

Raymond "Duke" Moore, 10th dan
1915-2003
founder Zen Budokai
by [Russell St. Hilaire](#)



Duke Moore throwing Tim Delgman with Ippon Guruma (*photo taken by Jim Moses at Encina Gymnasium, Stanford University, 1981*).

Raymond "Duke" Moore was born in San Francisco on April 19, 1915. In his youth he loved boxing and wrestling. In 1941, Duke became a student of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu under Ray Law at the University Ave dojo in Oakland, CA. Ray Law was a blackbelt under Seishiro Okazaki of Hawaii, the founder of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. Duke excelled at judo and jujitsu, and learned the Kodenkan "boards" (requirements for blackbelt written on wooden boards which hung in the dojo), but was not satisfied with all aspects of the system. Thus, in 1943, he decided to go to New York City and study judo with George Yoshida.

While living in New York City, he also used all his spare time to train with jujitsu master Kiyose Nakae. Nakae gave Moore private lessons on two tatami mats in the master's apartment.

In 1944, Duke finally won his blackbelt in competition, and it was awarded to him by George Yoshida.

Later that year he moved back to San Francisco and opened his first school called the American Judo/Jujitsu Academy at 1819 Market Street. Later it moved to Divisadero Street.

In 1946 Duke founded the Northern California Judo Association. In 1948, he was a co-founder of the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation (AJJF) with John Cahill, Bud Estes, Dick Rickerts, and Ray Law. However, in 1950 Sensei Moore resigned from the Association because the group was insisting that all members be blackbelts of Okazaki's Danzan Ryu system.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's Sensei Moore trained with Masutatsu Oyama, the founder of Kyokushinkai Karate, and Richard Kim, karate, aiki jutsu, a weapons master and representative of the Dai Nippon Butokukai. Moore received his blackbelt in Kyokushinkai Karate from Mas Oyama in 1957, and his 4th Dan in Shorinji Kempo Karate from Master Kim. Later, in 1965 he received his 7th Dan Blackbelt in aiki jujitsu from Master Richard Kim.

Professor Moore studied with all the great masters of the day, including Ray Law, George Yoshida, Mas Oyama, Mitz Kimura, Richard Kim, Walter Todd, Yosh Ajari, Kiyose Nakae, and Sensei Takahashi. Professor Moore was an instructor to state, federal and civilian employees of the California prison system. He has also instructed hundreds of people from police departments, colleges, and all the branches of the military.

In the early 1970's the San Francisco dojo was passed to John Pereira, and Prof. Moore moved to Mountain View, CA, where he began teaching his jujitsu style at Stanford University. Later this dojo was passed onto Prof. James Moses and Duke moved to Sacramento, CA.

On October 25, 1980, the Zen Budo Society awarded Duke Moore the rank of 10th Dan. He was given a certificate which reads as follows:

Whereas he has mastered, taught and demonstrated in his life and work the philosophical truths and spiritual forces of Aiki and Budo; and in recognition of his being a Master Sensei and practitioner of over forty-five years experience in the martial art of Aiki Jujutsu, the Zen Budokai hereby awards to its founder Duke Moore the title, rank and honor of Hanshi-Judan (10th Degree).

On December 19, 1981, Duke Moore and other teachers from the Zen Budokai organization as well as other arts, came together to form ATAMA, the American Teachers Association of the Martial Arts. This is a group meant to help those who are legitimate martial artists, but who are not associated with a master, to share knowledge, and receive credentialing as instructors in their various martial arts.

In 1999 Hanshi Moore received the Daruma Award for his lifetime commitment to teaching and preserving the Martial Arts.

Hanshi Moore wrote several books on the Martial Arts and Zen philosophy including: *Holistic Meditation, School of the Tiger, Dharma-First of the Zen Masters, The Self-Defense Syndrome of the Human Mind, and The Fighting Spirit of Zen.*

Hanshi Moore promoted over 300 black belts. He lived in Sacramento, CA until his death in 2003 at the age of 88. Before his death, he officially named Professor [Tim Delgman](#) as the second soke (headmaster) of the Zen Budokai system.

There are approximately 20 schools worldwide teaching Hanshi Moore's Zen Budokai system.

"In conclusion, I have little or no interest in so-called "tradition arts." If they don't work, scrap them."
- letter to Sensei St. Hilaire from Duke Moore.

"Survival is everything...all else is trivial."
from Fighting Spirit of Zen - original manuscript.

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