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Irish President Honors Former Kickboxing World Champion

Former champ Carl Emery recognized for fostering peace

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KICKBOXING HONORED: Carl Emery (l) and Billy Murray (r) are guests of Irish President Mary McAleese at a special dinner in Dublin, Ireland. Photo courtesy of Carl Emery (AFP/Getty Images)



Carl Emery, the 1994 kickboxing world champion from Geneva, Switzerland was honoured in July, along with World Kickboxing Network (WKN) promoter Billy Murray at a special dinner in Dublin with Irish President Mary McAleese.

Carl Emery's kickboxing record is stellar. He retired as an undefeated fighter, winning all 48 of his fights, 30 by way of knock-out. Last year, he was voted WKN's Martial Artist of the Year.

Currently, Emery competes in sport jujitsu. He remains undefeated after 72 sport jujitsu fights and will compete later this month at the 2006 World Martial Arts Games in Victoria, Canada. In addition to his martial arts commitments, Emery works as a policeman in Geneva.

"This is a great honor for both Billy and I, the martial arts community, the WKN and the WMAG [World Martial Arts Games]," said Carl Emery, World Martial Arts Games Committee (WMAGC) Co-Founder and Director. "Fighting sports and martial arts have officially been recognized by a President of a Republic as a vector of peace. It's historical!"

Emery explained in an interview on his website with [fightmag.net](#) how the July 12 dinner commemorated the Battle of the Boyne. This battle, fought in 1690 between Catholics and Protestants, was one of the most famous battles in Irish history.

Emery also explained that while kickboxing has often been thought of as a violent sport, the honor bestowed upon Murray and himself on the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne was a victory for martial arts as a symbol for peace. Through their martial arts organizations, they have never discriminated against athletes for race, political allegiance or religion.

Chairman of the WMAGC, Ken Marchtaler, who worked with Emery on several projects including the development of a comprehensive 67-page rule book said, "Carl is a humble man and didn't let everyone know about this [honor] until the 17th [of July]."

Other sports to see at the upcoming 2006 World Martial Arts Games include Brazilian jujitsu, karate, kung fu, sport jujitsu, tae-kwon-do and wushu. Marchtaler rates Emery's chances of winning a medal "extremely good" given his undefeated record in sport jujitsu. The action is scheduled to take place August 18, 19 and 20 at the Bear Mountain Arena in Victoria, Canada.