

**Speech from Grandmaster Kim Soo at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet held at Kim Son Restaurant, April 27, 2018**

It is very good seeing everyone. Welcome to the Chayon-Ryu 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am so happy to see so many old students here tonight. I feel so blessed.

As most of you know, I came to this country with very little money and no permanent visa. While I was a professional martial arts teacher in Korea, I thought about how I could preserve legacies of my martial arts heritage. Since the South Korean government was gradually erasing and altering all martial arts systems as sports game under the Amateur Athletic Union , I decided to travel to America to be able to teach and express my ideas of traditional martial arts.

Because other schools were already established on both the East and West coast, I decided to go elsewhere.

For Asians, the South was known as a very remote area with harsh weather, racial problems and a hostile frontier. Because of this, nobody wanted to venture to live in this faraway place. Because of this mentality, I decided to make my mark here in Texas to share my knowledge of Chayon-Ryu principles.

Most people know martial arts as mainly fighting techniques because of movies and tv programs that highlight just kicks, punches, fighting and breaking – the visible side. But, not many people know it as a form of art, science, philosophy, and even spirituality – the invisible side. Chayon-Ryu encompasses both sides.

I often remind my students that Chayon-Ryu is like a treasure island. If you continue to practice and spend valuable time at the dojang, you will find many valuable things. But, unfortunately some people with the wrong attitude and unhealthy ego leave their training too soon and never reap all the benefits.

My life's mission is to introduce Chayon-Ryu principles to as many people as possible. I strongly believe that Natural Way martial arts is education for life.

Finally, to the next generation of successors and leaders, I entrust Chayon-Ryu to you with great pride. This is your responsibility. I am sure you will uphold its principles and further our great system with honor and dignity.