



Hapkido Leader Passes Away

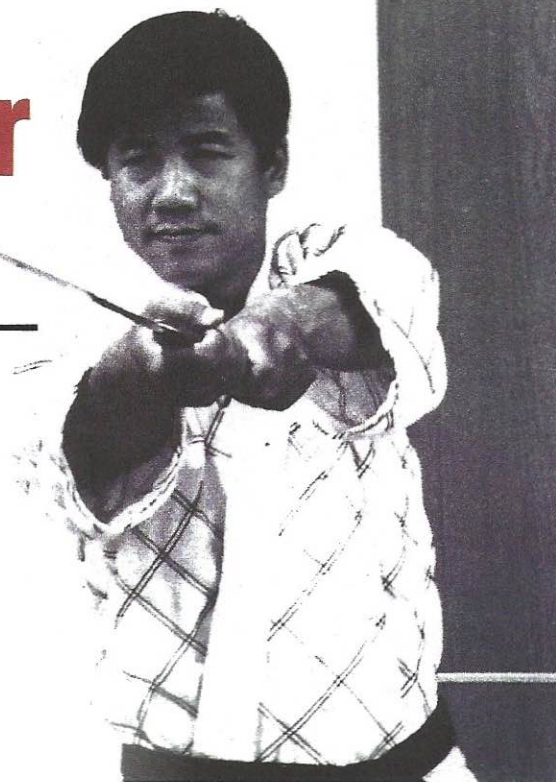
On February 23, 2018, the family of Chinil Chang announced that the *hapkido* grandmaster had passed away peacefully in his sleep. He was 77. His death was attributed to hypertensive cardiovascular disease. Funeral services were held on February 28 in Fort Lee, New Jersey, with many family members and close friends in attendance.

For more than 30 years, Chang served as the *doju* (successor) of the Korean martial art. He inherited the title from his instructor Yong-Sul Choi on January 15, 1985.

Chang was born on June 11, 1940, in Seoul, South Korea. He earned a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from Yonsei University, after which he devoted his life to the study and preservation of the martial arts.

Chang's dedication to training was unparalleled. Over his lifetime, he earned the title of "grandmaster" in multiple arts, including *hapkido* and *taekwondo*. Stories of his extreme training days have become legend and serve as inspiration to current and future generations.

His passion for research and commitment to the refinement of techniques have contributed immeasurably to the science of martial arts. People who experienced his instruction firsthand were astonished by the superior level



of his skills and the power of his presence.

The loss of Chinil Chang will be felt across the martial arts community, but his memory will be honored by his students as they continue to spread his teachings.

— John Leshaj