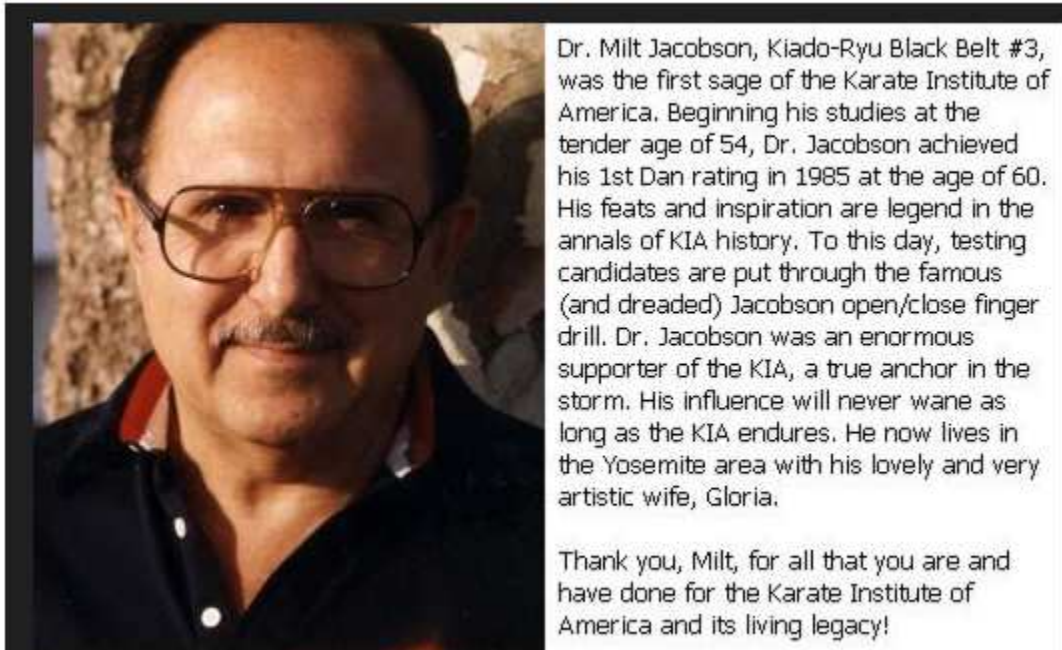
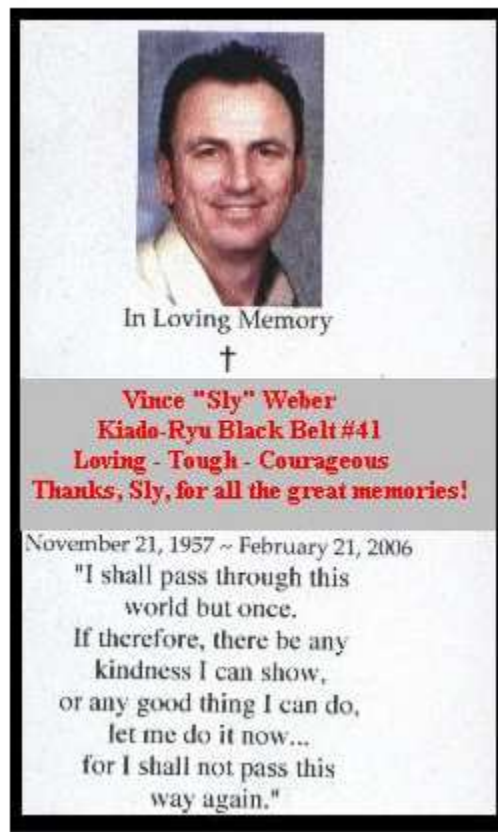


## Blast From the Past Part 5





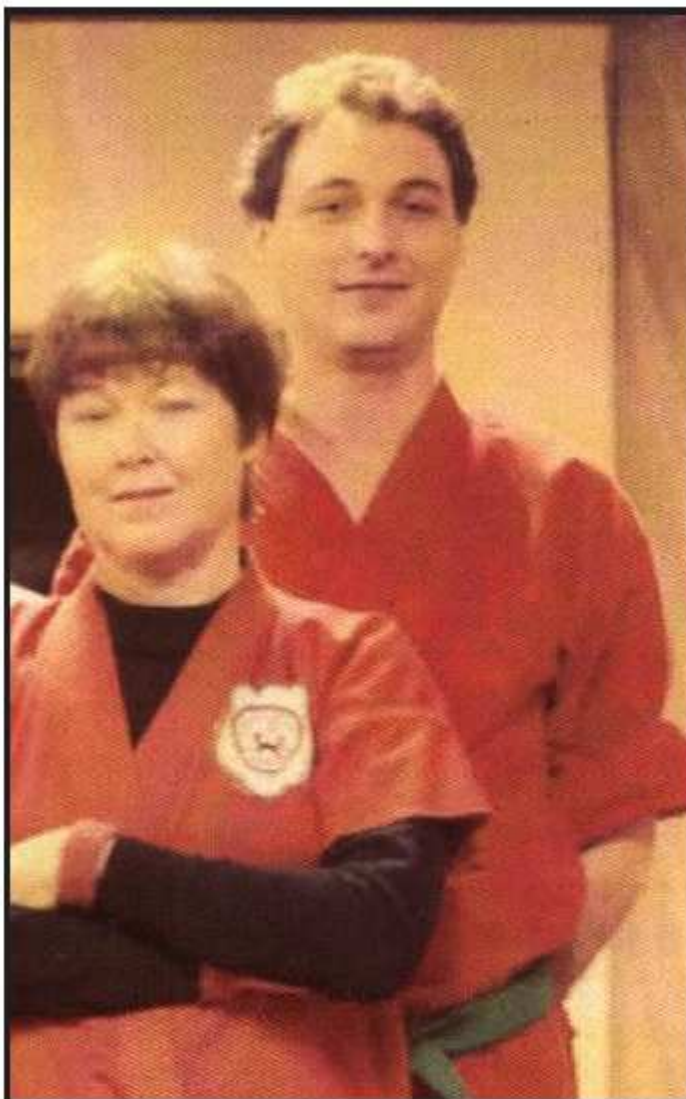
Jamaican born Paul "Tron" Daniels is the 34th Black Belt of the Kiado-Ryu, achieving his 1st Dan rating in 1994. Now a 2nd Degree, Tron operates his own business, The Body Warehouse, in South Orange County, CA. His website is: [www.thebodywarehouse.com](http://www.thebodywarehouse.com).

Tron is, certainly, one of the most gifted athletes in the history of The Karate Institute of America. His quickness and speed of foot are wonderful assets to his martial arts ability and flare.

Daniels, noted for his trademark dreadlocks, was a member of the KIA National Competition Team in 1993 and through diligent study and application developed into a championship forms competitor.

As a fitness enthusiast all his life, as well as being an excellent soccer player in his youth, Tron is now working to become the premier Russian Kettlebell instructor in Southern California.

All of us at the Karate Institute of America wish him well in his endeavors and are blessed to have him as one of our own.



Pictured here in his green belt with Genny "Cougar" Edge (Kiado-Ryu Black Belt #13) is Jerry "Shuto" Alston, the 28th Black Belt of the Karate Institute of America.

Shuto received his 1st Dan rating in February of 1994. Known for his fighting-effective long arms and legs, as well as an incisive and analytical mind, Jerry Alston was a mainstay of the KIA environment in the late 80s and 90s.

One of Shuto's talents, besides being mentally acute, was his ability to perform and serve in the capacity of a stuntman during self-defense exhibitions and skits. He could make the least skilled martial artist look like a champ.

With a love for engineering, especially for music (which he does as a hobby), Shuto is an executive in the computer business, using his very talented developmental skills of design and organization.

Jerry "Shuto" Alston currently resides in Orange County, CA.

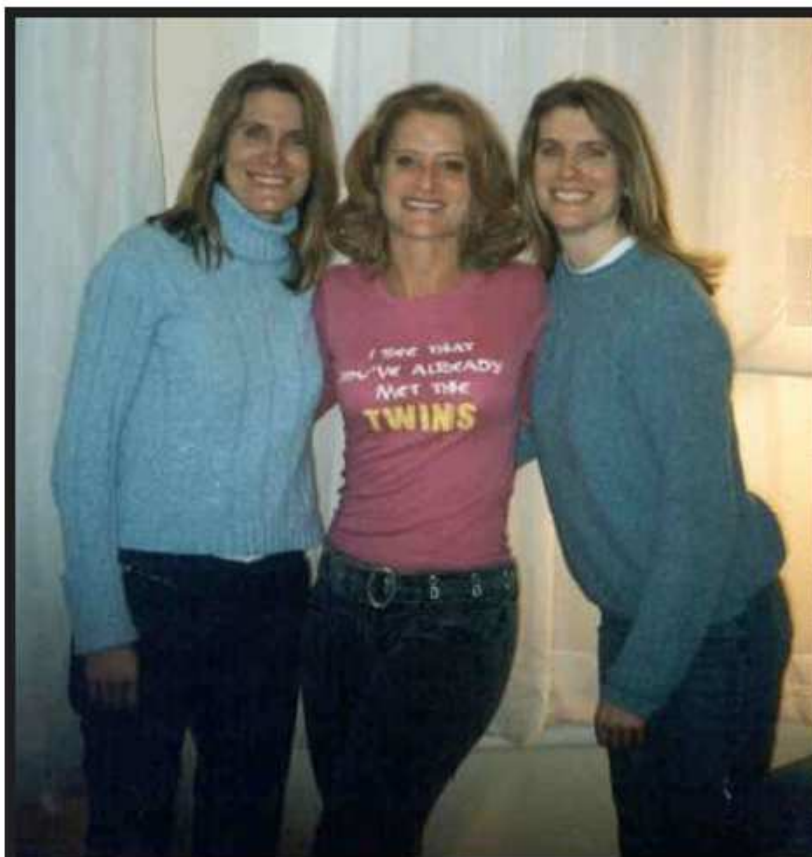




Taka "Wadachild" Wada is pictured here on January 23, 1999, celebrating new Black Belts Gwen "Hobbes" Ryan [red top], Tejas "Wolverine" Maniar [white gi] and Pratik "Cheetah" Patel [blue gi] at the KIA's then temporary venue, Cardiofit fitness club in Mission Viejo. Other Black Belts in attendance besides Mr. King and Taka Wada are, back row left to right: Dave Sampson, Thomas Lindsey, Terry Bass, Vince Weber, Heather Corn [hidden behind Tejas in the white gi and Anna Griffin.



Soham "Falcon" Maniar is seen here during his brown belt testing at the Karate Institute of America in December 2007. Soham is as intense in all aspects of his life as he is here doing one of his required katas. A straight A student with a multitude of AP classes, extracurricular programs and community service projects, he is the epitome of a Kiado-Ryu martial artist. His elder brother, Tejas, is a KIA black belt (#57) and Soham will achieve his first Dan rating most likely in the summer of 2009 before he heads off to college. It has been a real privilege having these fine young men as part of the Karate Institute of America during the last twenty years. Many kudos go to their parents for having done an excellent job raising their sons.



Nicole Hackler (center) is flanked by the Brown Twins Lori (on the left, her right) and Jenny (on the right, her left).

These 3 Amigas were all shining lights at the KIA in the late Eighties & early Nineties. Unfortunately, the destinies of all three moved them out of the area before they could reach a black belt level.

Nicole's Kiado-Ryu callsign is Goldilocks and she was certainly gold to the Karate Institute when she studied. Her husband, Master Sergeant Warren Hackler (USMC), has served multiple stints in Iraq. The two now live on the East Coast. The Twins are both teachers and living together.





Our Karate Institute of America Photo of the Week features Luke "Yaqui" Navarro pictured here with his lovely family: Wife - Christine; Oldest Daughter - Kyla; Youngest - Ella. Luke studied at the KIA in the '80s and early '90s before relocating. After attaining a Masters Degree in Theology, Yaqui continued his spiritual journey and is now Pastor of Soledad Community Church in Monterey County, CA. In his quest to reconnect with his martial arts roots, he found our site, emailed us and is now back in the Kiado-Ryu loop. We wish Luke and his beautiful family all the very best. You can check out his church's website at [www.soledadcommunitychurch.com](http://www.soledadcommunitychurch.com).



College student (pre-med.) Ashlee Kendall executes a ferocious and devastating claw to Mr. King's eyes/face during a LadiesSelfDefense.Com workshop on 21 July 2007. Such intensity and commitment! Who, in their right mind, would ever want to be the recipient of such an attack? If any picture tells a thousand words, this one is it! Ashlee's eyes, teeth, jaw, perfectly formed claw and focused intent say it all. Way to go, Ashlee! Next time, though, we'll have to use a different dummy, LOL! This photo featured in the August edition of the Orange County Register's Health & Fitness Section . . . no wonder.





Leila White goes through ground defense drills during a LadiesSelfDefense.Com workshop at the Karate Institute of America in Lake Forest, CA. Although weighing only ninety-eight lbs., Leila is a fierce warrior, demonstrating that it's not the size of the woman in the fight that matters but rather the size of the fight in the woman. Notice the immense concentration in Leila's eyes and her accuracy in kicking the target. Great job, Leila! You're an inspiration for females of all ages . . . and sizes!



Jon "Stretch" Vail began his KIA journey in the early 1980s as a teenager (upper left photo in gi). Now, with two beautiful twins, a lovely wife, Janice, and an occupation as a professional geologist, Stretch is living the good life in Colorado. Jon got his nickname from his ability to do splits. His long arms and legs were awesome assets in his fighting game. One always had to beware of his high roundhouse and hook kicks. Although apart in distance, Stretch maintains his connection with his KIA roots though email and letters. He was, and still is, a dynamic ingredient to the legacy that is the Karate Institute of America.



Trent "Rattler" Norman, age nine, is seen here giving "the sign" after successfully passing his Green Belt test.

Trent began his karate journey at the tender young age of five, supported lovingly by his Kiado-Ryu Black Belt father, Jeff "Boa" Norman, and his devoted mother, Michelle Norman.

From the very start of his martial arts journey, Trent has expressed exceptional skills, especially in the areas of kata, weapons and free form, leading one to ponder the possibility that he studied karate in a previous life.

Rattler has continued to expand not only his karate skills but his character as well. We all look forward to the day when he can join his Black Belt father on THE WALL. Keep up the great work, Trent!

~ finis

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