



**Dec-14-2013**

**Tavree Marti, 1st Dan Black Belt**

**Journey Black Belt**

My black belt journey started when I was three years old. My older sister and brother were in karate and I wanted to give it a try. Over the years, my body started getting stronger and the movements became easier. At first, I didn't know the katas, but as I practiced more and more, the katas became easier and easier. The same with the techniques, the more I practiced, the better I became.

! I am so grateful to have Master Hien as my sensei. Master Hien is positive, strong and determined to teach every student. I feel so lucky to have him as my sensei in my journey. ! After years of classes, the time finally came when I was told I was ready for my first black belt test. I was so scared I didn't know what to say. I couldn't believe I was ready to take a black belt test at 12 years old! For two months, the black belt test was all I could think about. My heart would race every time I pictured myself taking the test. So I practiced and practiced nonstop.

! Finally, the test day was here. I was as nervous as ever. When I walked through those doors, I felt like I wanted to cry. As the test began, I became calm because I knew the techniques and all the katas and the meanings of every kata too. As the test went on, I felt really good and I was sure I was going to get my black belt. The test took a few hours and I became nervous again. The most difficult part was waiting for all the judges to enter the room and tell us who passed. When my name was called and the congratulations that I passed, I was thrilled. I was so happy and proud of myself. I will continue my karate journey!