



# Nisei Goju-Jitsu

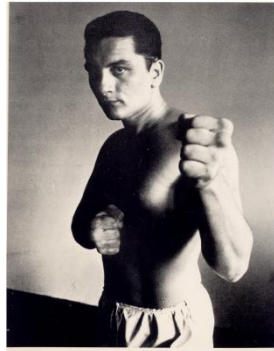
Goju Hall #804 of New Rochelle, N.Y.  
Founder: Raymond A. Fitzpatrick

## Grandmaster, Peter George Urban, Ph. D.

“The American Lion”

Grand Patriarch of All American Goju Systems

August 14, 1934 – April 7, 2004



Peter George Urban was born in Jersey City, NJ on August 14, 1934. Raised by his mother, Helen ‘Lozos’ Urban, a Greek-American and his stepfather, Fred Urban with his younger sister Sylvia at various locations in Union City, NJ. His first job was a shoeshine boy at the old Transfer Station in Union City, later he delivered newspapers for the Hudson Dispatch and the Jersey Journal as well.

After graduating Emerson High School in Union City in 1953, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and while stationed in Yokohama, Japan as a decoder for the intelligence division, Urban discovered his calling, the martial arts. As fate would have it, Urban was fortunate to have been formally trained by not one, but three of Japan’s greatest teachers at that time; Richard Kim, Gogen Yamaguchi and Masutatsu Oyama. In 1953, Urban began his apprenticeship with Master Kim and later became Master Kim’s “Uchi – Deshi” (house student). One year later in Tokyo, Japanese Goju Master, Gogen Yamaguchi accepted him as a student, and in 1955 Mas. Oyama, founder of the Kyokushinkai School began training Urban. This was unheard of for non-Japanese.

In 1956, Urban’s reputation and knowledge granted him the right to train the 212<sup>th</sup> Military Police Corps in Tokyo. In 1957, he was chosen by Gogen Yamaguchi to participate in the prestigious 1<sup>st</sup> all Japan Collegiate Championship and in 1958 to compete against the Chou University captain. In 1958, Urban marries a lovely Japanese woman, Mieko Ito of Yokohama, Japan and leaves

[←Back to Goju Forever](#)



Japan in 1959 as a 5<sup>th</sup> degree black belt, which was then the highest rank ever bestowed to a non-Japanese practitioner.

Upon his return to the United States in 1959, Urban establishes his first school at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Summit Avenue in Union City, NJ. At the same time, he also taught at the Hoboken YMCA. He continues to develop and hone his teaching methods and training philosophies and had reasoned that America should have its own karate system much the same way the Japanese have theirs. During the 1960s, the Sensei taught at various locations in Manhattan and Brooklyn, the most renowned being the Chinatown Dojo at 213 Canal Street, NY, NY. In 1965, he establishes American Goju Karate and soon after the Chinatown Dojo was founded. This dojo was a “Mecca” for martial artists near and afar, where men and women of all races were welcome.

In 1963, the Urban family was blessed with a daughter, Julia Lorraine.

In 1965, Sensei Urban returned to Japan to discuss his aspirations with Master Yamaguchi, his meeting was met with disappointment, quote Urban: “The feudal system still exists in Japan, they have lost the true spirit, their system builds blind followers and I believe karate should build seekers not followers.”

Due to these circumstances, Urban not out of need for notoriety or arrogance, but for the love of country, proclaimed himself Grandmaster, (10<sup>th</sup> degree), and founder of his own, “American Goju Karate System.” His contributions in particular to American Martial Arts were monumental in many respects. **He dared to break the mystique closely guarded by the Japanese and led America in it's abilities to expand, experiment and grow in the world of martial arts, thus this pioneer envisioned and saw through his dream for America to become a land of seekers, not followers.**

Sadly in 1980 his wife of 22 years passes away from cancer and Urban becomes a widower the rest of his life. A gifted writer, Sensei has written numerous books on the martial arts such as “Karate Psychology”, ‘The Book of Goju’, ‘The Chinatown Dojo’, and others. His most famous book, “THE KARATE DOJO”, published in 1967, remains his most well known and respected to this day.

Sensei Urban has trained hundreds of well known martial artists such as: Frank Ruiz, founder of Nisei Goju-Ryu, Alberto Gotay, founder of World Goju, William Louie, founder of Chinese-American Goju, Leon Wallace, founder of Harlem Goju, John Kuhl, founder of Combat Karate, Ron Van Clief, founder of Chinese Goju, Harry Rosenstein, founder of Kanzen Goju-Ryu, Manny Saavedra, founder of Sansei Goju-Ryu, Chaka Zulu, founder of ZuJitsu-Ryu, Carlos Paris,

[←Back to Goju Forever](#)



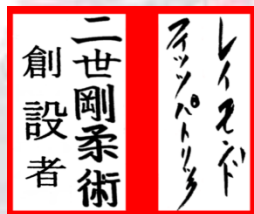
Goju Hall #804 of New Rochelle, N.Y.  
Founder: Raymond A. Fitzpatrick

founder of Yoshi Goju-Ryu, Anthony Lau, founder of Ying Yee Kwoon, Arcelio Rullan, founder of Rullan Goju-Ryu, Raymond A. Fitzpatrick, founder of Nisei Goju-Jitsu, Lou Angel, founder of Tenshi Goju-Ryu, Ric Pascetta, founder of American Goju Karate Association International, Steve Malanoski, founder of Shoru GojuJitsu Kai, Dayton Guinee, founder of American Heritage Goju Karate-Do, James Chellemi, founder of New York Goju Karate Association , Frederick Ingham, founder of Bermuda Goju and more.

Notables who have trained with Sensei are: Khemforia Padu, Sekwii Sha, Gerald Orange, Robert Jones, Edward Verycken, Edward Doyle, Earl Monroe, Louis Delgado, John Giordano, John Waples, Orlando Soto, Sr., Owen Watson, Earl Woodbury, Hanni Sakas, Gianfranco Giacometti, Walter Parks, John Hooker, Keith Teller, Kevin McGrath, James Price, William Myers, Rick Diaz, Thomas Bennett, James Zeno, Wilfredo Roldan, William Grady, Kevin Grady, Henry “Butch” Williams, Balfour Wright, Ray Hermann, Sinclair Throne, Fidel Montalban, Claudio Gonzalez, Joe Lopez, Joe Hess, Garry Gascoyne Aaron Banks, Chuck Merriman, Walter Platt and more.

Sensei’s undergraduate studies were accomplished through the auspices of the USA Armed Forces Institute through the University of Maryland and Anacostia, Washington, D.C. He also studied at Sophia Jesuit University of Tokyo. He achieved his first doctorate in Metaphysics from Brownell University and a second doctorate in Behavioral Psychology.

In his later years, Urban still was able to privately teach and give valuable advice. His last creation, The Fight Schools Network, was kept together by his monthly newsletters, “Urban Speaks” and his web site [www.americangoju.com](http://www.americangoju.com). Sensei’s final location was in Massachusetts where he envisioned what would have been his last dojo to be called: “The Omega Dojo.” Unfortunately his vision was never realized as he passed away on April 7, 2004, due to heart failure at age 69.



Written by, Julia L. Urban-Kimmerley  
Edited by, Raymond A. Fitzpatrick, M.C.S.  
Raymond A. Fitzpatrick, M.C.S.  
Iemoto, Nisei Goju-Jitsu

[←Back to Goju Forever](#)