



Quynh Hoang
1st DAN Black Belt
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It was the spring of 2013, I was having a casual conversation with a bunch of my friends, and by chance, one of them brought up this Tae Kwon Do class they were taking. Out of curiosity, I decided to give it a chance. Little did I know how much this would have changed me.

My first few classes, I constantly asked myself, “Why am I doing this, again?” It was not required of me to go. This was not something my parents were forcing me to do. I chose to start, so I can choose to stop as well. But even so, I never once had the thought to quit; and taking a look at where I stand now, I am beyond thankful that I never did.

I have been taught so much more than just a martial arts. Every person of ASKA that I have had the pleasure of meeting contributed to teaching me a new way of life. This was no longer just a means of exercise. ASKA had become a huge influence on who I am as a person.

I have become a lot more confident and open with others, more appreciative of the people around me, more calm and collected in the way I deal with things, and so much more. If I could meet myself prior to joining ASKA, I would think the me then and the me now were two completely different people.

My initial goal with these classes was to earn a black belt and call it good. But the longer I stay with ASKA, the more I grow; and seemingly all for the better. We are always told, “Success is a journey, not a destination,” and I can see that as

clear as day. I have accomplished that initial goal, but it does not feel like the end to me. It is very much the start of the journey I wish to take on.

Moving forward, I hope to become a better leader; for my fellow association members and for whatever else I get involved with in life. I hope to become a person worthy of carrying on ASKA's legacy. And most of all, I hope my body stays in one piece for as long as I am a part of this.

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