

Osu!

Thank you for everyone's participation and well wishes for Kushida-sensei's Memorial Events. There were many opportunities to study Kushida-sensei's teachings together.

Students from near and far, those who have studied Aikido for only a month to seniors who studied for almost 40 years, and people who are currently studying to those who have studied in the past, all came together to share their energy to bask in Kushida-sensei's teachings.



There was an opportunity to try Sotojutsu. This special class was designed as an opportunity to experience Kushida-sensei's sword study for students who have not had the chance to study Sotojutsu. There were many first-time students who enjoyed the classical study, but there were also many students with decades of experience who participated with intense focus. Sotojutsu techniques

are simple yet complex, and movements and forms are both intense and meditative at the same time.

The All-level Combined Aikido Clinic was filled with many stories of Kushida-sensei, both from when he was in Japan and after moving to the United States. There were stories relating to how Sensei developed his Yoshokai techniques as well as teaching system and studying techniques that were examples of the growth of Yoshokai. We ended the class with energetic Kakari-geiko, with the Dojo filled with energy, sweat, happy people, and Aikido harmony!

The memorial party was a casual pizza party, which brought back wonderful memories of many Dojo pizza parties that we shared with Kushida-sensei for many years. As always, excellent etiquette and bright respectful spirit filled the Dojo. There were special speeches from



various students that expressed how deeply Kushida-sensei impacted us as a group, and each of us individually. There was a special video presentation of Kushida-sensei with amazing demonstrations through the ages, and lectures given at demos and Kagamibirakishiki. The strong image of Kushida-sensei teaching Aikido, and his familiar voice in lectures and even through traditional singing were powerful and poignant, giving us much energy and motivation to continue to train and follow Kushida-sensei's Aikido.

We were also extremely happy to see Mrs. Kushida visit the Dojo for the party. She is still recovering from the stroke, but her bright smile is there and many students were able to visit and share their smiles as well.

Kushida-sensei is not with us physically, but throughout the memorial events weekend – during quiet times in Seiza, in energetic techniques, in bright fun parties – Kushida-sensei's strong presence was felt at the Dojo and in each one of us.

Osu!