

Dear Fellow USA Judo Coaches:

As many of you already know, I've been nominated to fill the vacant seat on the USA Judo Board of Directors reserved for Coaches. Many of you know me but for those who don't, I'm providing this brief background for your consideration.

Some folks have asked what qualifications I have to be on the Board of Directors. This is a good question because just being a coach or athlete has not led to positive change in this role on the Board to date. I believe change is needed. Positive change that leads to growth of our sport, growth of our clubs and growth of our athlete base. I waited and waited for change, for new ideas, for improved communication and an organization that is responsive to the needs of our coaches, athletes and parents, but nothing ever seems to change for the better. I've talked to many of you over the years about how to make many things better and yet we still wait.

For the past 16 years I have owned Wall 2 Wall Martial Arts in Fredericksburg, Virginia. I am active coach and teacher like all of you. I understand the challenges of being a coach and the struggle to grow a successful club and attend the National tournaments with my students. I am also a business owner who has invested in the promotion, growth and development of Judo in the United States as a partner of Judo Gear USA, LLC. As the Official Distributor of Adidas judogis and products we have directly supported dozens of aspiring judoka in the Cadet, Junior and Senior levels of competition where our Mission is to Assist and Support the Growth and Development of our Youth.

In addition to my lifetime in judo I am a proud retired US Marine with 20 years of service, including earning a Bronze Medal in Fallujah, Iraq in 2005. Today I serve as Information Technology Director with the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. where I manage a large team and annual budget of over \$60 Million. I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of New York as well as Senior Executive Fellow from Harvard Kennedy School.

So, I bring the tactical and strategic skills needed to make a positive impact on the Board, but more importantly I bring a passion for the sport informed by training and education. I believe the USA Judo Coaches community needs a stronger identity, direction, and support. Our coaching community needs a stronger voice in all matters that affect us and our students. It is my plan to help develop this in a way that creates opportunities for all working cooperatively with the other Board Members.

I will work for positive change. I will listen to you, work with you and represent you. I will bring commitment and professionalism to this position. I ask for your vote.

Yours in service to Judo

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