



*Hall of Fame Mission:  
Acknowledge outstanding judoka who have made major  
significant contributions to the sport of judo and/or  
achieved the highest level of success*

9/3/23

### **The Hall of Fame Committee Report**

The Hall of Fame Committee had a successful year and was able to induct into the U.S. Judo Hall of Fame Award Gallery, Class of 23, the following Judoka:

Ray Imada, Mickey Matsumoto, Dr. Chuck Medani, Kyoshi Shiina, and Doug Tono

The Hall of Fame Committee also inducted the following Judoka into the Lifetime Achievement Award Gallery, Class of 23, the following Judoka:

Rodney Lima, Bryan Matsuoka, Micheal Pratt, Natalie Roy, Ferdinand Thista, and Peggy Whildon.

All nominees are now on the USJF Website.

The process went well after a slow nomination start. The committee will continue at its next meeting to improve the US Judo Hall of Fame Award (HoF) and Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) processes.

We also had a very successful induction ceremony where over 100 people were able to attend the recognition dinner and help the committee develop a self sustaining financial model. Mr. Brink created a launch gift that will expire in 2026. The committee is attempting to build enough funds so these awards can be self sustaining.

As we get close to the opening of the nomination, the website will again be updated with any new information.

*A note to the USJF Board of Directors:*

*Last year's nominations started very slowly. President Palacio and Mr. Fukuda let the potential nominators know that requests for nominations for both the HoF and LAA Awards were open. There was a very slow response. The U.S. Judo Hall of Fame Award Committee would appreciate if the nominations could come in sooner.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Neil Simon, Chair

#### ***USJF Hall of Fame Members***

*Neil Simon, Chairperson and Secretary*

*Members: Robert Brink - Mitchell Palacio - Noboru Saito - Hector Estevez*

*Temporary ex-officio committee status: Kevin Asano and Mark Muranaka*