



Sandra Vo
1st Dan Black belt, Dec 13-2013
Black Belt Journey:

Starting the road towards a black belt is like walking down a pathway with only one other exit. There are no walls on the side and that says you can quit anytime. But if you manage to arrive at the end where you earn your black belt, you'll just see a longer pathway but with multiple paths. They state that you can drop out, or move on to something even bigger. Making it to the end of the 1st path is only a small part of it. Yet, there are obstacles too on that path. And people who deserve credit for helping you clear them and keeping you on that path.

Karate shouldn't be used for violence or harm against others. It's used as self defense and protection. Our sensei taught us that. He also taught us basic techniques that even now we still haven't mastered. That's why we keep practicing. Our other instructors deserve credit as well. They taught us to try our best and we'll make it.

Earning my black belt at first felt like a huge relief. It was something I'd always wanted. But after a while I realized that the goals were always moving. I got through with my parent's and friend's encouragement and by telling myself to keep moving forward.

I still know though, that there are more roads to come and that I'll always have great instructors, parents, and friends to guide me down whatever happens to block my way. My journey to where I am has taught me that I shouldn't back down from the road ahead and try to accomplish my newly set goals which is to get as high as I can and teach other students what I can about karate which I hope they will learn to see as something amazing too. And once again I thank everyone who has helped me on the way even the people who have done something like drive me to class.

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