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**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 17, 2017

**THE 15TH ANNUAL UNITED STATES JUDO FEDERATION KATA CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD AT THE JAMES J. EAGAN CENTER FROM
MONDAY, JULY 24TH THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 28TH**

Mayor Schneider is pleased to announce that the City of Florissant Parks and Recreation Program includes a very popular Judo program for youth through adults. The Judo instructor is “Sensei” (“Japanese for teacher”) Eiko Saito Shepherd, 8th Dan, a native of Japan and an internationally recognized Judo master. This month Sensei Shepherd is bringing a very special event to Florissant.

The 15th Annual United States Judo Federation Kata Conference will be conducted at the Florissant Civic Center from Monday, July 24, through Friday, July 28th.

Judo participants will be arriving from throughout North America. Sensei Toshihiro Utsugi, 8th Dan, and Sensei Naoki Murata, 8th Dan, instructors from the Kodokan, the world headquarters of Judo, will be arriving from Tokyo, Japan.

For five intense days participants will study Judo kata under the direction of these masters. Kata is the most important element of judo techniques. Participants will be practicing timing, proper skills, throwing and submission movements. Today there are world championships in Judo Kata. This training will help prepare our national kata players for international competitions.

The public is invited to enjoy a Judo demonstration on Wednesday, July 26, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the main gym at the Florissant Civic Center.

The United States Judo Federation appreciates the welcome from Mayor Schneider and the City of Florissant.