

Art Linkletter, the family next door, the list goes on forever.

Promoting the art through his tournament 'The International Karate Championships' - an annual event since 1964, Mr. Parker launched many careers. As an Instructor and Technical Advisor with the elite in the entertainment industry; producers, directors, writers and TV personalities, Martial Arts became a part of our everyday life. Local law enforcement agencies, private security, the CIA, the FBI, branches of the Government and the Military in the USA and other countries incorporated Martial Arts into their training programs.

Mr. Parker conducted Kenpo Karate demonstrations and seminars for everyday people around the world. I saw his genius at work on many occasions through classes, seminars and his video tape series which I had the privilege of working on with him. There was also an incident late one night in Washington D.C as I and other members of the Budweiser National Karate Team (of which Mr. Parker was the Coach) saw him use 'environmental awareness' as we were leaving a Chinese Restaurant. A man approached him from out of the darkness. I watched him strategically position himself at the rear corner of the limousine and apply divert, seize, control and disarm by giving a man a handful of change after saying in a very serious voice 'Where have you been I've been looking for you. I have been trying to get rid of this change all day'. This caught the man off guard and Mr. Parker seized the moment, controlling a potentially dangerous situation and disarming and violent intentions which the man might have had. He applied his concepts and principles on and off the training floor, even with his handshake he used 'The Tender Trap' which looks innocent and harmless but he had you 'checked and cancelled' six ways from Sunday.

Through his pioneering efforts he blazed the path which allowed Martial Arts to flourish around the globe. All you have to do is look at the people that he influenced and the lives that he touched directly and indirectly. I'm Tommy Chavies and I consider myself fortunate to be able to say I was taught by Mr. Parker and that we were the best of friends. His Art and his spirit still lives through me and those who continue to embrace his love for Kenpo."

### Frank Trojo;

"I began my training in Kenpo in 1969. During that time Ed Parker was starting to franchise his studios. I enrolled in a program called the Instructors Program. That's when they were looking for guys to assist the instructors who were managing studios.

What they would do is train you in basics, techniques and terminology for about 8 weeks, then they would test you on how well you could apply and explain the material given to you. I remember testing in front of Mr. Parker, at the time I didn't know who

he was but I knew that the guy in the middle had to be the best! So, when I tested, I directed all my focus on him. At the end of the test when they came out of the office Mr. Parker had a little smirk on his face and he looked at me out of the corner of his eye. Right there and then I knew I had the job.

My relationship with Ed Parker was not a student/teacher relationship so to speak. When Mr. Parker would give private lessons at the studio he would tell me to sit on the sideline and watch. I would even go up to his house, sit on the couch, and watch him give a lesson. To me it was an honour just an honour to be in the same room as him. I knew a lot of times what he meant when he was trying to teach someone and it amazed me how a lot of people didn't even have a clue. I guess that's why he always gave me the third point of view, coming from a fighting background, teaching came easy to me and I knew what he wanted and understood what he was trying to say.

I never really talked too much about Kenpo with Mr. Parker unless it was about some fight I got into over the weekend. I didn't look at him as the great Grandmaster, feared by all. To me he was Ed Parker, the man who tucked me under his wing and gave me a chance of a lifetime. Let me live in the studio as a kid to enable me to get my life together, let me spread my wings as far as I wanted too and helped me to learn what I needed to learn so I could be the man I am today.

What I really miss about Mr. Parker is the everyday stuff. Hanging out, going out to lunch, telling jokes, his almost out-of-control laughter when he was on a role, and sometimes just sitting and not saying anything.

Mr. Parker wasn't just a Martial Artist of great magnitude - sometimes he was our dad."

The above individuals have really said it all for me and so many others. My sincere thanks go to all those who contributed. I would like to share with you a poem I wrote of our Master Ed Parker.

### Poetry in Motion

The man in black with the silver hair,  
Weaves mystic patterns in the air,  
Moving fast, moving slow,  
A powerful aura is aglow,  
Dragon and Tiger move as one,  
On the Universal Pattern, motion.  
A deadly art, is all aflame,  
This 'Dance of Death' is no game.  
The Law of the Fist and the Empty Hand,  
He's wedded to, in timeless sands,  
Forever performing his mystic dance,  
Forever in his mystic trance.  
The man in black with the silver hair,  
The leader of leaders, none to compare.  
His name is Ed Parker, Master and Friend,  
His spirit lives on and will never end.

### Gary Ellis

He was a charming, witty, charismatic individual who also had deep religious con-

victions. His schedule was always demanding and his intensity of action, philosophy of life, teaching methods, humility and genuine love for his Kenpo family kept him extremely busy right up to the end.

"There are three types of people in the world, those who make it happen, those who watch it happen and those who ask 'What Happened?'"

His contributions to the field of Martial Arts will continue to shape the future of our industry for years to come. Driven on by the words of a teacher at Kamehameha High School - "You will never be a success in life". His achievements and his legacy to us all speak for themselves. His dedication to his life's work continues to inspire those of us who had the honour to work with him and to have been befriended by him. As Leilani Parker wrote in her book 'Memories of Ed Parker';

"He influenced the lives of thousands. Some with his deadly art and others with his generous heart".

In his book 'Zen of Kenpo' Ed Parker wrote;

"Time and space may separate us, but not the thoughts and memories that bind us".

Ed Parker - WE MISS YOU.

Professor Gary Ellis is the A.K.K.S Director for Great Britain. For details on American Kenpo as taught by Senior Grandmaster Ed Parker in Great Britain and for details on the forthcoming A.K.K.S Millennium European Open Kenpo Championships and Training Camp to be held in Plymouth from 19th to 22nd October. Please write to; Gary Ellis, 28 Endsleigh Park Road, Peverell, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4NH. Alternatively you can visit our website at: <http://www.kenpouk.com> or e-mail: [Gary@www.kenpouk.com](mailto:Gary@www.kenpouk.com).

