

Dear ISKF Headquarters and Supporters of the US Team,

The entire US Team and its members would like to express their deepest gratitude for your contributions and tremendous help this year. Your support meant that the team was able to attend two major events in the past several months: The Goodwill Tournament in Quebec, Canada and the 13th Pan-American Championship in Panama.

Thanks in part to your generous donations and moral support, the US team was able to compete at the highest level with outstanding results. One team member described this squad as “the best teammates to compete with—a true All-Star team,” and these sentiments were echoed amongst the entire group. Results like these and such camaraderie amongst team members never happens by chance; it is the result of experiencing immeasurable support and encouragement over an extended period of time.

We acknowledge as athletes and as a team that future challenges will arise, as life is not always streamlined. However, in knowing that we can count on your support, we will face these challenges head on and turn them into opportunities. We are karate-ka. We might be beaten down to the ground at times, but we will stand up, prevail, and look to the future ahead.

We are extremely fortunate to be part of this wonderful organization, the ISKF, which attracts so many good people and role models. We always look up to and show our respect for those who walk before us, because these trail blazers are a true beacon of light illuminating an otherwise dark path.

Truthfully, we could not do this without you. Words alone cannot express how truly appreciative we are for your enduring generosity and unwavering support. Please accept this letter as an insufficient expression of our overwhelming gratitude. Again, thank you so very much for all you have done for us in this year.

Respectfully,

US Team

Tatsuun Ryu (Team Coach)

Andy Moore, Jumbo Banaria (Team Captains)

Ben Cheeseman, Gaby Elliott, Jay Banaria , Jim Wollum, Kelly Doohen, Kerstin Haring, Maida Elezovic, Marty Schragger, Michael Cornel, Pedro Roldan, Shaka Smith, Seth Merrill, Yoko Ishida