

Charles Butterfield

I originally started my martial arts training in Judo in high school under my physical education teacher. Then in 1974 Alex Outerbridge Sensei started teaching Shotokan at the same school and I immediately switched as I loved the dynamics and ways of Alex Outerbridge Sensei, one of Master Tabata's students. Once I completed high school and Alex Outerbridge moved away, I tried out Bak Sil Lum Kung Fu with Sifu Al Wharton. After a year I moved again as my heart was with Shotokan, and joined Burnell Williams Sensei, who was also one of Master Tabata's students. Here we also did Jui Jitsu. During all this I along with Princeton Bailey Sensei and Jerry Bailey Sensei would train on the old railroad tracks in our neighborhood. In 1978 the three of us ventured out and opened a school at Francis Patton where we taught many students over the years.

I have judged many tournaments both here in Bermuda and overseas in Italy, England and Brazil under the Bermuda Karate Organization which was headed by O'Sensei Skipper Ingham, as a coach and an official. I continue to judge in all of the local tournaments in Bermuda. In 2020, I competed in the World Cup Finals in Virginia where I won 1st place in the over 50's category. I was also awarded The Golden Year Award for my contribution to Martial Arts from Grand Master John Chung. In June 2021 I received an award from Andrew Banks Sensei, in England, for my contribution to martial arts over 40 years.

In November, 2011 I ventured out with the late Calvin Fox Sensei and we opened our own school, Tabata-Ha Shotokan Karate-Do Bermuda. With the help of Roger Trimm Sensei, Oscar Lightbourne Sensei and the late Calvin Fox Sensei the school grew and flourished to a successful school. It is my belief that as a school we should give back to the community and over the years we have donated to people less fortunate than us, done many trash clean ups in the area and painted the hall, for the church, and also a nursing home in the area.

I am also a registered professional dog trainer and have been training dogs for the past 40 years. On top of all this I have worked at Bermuda Telephone Company for the past 44 years. I have one son, who also

trained in Shotokan and was the youngest Shodan, at the age of 16. I have one grandson who one day may decide he wants to do Shotokan or perhaps be a dog trainer.

I continue to teach the students and take pride in following in Tabata Sensei's footsteps to keep his legacy going for the next generation.