

Grandmaster Kim Pyung Soo
Chayon-Ryu World Headquarters
1740 Jacquelyn
Houston, TX 77055

Dear Grandmaster Kim,

I called Chayon-Ryu World Headquarters today to ask how best to get a letter to you. A man answered. I said "I'm an alumni I guess. My name is Tom Cook." I was greeted with an enthusiastic "Tom Cook!" Master Sean had answered. It was so wonderful to relive shared memories with him – including his frolicking as a young boy at the Clay Street Dojang and the time you brought him to our Los Alamos Branch School. Today he made me feel like I had come home. Our sons are often our greatest testimonies.

I have finally retired and have spent some time reflecting on my life. In the final analysis, we are the product of our planned and unplanned experiences, of our responses to those situations, and of the resulting consequences of each response. My journey has been very rewarding in the context of the values I hold dear. Of course, even those values are not developed in isolation. Many wonderful people have contributed to my growth. However, three men stand above all others: a very senior professor at Rice, a very renowned astronomer at Los Alamos, and a very skilled martial artist of highest integrity. I have already written to thank the first two; and now, I am writing to thank you.

In sharing your art with me, you equipped me with the freedom to respond competently to physical challenges; in sharing your principles with me, you infused me with the freedom to respond confidently to intellectual and emotional confrontations. With Chayon-Ryu skills and principles, I became free. The martial arts gave me the freedom to choose avoidance as my preferred response to physical confrontation. The principles fostered integrity and bolstered confidence in all aspects of life. My career has required me to advise people, institutions, and organizations of great power charged with making decisions of serious consequence. A large part of my skill expressed in dealing honestly in these situations - whether individual, military or political - derives from principles I learned from you.

So thank you Grandmaster Kim!

Tom

Dr. Thomas L. Cook, PHD/Rice University
Chayon-Ryu, Sandan