

President's Winter Message
By Prof. Joe Souza
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As we begin our New Year, I have to report the great accomplishments we have achieved through a team effort. 2006 began with an overwhelming interest in Sport Jujitsu. My goal as the president of Jujitsu America is to stimulate interest in Jujitsu America through activities that will be of interest to both the membership and outside martial artists. These interests should be catalysts for increasing membership as well. I am proud to report that we are on the right track. Jujitsu America hosted several Sport Jujitsu events during the year leading up to the main event, you might say, the **Disney's Martial Arts Festival** in October. With the help of Coach Cahill and the tireless efforts of Eric Renner, Jujitsu America became the organization presenting the Sport Jujitsu Tournament as part of the event. The success of this venture is due to the Sport Jujitsu team, Eric Renner, Scott Merrill, Richard Bunch, Duwane McCraney, Chris Peterson, Anthony Brewer, Joe Souza and Willy Cahill. This team spent many days and long hours structuring the rules and equipment needed to make this a first-class event. The objective of the team was to create a competition that will be fair and equitable to all competitors regardless of their Martial Arts origin. The other consideration was to make competition that has continuous action for both the competitor and the spectator. I believe we accomplished this and more. Our competitor turnout is growing as well as the spectator participation with family and friends.



What excitement is in store for 2007? Well, Sport Jujitsu will continue to be a focus with the **Disneyland® Martial Arts Festival** at the **Disneyland® Resort**, in Anaheim, CA, on February 3-4 and the next **Disney's Martial Arts Festival** at **Disney's Wide World of Sports®** Complex in the **Walt Disney World®** Resort near Orlando, FL, on Oct. 26-28, along with other planned events. Visit the Jujitsu America website for more details: www.jujitsuamerica.org.

Now that the Sport Jujitsu is growing, I want to add the next piece of the mix. A form of Kata competition, not in the traditional sense of the word Kata, but an open competition self-defense format that will enable all forms and styles to compete. With the addition of this competition, it will round out the Jujitsu America competition format. This sort of competition will allow students and family members to compete in a competitive arena of their choice. For those that prefer a more physical form of competition, then Sport Jujitsu will fill their need. For those that want to demonstrate their skills and compete in a less physical environment, then the Self Defense or the so-called Kata will be able to fill their desire to compete. Finally, we will continue to host top instructors at clinics, seminars and conventions.

As a school head, this will give you the opportunity to offer all your students a well-rounded opportunity to participate in some sort of competitive environment and should

help increase your student base because of the activities offered to them as a student and as a family.

I encourage everyone to participate in these activities, get involved and get your students involved! 2007 is a continuation of the great foundation the founders of Jujitsu America desired from the beginning. Jujitsu America is truly being recognized as an international organization. Again, I encourage everyone to get involved!