

Announcement: Keiko Fukuda Promoted to the 10th Dan in Kodokan Judo



Sensei Keiko Fukuda pictured alongside the Statute of her Sensei,
Kodokan Judo's Founder, Professor Jigoro Kano

Last week (July 2011), Sensei Keiko Fukuda of San Francisco became the first woman to be promoted to Kodokan Judo's highest Dan Grade - The **10th degree**. Only three living persons in the world, all men and living in Japan, have reached that mark.

The beautiful and gracious Sensei Keiko Fukuda, at 98 years old, was finally promoted to 10th Degree Red Belt by the U.S. Judo Federation. Fukuda is the only living student of judo's founder Jigoro Kano who began teaching in his first dojo in 1882. She is the first woman to be promoted to judo's highest level of 10th Degree.

She gave up marriage and left her homeland to dedicate her life to judo, fighting gender discrimination that kept her at lower belt levels decades longer than men less skilled than she. "The time was right," said U.S. Judo Federation promotion board member Eiko Saito Shepherd.

A celebration is being planned for mid-October to coincide with Fukuda's annual International Kata Championship at San Francisco City College. "All my life," Fukuda said, "this has been my dream."

CONGRATULATIONS SENSEI FUKUDA FROM ALL JUDOKA ACROSS THE GLOBE..!!

