



Inductee Class of 2017

YOUNG ADULT CATEGORY

Josef Daniel Collins – Junior Black Belt of the Year

Josef D. Collins has been training in the martial arts for 2.5 years under the influence of Professor Wayne Carmen of TCB Martial Arts. He is currently an instructor at TCB and holds the rank of 1st Dan. His immediate future goal is to edify and empower his generation to be resilient in the face of adversity by launching after school martial arts programs for young children and youth who cannot afford them. His dream is for martial arts to be in every public school setting thus removing barriers that prevent many from engaging in the art.

Aaron McGavin – Black Belt Instructor of the Year

Starting his martial arts journey at the early age of 3, Aaron, now a 2nd Degree black belt in Ni-Du-U-Kon-Tae karate Kung Fu, has trained with GM Rodney Kauffman for over 15 years. He competes all over the state and has won many championships, racking up multiple Grand Champion awards as well as Top Instructor awards. Aaron also carries a 4.0 GPA and has garnered several high school awards. Competing internationally, he is a force to be reckoned with and leads by example.

Gio Ramirez – Junior Instructor of the Year

Gio started his martial arts training before most children start reading. At age 14, he is one recognized by his senior instructors as one of a young man of sound mind who has matured into a disciplined assistant instructor. He has already mentored and helped hundreds of children and adults in their martial arts journey, even helping a few achieve their black belt in Tae Kwon Do. An honor role student, Gio also plays saxophone in the Honor Band and is already taking as many advanced placement college preparation classes as the school permits. He currently holds a 3rd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and a 1st degree black belt in Tang Soo Do.



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BRONZE CATEGORY

Samuel Albright – Master Instructor

Master Albright holds black belt rankings in Hapkido, Tae Kwon Do, Wado Ryu and Budokwan Karate, as well as an Instructor ranking in Krav Maga. He is a member of several martial arts organizations, including the International Krav Maga Association and was a 2013 inductee into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame as Master of Korean Arts. He and his wife, Tina, own and operate White Tiger Defense Academy in Richlands NC.

Tina Albright – Female Master

Sensei Albright holds a 2nd Dan in Budokwan Karate and has also studied Tae Kwon Do, McMap and is an instructor in the art of Krav Maga. She is a member of the International Krav Maga Association and was a 2013 inductee into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame as Korean Arts Instructor. She and her husband, Sam, own and operate White Tiger Defense Academy in Richlands NC.

David Algarin – Martial Artist of the Year

Having studied for more than 20 years in the Arts, Mr. Algarin holds a 4th Dan ranking in Sho-Sho Ryu Bujitsu and a 3rd Dan in International Tae Kwon Do. More than a decade ago, he opened his own school and has promoted many black belts since that time. He is actively giving back to his community, teaching kidnap prevention and female self defense classes with the San Antonio Police Department and other nonprofits, including the YMCA, Goodwill and others.

Leon Boudreaux- International Instructor of the Year

Nominated by GM Jay Vera, Mr. Boudreaux is a 3rd Dan in the art of Kajukenbo and has also studied Karate, Boxing, Judo and Aikido. He is a member of the IRMAA and USA Boxing Southern LBC. With 30 years of martial arts experience, Mr. Boudreaux teaches at the Kom-Jutsu Black Belt Academy in Port Barre LA and is considered by GM Vera as “an excellent student and instructor”.



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Tiana Boudreaux – Female Competitor of the Year

A 2nd Dan in Kom-JuJitsu and a 1st Dan in Kajukenbo, Ms. Boudreaux is known as a good student, a strong competitor and one tough little girl. She is a member of IRMAA and the USA Boxing Southern LBC and an instructor at Kom-Jutsu Black Belt Academy in Port Barre LA.

Muriel Lorraine Brown – Martial Artist of the Year

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Ms. Brown began her martial arts training with her son, Frankie, while stationed in Germany. She has had the privilege of traveling the world, and continuing her training globally. She has served on the German National Team, US World Kickboxing and karate Association, National Karate Team and AAU National Team. She has also competed, and won, internationally. Ms. Brown holds a Sandan ranking in the art of Gojo-Ryu, a Nidan in Tang Soo Do and Shodan in Shotokan.

Lloyd Burgos – Kenpo Competitor of the Year

Master Burgos holds a 6th Dan ranking in American Kenpo-JuJitsu and has studied Wu-Shu Kung Fu, Tae Kwon Do and Hapkido holding black belt rankings in each. He has competed in NADKA, AKA and PKC competitions with numerous gold and silver placements in forms, weapons and fighting. He is currently pursuing an acting career where he hopes to put his martial arts skills to use in cinema.

The Carter Family – Martial Arts Family of the Year

The Carter Family trains under Grandmaster Wayne Carman in the art of TCB Karate in Branson MO. For the Carters, martial arts is a family affair. They are an inspiring example to the students of TCB Martial Arts and are being recognized for their dedication and passion for the martial arts and for the encouragement and support they give not only to their family but to other students and staff.

Harold “Bro” Cherry – Competitor of the Year

Inspired by Bruce Lee’s role in the TV series “The Green Hornet” and John Wayne’s role in “The Green Berets”, Mr. Cherry plucked a 4 leaf clover from his backyard and made a wish – “I’m going to join the Army, go to Japan and study Karate, and become a Green Beret.” It was not the Army, but the Air Force that got him to Okinawa where he studied Shotokan and later trained in Tae Kwon Do. As a brown belt, he opened his first school and began to teach, all



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while competing and racking up over 400 trophies in forms and fighting. Today, he still serves our country at Randolph Air Force Base in Universal City TX and offers private instruction.

John Connolly – Instructor of the Year

A 5th Dan in Tae Kwon Do, Master Connolly has had a career out of giving back to his community. He volunteers time to teach martial arts to children and law enforcement officers while serving as a NYPD officer himself. While in New York, he founded the NYPD Taekwondo Club and since relocating to Florida, he still offers free martial arts instruction in Jensen Beach and Stuart. Master Connolly also holds a 3rd Dan in Ju-Jitsu and a 2nd Dan in Judo.

Stephanie DeLoach – Distinguished Master

Having received her 1st Dan in Tang Soo Do in 2001, Master DeLoach continued to develop herself even as she developed students under her training. In 2003 she was promoted to Senior Instructor. In 2008, Master DeLoach began training with GM Clarence “Daddy-O” Smith. Today she holds a 4th Dan in Tang Soo Do and continues to inspire others where she also works in the fast paced world of Hollywood and still has time to train and run marathons.

William Donnell – Inspiring Excellence

With over 47 years of experience in martial arts training, Pastor Donnell mixes faith and his passion for the martial arts to make a positive difference in the lives of his students. Currently training under the legendary Victor Moore in Shuri-Ryu, Pastor Donnell continually stretches himself to learn more, so he can better equip his students along their martial arts journey. GM Donnell founded the art of Ohshindo, a blended martial arts system, in 1985 and continues to cross train in multiple martial arts systems. He is a member of the Christian Martial Arts Council, Traditional World Karate Association and Extreme Budo Federation. He is the chief instructor at Shield of Faith Martial Arts Academy in Maryland.

Matt Emery – Outstanding Instructor

Sifu Emery began his martial arts journey 35 years ago and has performed on stage and screen, achieved a successful competition career and worked with incredible teachers and wonderful students. He is one of the first Americans to receive an official Duan ranking from the Chinese Wushu Association. Sifu Emery is a devoted student of the late GM Richard Bustillo and IMB Academy. He is a certified IMB Instructor and owner of Emery Academy of Martial Arts in Los Angeles.



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Anthony Ferguson – Black Belt of the Year

Master Ferguson is a 7th Dan in the art of Matsubayshi Shorin Ryu. GM Moise Colon says of his student, *“Anthony Ferguson has been my student since the age of 13. He has dedicated his life to the karate style of Shorin Ryu. Anthony’s contribution to the Shorin Ryu Karate style has made a positive impact on our youth. He continues to demonstrate to our youth the importance of training and participating in tournaments. As my first student I promoted to black belt, his loyalty has been impeccable and his commitment to our dojo goes without saying.”*

Dennis Fritzing Jr. – Distinguished Instructor

Master Fritzing has over 12 years of training in the art of Krav Maga, the last 6 under the tutelage of Ran Nakash. He is a member of Israeli Krav International and a Level 3 instructor under Moshe Katz. Master Fritzing has also trained in Tang Soo Do, Tae Kwon Do and Pasa Ryu. He is certified as a Lethal Weapons Training Instructor and teaches at Krav Maga of Albrightsville.

Francisco Garcia – Martial Artist

A cancer survivor, and 4th Dan in Go-Sho-Kai Karate, Master Garcia is a true fighter. Known as a pillar in his community, he cycles to raise money for many charities. Through his efforts, training and teaching, he creates better people who continue his servant efforts. Frank Garcia serves as a model martial artist.

Thomas Goodrich – Black Belt Excellence

A first degree black belt under Grandmaster Wayne Carman, Mr. Goodrich is a shining example of black belt excellence. He leads by example in the dojo, even as he continues his own training in TCB Karate. Mr. Goodrich is also a full instructor in Krav Maga.

Michael Graham – JKD Instructor of the Year

Mr. Graham began boxing in high school, then gravitated to Tae Kwon Do and Hapkido in 1994. In the last 35 years, he has been exposed to, and trained in, a broad cross section of martial arts including Savate, Kali, Eskrima, Muay Thai, BJJ and Burmese Bamdo. Mr. Graham has also become proficient in weapons fighting and has trained in Japan and the Philippines to further his martial arts training. He began training with Sifu Richard Bustillo in Jeet Kune Do which



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became his passion. Mr. Graham today gives back to his community, teaching self defense and anti-bully programs.

Sandra Gustafson – Female Kempo Instructor

Ms.Gustafson began training in the art of Tae Kwon Do at the age of 12, earning her Junior Black Belt in 1988. She is a Phase 2 student in JKD and a Level 3 instructor in Krav Maga, as well as an associate instructor with the World Tactical Karambit Association. She is currently a student at the Inner Circle and an instructor under GM Michael Peterson in the art of Okinawan Kempo.

Christopher Hamon – Kempo Instructor

Mr. Hamon is a student and associate instructor in the art of Okinawan Kempo at the Inner Circle under the tutelage of GM Michael Peterson. He is a Phase 2 student in JKD and a Level 3 instructor in Krav Maga, as well as an associate instructor with the World Tactical Karambit Association.

John Harding – Distinguished Instructor

Professor John Harding has been practicing grappling arts for the past 23 years and holds a 3rd Dan ranking in the art of BJJ under Marcelo Alonso, a member of the Carlson Gracie Sr. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Team. He also holds a 1st Dan in Tae Kwon Do and has trained in Shotokan. Professor Harding is also a FAA Aviation Safety Inspector and served both stateside and overseas as a member of the U.S. Army.

Michael Harris – Outstanding Competitor of the Year

Mr. Harris has been training at the IMB Academy since 2009 and trained under the late Sifu Richard Bustillo. He has attended the annual training at the Cacoy Doce Pares Headquarters since 2010. In 2010, he received his black belt in Eskrima from Supreme Grandmaster “Cacoy” Canete and was inducted into the Doce Pares Hall of Fame in 2014 as “Outstanding Student”. In 2016, Mr. Harris won gold medals in 3 divisions in the FMA World Tournament in Cebu, Philippines.



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Rodzen "Ron" Nathaniel Ignacio – FMA Instructor

Born in the Philippines, Sifu Ron had the unique opportunity to learn fighting and the defensive arts from his family. In the U.S. he began training at the IMB Academy under Sifu Richard Bustillo and Sifu Dan Inosanto, learning Bruce Lee's art of Jeet Kune Do / Jun Fan Gung Fu. Sifu Ron is well versed in multiple martial arts, both Western and Eastern. He has also trained in bladed weapons and survival tactics used in the Philippine martial arts. Sifu Ron also holds a black belt in Shaolin Kempo Karate. His mantra in teaching, from Bruce Lee, "*Absorb what is useful...and make it your own.*"

Elle Jackson – Female Instructor of the Year

Ms. Jackson has 14 years experience in hand-to-hand combat. Frequent relocation led her to train in any available art at her current location, which included boxing, Kenpo and kickboxing. She is a Level 2 Instructor of Krav Maga a certified Israeli Tactical Knife Fighting instructor and currently holds a green belt in Combative Jujitsu. Ms. Jackson is the lead instructor at Bentonville Krav Maga where she is known for her attention to technical detail and clear teaching style.

Anthony Jayme – FMA Instructor

Sifu Jayme has 18 years of competition experience in Muay Thai / Kickboxing, Ju-Jitsu / Grappling and Full Contact Stick Fighting, as well as time in the cage as a professional MMA fighter. He is the owner and chief instructor of Integrated Combative Arts Academy in Columbus OH. Sifu Jayme is ranked under Sifu Richard Bustillo, Supreme Grandmaster Cacoy Canete and is honored to carry on the philosophies and training of methods of Bruce Lee's Jeet Kune Do as taught to him by Sifu Bustillo.

Russell Keeler – Ju-Jitsu Instructor

Mr. Keeler began his martial arts journey while serving in the Army in Korea. Earning his first black belt in Tae Kwon Do was just the start. He now also hold black belt ranks in Kosho Shorei Kenpo, and White Tiger Kenpo and Combative Ju-Jitsu under Professor Marty Cale. In 2013, Mr. Keeler was the No-Gi Southern States Jiu-Jitsu Champion and ranked #2 in the nation in NAGA grappling. He is the owner of Bentonville Krav Maga and currently holds an Expert Level 2 ranking in Israeli Krav Maga and is also a certified Israeli Knife Fighting Instructor. He continues his training in Army Combatives, and is a Combat Shoot instructor.



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Cassandra Kottman – Woman of the Year

An inspiring woman, Ms. Kottman has battled back from debilitating Inflammatory Bowel Disease, and being told by doctors she would never be able to participate in martial arts again, to train with a select group of students and a coach from one of the National Teams in hopes of qualifying for the Olympics. She currently rank in American Karate and Shaolin-Kenpo. Ms. Kottman is passionate about promoting IMB awareness as she competes and to offer encouragement, support and hope for all who suffer with this painful autoimmune disease.

Cody Lemons – Combat Karate Living Legend

As an amateur boxer, Mr. Lemons posted an amazing record of 192-27. He was a 6 time state champion and 3 time regional champion, earning a National bronze medal. He was one of only 100 amateur boxers to participate in a 2 week Olympic training camp. As a professional boxer, he racked up an impressive record of 14-2 in only 3 years, then turning his attention to the professional kickboxing arena. As a professional kickboxer, he won two World titles, one with the Universal Kickboxing Federation and one with the Muay Thai Association) while posting an impressive 39-2-2 record over his 6 year career that included fights across the U.S and in Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Lemons career was cut short due to a motorcycle accident, damaging his knee and requiring surgery, ending what was a promising professional career.

Samuel Lund – Master Instructor of the Year

Master Lund is a 5th Dan in TCB Karate under Grandmaster Wayne Carman. He also holds a 1st Degree black belt in the Cane Masters System, a Level 1 Instructor certification in Krav Maga and a Green Belt in Judo. He was recognized as the Outstanding Junior Black Belt of the Year in 2002 and has grown and matured to become an instrumental part of the teaching staff at TCB Martial Arts in Branson MO.

Robert McGee – Man of The Year

Dr. McGee's martial arts journey began in 1961 studying Judo. Relocating to New Jersey in 1979, he began studying Tae Kwon Do and Shukokai before job pressures ended his advancement in 1986. In 2013, he resumed his martial arts training, having relocated to North Carolina (at the age of 65). Given the long break in his training, he began as a white belt training in Tae Kwondo and Krav Maga and has risen to the rank of 2nd Degree black belt in just 4 years. He has competed in numerous tournaments and has multiple Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in the National Tae Kwon Do Championship, all after the age of 65. In 2016, he began



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studying Kung Fu and Tai Chi. Dr. McGee has also earned 13 doctorates here in the U.S. and 4 from European countries. He has published 58 nonfiction books, 5 novels and more than 700 scholarly articles in a half dozen disciplines.

Nicole Mangabat – Outstanding Martial Artist

Ms. Mangabat is an associate instructor in the IMB Curriculum under the tutelage of the late Sifu Richard Bustillo. She was nominated for induction by GM Bustillo for her dedication to perpetuating the art, lineage and history of the IMB, her performance as a member of the IMB Demo Team.

Raul Marin Jr. – Martial Artist of the Year

Mr. Marin earned his 1st Degree Black Belt in 1975 in Chinese Gung Fu. From there he added American Budo-Kan, a hybrid art encompassing Judo, Aikido, Bujitsu and Shotokan, rising to the rank of 3rd Dan in this art in 1996. He has specialized in training police officers in arrest tactics, gun retention techniques and defense against gun, knife and club. Mr. Marin is also an accomplished, gifted artist, specializing in drawings of Bruce Lee, John Wayne and martial arts logos. In 1983, he received a thank you letter from Linda Lee, Bruce Lee's wife, for making her a coffee mug with paintings of Bruce Lee honoring the 10th anniversary of his passing.

Steven Nemetz – Kobudo Instructor of the Year

With more than 40 years in the pursuit of martial arts excellence, GM Nemetz is an 8th Dan in Americanized Karate through the World Tae Kwon Do Federation. He also practices the arts of Shorin Ryu and Okinawan Kobudo, as well as Filipino Eakrima. GM Nemetz also holds instructor certification in Reactionary Knife and Pressure Point applications. A former NASKA full contact competitor, he has won more than 50 Grand Championships throughout the Midwest. As a give back to his community, GM Nemetz works with the Boys & Girls Club, teaching martial arts to troubled teens.

Rebecca Novak – Excellence in Martial Arts

Ms. Novak holds a 3rd Dan in the art of Tang Soo Do, under GM Arnold "Zip" White, whom she met while serving in the Air Force. She began working out five or six nights a week, and competing in tournaments both inside and outside the State of Texas, ultimately ranking 2nd in the Karate Illustrated Region 6 tournament circuit. After a stint in Turkey and she returned to become an assistant instructor under GM White, and later leading the class and tournament



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team when “Zip” was reassigned to Korea. Ms. Novak has continued her training and gives back to her local community through demos and multiple volunteer efforts. In April of this year she helped Avon39 raise \$1.7 million dollars for the fight against breast cancer.

Brant O’Halloran – Chinese Martial Arts Instructor of the Year

Also known as Shifu Shi Xing Wei, Master O’Halloran is a 32nd generation Shao Lin Disciple ordained by GM Shi De Shan, 31st generation Shao Lin Monk from the Song Shan Lin Temple, Henan, China. He has been training under GM Shi De Shan for 19 years. Master O’Halloran has previously trained in Tae Kwon Do and Capoeira. In 2010, he was privileged to train at the Song Shan Shao Lin Temple in Henan, China. He holds a graduate in Capoeira and Lakan Guru in Filipino Martial Arts.

Jamie Onion – Ohio Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Mr. Onion is a full time detective in Northeast Ohio and holds instructor level certifications in firearms, impact weapons and TASER. He is the Program Director for I.C.E. Training’s Defensive Firearms Coach Program, designed in part to educate martial arts instructors how to introduce their students to realistic defensive firearms training, terminology and safe handling. He has trained with GM Richard Bustillo in the IMB curriculum.

Rob Rowland – Kajukenbo of the Year

Holding the rank of Sibak in the arts of Kajukenbo and Aiki Jiu-Jitsu, Mr. Rowland is a direct student of GM Jay Vera. Recognized as a diligent student of the Arts, he has been training in the martial arts since the age of 14 and continues to expand his knowledge and application of his chosen arts through a commitment to perpetual training.

Brandon Schaefer – Combat Arts Operator of the Year

Brandon holds a 2nd degree black belt in Combatives under William Badders, and teaches at Badders Combatives and Fitness. He has also trained in Karate, jujitsu, Phan-Ky-Ryu, and Muay Thai. He also holds a 1st degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. A common theme from his students is that Brandon “destroys” them in the fitness component of their class, while motivating them to dig deep within themselves and push through to the next level of preparedness. Brandon is a law enforcement officer, veteran and a man with an amazing family.



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David Sergeant – Oklahoma Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

David has been a practitioner of the Arts since the age of 12. He has studied Aikido, Kempo, Jeet Kune Do, Hwrang-Do and Tae Kwon Do. He won Grand Master in Weapons in 1997, and has won hundreds of trophies in fighting and forms. His love for the martial arts as led him to a 20 year career in law enforcement. David currently works at the Eastern Shawnee Tribe as a School Resource Officer and Commerce Police Department as a Full Time Sereant. He lives in Gove, OK with his wife, Shannon, 4 children and 4 grandchildren. David also teaches concealed carry classes, TASER training for fellow officers, driving and firearms instruction, Reserve Officer academies and Royce Gracie ground fighting.

Michael “Mike” Simpson – Combat Arts Instructor of the Year

Mike is a retired career Ranger and Special Forces Officer with experience commanding special operations forces. A graduate of Texas Tech University, the Naval War College and St. Mary’s University School of Law, Mike has studied martial arts and hand-to-hand combat since college I the early 1970’s. He currently holds a 4th Dan ranking in Tang Soo Do. Mike and all his sons are combat veterans of Iraq, and he (along with one of his sons) were combat veterans of Afghanistan. Mike currently serves as a City Council Member in Shavano Park TX.

John Coddington Smith – Kajukenbo of the Year

Mr. Smith holds the rank of Sibak under GM Jay Vera in Kajukenbo and Aiki JiuJitsu. He has trained with GM Vera for 3 years. Mr. Smith has also trained in the art of Tae Kwon Do. GM Vera refers to Mr. Smith as an exceptional and gifted student.

Josh Smith – Martial Artist of the Year

Mr. Smith holds the rank of Sibak under GM Jay Vera in Kajukenbo and Aiki JiuJitsu. He has trained with GM Vera for 4 years. Mr. Smith has also trained in the art of Tae Kwon Do. GM Vera refers to Mr. Smith as an excellent student and a skilled practitioner of the Arts.

Ethan Tam – Aikido Instructor of the Year

Juggling family responsibilities, a full time job and teaching full time at Harmony Aikido, Master Tam represents the essence of all that is good in the martial arts. He teaches tirelessly at 5 locations throughout the week and is known by his students as a passionate, caring instructor



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who teaches with all his heart and soul. Master Tam holds a 5th Dan in Aikido, and has also studied White Crane, Choy Li Fat and Tai Chi.

Jimmy Torres – Texas Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Mr. Torres is an American Freestyle karate instructor and has spent the last 19 years as a peace officer for the Texas Department of Public Safety. He has served with the Texas Highway Patrol, and Investigator with the Narcotics Division, a Special Agent in the Criminal Investigations Division Gangs Unit, an ALERRT Active Shooter Instructor, and also served on the Dignitary Protection Detail to former Texas Governor Rick Perry and current Governor Greg Abbott as part of the Close Protection Team. He also holds Krav Maga and Israeli Tactical Knife certifications under Professor Marty Cale and recently opened North Central Elite Krav Maga and Tactical Training in San Angelo.

Sean Troxclair – Master of the Year

Master Troxclair has been training in the martial arts for 20 years and currently holds the rank of Master (5th Degree) under GM Jay Vera in Kajukenbo and Aiki JiuJitsu. He also holds a 2nd Dan in Hapkido and a black belt in Taekwondo. Master Troxclair is the owner and chief instructor at Sean Troxclair's Kajukenbo & Aiki JiuJitsu in Shreveport LA.

SILVER CATEGORY

John Alcazar – Master of the Year

Master Alcazar holds a 5th Dan in Motobu-Ha Shito-Ryu Karate and has over 25 years experience in martial arts training. He has competed at a national and international level, winning a number of championships, including placing 2nd in Kubodo and 3rd in Kumite in the World Cup before the Japanese Emperor and the Japanese Royal Family. He continues to teach, and is known as a humble man, a dedicated father and a great contributor to his local community.

William Badders – Combatives Instructor of the Year

Sensei Badders serves as Head Instructor of the Badders Combatives Association, and teaches at The Dojo Martial Arts School in San Antonio. He holds a 4th Dan in Phan-Ku-Ryu JuJitsu under Michael Patterson and a 34d Dan in Kajukenbo. A law enforcement officer, Sensei Badders has



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been studying the martial arts for 25 years. His students have won multiple tournaments including NAGA, San Shou World Championship in China and many other combat arts competitions.

Alfredo Barum – Distinguished Jiu Jitsu Instructor

Hailing from Brazil, Professor Barum is a decorated Brazilian Jiu Jitsu instructor in San Diego CA, offering his students one highest levels of BJJ training in the world. His students are among the top ranked BJJ practitioners globally and the entire Barum family is known for their passion for the martial arts. He began his training in Judo at the age of 6 and later studied kickboxing before the grappling art of BJJ became his all consuming passion. He has trained under Team Gracie and has taught BJJ since 1998. His competition victories include some of the most prestigious national and international championships.

Corey Boren – Distinguished Instructor

Holding an 8th degree black belt in Kenpo-JuJitsu, Master Boren teaches at the West Winds Martial Arts Academies in Hanford CA. Master Boren began training at the age of 6 and is celebrating 31 years of training in the martial arts. He also holds black belt rankings in Tang Soo Do and Kajukenbo. Master Boren is also the founder of the International Kenai-Ki-JuJitsu-Ryu Federation.

Esteban Juan De La Cruz – Distinguished Instructor of the Year

A student of the late, great GM Richard Bustillo, Master De La Cruz is a Master Instructor in the IMB Curriculum. He has also studied Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and boxing and is a member of the USA Boxing Association. Master De La Cruz teaches at the IMB Academy in Terrance CA and is being recognized for his excellence in teaching.

Carlos Espinoza – Master of the Year

Hailing from Costa Rica, Master Espinoza is a 6th Dan in the art of Olympic Style Tae Kwon Do under the World Taekwondo Federation. He has been a member of the Costa Rica National Team 8 times and was the Senior National Champion from 1984 to 1990, and was Best Athlete in Sport of Tae Kwon Do in Costa Rica in 1988. Master Espinoza has competed internationally, and is the founder and chief instructor of Bravo Martial Arts Centre in El Dorado AR.



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Michael Frazier – Distinguished Master Instructor

A student of Hall of Fame inductee GM Israel Velez III, Master Frazier is the founder and chief instructor of Mike Frazier martial Arts in Shelbyville IL. A practitioner in the art of Ninjitsu, he has also studied Kenpo, Jujitsu and Jeet Kune Do. Master Frazier has also trained under Ashida Kim, Paul Vunak and Masaaki Hatsumi.

Lewis “Hulk” Gafford – Silver Life Award

Master Gafford entered the martial arts to curb aggression and anger. After joining the Air Force, he began training with Arnold “Zip” White, who helped him focus his aggression and anger toward more productive ends. He began competing, and winning, on the tournament circuit and found a release for his aggressive nature. In 1991, he opened Diamondback Karate Academy and also offered lessons at a couple of local elementary schools. His message: control your body, your thoughts, your emotions and your attitude. Think before acting and realize there are consequences to your actions. So when you act, be ready to face the consequences. Everyone fails, everyone falls down, and sometimes we get knocked down along the way. It’s how you get up that determines who you are.

Michael Hornsby – Silver Life Award

Owner and chief instructor of True Force Tae Kwon Do, Master Hornsby is a dedicated practitioner of the Arts. With more than 39 years of training, Master Hornsby holds 9 world titles, and is a 4 time recipient of the Presidential Sports Award. He has been inducted in numerous Hall of Fames and holds rankings in Tang Soo Do, Ju-Jitsu and Filipino martial arts. He is known by his peers as *“an officer and a gentleman”* who is known for his loyalty, dedication and commitment to bettering his students.

Sandra Larwood – Silver Life Award

Born in the Panama Canal zone into a military family with four brothers, physical toughness was something Sandra learned early. As she watched her brothers train in Kyohushinkai, her interest in the martial arts begin to tug at her heart. They taught her to be physically strong. Ms. Larwood attributes her mental toughness to her Japanese mother. She began training in 1981, and was the only female in the dojo. Training was tough, but she quickly found that she excelled in tournament competition, initially as a fighter and later as a kata practitioner. After earning her 5th Dan in Kyokushinkai, she turned her attention to Shotokan, which was being taught where she and her husband were stationed. Married to a military man, Ms. Larwood



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relocated several times, finally landing in San Antonio where she opened her own dojo, Shotokan Karate and Fitness. In 2016 she earned her 6th Dan in Kyokushinkai and continues to grow personally, and pass that experience and knowledge on to her students, with an emphasis on instilling a Christ-like attitude in their lives, and in the community in which she lives.

William Lewis – Silver Life Award

Holding a 3rd degree black belt in Tang Soo Do this retired Army Sergeant has dedicated the past 42 years of his life to training in the martial arts, while serving our nation around the world. His commitment to training has been evidenced by numerous wins as he has competed in open tournaments around the globe. Mr. Lewis recently competed in the Augusta Karate Open, winning the lightweight division on his way to taking Grand Champion honors over a heavyweight contender.

David Little Sun – Native American Instructor of the Year

GM Little Sun comes from the Apache tribe and the Pawnee nation. He has been a premiere fighter in Chinese Kenpo for 48 years, specializing in self defense. During his seasoned career, he won over 40 international, national and state championships. A 10th Dan, GM Little Sun's passion is teaching martial arts at his school in Oklahoma City OK, where he allows anyone and everyone to learn the art of Chinese Kenpo. His goal is to teach people their worth and give back to others, the way many have given to him. His strength and faith resides in his loving family, his wife, Jenifer, their six children and two grandchildren. GM Little Sun looks forward to many more years of sharing his love for the martial arts with others who are willing to learn.

Jimmy Livengood – Master Instructor of the Year

Master Livengood started his martial arts career in the USTF in 1981. His Tae Kwon Do training has come from various Masters and Grandmasters over the years, including GM Scott McNeely and GM Robert Hardin. Master Livengood earned his 4th Dan in Tae Kwon Do from the NTFA in 1993. He is a member of IMAC, holds a Level 2 Instructor certification under Krav Maga under Professor Marty Cale, and is currently teaching Krav Maga in Jonesboro AR.

Lowell Lyle – Distinguished Instructor

GM Johnny Thompson says of Master Lyle, *"He was my very first paying student back in 1980 and I could never be prouder of an individual, of what a great father, husband, son and martial artist he has become."* His peers speak of him as a leader who leads by example, a man who is



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not afraid to roll up his sleeves and has never lost his youth. Master Lyle holds a 4th Dan in Tang Soo Do and was the recipient of the Silver Life Award by the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mike McLaughlin – JKD Honor Award

Mike McLaughlin has been training in the martial arts for more than 30 years. Has has a 3rd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and a 4th degree black belt in Arnis. He is also a Sifu in the Ip Man lineage of Wing Chun. He was also certified as a Jeet Kune Do instructor by Grandmaster Richard Bustillo. Mike is a Master Instructor with the ActivStars martial arts organization. He has taught more than ten thousand students and 119 of his students have earned black belts. He is also a certified MMA Conditioning Specialist and a certified Muay Thai Fitness Instructor. Mike was inducted into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2014 as Instructor of the Year and in 2015 for Excellence in Martial Arts Leadership.

Loyd “Crow” Neal – Distinguished Master

Master Crow has been training in the martial arts for the past 25 years. He holds an 8th degree black belt in the art of Ookami Kamichi Ninjutsu Ninpo and is a standing member of the Grey Wolf Native American Martial Arts Council, Master’s Division. Master Crow has earned a black sash in Wing Chun and a 1st Dan in GoJo Ryu. He is the owner and chief instructor at Ookami Kamichi School of Ninpo.

Jeffery Oliver – Founders Award

GM Oliver is a student of GM Israel Velez III and holds an 8th Dan in Combat JuJitsu and American Modern Karate. An armed forces veteran, he has been recognized by Action Martial Arts Magazine’s Hall of Honors for his martial arts contributions. GM Oliver founded Patriot Combatives as a combat art and teaches this art in Fort Worth Texas.

Alfred O’Neal Jr. – Silver Life Award

A 9th Dan under GM Eric Brandt in GoJu-Ryu, Master O’Neal has more than 40 years in the martial arts, 37 of those with GM Brant. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he has trained in Tae Kwon Do, Capoeira, Tang Soo Do. He has competed both in the U.S. and abroad, winning the World Championships in Germany for 3 consecutive years. Although retired from the Army, Master O’Neal continues to train and compete at the age of 60 in the Master’s and Senior divisions.



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Pro-To-Col Sport Systems – Humanitarian Award

ProToCol is a Sports performance training center providing next level integrative rehabilitation and conditioning for competitive and elite athletes. They strive to create an environment where people of all ages and abilities are educated to reconnect with their bodies. Through comprehensive performance enhancement training system and methodology, ProToCol breaks down the body's firing patterns back to the basic fundamental movements to progress an athlete's learning in the most efficient manner, with the most effective methods to achieve the highest levels of fitness, health and performance. Their goal is to reduce pain, recondition the body for peak performance and decrease the potential for future injuries through rehabilitating and restoring the proper biomechanical movements and functions of the body. In short, they fix what's broken so peak athletes can perform at peak levels.

Roger Rayburn – Distinguished Instructor

Master Rayburn is truly a distinguished instructor with more than 40 years in the Arts. He has studied Kempo, Karate, Kung Fu, Ninjutsu, Jiu-Jitsu, Kendo, Full Contact Fighting, Accupressure and a variety of traditional weapons systems. In 1993, he was named the Successor / Inheritor in the art of Shorindo Kempo, where he holds a 7th Dan ranking. His school, now in its 22nd year, continues to make a positive difference in its students and the Ohio community where he resides. Master Rayburn has competed internationally, and is a winner of multiple Gold and Silver medals. He regularly gives back to his Ohio community teaching self defense to children and women, as well as certifying individuals in CPR and First Aid. He has also helped raise money for St Jude's Hospital and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. His acknowledgements and awards are numerous, including multiple Hall of Fame inductions.

Gregory Robinson – Distinguished Master

Holding a 6th Dan in the art of Aikibujitsu, Master Robinson teaches at True Force Martial Arts in San Antonio. His martial arts resume, spanning 48 years, includes a broad cross section of the martial arts, including Kajukembo, Ninjitsu, Kali, GoJu Ryu, Jeet Kune Do, Kojukan JuJitsu, and more. Master Robinson is recognized as being instrumental in the development and progress of the martial arts in San Antonio and is very involved in the community and with his family. He is known as a Teacher who cares for his students beyond the mat, helping them develop not just as martial arts practitioners but as leaders in life.



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Romulus Roquemore – Distinguished Kajukenbo Instructor

Holding a Master rank of 7th Dan in the art of Kajukenbo, Master Roquemore is an active student and instructor under the tutelage of GM Jay Vera. He teaches Kajukenbo and Ka Ju Ken Fu at Fishers Sports in Louisiana. He has received numerous awards for his martial arts accomplishments and is considered an outstanding representative of the art of Kajukenbo and Ka Ju Ken Fu in the Southeast.

Darryl Starks – Distinguished Instructor

Shihan Starks began his martial arts training in karate in 1984. He used his natural talent and the skills he had acquired to compete both as an amateur and professional boxer, retiring with an unbeaten record of 48-0. From there, Shihan Starks transitioned to the cage where he had 7 consecutive wins, with no losses. Currently, he is a 6th Dan Black Belt in JuJutsu and is the owner and chief instructor of Dragon Budo JuJutsu martial Arts Academy. Shihan Starks has had the privilege of working with several churches and community outreach programs to teach martial arts to over 2000 youth through low income martial arts programs in the Chicago area for many years.

Thomas Wiehe – Distinguished Instructor of the Year

Master Wiehe has been involved in the martial arts for more than 30 years. He continues not only to personally train and expand his own knowledge, but also inspires and educates others around him (both students and instructors). His is affectionately nicknamed “The Walking Martial Arts Encyclopedia” as he is quick to answer a question or give a dissertation on a particular person, lineage or style. A Master Instructor in Jeet Kune Do under GM Richard Bustillo, and a 4th Dan in Doce Pares Eskrima, he regularly updates law enforcement personnel in the latest combative techniques. Known for his even temper and exemplary attitude, he is precisely what you would expect for an instructor of his caliber.

GOLD CATEGORY

Lance Allen – Golden Life Award

At the age of 70, Master Allen is one of David German’s original students when Mr. German’s first Kenpo dojo was opened in Las Vegas. Mr. Allen began his training as a young boy under the oversight of his father, who had trained in the military. In the mid 1960s, he and his brother Lyle were GM German’s first students to present black belt demonstrations at Ed



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Parker's Kenpo Studio. In 1967, after winning matches in the National and International Karate Championships, Master Allen received a certificate from Chuck Norris. When GM German founded the art of TAI Karate, a mixed martial arts system, his first student to receive black belt recognition as Sanky was Master Lance Allen. That was 1967 and is one of the earliest mixed martial arts black belts to be issued in the United States.

Jeff Bonugli – Golden Life Award

According to GM Johnny Thompson, Hanshi Jeff Bonngli has “seen and done it all”. He has been training in the arts for 43 years and is a Grandmaster in the art of So-ryu. He also holds black belt rankings in Tae Kwon Do and Bushido, along with a brown belt in BJJ. Never content to bask in past accomplishments, Hanshi Bonugli is always reinventing himself, growing and expanding his knowledge of the martial arts. He is known by his fellow black belts as a man who is always thinking of his students and a dedicated, hard working man.

Barbara Davis – Distinguished Grandmaster

A student of the great Master Kang Rhee, Ms. Davis holds an 8th Dan ranking in Pasa-Ryu and is the chief instructor at Davis Martial Arts in Collierville TN. For more than 30 years, Ms. Davis has been a serious student of the martial arts and is known for her attention to detail and passion for passing her art on to her students. She is a member of the Pasa-Ryu Martial Association and an outstanding representative of the martial arts in her local community.

Thomas Fallon – Boxing Coach of the Year

A two-time Golden Gloves boxing champion, Tom's story is an amazing tale of redemption and overcoming adversity. Tom biography, *“Fighting Through It”* tells the story of how he overcame bad parenting, sexual abuse and divorce to become an overcomer in life. Now teaching the art of boxing in his own gym, Tom Fallon is using his experience to train champions in the ring and in life. He is also a certified life coach and motivational speaker. Tom is an inspirational man with an inspiring story.

Roberto Garcia – Golden Life Award

Master Garcia holds a 9th Dan in Tae Kwon Do, 8th in JuJitsu, 2nd Dan in Judo and 1st Dan in Hapkido. He was the IFC World Middle Weight Champion (1996) and national Sambo Champion (1996). His biography as a martial artist includes teaching martial arts programs for public and private schools, community centers, martial arts academies and correctional agencies. He is a



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certified LSO defensive tactics instructor and licensed jailer with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. Master Garcia currently serves as a Team Leader of the LSO Detention Response Team for the Lubbock County Sheriff's Department.

Tim Holland – Humanitarian Award

Mr. Holland's life has been one of giving back to others. A Full Instructor under Professor Marty Cale in the art of Krav Maga, Tim regularly attends trainings at the International Krav Maga Association's Fayetteville headquarters to both continue to hone his skills and to serve as a volunteer instructor to teach new students, even as he continues to recover from an injury that nearly immobilized him for life. He is the founder and lead instructor at Arkansas Tactical Options where he teaches Krav Maga as well as Israeli Combat Shooting. Tim is a living example of servanthood, and is one of the most humble men you'll ever meet.

Rodney Kauffman – Pioneer Award

With an extensive law enforcement background, and more than 50 years in the martial arts, GM Kauffman is truly an officer and a gentleman. His peers praise him as a humble leader who leads by example and represents his art with dignity and class. GM Kauffman holds a 9th Dan in the art of Ne-Du-U-Kon-Tae karate Kung Fu. He is a registered member of the United States Police Defensive Tactics Association National Youth Gang Task Force and holds Master or Grandmaster rankings in multiple martial arts systems. GM Kauffman has been recognized with induction into several prestigious halls of fame and he owns and operates Kauffman Self Defense Academy in Ohio.

Anthony "Grasshopper" Linson – Golden Life Award

GM Linson started his martial arts career at the age of 9, while living in Japan. After graduating high school, he followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Air Force and like his father, earning a black belt in karate. After joining the Air Force, GM Linson was introduced to the art of Tang Soo Do where he trained under Arnold "Zip" White. He opened his own school, Dragonfoot Karate Institute, and continued to expand his martial arts training to include Japanese GoJu. GM Linson has competed nationally and was the 12th ranked black belt fighter in the U.S. in 1983 and again in 1984. GM Linson is a member of the San Antonio Police Department, where he competes in numerous Police Olympic Games. He has been recognized as the "Fittest of the Fit" on the police department and has received numerous awards for bravery and lifesaving and credits his Christian faith for his accomplishments.



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Cristobal Lopez – Pioneer Award

A well respected gentleman in the State of Texas, GM Lopez has been teaching and promoting the martial arts for more than 50 years. One of Austin’s finest police officers for many years, he has produced world class champions from his schools. GM Lopez ran the prestigious Lone Star State Karate Championship for many years, attracting top competitors from across the United States. After being promoted to 10th Dan in Texas So-Ryu in 2015, he took to the mat to begin cross training in BJJ and, at the age of 71, currently holds the rank of Blue Belt.

Donny Meadows – Golden Life Award

Sa Bom Nim Meadows is a career martial artist with over 44 years of experience in the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do. He has owned and operated full time studios for over 40 years. Master Meadows began studying Tang Soo Do in 1973, and was promoted to black belt in 1978, where he began teaching in San Angelo, TX. In 1989, he opened “The Karate School” in Austin TX and pioneered after school martial arts in that city. In 2005, he relocated to Bramwell WV as a domestic missionary and opened “The Karate School” of Bluefield, WV. He has a passion for special needs students ranging from ADD, ADHD, autism, epilepsy, Downs Syndrome, Cerebral palsy as well as hearing and sight impaired students.

Keith Sharp – Golden Life Award

A member of the Al Francis Karate Organization, Master Sharp holds a 7th Dan in the art of Sando-Ryu, and teaches this Art, along with Japanese Kubodo, at Sharp’s Martial Arts Center in Killeen TX. With over 46 years experience in the martial arts, Master Sharp has been previously recognized as Outstanding Instructor of the Year. His training accomplishments also include the arts of laido and Kendo.

Arcino Stanley – Golden Life Award

GM Stanley is an outstanding martial artist who has served his Country well at American Embassies around the world as a Federal Security Contractor for the past 20+ years, and as a U.S. Marine prior to that. A 9th Dan in Shotokan, he also holds a 7th Dan in Shorin Ruy and Go Jute Kempo, a 6th Dan in Catching-Do and a 3rd Dan in Jute Ryu Jiu Jitsu. He is also a member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society. GM Stanley has shared what he has been taught, teaching self defense to Embassy personnel and staff. Although retired from active teaching, his senior students continue his legacy as they teach his core art of Shotokan.



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Ray Stapleton – Pioneer Award

Master Stapleton began his distinguished career in 1964 training in Shotokan and Chinese Kenpo a year later. He added Lung Fu Do Kenpo and Moo Duk Kwan Tang Soo Do to his training regimen and began teaching Lung Fu Do Kenpo Karate in 1969. In 1972, Master Stapleton founded Tiger Dragon Karate Club, which continues to this day. In 2001, he was promoted to 10th Dan in Lung Fu Do Kenpo Karate and in 2014 was named a lifetime member of Ryu-Kyute Kobujutsu Hozon Budo Kyokai Ryukodo under USMAHOF inductee, Peter Carbone, Hanshi.

Israel Velez III – Founders Award

A past Hall of Fame inductee, GM Velez holds a 10th Dan in Kempo-GoJu-Jujitsu and holds rankings in Jeet Kune Do and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. He founded American Modern Jujitsu and the International Breaking Federation. The International Breaking Federation is a charitable organization that uses breaking and feats of strength to raise Autism awareness in schools and local communities in New Jersey. The organization raises money for St. Jude's and Autism Speaks, as well as local charities.

PLATINUM CATEGORY

Daniel Jolly – Pioneer Award

Master Jolly earned a black belt in Kuk Sool Won in 1986, along with an instructor certificate, while stationed in the Philippines. Since that time, he has continued his training in this art in San Antonio under Master Suh and upon being stationed in Germany he started a school in Ramstein that included 65 adults, 90 children and a 200 person waiting list. Master Jolly later started a program in Italy and in 2005, he began teaching at Lackland AFB. In 2007, he opened a school in San Antonio, Kuk Sool of Crossway. Over his long and distinguished career he has taught over 3000 students, and has personally promoted over 100 students to the rank of black belt.

William Snyder – Pioneer Award

Holding a 10th Dan in the art of Phung Hwa Po, GM Snyder has been training for 63 years. His distinguished career also includes instruction in Thai Boxing, Kickboxing, Tang Soo Do, Hwa Rang Do, and Judo. A member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society, GM Snyder has over 14 hall of Fame inductions to his credit, and teaches at Master Bill's Karate where he is loved and respected by his students and fellow instructors.



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AMBASSADOR AWARDS

Robert Olmedo – International Ambassador

Born in Chile, Master Olmedo has over 41 years of martial arts and self defense training. He holds a 4th degree black belt in Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan Korean, as well as black belts in Judo, Aikido, Hapkido, Jujitsu and Kali. He has been a certified personal trainer for over 18 years. He studied with secret service personnel at John Jay College to become a professional bodyguard and has worked for numerous high profile clients including John F. Kennedy Jr. Princess Diana, Carlos Santana, and Sheryl Crow. Master Olmeda speaks Spanish, English, Greek, Korean, Portuguese and Italian. He continues to teach from his dojang in CT with his 1st degree black belt son, Alexander.

Michael Peterson – IMB Ambassador

GM Peterson has been studying Okinawan martial arts since 1984. He is the founder of Attsuuten-Ryu Kempo-Jujitsu system and holds a 5th Dan in the art of Ryukyu Kempo under the International Martial Arts Council of America, as well as a 2nd Dan in Combative Jujitsu and a 1st Dan in Isshin Ryu Karate and a 1st Grade Black Belt in Cacoy Doce Pares Eskrima. GM Peterson holds “Expert” level instructor in Krav Maga with the International Krav Maga Association and is ranked “Master Instructor” in the American Black Ops Program. He is a Regional Director for the International Martial Arts Council of America, a member of the IMAC Grandmaster’s Council and holds an honorary PhD in Martial Arts Philosophy from the University of Asian Martial Arts Studies. His highest honor is being ranked an IMB Academy “Master Instructor” by his instructor, an original student of Bruce Lee, the honorable Sigung Richard Bustillo. GM Peterson has been given the title of 2nd Generation Instructor of Bruce Lee’s Jeet Kune Do.

Johnny Thompson – Tang Soo Do Ambassador

Mr. Thompson currently holds the rank of 9th Dan Grand Master in the style of American Tang So Do. He is the Founder and President of the Tang Soo Do Karate Association in San Antonio, Texas. He is also the Chief Instructor of Thompson’s Karate Academy. He has over 40 years of experience in the martial arts including being nationally ranked in Region Six by Black Belt Magazine and Karate Illustrated. He has been honored as Tang Soo Do Grandmaster of the Year and also inducted into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2003, 2007 and 2016 and the Master’s Hall of Fame in 2016.



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Jay Vera – Kajukenbo Ambassador

Mr. Vera has studied many forms of martial arts as in Aiki Jujitsu, Iaido Swordsmanship, Kajukenbo, Kali Knife and Stick Fighting, Penjak Silat and Kung Fu. He is a 9th degree Black Belt in Aiki-Jujitsu and is a member of KSDS, KSDI, KOA. He has received Awards in World Champion Coach for NBL, Universal Martial Arts Hall of Fame, United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame, and Founder of the year. He is a Grandmaster in the art of Aiki Jujitsu and a Professor in Kajukenbo. Mr. Vera is affiliated with and continues to support many martial arts associations.

Gokor Chivichyan – MMA Living Legend Award

The youngest of three brothers, Gokor Chivichyan was an aggressive child. After seeing him beat up the older kids in his neighborhood, he was invited to train at Dinamo Studio and a legend was born. After only a year of wrestling, Gokor began training in Sambo and in 1971 won his first tournament, the Armenian Junior National Sambo Championship. At the age of 9 he won his second Championship in the 10-12 age division and qualified to go to Tussis to fight in the 1972 Soviet Junior National Sambo Championships.

From 1974 to 1979, Gokor continued to compete and win championships in Judo and Sambo not only in the Soviet Union, but in Europe and at the World Games. In 1980, he qualified for the Soviet Olympic Judo Team, only to be passed over for a more experienced athlete who won Gold that year.

In 1981, Gokor moved to Los Angeles and began training with the legendary "Judo" Gene LaBell. Learning techniques he had never encountered, Gokor took to the circuit and competed in France, Japan, Thailand, Mexico, Canada, Germany, England and several other countries, including numerous "no holds barred" competitions.

The United States Judo Federation helped Gokor acquire his U.S. citizenship in 1987 allowing him to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Team in 1988, only to come short of the required points to compete.

In 1991, Gokor opened Haystan MMA Academy in Hollywood CA and has drawn students from around the world. Haystan quickly established itself as THE place to train for mixed martial arts fighting. Producing champions in the ring, and in life, Haystan MMA continues to set the bar for MMA training and its stable has included several prominent world class fighters.



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In over 400 NHF, MMA, Judo, BJJ, Submission Grappling and Sambo fights, Gokor has NEVER lost as a professional fighter. He has been featured as an actor and stunt man in feature films, American sports, television and news programs including CSI Miami, True Blood, Dexter, NCIS Los Angeles, Wonder Woman, The Kingdom, Halloween and Felon.

Gokor has also been privileged to teach some of the elite law enforcement organizations globally, including the LAPD, FBI, numerous SWAT teams and Interpol in Europe. But he is best known, by those who know him, as a humble, honest and friendly man who lives a life of giving to others.