

40 Years of Kyokushin.

In 2008 Shihancho Gary Viccars completed his 40th year of continuous training in Kyokushin Karate.

Due to logistics and timing a surprise party was not held until 19th February 2010.

People attended from all over Australia and there were many from the “old” days. In addition he received messages of congratulations and support from Kancho, Shihan Klaus Rex (Spain), Shihan Dwayne Davies (New Zealand) and Sempai Rob De Soza (Tasmania).

One of his presents was a book with signed messages from many of those attending.

Below are some of the messages in that book.

From Kancho Matsushima (written in Spain)

"I would like to express my heartfelt respects for the recent 40th anniversary of Kyokushin karate, and to wish you ever-increasing vitality and health for the future.

I request your help in the further expansion of IKO MATSUSHIMA and the rapid expansion of the Australian branch office.

I wish to be a single flower

blooming valiantly

in the midst of the cold wind

From Kancho Matsushima, by email

Congratulations of 40 Years Anniversary of Kyokushin Karate.

I would like to say many thanks for your contributions and efforts for the development of I.K.O. MATSUSHIMA in Australia. You have worked hard with Branch Chiefs from the start of our organisation 12 years ago.

I am very happy to work together till today.

And also I'm very proud that you are respectable Master of Kyokushin Karate. Lets seek for true Kyokushin spirit together.

From Hanshi John Taylor, 9th Dan

It has been a pleasure to share the past 40 years with you. We have had many ups and downs but through it all we stood side by side, never looking back and succeeded: both as friends and colleagues.

“A strong mind and a strong heart – the Spirit of Kyokushin”

From Shihan Klaus Rex, 6th Dan, Spain

On behalf of the Spanish Kyokushin Karate Organisation and I.K.O.s European Region I wish to express my heartiest congratulations and admiration to Shihancho Gary Viccars on the day of his 40th anniversary on the road of Kyokushin Karate-Do.

All the more as an ex competitor it is with sincere gratification that this occasion grants me to greet and honor Shihancho, being a prime figure in the history of Kyokushinkaikan. His involvement to the World Organisation has been of utmost importance for the competitors to be able to enjoy and display their art and skills in tournaments during all his years.

Very few budoka's can say that they have stepped out of their bed as martial arts performer during 40 years, and even fewer on the Kyokushin way, and I am confident that I speak on behalf of everybody from IKO, on saying that Shihancho Viccars contribution during the 2nd World Cup in Sydney was extremely valuable, not only for the competitors but also for the referees, thanks to his concise overview and direction, from which I personally benefited a lot during the event as referee and official.

Shihancho, may we continue having the benefit of you as official and as a Budoka, and may we carry on getting pleasure from your warmth as a human being.

Shihancho, makato-ni omedetsu degozaimasu (thank you and congratulations)

From Annette Taylor (wife of Hanshi)

It has been a wonderful journey and it has been a privilege to have been along for the ride. Thank you is not really enough for your support of John and Kyokushin. Our family is most appreciative and will always be there for you.

Your dedication, organizational skills, humor and imagination have seen us all through the past 40 years and may they do so for many years to come.

From Shihan Tony Bowden, 6th Dan

Congratulations on completing your 40th year in Kyokushin, I believe this to be a milestone for any Martial Artist, let alone to have achieved this in one style and under one organization.

I remember when I first met you it was back in the mid 70's at a dojo in Torquay it was there that you introduced me to Tamawashiwari you brought out 3 house tiles and said we are all going to break these tiles. I remember breaking the tiles and my fist hurt for days after. I have known ShihanCho as an Instructor, Competitor, Leader and best of all as a Friend.

When I was preparing for my grading in Japan Shihan Cho would make himself available to teach me senior kata any time that I was able to make it to Geelong.

I have always been thankful for your assistance and guidance though out my Karate life and I hope that our friendship will always be there.

From Shihan Robbie Adams

To my teacher, mentor & best friend. Congratulations on your milestone of 40 years continuous training within Kyokushin. Thank you for your tutelage, inspiration and guidance. You are an icon of Kyokushin.

From Sensei Carol Saunders

You know I respect you, I have known you for a very long time and you have always been there to help me with karate and everything else.

I remember our post Christmas running training. I started in front of you for about 1 week and then you were heading me home as you do.

From Shihan Gibbons and Sempai Magda

On behalf of the students in the A.C.T. - congratulations on such a huge milestone. You're an inspiration to all.

From Sensei Chris Paul

Well done Shihancho. Thanks for your support and guidance through the years.

From Jean Paul (Wife of Chris)

With respect always.

From Sensei Steve Hardy and Sempai Monica Hardy

This night is well deserved. You have been such a hard working asset of the AKKA and have helped make it the strong organization it is today.

From Sensei Ron Jorgensen & Debbie Jorgensen

As a youth I was inspired by your column in the Geelong News and I eventually plucked up the courage to start training and did my first grading under your watchful eye in 1989. Since that time I have always been inspired by your capacity to teach and to show humility and loyalty to all around you. Congratulations and may there be many, many more.

From Sensei Scott McQuaid

Thanks for being a great Branch Chief and Instructor. Hope there are many more years of training and friendship together.

From Sensei Rod Purcell and Marg Purcell

Everything you have done is much appreciated.

From Sensei Brian Ellison

You have done a lot of stuff for Kyokushin in Geelong, keep it up. To my friend, all the best

From Sensei Frank Cirillo & Karen Cirillo

What an achievement, you should be so proud. Thank you so much.

From Sensei Ian Wordsworth

Of all the dojo in the World I had to walk into yours. I have not regretted it for one moment. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

From Sensei Jim Sklavos

Congratulations on such an amazing Kyokushin career. You have been one of my inspirations to keep training and improving every day.

From Sensei Naomi Wood

I have been privileged to share many moments in karate with you and I hope there will be many more. It has been fantastic to train with you and to learn from you. I have no doubt that Kyokushin in Victoria would not be what it is today without your dedication and hard work.

From Shihan Dwayne Davies and Sensei Penita Davies

You are a living legend, I am glad we have had the opportunity to be a part of it and for many many years to come.

From Sensei Mark Cousins, Ashihara karate

We thank him for his support over the years and in turn, we give him our support totally. He has been a great inspiration to all of us and it shows the strength of his character.

From Sempai's Peter McCarter & Wendy McCarter
Shihancho, you always said "Kyokushin is for everyone" and as we were
mature age students when we started 12 years ago, this gave us the
inspiration to "have a go".
Our lives have been enriched by the training and the friendships. Of
course, we never thought we would achieve Nidan. Thank you for all you
do for Kyokushin. We really enjoy the advanced classes.

From Sempai Steve Crack
You have been a constant source of inspiration and guidance for me.
Whenever I feel doubt or lack of confidence to do something in my life I
always manage to think of one of your many achievements, and it gives
me the strength to keep on, to stay on course and persevere.
You believe in people when they doubt themselves and I thank you for
the gift of Kyokushin you have bestowed upon me, for now I can share
my love of the Ultimate Truth with anyone and everyone.

From Sempai Wendy Walsh
40 years of Kyokushin and you are still alive. Awesome

From Sempai Willy Phillips and Kerrie-Anne Phillips
You are an inspiration to all of us.

From Sempai Neil Birch
I am proud to be a part of the AKKA with you and Hanshi

From Sempai Shannon Johnstone-Ward
Huge congratulations for a huge feat.

From Sempai John Kaiser and Jenny Kaiser
Congratulations on this wonderful achievement. Personally we owe you
so much more than the values of Karate – we have a marriage & family,
all founded in Malop St dojo.

From Sempai's Heinz & Sheri Tump
What a great achievement

From Sempai Shane Carter
For 30 years, on and off, we have trained under your guidance. I still look
forward to each Wednesday, knowing that you will always have
something new. We will Continue.....

From Sempai Alicia Smith

What an achievement to reach as far as you have. You are certainly an inspiration for all of us.

From Sempai Peter Moran

Few people in the World can stand next to your achievements in Kyokushin and in life.

From Sempai Ken McKeegan

Thanks for all the years of support

From the Shields family

Thanks for all your help and guidance

From Jessica Winn

You are a true inspiration

From Michael Winn

You are a legend and a bloody good bloke

From James Rousseaux

Your commitment is an inspiration. You really are a living legend.

From Bec & Luke Connolly

We appreciate all the knowledge you pass on to us.

From Shayne Grace

I have only trained for a short time but have learned so much.

From Manny Blach (long time friend and original member of Ocean Grove dojo 1970)

You are a testament to your "kraft", thanks for the memories, you are a legend.

From Darren & Kaz Podbreznik (parents of Jordyn)

Thanks for being such an inspiration to our girl

From Leigha Adams

I will always look up to you no matter what.

From Wayne Smith

Congratulations. 40 BIG ones. Looking forward to 50.

From Sempai David Nabulsi
Congratulations of 40 years and thank you for your support of the
Traralgon dojo over the past 6 years.

From Sempai Belinda Burge, Norlane dojo
We thank you for your support and guidance throughout the years.

From Sempai Troy Winn
Thank you for all your support over the years.

From Sempai Christine Jacka
You have been an inspiration throughout my training thus far. The time
you have taken to make our karate strong is then best gift you can give.
You have been so inviting taking me into your dojo and allowing me to
reach my goal of Shodan. I could not have done it without your support
and knowledge. Congratulations of your spectacular milestone. I look
forward to many more years of training with you.

From Michael Varker
Congratulations, an amazing feat 40 years in Karate. Keep training.

From Sempai Doug Elliott
I am proud to know you.

From Sempai Adam McGrath
Congratulations to you on achieving this outstanding milestone. T has
been a pleasure to be a part of your journey in Kyokushin.

From Paul Ambrose student at Traralgon dojo
It is a privilege to train under you.

From Sean McLoughlin, student at Traralgon dojo
40 Years and here's hoping for 40 more. Always an inspiration and
always a friendly face.

From David ?
Your guidance through my Kyokushin journey can only be described as
inspiring. Never stop...Kyokushin Karate needs your wisdom.

From ???
Congratulations on a wonderful achievement, 40 years of training – 27 of
which I consider myself truly privileged to have known you.
May there be many more years of training and friendship to come.

From Paul & Annie Robson
It is a privilege to be training with you.

From Jenna Viccars
You are an inspiration to so many people, including me. I am so proud to be your daughter.

From Jason Popelier
It is an honour to train under you. You have great respect, not only in the Branch but World wide.

Other messages of congratulations were received from:

John Klose

Jim Baskin

Tony Gerrard

Robert Laretti

Terry Panczyk

Rob & Jodi Vack

Darren Knight

Jason Walker

Bettina Nicholson