

Mrs. Dorothy “Dottie” Douglas
3rd Dan
WTSDF Secretary



Wedding - June 31, 1965

Affectionately known to our WTSDF family as “Mrs. D.,” Mrs. Dorothy (Dottie) Douglas has served on the Board of Directors and as Executive Secretary of the WTSDF since it was founded in 1998. Of all the black belts in the WTSDF, she has a unique perspective, having been married to our founder, Grandmaster Dick Douglas, since 1965. When they met, Mr. Douglas owned a service station across the street from the Sahara where she worked as a dancer.

At the time Mr. Douglas was looking for a karate instructor to further his martial arts training. While investigating multiple martial arts studios in southern California, he met Chuck Norris and decided Mr. Norris was the one he wanted to take instruction from. Once a month he would fly Mr. Norris out to Las Vegas for personal instruction.



*Dancing at the Sahara Hotel
in the early 1960's*



1st Dan - February 14, 1976

With encouragement (insistence) from her husband, Mrs. Douglas began her training in 1973. Her husband Dick Douglas was her instructor under Mr. Chuck Norris, who had by then, founded the National Tang Soo Do Congress. Being a professional dancer since early childhood, the athleticism and discipline required for karate came naturally for her.

Learning and mastering forms was like new dance routines. Flexibility, balance and stamina were all part of her daily life. She tested and earned her 1st Dan from Mr. Norris on February 14, 1976. After excelling in all of the test requirements and breaking two boards with a flying side kick, Mr. Norris remarked, “How can you fail someone that good?”



Dance has been so much a part of her life. She started taking dance lessons at the age of five and studied several different types of dance through high school. After graduating from high school in California she started dancing professionally. Her dance career has taken her all over the country: Cincinnati, California, Kentucky, Boston, Montreal, Reno, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Along the way she worked with such notable celebrities as George Burns and Jimmy Durante (where she rubbed his famous nose as part of the act). The dance company even talked her into competing in the 1959 Miss Nevada pageant while she was in Reno. She said she really didn't want to win it, so she didn't. In 1965 she and the dance company were flown from Las Vegas to Los Angeles to be on the Ed Sullivan Show, where she got paid a whopping \$155 for her efforts.



Ready for the show.



*The Douglas Family Black Belts - 1982
David, Dick, Dottie & Rick*

Since her marriage to Mr. Douglas, karate has been an integral part of her life. As she put it, "I have a karate family." Both her sons, Rick and David, and her step-daughter Dawn have earned their Black Belts in Tang Soo Do, as well as some of her grandchildren; and the Vegas Tang Soo Do Studio has operated out of her back yard since 1966. That family has grown over the years to include 18 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



*The Douglas family - 1983
Dottie, David, Rick & Dick*

Mrs. Douglas said, that whether under the original National Tang Soo Do Congress started by Mr. Chuck Norris; the United Fighting Arts Federation also created by Mr. Norris; the reorganized National Tang Soo Do Congress under Mr. Pat Johnson; or the Western Tang Soo Do Federation founded by Grandmaster Dick Douglas; the traditional art of Tang Soo Do hasn't really changed much. Some of the forms are different, but the basic motions, the discipline, the traditions, and the respect for the art and each other is still paramount in what is being taught.



Dick Douglas Black Belt of the Year - 2017

She said, "Dick wanted everyone to be involved in karate." She believes it can help everyone in their personal lives; physically, mentally and spiritually. It gives us a sense of belonging, respect for each other, and teaches us to be dedicated and committed to accomplishing our goals in life. To other Black Belts in the organization she encourages us to:

"Stay willing to contribute your talents and time." You have a lot to offer, "Trust yourself." We have a lot of good people coming up, "Help the younger generation. They are our future."



Mrs. D. & Grandmaster John Natividad at her 80th. "Surprise Birthday Party"



"My pride and joy." - Rick & David

She said a lot has changed in the past few years because of COVID. Some of the schools have lost a lot of students, while others are doing quite well. Mr. Solomon's school is really growing. Mrs. Bejarano has a small but very dedicated group and Bledsoe Karate is doing well, but the demographics have changed.

The largest and fastest growing school in the WTSDF is Mr. Solomon's which is located in Eagle Mountain, UT; over 400 miles from her home in Las Vegas.

She said, "I really enjoy the friendships I've had over the years, but because of the changes in the schools, it's getting harder for me to travel and make the events. Still, I'm glad to be part of this karate family."

Yes, Mrs. D. you do indeed "have a karate family." You have been a leading force in the WTSDF's success since its inception, and we are all proud to be part of that "family." Thank you for all you have done over the years. You have been more of a blessing than you realize.

*****The above information was gathered by Master Dave Kluge for the "Meet the Board" section of the WTSDF Newsletter: 2022 June edition. Thank you, Master Kluge!**