

KUMIAI RYU MARTIAL ARTS SYSTEM

Dear KRMAS Members, Families and Friends,

I am pleased and honoured to announce on behalf of the Kumiai Ryu Martial Arts System Shihan Kai that our Chief Instructor and Founder **Kevin James Blundell** with nearly 50 years of continues on going training across a wide variety of Martial Arts has now met all requirements and industry standards to be promoted to the senior rank of **Ninth Degree Black Belt** - Kudan and from this day forward holds the new title of **HANSHI** in both Kenpo Kai Karate and Kumiai Ryu Martial Arts System.

HANSHI 範士 is a senior master title for the head master of a system/style and refers to a senior expert considered a "master teacher of teachers". This title is used by many different arts for the top few instructors of that style and is sometimes translated "Grand Master" awarded to 9th Dan and above.

The "**HAN**" meaning is an example, model or proficient and the "**SHI**" that's used in **HANSHI** means gentleman, samurai or warrior, or scholar.

You will note that Hanshi Blundell also has another title which is 会長 **KAICHŌ** which translates in English to chairman, president, chief, head of organizations.

Kaicho Blundell Hanshi is the Chief Executive Officer of our awesome Club Kumiai Ryu Martial Arts System.

RATIFICATION OF THE NINTH DEGREE HANSHI GRADE

In January 2014 Hanshi Blundell was formally graded to Ninth Dan Kudan – Hanshi by the International Real Combat Association [IRCA] Kodansha Kai www.sinkenpokai.com and presented with his grade By *Oleg J. Sheprut, SOKE, Ph.D.* IRCA President & Chief Instructor, Honbu Dojo, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Hanshi Blundell patiently and respectfully waited to accept this highly honourable high Rank until now which is nine years since his Eight Dan rank which was verified by the IRCA and *Oleg J. Sheprut, SOKE, Ph.D.* This most senior rank is endorsed by several notable senior master's from around the World. Time lines also fall in to line with the current KRMAS senior rank and martial arts industry requirements.

Hanshi Blundell also holds ranks in;

- Traditional Karate - 4th Dan Black Belt
- Traditional Judo - Brown Belt
- Authentic Muay Thai Black - Badge Level Four Ajarn
- Hanshi also holds Black belts, titles and other ranks in many other systems, styles & organisations

All ranks and titles are relevant to our club Kumiai Ryu Martial Arts System and our most senior ranked instructors including Hanshi are recognised, respected & acknowledged within the martial arts industry.

In conclusion the official long title is **Kaicho Kevin James Blundell Hanshi – Ajarn** However to save any confusion within KRMAS and our wonderful students he will be known as **HANSHI** and externally to KRMAS he can be referred to **either as KAICHO and/or HANSHI.**

Congratulations Hanshi! OSU!

For and on behalf of the KRMAS Shihan Kai

Shihan Geoff Ford - Fifth Degree Black Belt
Director of Senior KRMAS gradings