



## CASE FOR SUPPORT

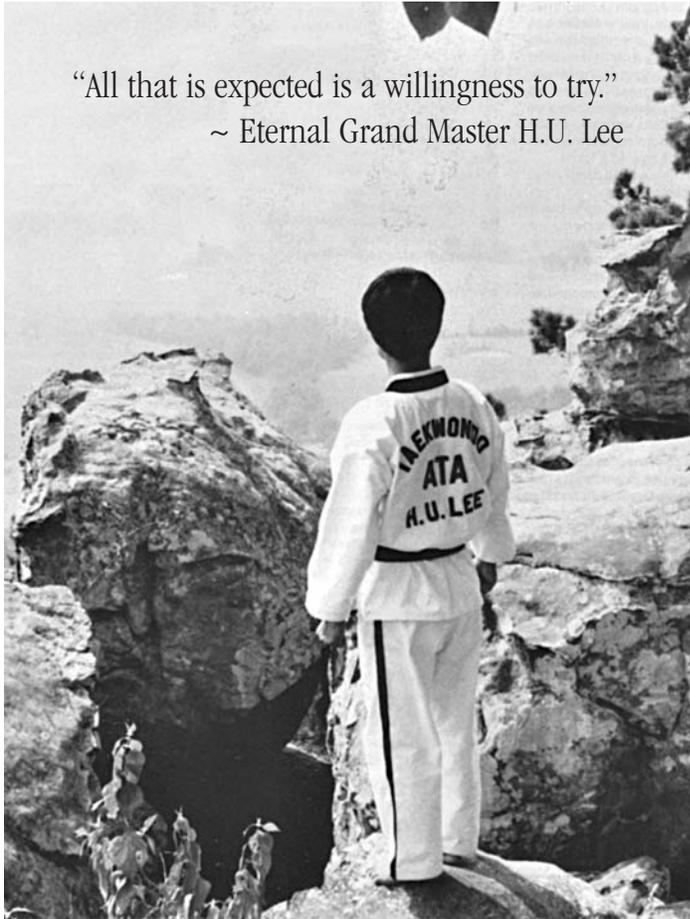
# songahm international gate & garden

“establishing a legacy”

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“All that is expected is a willingness to try.”  
~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



The Songahm International Gate and Garden on the grounds of the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S.A. will honor the vision and memory of Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee.





For 23 years  
Little Rock was  
the home of  
Eternal  
Grand Master  
H.U. Lee

“If a person does not know where to begin or end in life [setting goals], then that person will become confused when given a choice between two paths.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



## SONGAHM TRANSLATES TO PINE TREE AND ROCK

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Grand Master H.U. Lee chose Little Rock, Arkansas, USA, in 1977 for his new home and the new home of the American Taekwondo Association in part because of the pine trees, rocks and geographic landscape that reminded him of his home in Korea. In the Korean language Songahm means Pine Tree and Rock.

## THE PINE TREE

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One morning at sunrise on top of **Songahm Mountain** in Little Rock, Master Lee reintroduced the traditional characteristics of Taekwondo with a new system and structure he created. The “Scrolls of Songahm” representing the essence of tradition and philosophy were read and signed by every fourth to eighth degree senior in the organization.

He chose the pine tree as the symbol of Songahm Taekwondo for two reasons: because of its significance in Korean culture as a symbol of unchanging human loyalty, and because of the parallelism between the pine tree and the student – a seedling that grows into a mighty pine tree.

## THE ROCK

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The city of Little Rock is located on the Arkansas River in the center of the state of Arkansas. **La Petite Roche**, the actual “Little Rock” for which the city is named, is located in the heart of Downtown Little Rock, at the foot of the Junction Bridge spanning the Arkansas River. The 100-year old railroad bridge is being refurbished to a pedestrian bridge suitable for festivities at the 2007 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships.

For 23 years Little Rock was the home of Eternal Grand Master Lee and remains home to the international headquarters of ATA and Songahm.



In many ways,  
this is still just  
the beginning

Through my father's motto, 'Today Not Possible, Tomorrow Possible' he taught us to embrace and seize the future with faith, hope, and tenacity to see our dreams come to fruition."

-Lucas Taekwon Lee  
Son of Eternal Gand Master Lee



## **A LEGACY OF VALUES**

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With the passing of Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee in October 2000, current leadership has taken up the torch of his inspirational guidance and leadership. They have made a commitment ensuring the values that the American Taekwondo Association was founded upon remain our focus for today and into the future. To this day, the ATA is the only organization of its kind to thrive after the death of its founder. After many trials and tests, Soon Ho Lee, brother of Eternal Grand Master Lee, was named Grand Master and elevated to be the leader in the Songahm Taekwondo style.

## **CONTINUING THE LEGACY**

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Mrs. Sun C. Lee, wife of the late Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee and the ATA's Chairman of the Board, continues the legacy of her late husband by helping the youth of Songahm Taekwondo through her philanthropic efforts and devotion.

From its humble beginnings, today the ATA and its affiliated organizations have 300,000 registered members worldwide, including 53,000 black belts and 3,000 certified instructors. The goal is change one million lives through Songahm by the end of 2006.

In many ways, this is still just the beginning. We know the ATA has many wonderful surprises in store for Taekwondo in the United States and across the world.

## **JOURNEY WITH US**

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The Songahm Gate and Gardens in Little Rock will greet visitors from around the world.

**We hope you will journey with us as the ATA, and Songahm Taekwondo, continues to change lives throughout the world. Together, we will build on the legacy established by Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee. The construction of the Songahm International Gate and Garden on the grounds of the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock will honor his memory and his vision.**



Many historians believe taekwondo originated from a Korean martial arts form known as t'aekyon

“Pure and without the knowledge of Songahm Taekwondo - as with the pine tree, the seed must now be planted and nourished to develop strong roots.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



### **WHAT IS TAEKWONDO?**

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The actual beginnings of Taekwondo are obscured by time, yet many historians believe it originated from a Korean martial arts form known as t'aekyon practiced over 1,300 years ago.

In the early 1900's the art evolved with the introduction of Chinese and Japanese hand techniques, a practice which concerned some because these influences did not demonstrate the incredible kicking power of the art nor its traditional values or philosophy.

### **THE WAY OF THE HAND AND FOOT**

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The word Taekwondo itself is made up of three Chinese/Korean words: Tae, meaning to kick or jump; Kwon, meaning fist or hand; and Do, which means "the way." Loosely, it can be thought of as "The Way of the Hand and Foot." The actual name and art of Taekwondo wasn't official until 1955. At that time Korean General Hong Hi Choi organized a movement to unify Korea's various martial arts styles (called kwans) and presented the name "Taekwondo" to a committee specially formed to select a name for the new art. On April 11, 1955, Taekwondo was recognized as the name for the newly unified, officially recognized Korean martial art.



In 1969, at the first school in Omaha, Nebraska, the American Taekwondo Association was born

“Knowledge cannot help the world unless we share it with others.”  
~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



## THE BEGINNING OF THE AMERICAN TAEKWONDO ASSOCIATION

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### **H. U. Lee opens a martial arts school at a U. S. Air Force Base**

Haeng Ung Lee began his martial arts training in 1954 as a teenager. He taught martial arts to Republic of Korea military intelligence personnel from 1956 to 1959, and opened his first commercial school in Osan, Korea after leaving the military. As interest grew, he opened other “branches,” one at a U.S. Air Force Base. There he met Richard Reed, and the two forged a powerful friendship that would impact both of their lives far greater than either could have imagined.

### **A vision to change lives throughout the world**

Reed and Lee both shared a passion for Taekwondo. Lee had a vision to change the world. Reed had faith in Lee’s vision and business sense to back it up. They began working to build a Taekwondo organization that would be based on good martial arts and sound business practices. One day when they were training, Lee drew a circle in the dirt floor of the Taekwondo School and he filled the circle with dots. The circle represented the world. The dots represented the lives he wanted to see changed by the art of Taekwondo. Today, the number of “dots” he has impacted approaches one million.

### **The world of martial arts would be changed forever.**

In 1968, Korean General Choi met with Haeng Ung Lee (now Eternal Grand Master Lee) who, at the time, was teaching TaekwondoJapanese mixed martial arts. Gen. Choi quickly taught Eternal Grand Master Lee the first 16 forms of Cheonjee Taekwondo in only four days. From this first meeting, a half century ago, the stage was set for the founding of the American Taekwondo Association (ATA). In 1969, at the first school in Omaha, Nebraska, the American Taekwondo Association was born.



The ATA began to establish standards that would ensure consistent instruction

“ATA is changing the world one Black Belt at a time.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



### **PHILOSOPHY OF SONGAHM TAEKWONDO**

There are many philosophical meanings and symbols behind the art, its roots, and traditions in Taekwondo. Songahm Taekwondo has a poetic interpretation and is a martial art that trains people both physically and mentally.

### **SONGAHM TAEKWONDO VALUES INCLUDE:**

- Spirit
- Perseverance
- Respect
- Courtesy
- Integrity
- Honor
- Loyalty
- Self-control
- Victory

### **SONGAHM TAEKWONDO**

#### **INSTRUCTION MANUALS**

From the beginning, Eternal Grand Master Lee was determined to establish the American Taekwondo Association as the most professional martial arts organization possible. As it grew from a regional organization to national, and ultimately international, the ATA began to establish standards that would ensure consistent instruction. In 1973, he introduced the first instructor manual, which provided information and procedures to standardize the operation of all American Taekwondo Association Schools.



Little Rock,  
Arkansas seemed  
the perfect fit and  
had a geographic  
landscape that  
reminded him of his  
home in Korea

“We’re the greatest martial arts organization in the world. But we’ve made the decision to become even greater.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee





## **ARKANSAS – THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY**

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Eternal Grand Master Lee had traveled throughout the United States and wanted to establish a new headquarters in an area that was central to ATA Schools. Little Rock, Arkansas seemed the perfect fit for his dream as it was the “Land of Opportunity” and had a geographic landscape that reminded him of his home in Korea. So in 1977, the ATA headquarters moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, a place it still calls home today.

## **AMERICAN TAEKWONDO ASSOCIATION – BUSINESS INNOVATIONS**

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In the 1980s, several innovations in business techniques were added that set ATA apart from other martial arts organizations. Computerized record keeping for ranking, centralized supply and embroidery services, financial credit services, and a high quality quarterly magazine enhanced the scope, reach, and service capabilities of ATA.

## **SONGAHM TAEKWONDO**

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In a new home in Little Rock, Arkansas, with established curriculum and innovative business systems, soon the ATA had 200 black belts earning instructor certification each year. Numbers were growing at a significant rate and Taekwondo was becoming increasingly popular. But Eternal Grand Master Lee realized that they were ignoring one of the most unique aspects of the art of Taekwondo — the strength and beauty of Taekwondo kicking techniques.



The Songahm  
system of teaching  
and training is  
unequaled in  
martial arts

“It will take the commitment of each member...but ATA has never let the impossible pose a challenge.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



### **SONGAHM TAEKWONDO FORMS**

From 1983 to 1990, Eternal Grand Master Lee introduced the eighteen Songahm Taekwondo forms. To say that the style of Songahm Taekwondo is just another "martial art" would be an oversimplified explanation. The Songahm system of teaching and training is unequalled in martial arts. These forms are part of a fully integrated curriculum in which everything a student learns reinforces everything else. The Songahm forms contain all of the techniques that students are expected to know at each rank and all of these patterns lead logically to the movements required for each succeeding rank.

### **SONGAHM TAEKWONDO – A CIRCLE**

The Songahm curriculum facilitates a smooth progression from one rank to the next, so that students who begin Taekwondo - feeling they'll never be able to do a simple block - suddenly find themselves a few years later doing 360-degree jumping kicks with ease. Songahm Taekwondo also focuses on personal development of the mind. Those who view it as just self-defense would be losing the most valuable idea and philosophy behind this ancient art.

### **SETTING LIFE GOALS**

When learning, a Songahm student is in a true, traditional Taekwondo class, focusing not just on the physical but also on discipline, honor, self-control, respect, courtesy, perseverance and loyalty. Additionally, ATA students are taught goal setting and encouraged to set goals not only in martial arts but also in community endeavors, relationships, and education.



Over the years,  
the ATA has  
adapted curriculum  
to students of all  
ages and abilities

“ATA members can change their community by teaching everyone in their community. And they need to do it today, not someday.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



## **SONGAHM TAEKWONDO**

### **VALUES, PHILOSOPHY, AND TRAINING**

The heightened capacity for self-defense resulting from ATA curriculum actually is a benefit that is gained by dedicating one's self to the values, philosophy, and training of Songahm Taekwondo. A beginner does not focus on being a skilled martial artist within a month or two. A strong foundation in Songahm Taekwondo values must be built first.

## **BENEFITS OF**

### **SONGAHM TAEKWONDO TRAINING**

When people think about martial arts, the benefit most commonly associated is self-defense. However, self-confidence is something the ATA considers to be the most significant benefit to Songahm training and it is sometimes enough to deter a potential attacker. Also, general physical fitness improves because use of Taekwondo techniques results in developing the larger, powerful muscles of the torso as well as the fast, agile muscles of the arms and legs.

### **TRAINING FOR ALL AGES**

Over the years, the ATA has adapted curriculum to students of all ages and abilities. Children begin training as early as age 3 in the ATA Tiny Tiger program to improve coordination and balance. Programs like Karate for Kids give pre-teen children an activity outside of typical team sports. And there are always adults that start at any age. Some adults have begun training as late as age 65, and have still earned their black belts.



Eternal Grand  
Master Lee always  
encouraged  
“personal victory”  
as a motto in  
each ATA School

“Set your goals high, give your best in all that you do...  
enjoy the journey.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



**“All that is expected is a willingness to try.”**

~ ETERNAL GRAND MASTER H.U. LEE

### **PERSONAL VICTORY**

The important thing to remember is that the ATA creates an atmosphere where individuals are tested only against themselves. They move forward at their own personal rate. One of the most important lessons of Taekwondo competition is learning how to keep going, to persevere even when things don't go well, and how to handle defeat gracefully.

We develop the right attitude by practicing courtesy, loyalty, respect, integrity, honor, self-control, and perseverance. No student is compared to anyone else and Eternal Grand Master Lee always encouraged “personal victory” as a motto in each ATA School. Every student will benefit in some way from Songahm Taekwondo training. All that is expected is a willingness to try.

### **SONGAHM TAEKWONDO BECOMES AN INTERNATIONAL PHENOMENON**

As the American Taekwondo Association grew larger and Songahm Taekwondo spread faster in the USA, soon the ATA became an international phenomenon. In 1984, Eternal Grand Master Lee and Master Cesar Ozuna founded the Songahm Taekwondo Federation (STF) to help spread Songahm Taekwondo in various regions of **South America**. In 1990, the World Traditional Taekwondo Union (WTTU) was formed and now represents those schools in **Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America** schools outside of the United States.



In reality, we are  
competing  
against ourselves  
to be the  
absolute best  
that we can be  
everyday

“It is how we respond to the obstacles in life that makes us who we are.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



## **TOURNAMENTS FOR COMPETITION AND DISPLAY OF SKILL**

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In the spirit of personal victory, Eternal Grand Master Lee encouraged members to continue building confidence through Taekwondo at ATA tournaments. Tournaments are controlled competitive environments that allow practitioners to display and improve their skills in a safe environment. For years, martial artists have competed in what was known as an open circuit where people from various backgrounds and practices competed against one another in an atmosphere where most people were not playing by the same rules.

With his number one concern being the safety of his members, Eternal Grand Master Lee made ATA tournaments a closed circuit - meaning you had to be a member to compete. This allowed competitors to all be judged on the same curriculum with judges all trained to use the same criteria and a greater sense of “family” by individuals challenging themselves and encouraging one another.

## **IN LIFE, WE COMPETE ON A DAILY BASIS**

In reality, competition is not just in a martial arts ring. Students of Songahm Taekwondo, and all other human beings, are competing with self on a daily basis. Even in the case of a match against an opponent, we are not only competing against that person's skill, but also against ourselves to be the absolute best that we can be. Therefore, tournaments are a great opportunity for increasing skills as well as boosting confidence. And, just as importantly, it is possible to learn self control or become motivated to react positively instead of negatively to outcomes one does not desire.



Tournaments are a vital part of Songahm Taekwondo and one of the most dynamic, fun aspects of our art

“If our spirit is strong, success is just around the corner waiting.”  
~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



### **NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AT DISNEY IN ORLANDO AND IN LAS VEGAS**

Today, over 100 regional tournaments are held throughout the country each year. Most people think that the reward at a tournament is a trophy. But ATA tournaments are about making new friends, putting nerves to the test and displaying skills after hard work and practice. For all these reasons and more, tournaments are a vital part of Songahm Taekwondo, and one of the most dynamic, fun aspects of our art.

### **EACH YEAR, THE ATA HEADQUARTERS HOSTS SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.**

- A spring National Tournament at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- A fall National Tournament at the Disney Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida.

### **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

The largest ATA tournament is the world-famous Songahm World Championships held each year in June in Little Rock, Arkansas. The 2005 competition included a dramatic opening ceremony complete with gravity-defying ATA-Xtreme forms and weapons events, pulse-quickening taiko drummers, indoor fireworks, and the induction of a record number of new Masters.



Nearly 30,000 individuals, competitors and spectators alike, continue making the trip to Little Rock each year

“Push yourself to do your best and no matter what the result is, walk like a champion.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



### **LARGEST CONVENTION IN LITTLE ROCK**

The first Grand National Tournament held in 1976 set the stage for what is now Songahm Taekwondo's most prestigious event, the annual ATA World Championships Tournament. What started as a small tournament with merely a couple hundred competitors has now grown into the largest convention in Little Rock, Arkansas each year.

### **TOP TEN COMPETITION**

Since 1990, the World Championships Tournament has been held at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Nearly 30,000 individuals, competitors and spectators alike, continue making the trip to Little Rock each year for Top Ten Competition, exhibitions by ATA demonstration teams, Master promotion ceremonies and energetic seminars to educate school owners and instructors.

### **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN TAEKWONDO ASSOCIATION**

In June 2005, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Taekwondo, the ATA held its Opening Ceremonies for the World Championships at Alltel Arena in North Little Rock, with an attendance of over 10,000. As the organization grows, so does this event and the number of participants is record breaking year after year.



The Songahm Gate and Garden will feature a spectacular entry gate handcrafted by South Korean artisans & builders.



## SONGAHM INTERNATIONAL GATE AND GARDEN

The only International Martial Arts Gate and Garden honoring Grand Master H.U. Lee and the country of South Korea are scheduled for an opening celebration in June 2006 during the Songahm Taekwondo World Championships.

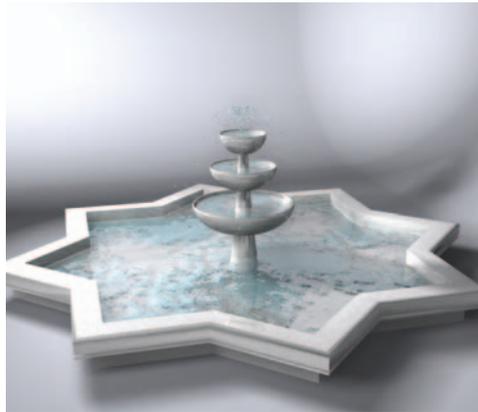
**The Songahm Gate and Garden are located on the east side of the Statehouse Convention Center, only steps away from the banks of the Arkansas River.** It will feature a spectacular entry gate handcrafted by South Korean artisans and builders.

As Songahm translates to “Pine Tree and Rock,” the magnificent landscaping will feature these items prominently. There will be pine trees surrounded by rock groupings, as well as numerous colorful trees including red maple, cherry, plum, dogwood, and persimmon trees. Grass and beautiful plants will add incredible color to the Garden. The Master Gardeners will help in planning and maintaining the spectacular Songahm Garden.

The impressive Songahm Gate will open onto the entrance to the River Market, the Riverfront Amphitheater, and the Junction Bridge, a planned pedestrian bridge which will lead directly to Alltel Arena. The William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library, one of only 12 presidential libraries and museums in the United States, is only blocks away. Also nearby is the beautiful State Capitol building, the Arkansas Arts Center, the Little Rock Zoo, Heifer International, many historic museums including the General Douglas MacArthur Museum and the Museum of Discovery, and numerous parks, shops, and restaurants.

“Without change, there can be no growth.”

~ Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee



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1. The Gate
2. The Garden
3. The Fountain



## **THE GATE**

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The Songahm Gate itself will be made from exceptional materials designed and created in South Korea. Built by the combined efforts of both American and Korean architects and builders the Gate represents the respect and honor between Eastern and Western cultures. The astonishing twenty-seven foot wide Gate, decorated with detailed and ornate carvings in traditional Korean colors will greet all those visiting the Songahm Garden and the beautiful city of Little Rock.

## **THE GARDEN**

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Upon entering the Garden, guests will be drawn to the impressive focal point, the nine-point Songahm Star reflecting pool and fountain. Surrounding the pool will be a nine-foot path dedicated to the school owners of Songahm Taekwondo. The names of those donating to the project will be inscribed within the path. Also represented within the Garden will be the “Eternal Fountain of Knowledge” and of course, the legendary “BeeRyongBong or Staff of the Flying Dragon,” both made famous in the Master’s Ceremony.

## **THE FOUNTAIN**

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The Eternal Fountain of Knowledge will consist of three bowls, each one larger than the previous one. The water flowing from the smallest bowl at the top of the fountain symbolizes the knowledge of the Grand Master flowing into the bowl of his instructors. The water from the instructors’ bowl flows into the largest bowl, symbolizing the students. Water flows from the students’ bowl into the pool itself, symbolizing the spreading of the knowledge, discipline, and values taught through Songahm Taekwondo to all points of the world. Limited areas of acknowledgment will be available for those wishing to support the Eternal Fountain of Knowledge.



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- 4. The Bronze Statue
- 5. The Wall of Vision
- 6. The BeeRyongBong



### **THE BRONZE STATUE**

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In appreciation of the ATA and its founder, the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau placed a bust of Eternal Grand Master Lee in the east garden at the Statehouse Convention Center. This bust is a symbol of the incredible relationship between the ATA and the place it is so proud to call home. Since this Garden has been dedicated to Eternal Grand Master Lee by the city of Little Rock, it is only fitting that Master Lee's bronze statue greet each visitor to the Garden.

### **THE WALL OF VISION**

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Mrs. Sun C. Lee, the wife of Eternal Grand Master Lee has dedicated the "Wall of Vision" to the Master Instructors of Songahm Taekwondo. "They stood behind Grand Master while he was alive helping him to fulfill his vision and create his legacy. It is only fitting that they stand behind him once again as they carry on his vision and begin creating their own legacies," states Mrs. Lee. This area is reserved for all past, present and future Songahm Master Instructors.

### **THE BEE RYONG BONG**

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Across the Fountain and reflecting pool from Eternal Grand Master Lee's statue will be a stunning life-size replica of the BeeRyongBong or Staff of the Flying Dragon. This carving will be an exact duplicate of the one encased in glass at ATA's International Headquarters. This staff, the most treasured artifact in martial arts, details the history of Songahm Taekwondo from its beginning. Never before has the history of an entire martial art been documented in this manner. Areas of acknowledgment will be available in limited supply to those wishing to be recognized near the BeeRyongBong.



Please join us in  
establishing a  
legacy in honor of  
Eternal Grand  
Master H.U. Lee



**"For years and years, my father gave selflessly to those in need across the world. Now, it is our turn to give back in the name of our Eternal Grand Master, the late Haeng Ung Lee!"**

~ Lucas Taekwon Lee

**SONGAHM INTERNATIONAL  
GATE AND GARDEN**

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We expect many tourists and local residents to enjoy the beauty of the Songahm Gate and Garden throughout the year. Visitors from around the world will experience a taste of culture, art, and history. Guests will appreciate each point of interest in the Garden and its historical significance through bronze plaques detailing information relating to each point in the Garden. The City of Little Rock, Arkansas is strongly supportive of this cultural project and believes the Songahm Garden will be one of the most visited locations in the city.

***We welcome your support in this groundbreaking project to honor the traditions and values H.U. Lee brought to Little Rock, Arkansas, USA from his homeland in South Korea.***

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***Please join us in building the Songahm International Gate and Garden near the Arkansas River in downtown Little Rock.***





For information, contact:

Mrs. Sun C. Lee, American Taekwondo Association, Songahm International Headquarters

address] 6210 Baseline Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209 ph] 501.568.2821 email] sunlee@ataonline.com website] www.ataonline.com