

2015 California State Open Taekwondo Championship Essay Contest

My Taekwondo Story

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My name is Jaden McDaniel. I would first like to thank you for this opportunity to enter in the Essay contest. I haven't been in Taekwondo long; just this March 2015. I am so proud to be part of it. When I was little I use to sit on my Dads lap and watch Martial arts movies with him. When my dad and mom were stationed in Afghanistan, my Grandpa would watch the movies with me. He took care of me when my mom and dad were gone. My mom came home first and boy was I happy. I asked where my dad was and she said he'll be home in a couple of months. Sadly that didn't happen; he was killed in Afghanistan. My mom and I were heartbroken. As we healed together and captured the great memories we had, my mom started showing me hand combat moves; to which I liked. My Grandpa continued to be there for me and said I should learn Taekwondo. I joined the Hans Brothers Taekwondo School and I was impressed and so was my mom. She was stationed in Korea for a year so she learned the Korean culture, and instilled it in me. The Training, exercise, sparring etc. teaches me a lot, but the most important to me is the discipline. I learn to focus, be a team player, learn to listen, respect myself and others around me; I have learned not to just be that way in Taekwondo school, but to carry that with me where ever I go in life. I have gained values, morals and the will to know I will be a better person as I get older. The training at times is tough. But my mom says it's worth it. I'm a good student in school and Taekwondo has taught me study harder and don't give up. To try your best. Thensadly my Grandpa died, and I know he would be sooooo proud of me and my Dad too. They knew my goal is to be a Black Belt. It takes time and patience in which my Masters taught me *Patience*. I am proud of myself for coming this far and I will continue to go farther. It is an honor to represent the 'Art of Taekwondo'. I would like to dedicate this in Memory of my dad and Grandpa who I know is cheering for me from the heavens above; I miss them dearly, my mom is the best and greatest cheerleader ever. She taught great values and morals. I have gained new friends, improved tremendously in all the techniques, and most of all I couldn't ask for better Masters and instructors! The experiences as I continue will only get better. The qualities of others that I know in Taekwondo are great; they are the Masters and instructors; prior to me joining I didn't know anyone who did it. So I have the upmost respect and value their expertise and training they give me. I will continue to be a good role model for my peers, and represent with great pride my Taekwondo school and all the good it has given me; both at home and school. I know there will be a few roadblocks that come my way but I can learn to oversee them and be the better person. If for some reason my training is needed in the public world it will be in self-defense, and that is what we are taught. Taekwondo is for self-defense not for showing off. I want to thank you again, and have a great day!