In March, I wrote about and introduced you to Sung Kim, better known as Master Kim of Master Kim’s Tae Kwon Do Institute located in the heart of Panorama Plaza. I shared the fact that he and his family would be traveling to Seoul, South Korea in April so that he could test for his 8th Degree Black Belt at KUKKIWON (KKW), The World Taekwondo Headquarters. If successful, at 45 years old, Master Kim would become the youngest 8th Degree Black Belt in the United States certified by KUKKIWON, which is the only rank accepted by the International Olympic Committee.

I am honored to report that Master Kim was indeed successful in his testing and it has been confirmed that at 45 years old, he is the youngest in the United States with this distinction. The KKW further confirmed that he is one of the five youngest in the world, the other four are from South Korea.

This past weekend my family and I had the honor of attending Master Kim’s Taekwondo Institute’s Black Belt Ceremony. It began with Master Kim being recognized for his achievement, and importantly, the ceremony honored his parents. On behalf of the entire community of Penfield I would like to recognize and congratulate Master Kim...now Grand Master Kim!

One might ask that with this achievement, what else is there for him to do? Perhaps you do not know Grand Master Kim! I have heard him say many times, “With rank comes responsibility.” He will set the standard and is jumping in on several new projects. First, there is the USAT Nationals from June 26 to July 1 in Minneapolis; next he will support National Collegiate Taekwondo Association President Chuang as Team USA Director at the Summer World University Games in Naples, Italy from July 2 to July 15 (Universiade Napoli 2019 will host more than 8,000 athletes from 40 nations competing in 18 sports). He has accepted the USA Taekwondo Region #8 Head Poomsae Coach position; he will be in Colorado Springs, CO, July 25 to 27 supporting the 11th Annual U.S. Open Taekwondo Hanmadang; September 27 and 28 he will be in Las Vegas for the American Sabumnim Association conference for martial arts school owners, and he is planning to host the first ever KKW Licensing Course in the northeast. It would be the International Master Course for 3rd Dan and above and the Poom/Dan Examiner for 4th Dans and higher. KKW will conduct the course and will send a Grandmaster Instructor to teach this in Rochester, New York.

Thank you Grand Master Kim for everything you do to support our community and residents, you make a difference each and every day!

Speaking of wonderful role models, I had the honor and pleasure of attending an Eagle Court of Honor over the weekend for Sean Leccarde and Fletcher Heath from Troop 312. Sean and Fletcher represent Eagle Scouts #114 and 115 for this troop. Fletcher’s Eagle project was to build seven book shelves that were delivered to the Metropolitan YMCA; they are intended to serve as book swap shelves where adults and children can leave a book and exchange it for another one.

Sean’s Eagle project was to build an irrigation system for the Eastside YMCA Community Gardens. Volunteers grow food at the garden and donate it to the Penfield Food Shelf. On behalf of the Town of Penfield I want to recognize and thank Sean and Fletcher on achieving the rank of Eagle. I also want to wish them both well as they head off to college this fall. These two young men that will make a difference in all they do in life...great job guys and congratulations!

The 2019 concert series at the Penfield Amphitheater and Kiwanis Stage started off with a bang this past Friday night with the annual food truck and music event featuring bands from Penfield schools. The weather was wonderful, there was a nice variety of food, drink and ice cream, and the music was delightful. Thank you to all who attended to support the students.
The summer concert series continues with the Penfield Pops Band tonight (Monday, June 10) at 7:00 PM and tomorrow night (June 11) with Teagan & the Tweeds from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. The concert series runs through August 27 and is capped off with the annual Tastin’ the Blues on Saturday, September 14. For more information and details please consult page 7 of the Pen-Rec Brochure or go to www.penfieldrec.org.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

Tony

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