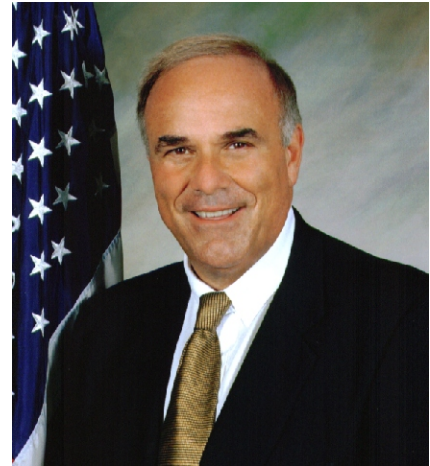




COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG



THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

It gives me great pleasure to join with World Sports and Martial Arts in welcoming everyone gathered at the University of Pittsburgh's Bellefield Hall for the 2008 Pennsylvania State Title event, Miss Martial Arts, Mr. Martial Arts, and other divisions.

Only select individuals with a unique caliber of personal and physical strength demonstrate the sacrifice and commitment required to become a champion of the martial arts. Equally important to the physical aspects of the martial arts are the lessons it seeks to teach about peaceful conflict resolution, self-respect and understanding, and respect for all people.

This year's competitors have mastered the skills necessary to reach the highest levels of achievement in their martial arts discipline, while also mastering some of the most important lessons of life. They possess strict dedication and focus as well as stamina and strength. Their determination, confidence, and leadership not only serves them well as top competitive athletes, but these qualities have allowed them to conquer the challenges of life and set a promising course for their future.

During your stay in Pittsburgh I hope you will have the opportunity to enjoy everything this great city has to offer and view the vast resources and natural beauty of western Pennsylvania. I am sure that you will soon learn there are many truly memorable ways to see and experience western Pennsylvania. As you travel our scenic highways and byways, you will discover the qualities that make this region such an enriching place to visit – the goodness of its people, the richness of its historical significance, and its geographic diversity. Given the area's natural beauty and cultural vibrancy, I am confident that you will create many lasting memories.

As Governor and on behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I congratulate all of this year's competitors. Best wishes for a successful event and continued success in all your future endeavors.



Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor
July 18-20, 2008