, Anderson was appointed style-head in the USKA for the Korean and International systems in addition to becoming International Director for the USKA Police Liaison Division. Once within the USKA, Anderson quickly rose to the second most powerful position. (The most powerful being the Director, a title held by Robert Trias, founder of the USKA). In his position, Anderson became Master of Ceremonies supervising the USKA National and International Grand Championships. At the time of Grandmaster Trias' death, Anderson was senior Dan in the USKA and a member of the prestigious 'Trias International Society'.

Law Enforcement:

As police began introducing Martial Arts tactics during the 1970's attempts to organize police defensive tactics instructors countrywide. Not letting this aspect of the martial arts go unnoticed, Anderson began to study how to apply Martial Arts applications to police work by attending a host of seminars with issues such as Bomb, Hostage negotiations, Hand Gun retention, and sur-

Anderson with friend Paul Hoglund in Helsinki, Finland during a IJF trip and below right, Instructors at the International Police Training Seminar around 1978. Pictured are P. Hickey, Baron John Von Hoff, British MA Council, Lt. John Hammert, Eddie Straton, Dickey Murras, Michael Lamonica.

vival tactics, to name only a few earned him numerous certifications relevant to police work. Ultimately he became a certified police training instructor. These activities culminated in a string of the largest National and International Police Training Seminars in the world. Held under the CTA in conjunction with the University of Akron (and ultimately the USKA Law Enforcement Division), these seminars were a great trading ground of ideas and cultures which looked at defining the relationship between the Martial Arts and police work. During this time, Anderson became acquainted with the famous Judo Sensei Sadaka Nakabayashi. Nakabayashi was a competition genius losing only a few bouts in his lifetime. He was also an expert in applying chokes and strangles. This famous Judo master spent time teaching at Anderson's dojo when he visited the United States. Today George Anderson serves as consultant and advisor to various police and law enforcement groups in the United States and throughout the world and is considered an authority on officer survival training.

Olympic Karate

Anderson, a practitioner of



over 50 years in various martial arts, is perhaps best known for his political and technical work in the Olympic Karate realm. Taking over the reigns of the AAU Karate Program in 1981, George Anderson credited with starting the Olympic Karate movement in the United States. In 10 years as head of the National AAU Karate Committee and its successor USA Karate moved from an AAU Program to a Group 'C' member of the United States Olympic Committee. In addition to being in charge of the USA Karate Olympic movement, Anderson also was President of the Pan American Union of Karate-do Federations. This organization, under his presidency, put Karate into the Pan-American Games.

His international involvement also includes the International Governing Body for Karate and the World Karate Federation (formerly the World Union of Karate-Do Organizations.) There he became the head of the all-powerful Referee Council and in 1983 and hosted the first 'International Technical Congress' where the rules of competition for The International Olympic Karate movement were adopted. He

later became the First Vice-President of the International Governing Body for Karate-WUKO.

The AAU Times:

In the early 1970's the movement of bringing Karate to the Olympic Games began taking hold nationwide. In 1974, the Amateur Athletic Union of the USA (the Olympic Governing Body for the US at that time) was asked to represent the United States to the World Union of Karate-do Organizations (WUKO), now known as The World Karate Federation. Anderson was approached in 1974 to become active in the AAU. Anderson attended the first AAU National Championships in 1975 and again in 1976, taking only one student who eventually won the Grand Championships. Anderson attended the Third World Karate Championships in Long Beach, California in 1975, and was certified as World Union of Karate-Do official. During this time, the AAU also championed the sport of Taekwondo together with Karate as *one* body. Anderson became part of the movement to finally split AAU Taekwondo and AAU Karate into separate groups. Remaining in both sections,

he was appointed Public Relations Co-Chairman of AAU Taekwondo. Active in the AAU Taekwondo (the precursor of the US Taekwondo Union) he was the leader of the successful AAU Taekwondo team which won the team championship at the National AAU Taekwondo Championship in Berkeley California in the 1970's. At this event he earned a Pan-American Taekwondo Officials Certification. Taekwondo being well seated in Korean hands, Anderson's interest turned to Karate and he became the AAU Karate International Representative, an International Judge and General Secretary of AAU Karate. During the 1979 4th World Karate Championship in Madrid Spain Anderson was elected the Secretary General of the Pan-American Union of Karate-Do Organizations. (continental member of the World Union of Karate-Do Organizations).

The 1980's:

Both Karate and Anderson began a meteoric rise in the United States. With the US Sports Act of 1978, the US Congress broke up the governing power that the AAU held over Olympic sports and required all

Continued next page

Below, Anderson and Hickey at a temple in Kyoto Japan in 1993 for Mr. T. Suzuki's funeral, and meeting about the JJIF in Mr. Anderson's office in Akron, Ohio. From left to right, Mike Dunphy, unknown, Robert Clark, George Anderson, Spartaco Bertoletti, Paul Hoglund, Patrick Hickey.



Practicing the kata (Empi) on a building where I was repairing the roof.



sports in the USA to develop their separate national governing bodies. In 1981, Anderson was elected the President of the newly formed National AAU Karate Committee, Inc. Soon Anderson took the first US National AAU Karate team to the World Games. By the 6th World Championship in Taiwan, Anderson became a member of the powerful 'World Referee Council'. After that event he was elected as the new



Anderson with Grandmaster In Sun So at a Kido seminar at Mr. Anderson's dojo in the mid 1990's

President of the World Referee Council. The WRC served as the organizing committee and the Technical Committee for all International Sport Karate. After authoring the Constitution of the Pan-American Union of Karate-Do Organizations in Spanish George was elected the President of that Union at a Special Technical Congress in Venezuela. At the time he concurrently held positions of President of the World Referee Council, President of the Pan-American Referee Council, President of the Pan-American Union of Karate-Do Organizations, and President of the National AAU Karate Committee. At the 8th World Championships in Sydney, Australia, Anderson was elected First Vice President of the World Union and assumed the responsibilities of Director for the World Medical

Commission.

Interest in this new leader of American Karate was on the rise. Many of the top Japanese instructors in the US visited Anderson's dojo developing a strong bond with the Japanese instructors. Among these were Japanese instructors and leaders T. Mikami, H. Kanazawa, Hidy Ochiai, M. Sakimukai, and Minobu Miki.

During his tenure Anderson became part of many firsts. He was part of the USA Karate Team at the World Games I, he served as Chairman of the Referee Council and coordinator of the First World Cup in Budapest. There he assisted the initial unification event of the World Karate Federation (WUKO) and the International Amateur Karate Federation (IAKF). George Anderson also became the Technical Director of the First World Collegiate Karate Championships in Kobe, Japan. In 1983 he convened and chaired the First World Technical Congress sponsored by the International Governing Body for Karate in Akron, Ohio, where the rules for international Karate competition were re-written.

The NGB:

By 1986, the National AAU Karate Program formally separated from the AAU and became a separate national governing body joining the United States Olympic Committee. Under its new name, The USA Karate Federation, Anderson continued as president and worked to improve and build the national tournament structure. Under the USAKF many new programs and concepts were instituted. This included Coaches Education, Computerization at competitions Structuring divisions and publishing schedules for competitions.

Competition divisions were greatly expanded by age and experience thus doubling the number of divisions. Opportunities for international cultural change through programs such as 'Sports for Understanding' and the first junior teams went to World Cup and Pan-American competitions. Many of the changes to the competition that were instituted during his tenure were adopted by other Karate sports systems in the US. Additionally, he instituted Olympic Training Camps and Centers throughout the US, athletic profile testing, and created the USA Karate Junior National Team. For his efforts in these areas, he was inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame in 1986 as Man of the Year.

The 1990's:

With the United States Karate Olympic structure developed, Anderson turned his attention to the Pan-American Games. In 1994, he engineered a successful drive to have Karate introduced to the Pan-American Games as a medal sport. Having reached the Pan-American Games, Anderson presided over this historic Karate event, receiving universal acclaim for achieving what was said by many to be 'impossible'. During this same time he served for a quadrennium as Director of the United States Olympic Committee (representing all the Affiliated Sports Organizations).

Through the encouragement of his good friend from Sweden, Paul Høglund, Anderson also became active in the Olympic Jujitsu movement and is credited with founding the Olympic Jujitsu movement in the United States in addition to organizing the US Jujitsu Federation, the US national governing body for Jujitsu.

As an International Commissioner for the International Jujitsu Federation, George Anderson also was also active in forming the Jujitsu North American Union. With jujitsu as with Karate, Anderson has been able to open the doors for competitors and practitioners from the US to rise within the International Olympic Jujitsu movement. Active in Jujitsu, Anderson chairs the Central Technical Committee of the US Jujitsu Federation.

Anderson has received many rewards for things well done. However, amongst all his political effort, he has never stopped being an active practitioner of the Martial Arts. Grandmaster Masafumi Suzuki, 10th Dan and Principle of the All Japan Budo Federation, (the Zenkoran), recognized Anderson as 9th Dan Hanshi in Seibukan, Kyoto, Japan. Grandmaster Suzuki directed Anderson to accept the 10th Dan upon his death. When Grandmaster Suzuki died in 1993, Anderson was requested to host the eulogy at his funeral in Kyoto, Japan. At the funeral, seniors of the Seibukan were asked to support Grandmaster Anderson in his efforts.

Additionally, (Grandmaster of Kido), In Sun So, recognized Anderson, as a 9th Dan in the Kido Federation and Grandmaster Nam Suk Lee of the Korean Changmookwan as well, awarded Anderson a 9th dan. Anderson claims Grandmaster Park Chull Hee of the Kang Duk Won as his direct teacher, receiving regular lessons from him throughout the year.

Anderson is an unusual man. Like many of the old style Martial Artists, he is also an Artist. He is an accomplished violinist, winning hon-

Participants at the July, 1983, World Union of Karate-do Organizations First Technical Congress in Akron, Ohio. Tommy Morris (England and WUKO), A. Gonzales (Argentina and WUKO), David Mitchell (England and WUKO), Patrick Hickey (USA), George Anderson (USA and WUKO), Jon Evans (USA and WUKO), and Prince Adon Czartryski (Spain and WUKO), below attendees at a Judo Seminar by Sadaka Nakabayashi in the late 1970's. Front Row, Woody Wilson, Sadaka Nakabayashi, TR McClanahan, Anderson. Second Row Harry Hysell, Patrick Hickey, Pamela Hickey, Captain Robert Lindsay, Jefferson Parish, La, standing are unknown.



ors as a student of violin at the Cleveland Institute of Music and later a scholarship at the University of Wichita. His original paintings are inspiring and provide interesting insight into music and the Martial Arts. He is oft referred to as the 'Renaissance Man of the Martial Arts', Anderson is in constant demand as both lecturer and teacher. His views on the arts and their relationship to the values inherent in Martial Arts education raise the standards for martial artists throughout the world.

(Born in Akron, Ohio in 1931) His father, William E. Anderson, was a respected teacher who had taught in Egypt. His mother Winifred Pape of Utica, New York was a noted musician. He and his wife Joan have been married for over 51 years and have two sons, three daughters, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Grandmaster Anderson lives and teaches in Akron, Ohio, USA.

You've probably heard that luck is a by-product of good planning. Anderson's career has been a result of luck and good planning – or perhaps a knack for surrounding himself with good people.

If doing something well is it's own reward...George Anderson's life has been filled with treasures. From his early Martial Arts training in the 50's combining wrestling, Jujitsu, Judo, Karate, and Kung Fu, to Korean Karate (Taesoodo) in the 60's, to Law Enforcement and the AAU in the 70's, to International and Olympic efforts in the 80's and 90's George Anderson has progressed to be one of the very few true grandmasters of the Martial Arts known worldwide.

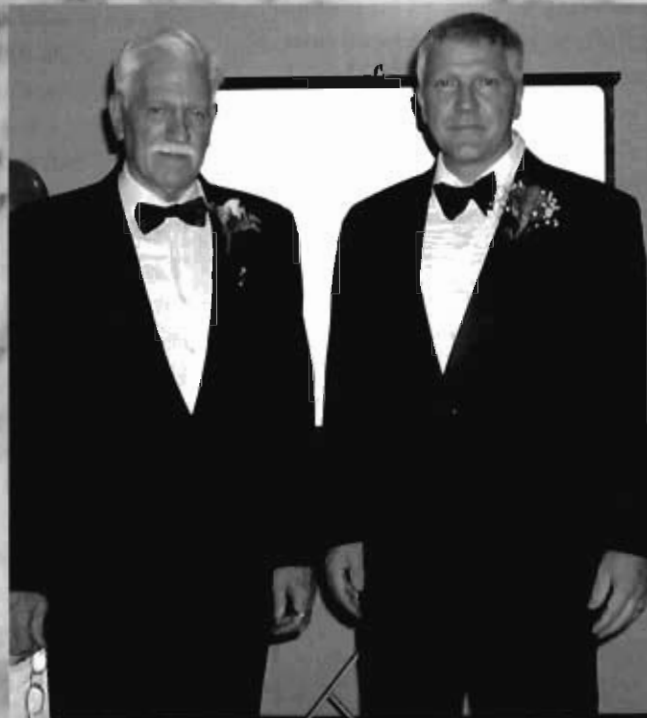
Continued next page

Seventieth Birthday Party for Grandmaster George E. Anderson

The American Karate icon, George E. Anderson, turned 70 this past November. His close students honored him with a dinner and party. The event, hosted by Patrick Hickey, included some short videos and a slide presentation of activities spanning the 52 years of Anderson's Martial Arts experience. Anderson, a man of many diverse talents, led the singing of "God Bless America" at the opening of the banquet. Representatives from National, International as well as Martial Arts and Law Enforcement organizations gave their best wishes in recognition of his long and extremely successful career as a Martial Artist.

Important honors were conferred including, perhaps the most prestigious recognition of the evening – a special Lifetime Achievement Award for his efforts on behalf of the Olympic Karate movement being presented by the USA National Karate Federation, the national governing body for Karate in the United States. Roger Jarrett, General Secretary of the USA-NKF National, presented the award. This well-deserved award was the first ever to be given by the US Olympic Governing Body For Karate. Grandmaster Anderson also received a special recognition plaque from the Pan-American Karate Federation (for which he is a past president) for special leadership in getting Karate into the Pan-American Games. Senior Kwanmukan students presented a lifetime achievement award on behalf of that organization. Other that included recognition from the International Pankration (8th Dan Master) represented by The United States Federation of Pankration Athlima. Letters from longtime friends, associates, and well-known Martial Artists, such as Dr. Paul Hoglund from Sweden and Grandmaster Philip Koeppe, Director of the US Karate-Do Kai, and others congratulated him and in and remembrance of his long and illustrious career. As a birthday gift, his friends gave he and his wife Joan a weeklong Caribbean cruise.

Unable to make the banquet but arriving in time for the 4-day Karate symposium section of the event was Anderson's mentor and teacher Great Grandmaster Park Chull Hee, founder of the Korean Kang Duk Won. Those attending were given the opportunity to ask Mr. Park questions about technique, early Martial Arts training and lineage of the Kwanmukan style—from its connections with Manchurian Gung Fu through direct connec-



Hanshi Anderson with master of ceremonies Patrick Hickey at his 70th birthday party and in trophy room, top.

tions with the Shudokan and Korean Shotokan. Students who trained at this biannual seminar were awed by Grandmaster Anderson's apparent ability to defy aging. His speed, power, and physical ability appear to not have declined at all. ▲

ANDERSON, GEORGE E., 10th Degree Black Belt

Some certificates held

- 10th Dan, Kwanmuzendokai International
- 9th Dan Hanshi, USA Karate Federation
- 8th Dan, World Union of Karatedo Organizations
- 8th Dan, Pan American Union of Karatedo Organizations
- 9th Dan, United States Jujitsu Federation
- 9th Dan, Jujitsu International Federation
- 6th Dan, United States Judo Association
- 9th Dan, Taekwondo, Korean Kang Duk Won Association
- 9th Dan, Taekwondo, Korean Chang Moo Kwan Association
- 9th Dan, World Kido Federation
- 9th Dan, Central Taekwondo Association of USA
- 9th Dan, Korean Martial Arts Instructors Association
- 9th Dan, United States Karate-Do Kai
- 9th Dan, United States Karate Association
- 8th Dan Kobudo, United States Karate-Do Kai
- 8th Dan Kobudo, Kobudokan USA
- 9th Dan Hanshi, Nippon Seibukan, Kyoto, Japan
- 9th Dan Hanshi, Japan Hard-Contact Association
- 10th Dan Hanshi, United Nations Martial Arts Council
- 10th Dan Chinese Martial Arts Sciences, World Council
- 10th Dan, Global Martial Arts
- 9th Dan, United States National Karate Association
- Certified Instructor, American Coaching Effectiveness Program
- Master Coaches License, United States Karate Federation
- President, World Referee council WUKO
- Ohio Peace Officers Training Council, Instructor (Retired)
- Ph. D., Special Degree Award - Eurotech Research University, Hawaii and member to International Advisory Board
- Ph. D., in Oriental Sciences, China
- Kentucky Colonel, State of Kentucky
- Master Mason Degree, Adonirum Lodge #571, Akron, Ohio
- 32-Degree Scottish Rite, Valley of Akron
- Order of Knights Templar, Cuyahoga Falls Commandery

Pictures at the 1988 Pan American Union of Karatedo Organizations Championships in New Orleans. Left to right, Tom LaPuppet, Patrick Hickey, (Hungary), George Anderson, Takiyuki Mikami (who hosted the event), Osamu Osawa (now deceased) Eriguchi Wakobayashi (JKF Japan), Hayashi, H. Kanazawa.



Mr. Anderson sitting in Mr. Suzuki's chair with members of the Seibukan in Japan right before the funeral in Kyoto, Japan. To his left is Mr. Suzuki's son. With Mr. Anderson from the USA are Patrick Hickey and Ridgely Abele.

Current Positions and Responsibilities.

- US Coast Guard Aux., Vice Captain Dist.09E Div.08
- United States Karate Federation, president
- International Jujitsu Federation, advisor
- United States Jujitsu Federation, chair, Central Technical Committee
- Jujitsu North American Union, chair, technical committee
- Kobudokan International, director
- International Shudokan Association, general secretary
- Kwanmukan International Martial Arts Association, director
- Central Taekwondo Association, chairman of chang moo kwan
- International Karate Instructors Institute, chairman of the board
- International Traditional Jujitsu Development and Research Foundation, principal
- United States National Karate Association, senior advisor
- United States Karate-Do Kai, presidential advisor
- Global Martial Arts, vice president
- International Law Enforcement Training - PSDI, USKA, Intl.' director
- Buckeye State Sheriffs Dept., Colonel in Ashland County, Ohio
- United States Judo Association, trustee and life member
- Center For The Martial Arts, director
- Webcreations Collaborative Venture, chairman.
- GEA Group, Inc., president
- Faculty, University of Akron

