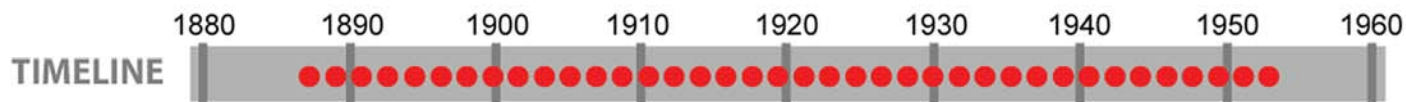




Profiles of Our Founding Masters

GŌJŪ-RYŪ KARATE MASTER CHOJUN MIYAGI



Born: April 25, 1888 in Naha, Okinawa

Died: October 8, 1953 in Okinawa.

Chojun Miyagi began his study in karate at the age of nine (or eleven). He was introduced to Naha-te Master Kanryo Higaonna when Miyagi was 14, and underwent a very long and arduous period of training.

After the death of Master Kanryo Higaonna, Miyagi travelled to Fukien Province in China as his teacher had done before him. In China he studied the Shaolin and Pa Kua forms of Chinese boxing. From the blending of these systems, the hard linear/external form of Shaolin, the soft circular/internal form of Pa Kua, and his native Naha-Te, a new system emerged. However, it was not until 1929 that Chojun Miyagi named the system Goju-Ryu, meaning "hard-soft style."

After some years in China, Chojun Miyagi returned to Naha where he opened a dojo (training hall). He taught for many years, and his greatest achievements were in the popularization and the organization of karate teaching methods in Okinawa and in Japan. He introduced karate into Okinawa police work, high schools and other fields of society. He revised and further developed several kata which we use today.

Chojun Miyagi was a man of extremely mild temperament and it is said that he was a very humble man. He lived according to the principles of martial arts, that of non-violence.

