

Kensei Taba, Hanshi, Judan

1933 (8th year of Showa) – Kensei Taba was born on the night of July 5 in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture.

1941 (16th year of Showa) – Asia Pacific war broke out

1944 (19th year of Showa) – On August 21, Kensei Taba, along with over 1600 people, were evacuated from Naha port on the Tsushima Maru headed for Miyazaki Prefecture. Only 22 minutes into the following day, August 22, the Tsushima Maru was sunk by a torpedo from a United States submarine. Kensei Taba, just a young boy, treaded water until rescued by Japanese military ships on the evening of the 3rd day. During the 3 days in the water, he saw many people drown and although he tried to help, he was not strong enough to save them.

1948 (23rd year of Showa) – The Pacific war ended. A 15 year old Kensei Taba was determined to become a strong man so he would never be unable to help others. He joined the dojo of Shoshin Nagamine, founder of the Matsubayashi-Ryu style of Karate-Do. The Nagamine dojo was close to the home of Kensei Taba and he liked the technique of Shoshin Nagamine the best.

1951 (26th year of Showa) – Shoshin Nagamine was a police officer and was transferred North of Naha for a few years. Kensei Taba joined the dojo of Chosin Chibana, founder and chairman of the Okinawa Shorin-Ryu Karate-do Association.

1952 (26th year of Showa) – Hohan Sokon, founder of the Matsumura Orthodox style of Shorin-Ryu, returned home from Argentina. Kensei Taba began his studies with Sokon.

1953 (27th year of Showa) – Shoshine Nagamine returned to Naha and Kensei Taba resumed his training under his first teacher. He remained a student of Nagamine until his passing in 1997.

1957 (32nd year of Showa) – Kensei Taba accompanied Shoshin Nagamine to Nagasaki. Nagamine, along with Shugoro Nakazato and Katsuya Miyahira, had been invited by the Mayor of Nagasaki to come and demonstrate Okinawa Karate.

1962 (37th year of Showa) – Kensei Taba appeared on a program in Tokyo and demonstrated Okinawa Karate, including breaking tiles and performing nunchaku. He later performed another demonstration in Osaka and one in Fukuoka.

1967 (42nd year of Showa) – The All Okinawa Karatedo Kobudo Federation Chairman Mitake Higa, along with a panel of senior teachers of Okinawa Karate-Do, promoted Kensei Taba to 7th-Dan. Later that year, Kensei Taba was sent to the United States with 2 other senior Okinawa Karate teachers to establish a dojo in Los Angeles. This was part of a United States – Okinawa Prefecture cooperation to provide Okinawa Karate to the United States of America.

1975 (50th year of Showa) – Kensei Taba was promoted to 8th-Dan by Shoshin Nagamine. He was later appointed one of the Vice Presidents of Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate-Do.

1997 (9th year of Heisei) – Shoshin Nagamine passed away in November. Kensei Taba, a 9th-Dan and having already been appointed President of Matsubayashi-Ryu a few years earlier, was now the senior active person in Matsubayashi-Ryu.

2002 (14th year of Heisei) – Kensei Taba left Matsubayashi-Ryu to teach the culmination of his vast experience in Okinawa Karate-Do. He established the Okinawa Shogen-Ryu Karate-Do Association and opened the Honbu Dojo at Itoman City. Later that year, Kensei Taba, along with many senior karate-ka that chose to train under him, made a trip to Canada to teach several seminars.

2004 (16th year of Heisei) – Kensei Taba made another trip to Canada to teach several seminars. Shogen-Ryu was established in North America with several dojo in Canada and one in the United States of America.

2006 (18th year of Heisei) – In March, Kensei Taba made a trip to the United States and to Canada to spread Shogen-Ryu.

2007 (19th year of Heisei) – Kensei Taba traveled to the United States again in March for a large seminar attended by over 100 people from all across North America. He returned in November to teach in Canada.

2008 (20th year of Heisei) – Kensei Taba traveled to Australia to teach several seminars and establish branches of Shogen-Ryu.

2012 (24th year of Heisei) – Kensei Taba passed away on July 7, 2 days after his 79th birthday

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