

Tokumura Kensho Sensei

Tokumura Kensho was born on October 25, 1941 in the Village of Heshikiya, Katsuren Okinawa. In 1956, he started training in Shorinryu Karate while attending Agricultural Junior High School located in Akena Village, Okinawa.

In April 1957, Tokumura went to see the founder of Isshinryu Karate, Tatsuo Shimabuku at his Akena, Village Dojo. Shimabuku explained to Tokumura that a person using a vertical, non twisting punch could throw more punches than a person using traditional twist punches. A speed punching contest ensued between Teacher and potential student with Shimabuku's vertical punches winning. Tokumura started Isshinryu and became a student of Shimabuku Tatsuo's until the Masters death on May 30, 1975.

Tokumura said that Tatsuo would have him teach Americans when he was still a white belt. He was only a teenage "school boy" and was scared to teach the older Marines. Shinsho "Ciso" Shimabuku (Tatsuo's 2nd son) would teach during the day and Tokumura would teach at night.

He was promoted to ShoDan (1st Degree Black Belt) by Tatsuo Sensei giving him a used black belt that had been left in the dojo. The belt was too long so Tokumura had to cut it's length.

After Tatsuo Shimabuku's death on May 30, 1975, Tokumura trained in the Kinaka dojo and taught for Kichiro Shimabuku, the founder's first son.

On March 17, 1977, Tokumura received his Shihan License from Kichiro Shimabuku. He was promoted to Rokudan (6th Degree Black Belt) on July 10, 1984 by the Isshinryu World Karate Association (IWKA). Tokumura also tested for RokuDan under the Japan Karate Federation (JKF), where he received a perfect "10" score on his kata. He received his Rokudan certificate dated March 16, 1985, signed by President Ryoichi Hasegawa of the JKF.

Later, Tokumura would study Kobudo under Master Eisuke Akamine who was the successor to Shinken Taira.

In October 1987 Tokumura left Isshinryu to study Gojuryu Karate at the Jundokan in Naha under Miyagi Chojun student, Miyazato Eiichi Sensei.

With over 50 years of martial arts experience, Tokumura Sensei has developed his own style of Okinawa Kobudo. It is called "Tokushin Kobudo" by his direct students because many of the kata bear the name "Tokushin". The name utilizes the first kanji of Tokumura's name "Toku" 徳 and the kanji for "shin" 身 which means "body" or "oneself" and refers to his (Tokumura's) personal Kobudo.

On April 28, 2001, Tokumura was promoted to Hanshi, Kudan (9th Degree Black Belt), by the Ryukyu Traditional Kobujutsu Preservation Budo Association endorsed by President Nakamoto Yoshikazu.

In March 2009, Tokumura started the Isshinryu Tomo No Kai (Isshinryu Friendship Association) and in 2010 plans on making his Kobudo system an official Ryuha calling it "Tokushin Ryu".

Tokumura Kensho retired as a Captain from the U.S. Marine Corps Okinawa Security Forces. He has developed into a great ambassador for the Island of Okinawa, passing on the ways of Okinawa Karate, Kobudo and Okinawa culture to all that want to learn. Tokumura likes to say, "I don't teach Karate & Kobudo to make money. I teach to make friends."