

**The Shorei-Ryu Karate Mon**  
**John S. Soltis 6<sup>th</sup> dan- Designer / Interpretation**

The Mon was designed and created by *John S. Soltis*, Renshi, using elements, particulars, and things which represent those Masters who have contributed in the originality, development and spread of Shorei-Ryu Karate.

Our mon (J. seal, crest) represents several elements in the history of Shorei-ryu Karate. A detailed description follows.

**WORDS-** In English, Shorei-ryu means encouragement school (or style). In Okinawa, Shorei is also used to describe the chuan-fa practiced in the Shaolin Temple in southern China, the source of many techniques that comprise the karate of Okinawa.

**SHAPES-** The *mitsudome* (J. three tumbling "commas" or tadpoles), a symbol found throughout Asia, is used in Okinawa to symbolize its royal family, birth, life and death and karate. Placed atop the *mitsudome* is a *pine tree*. An evergreen, it symbolizes the Shaolin Temple, nature, youth and the legacy of *Choki Motobu*, one of Okinawa's greatest fighters. The *equilateral triangle* represents the legacy of the Trias family and the goal of equal amounts of power, speed and form in our ryu. The *octagonal shape* of the mon recognizes the eight-fold path taught by the Indian Buddhist monk Taishi Daruma. Daruma brought tea culture, Zen and chuan-fa (a precursor to karate) to China. One of his precepts encourages us to remember that, when we fall (fail) in life, we must get up and try again. The *black outlined octagon* represents Tong Gee Hsiang and Hoy Yuan Ping, early teachers of O-Sensei Robert A. Trias. The *golden yellow octagon* represents the future masters of our ryu.

**COLORS -***Green*, in nature, green represents life. Active karateka retain youthfulness throughout their lives. *Golden yellow* - the color of the Sun, a source of energy, prosperity. *Black* - fullness of life, knowledge and finally, wisdom. *White* - purity, emptiness, and lastly death, reminding those of us who wear the seal of our mortality and responsibility to insure that Shorei-ryu Karate will persist over time. This emblem was commissioned and approved by *Terry Sanders*, Style Head of *Shorei-ryu Karate and Director of the Kondo No Shokai*.

Approval of this design was also given by *Philip Perales*, Hanshi, the founder and director of the California Federation of Black Belts, whose members are all Shorei-ryu stylists. Members of these organizations retain exclusive rights to the use of this seal.