

~ Michael Morris ~

Becoming a black belt was on Michael Morris' list of 104 things he wanted to accomplish in his life time. Michael began training at Karate West 9 ½ years ago and now holds the rank of Nidan and title of Sensei.

Michael met his wife Susan at Karate West over seven years ago. Susan is also a Karate West black belt instructor (and Michael's "favorite adult person," he likes to say). Michael has three children. Tyler is 14, Lysa is 28 and Michael is 27. He also has a four year old grand-daughter, Isabella. His oldest son works with him in his residential appraisal business. Michael has been in this industry for 14 years and is the owner of Heartland Appraisal Services.

Michael has many hobbies! He loves digital photography, camping, painting and reading, to name a few. Michael is a voracious reader and absolutely loves martial arts books (he has 140 in his collection)! He says a light often goes on when he reads the same book years later having gained more experience. Michael finds great joy in watching this same "light go on" when he teaches his own students. His students clearly see his passion for martial arts and for teaching.

Michael is excited about his role with the Karate West Demonstration Team. He was promoted to Demonstration Team Director this year and he feels that expanding the team will give any Karate West student a time to shine!

Michael says his future goals are simple. He wishes to train until the day he dies, continue to be a servant-leader at Karate West, successfully open his own dojo under Sensei Holeman's tutelage, and advance to 5th degree...

Michael will no doubt accomplish his goals. Does that shorten his list to 99?

Here's what others say...

"Sensei Michael has not only spent unbelievable amounts of time helping me overcome the challenge of being an "older" student, but has infused in me a passion that those who know him will immediately recognize. I wouldn't be where I am today without Sensei Michael and see him as one of the best teachers, a best friend and a martial arts mentor."

- Steve Champion, Friend

"It has been my sincere pleasure to be a student of Sensei Mike. His enthusiasm and passion for Karate is evident in his selfless and tireless devotion to each of his students. He has a unique ability to find each student's strengths and then motivate them to achieve a level of success that is far superior to what they thought possible."

- Cindy Laycock, Student

"Watching Michael progress from white belt to second degree black belt has been inspirational. He has developed strength both mentally and physically. Michael has become a leader who has matured with a soft wisdom. I'm proud to call him my student and my friend."

- Shihan Randy Holeman, Head Instructor