



Mr. Kang Rhee

JAN 30, 1938 - AUG 16, 2019



Scan to Visit



MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 4



Mr. Kang Rhee

JAN 30, 1938 - AUG 16, 2019

Kang H. Rhee, 81, died Friday, August 16, 2019 at the Christian Care Center in Memphis following a long illness. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gee-un (Bucha) Rhee; his son, Yong Rhee (Kyung Jin Rhee); two grandchildren; Jasmine Dahnbi Rhee and Rebekah Ruby Rhee, and many close friends. Born and raised in Seoul, Korea, the son of Sang-Chul and Soon-Pyo (Hong) Rhee, he was the second oldest of five siblings. In 1960, he graduated from Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration; and established Yonsel Univ. Martial Arts Team, serving as captain. Four years later he migrated to the United States to teach TaeKwonDo in Memphis, Tennessee. By 1966 he established the PaSaRyu Martial Arts Association. He was the founder and 10th Dan Grand Master of PaSaRyu until his death. He became the instructor of the late Elvis Presley and Bill "Superfoot" Wallace in the 1970s. Other accomplishments by Grand Master Rhee include: – Head Instructor of Korean Military Intelligence Group Officers. – Trained in Kong Soo Do, Chang Mu Kwan, Kwon Bup, Kang Duk Won and Han Kuk Hap Ki Do 1953-1964. – Seventh Dan Kuk Ki Kwon (H.Q. Tae Kwon Do in Seoul Korea 1975.) – Producer of Annual Karate Championship Fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. State of Tn. Governor's Award, 1999. – City of Memphis Mayor Certification of Appreciation from various community services and organizations. – Member of Presidents Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification of Republic of Korea since 1991. -Founder of the World Black Belt Bureau est. 1972. The funeral service will be held on August 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at Korean Baptist Church of Memphis in Collierville, TN with a private burial to follow. For helping Master Rhee's family to pay for his medical expense. https://www.gofundme.com/f/master-kang-rhee039s-medical-expense&rcid=r01-156634398706-d450152e9f634a45&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w



Tribute Wall

Mr. Kang Rhee

JAN 30, 1938 - AUG 16, 2019

JK

Jason Kilgore posted:

I join his organization back in 1989 when you can see him advertising his organization back in Blackbelt Magazine. I join & was an amazing journey- Got to catch up here & there through out the years- Always striving to set the bar in training. He will be missed --- Jason K

July 9 at 12:45 PM

BA

Bala posted:

Our stay in Cordova was so wonderful due to the association with Master Kang Rhee. My daughter and I had enjoyed every class with him. He is such a great soul, inspired and taught us both Pasaryu and personality worth a life time. Master Kang Rhee ! you will live in our memories forever. Bala Karri and Shri Karri

September 23 at 2:07 PM

AD

Alicia Davidson posted:

I was lucky enough to be a student of Master Kang Rhee for three wonderful years at his Cordova studio. He explained to me the benefits of yoga tai-chi, and I became a religious 3-4 time per week attendee for nearly three years. His practice helped me achieve relief from both my emotional and physical ailments. I turned from a sedentary college student into an athletic and graceful young lady through the yoga tai-chi practice. He was the most upstanding gentleman, mentor, teacher, and guru to me, and his teachings and guidance changed my life for the better. Master Rhee was a disciplined but kind-hearted man. He valued knowing that he taught his students something that they could carry with them for the rest of their lives, even if it was just from the beauty of a free first yoga tai-chi class, which he offered to anyone who wanted to try it. Master Rhee, I will always remember you, your guidance, your patience, your generosity of spirit, and your genius, because that is what you truly were and will always be remembered as. Your classes will remain some of the happiest and most comforting memories of my life. You touched so many hearts and lives, and I know you are in a better place. May you rest in peace Master Rhee.

September 15 at 4:45 PM



Tribute Wall

Mr. Kang Rhee

JAN 30, 1938 - AUG 16, 2019

RM

Ramona Mcknight lit a candle in honor of Kang.

I remember Master Rhee. He was my instructor for his Tai Chi/ yoga class. It kept me afloat during some hard times. I wanted to look him up for more somewhere. I knew that he moved his studio to Somerville, TN, a bit too far to drive. I really miss his classes. He was a great guy. I wonder if someone carried them on in his memory. It's really sad to hear about this. I was thinking of him really strong. May all his loved ones and friends be comforted from this great loss. Fly on Master Rhee!



September 15 at 3:14 PM

MN

Marcus Noel posted:

I was a student of Master Kang Rhee for a couple of years in the mid-70's while attending Memphis State University. I attended classes at the Brooks Rd location. Prior to signing up with Master Rhee, I was stationed in Osan, Korea (Osan AFB - 1971) and contemplating signing up for Tang Soo Do under GM C.S. Kim, and would only be there for a few weeks. Being from Memphis and remembering Master Rhee's demonstration at Memphis State University (1968), I wrote to him asking for advice. Master Rhee replied immediately and advised me to proceed, to be open-minded, and to consider Martial Arts as a life-long journey. I appreciate his advice and having met him and studied with him. May he Rest In Peace. - Marcus A. Noel

December 23 at 1:21 PM

MF

Matthew Frey posted:

Rest In Peace Grandmaster Rhee!!!

October 23 at 10:04 AM



Tribute Wall

Mr. Kang Rhee

JAN 30, 1938 - AUG 16, 2019

JF

Jacqueline Owens (Jackie, Formerlybrown) posted:

To family of Master Rhee: I met your father in Atlanta while he was traveling with Elvis in 1973. We started a great friendship. He invited me to Memphis where we spent some time together. He was a genuine kind human being and sought to bring comfort to not only Elvis but me also, and I know many others. One time when Elvis went to hospital for some much needed R & R also doc working on "bringing him down from his drug addiction", Master Rhee told me that he wanted to go see Elvis but Red West wouldn't allow him to visit. I said, I wish we could whisk him away so that we could get him into AA and get him away from a few harmful relationships. Naturally, that wasn't possible, but it hurt him very badly that Red intercepted Elvis' call. The last time I saw Master Rhee, I took a copy of the poem I had written for Elvis "I WAS THE ONE" and he thanked me and said he would frame it and put it in his office. He was present in the room when Elvis read my poem out loud and your father signed a LOA for the autograph Elvis gave me .Anyway, I appreciated his wisdom, beliefs, that he practiced and lived everyday. He was the embodiment of a man who appeared to live a giving life to help others to gain confidence in themselves. He will be sadly missed. Rest easy, my friend." Sun"....

September 12 at 5:47 PM

AS

Alan Steeg posted:

My heart sank today when I learned that you passed away Master Rhee... It was back in the late 1990's when I first met you at your studio and it was there where you sat down with me and talked about PaSaRyu and what it can do for a person. I quickly signed up for being a Lifetime Member because I was immediately drawn to these words of wisdom and loved what it meant, and those words were "Sun Makes Evil Shadows Disappear"..... I was looking for more than just self defense back then. I was hungering for Spiritual Enlightenment as well and when I saw this I knew this was what I was looking for. Personal and career obligations kept me away from practicing PaSaRyu throughout the years but the one thing I remembered and continued to practice was shining the Light on evil. I still have my Lifetime Member Certificate, its something I always treasured. But what I cherish the most is being fortunate enough to meet you, talk with you and train with you. I will cherish your memory for as long as I live and be forever grateful for the positive energy that you bestowed on me. Its made me a better person in a lot of ways and for that I thank you sir! You done very well in Life and I'm sure God is well pleased with you. My condolences and prayers to your family during this time... My heart is with you... Rest in peace Mr. Kang Rhee...Sincerely With Love, Alan " Cougar" Steeg

September 1 at 3:43 PM



Tribute Wall

Mr. Kang Rhee

JAN 30, 1938 - AUG 16, 2019

LR

Larry Rowland posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Kang Rhee, No to long ago I had gotten a autographed photo of Elvis Presley and Kang. That is so much more special now with his passing. May God surround his family with love and compassion. He will be missed.

August 26 at 5:25 AM

RH

Richard Handley posted:

Rest well

August 25 at 1:56 PM

GC

Gerald Courville posted:

My condolences to the family. How ironic that he passed away August 16 same day as Elvis.

August 25 at 6:24 AM

DS

Debbie Wiles Smith posted:

So sorry to hear of the passing of Kang Rhee. I spent a good bit of time at his school on Poplar with my daddy, Robert Wiles. My prayers are with his friends and family.

August 23 at 11:36 AM

MH

Master James Howard posted:

Master Kang Rhee thank you for all your support and advice over the years. I am and my school Tiger's Lair Martial Arts Instructors and Students are very sad to hear of your passing. It was a privilege to be associated and train with you. Your contribution to Martial Arts are immeasurable. Your teachings will live on through your Family, Instructors, Students and associates like me. I am so proud to be a part of the World Black Belt Bureau. May you Rest In Peace. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. Respectfully Master James Howard.

August 23 at 7:16 AM



Tribute Wall

Mr. Kang Rhee

JAN 30, 1938 - AUG 16, 2019

GK

Gregory A. Kenney posted:

As a member of the World Black Belt Bureau , I became friends with Kang Rhee. He will be deeply missed. Rest in peace my friend.

August 21 at 7:45 PM

WK

Wendy King posted:

My friends and I went annually for many years to visit Master Rhee at both studios in Memphis. We were always treated with so much kindness and respect as Elvis fans. We felt we became friends. It always felt like an honour to be in his presence. He was a lovely, gentle man. He taught us to say "Sun" to anyone who had taught us something. So, I say "Sun" because he did. We will miss him.

August 21 at 11:52 AM

NM

Neal Miller posted:

Respect

August 20 at 2:31 PM

RF

Russo Family posted:

We are very sorry to learn of the death of Master Rhee. What a amazing man and talented soul. Great friend to my father and our family. God bless you, fly high

August 20 at 10:27 AM

GF

Grandmaster Jay "Flying Tiger" Blanton And Family posted:

Sun! Grandmaster Kang "Ox" Rhee you were more than my Instructor of 30 years you were part of our family. Without you teaching and mentoring me I would not be where I am today in the martial arts. I will treasure all the good times we had training together your the best of the best! Myself and all your students will continue to teach and continue your legacy on. God needed a Instructor in heaven to teach his angels so he called you home to be with him. My family will never forget you we all love you Gm Rhee until we meet again in heaven Sun!!

August 19 at 2:12 PM



Tribute Wall

Mr. Kang Rhee

JAN 30, 1938 - AUG 16, 2019

JP

Jason "Mr. Phoenix" posted:

SUN! My deepest and most heartfelt condolences to Master Rhee's family. Master Rhee, you were a central figure in my childhood and teenage years. Training in PaSaRyu was, and continues to be a true joy and the PaSaRyu family you instituted is truly special. You are and will continue to be missed by many and your teaching and memory will live on in your family and your students. SUN!

August 19 at 9:00 AM

GB

Glenn Bowles posted:

I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the family of Master Rhee. His friendship and support for my music career, over the years, has meant the world to me. I will always cherish that friendship and times we've spent together. God bless you.

August 19 at 6:40 AM

RE

Rick Marino Author Of "Be Elvis!" posted:

My deepest condolences to Master Rhee's Family, such a wonderful person! The time spent with him, I will never forget! God Bless...

August 17 at 5:36 PM

CT

Chador Red Thunder posted:

You will be missed, Master Rhee. Your legacy will live on in all those you taught. Thank you for sharing your art with me. I learned much from you and will continue to pass it on. SUN! Chador "Hummingbird" Red Thunder

August 17 at 1:03 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kang by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit



MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery