



United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame

Class of 2018 – Inductee List

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YOUTH CATEGORY

Zion Bannerman – Youth Competitor of the Year

At the age of 11, Mr. Bannerman is a 4' 1" giant when it comes to competing in Texas and Oklahoma. He is a Junior Leader in his school, run by Shihan Sandra Larwood and currently holds the rank of 6th Kyu. He started competing at the ripe old age of 8 and has already garnered victories that would normally take years to achieve. He is an "A" Student and also excels in Violin. Mr. Bannerman is a glowing example of hard work and dedication and a "Can Do" attitude.

Chloe Goetz – Outstanding Junior Red Belt of the Year

A "straight-A" student who plays soccer, basketball and volleyball, Ms. Goetz is an all-around athlete. She enjoys kayaking, biking, running and singing – and has a great passion for all animals. Training at the TCB Academy in Branson MO, Ms. Goetz is considered a model student who comes ready to train and serves as an inspiration to other students in class. She is pursuing her black belt with excellence, and is an outstanding example of leadership in training.

Lucas Wayne Heaton – Teen Black Belt of the Year

Holding a 1st Dan black belt in Isshinryu/Jiu-Jitsu under GM Pete Mills, Mr. Heaton continues to pursue black belt excellence as he works toward his 2nd Dan ranking. His plans are to study Political Science after graduating high school, then serving his nation by joining the U.S. Navy upon college graduation. After his military service is over, he intends to continue to serve our country by running for political office. He's currently a study-at-home student enrolled with the Christian Academy in Oak Ridge, TN.

Nikolas Rogers – Youth Competitor of the Year

Sensei Rogers holds a 2nd Dan in Shorin-Ryu, and at the age of 16 is an active and accomplished tournament competitor. Training under GM Anthony Ferguson, he has won several tournaments – taking top honors in forms, fighting and weapons. He also assists GM Ferguson



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with the students in the school as he learns how to effectively teach the art he is learning and pass it on to others. GM Ferguson says, “A student in high school, this young man has shown good character and leadership qualities.” He has been training for 8 years in Shorin Ryu.

BRONZE

Billy Adkisson – Instructor of the Year

A student of GM David Little Sun, Master Adkisson has been training for 22 years and is a Chinese Kenpo stylist who has also trained in Small Circle Ju-Jitsu and Ryu-Kyu Kenpo. He is a member of Senshi Ruy and teaches at “The Cage” in Cushing OK.

Robert “Buddy” Allen – Outstanding Martial Artist of the Year

Starting his training at Tracy’s Karate in St. Louis in the 1970s, Sensei Allen has pursued a passion for the martial arts. In 1983, he earned his black belt in TKD. After 33 years touring in the music industry, Sensei Allen began training with GM Wayne Carman at TCB Martial Arts. A cancer survivor who has endured multiple surgeries, his desire to continue training and use his past physical issues to teach students they can overcome any obstacles in their way.

Jeanne Lynn Beck – Outstanding Woman of the Year

A 5th Dan in Ju-Jitsu, Sensei Beck struggled as a child to find a school that would accept girls. After finding her martial arts home, her passion for the martial arts quickly became apparent. Sensei Beck was the first female to represent the United States in the 1988 World Championships. She later won the Bronze Medal in the World Championships in Argentina in 1992. A member of the American Jiu-Jitsu Association, Sensei Beck is also certified as an American Combat Ju-Jitsu Instructor. In 2001, she became a member of the Black Belt Hall of Fame, receiving their coveted Humanitarian Award.

Brad Bezoni – Tae Kwon Do Master of the Year

For over 20 years, Master Bezoni has studied and taught martial arts. He was just promoted to 5th Dan in TKD by the International Martial Arts Council of America, having tested before the



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IMAC Grandmasters Council at this year's Camp. Master Bezoni has also studied Hapkido, kickboxing, ground fighting, pressure point control tactics and spontaneous knife defense and is currently studying Kuk Sool Wan to expand his knowledge further.

In 2000 and 2001, he was ranked in the ATA World Top Ten. He has been teaching since 1993 and is committed to taking what he has learned and passing it on to his students, so they in turn can teach others.

Thomas Cater – Instructor of the Year

Sensei Cater holds a 2nd degree black belt in Pai Lum Kung Fu and is known for working with, encouraging and mentoring young people of all ages and diversities in his local community. He is also ranked in Clawfist Gung Fu, White Crane Kung Fu, Chinese Boxing and JKD. Sensei Cater is the founder of Inner Strength Martial Arts Academy and a former martial arts instructor for the Boston Area Health and Hospitals Education Center.

Christian Tae Kwon Do League – Faith-Based School of the Year

Led by Chief Instructor Jose Ramirez II, the Christian Tae Kwon Do League blends fitness, self-defense and faith into a robust, family-friendly atmosphere that fosters learning and encourages character. Teaching the art of Tang Soo Do, Tae Kwon Do and Escrima, students are challenged and inspired to pursue excellence and to become leaders in life, and that character matters. CTL was recognized by the Texas Karate Association as School of the Year in 2016-2017.

Andrew Collins – Kempo Instructor of the Year

A teaching instructor at GM Michael Peterson's Inner Circle / Tri-State IMB Academy, Sensei Collins holds a 1st Dan in Attauten-Ryu Kempo-Jutsu, and also holds rank in Krav Maga, Jeet Kune Do, EDP Eskirma and Combative Ju-Jitsu. Sensei Collins is being recognized by his Chief Instructor for his excellence in teaching and training.



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Calvin Couch – International Competitor of the Year

Holding a 4th Dan in the art of Tae Kwon Do, Master Couch is truly a class act. Competing on the international circuit, he took the Gold at an international tournament in Scotland. His school, Horizon Tae Kwon Do, won the “School of the Year” award from the United Tae Kwon Do Association in 2017, a credit to the quality of instruction being taught by Master Couch.

Jonathan Couch – Competitor of the Year

Starting as a young man, Sensei Couch was “hooked” after his first TKD class and never looked back. A natural competitor, he has amassed countless awards at the state and national level. Sensei Couch is now part of the USA Team, going into his fifth year as a Team member. He is known by his peers as a solid Christian who just wants to give back any way he can. Sensei Couch is engaged, and will start earning his “black belt” as a husband next year.

Richard Cumbridge – Martial Artist of the Year

Sensei Cumbridge began his martial arts career at the age of 15 only to have to drop out 6 months later. But those 6 months started him on a course where he would later begin training again, earning his black belt in Shotokan in 2014, and being promoted to 2nd Dan in 2016. A Boy Scout from youth, Sensei Cumbridge continues to help raise young men serving on the District Council as an advisor to the Order of the Arrow. He is also a volunteer EMT, Firefighter, First Responder and Safety Officer, and proud owner of Cumbridge Family Martial Arts where they work with high risk and low-income students.

Ron Flake – Man of the Year

Sensei Flake is a 2nd Degree black belt in GoSoKu Ryu at Berryville Community Center Karate Club under Chief Instructor Fred Anderson. He has served as an instructor in the school for the past 5 years where he has earned the respect of the students. Sensei Flake served with distinction in the U.S. Air Force and volunteers with numerous organizations, including the local hospital, community center and has served in local government. He continues to be an inspiration to others.



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Byron Davis – Kempo Karate Instructor of the Year

Byron Davis entered the world of martial arts initially as a Tae Kwon Do practitioner. Over a span of three and half decades, he has gained knowledge and experience in various martial arts disciplines. He excelled and achieved black belt ranking in 3 disciplines. He currently holds a 4th Dan ranking in Shaolin Kempo Karate. He currently owns and operates Black Viper Kempo Karate in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

His recent accomplishments include retiring from Law Enforcement, earning his Associates Instructor's Level I Certification in Krav Maga under KMA and is actively instructing under Professor Cale's Krav Maga Program.

Edward Ganz – Master of the Year

A 26+ year veteran of the Army and a 46-year student of the martial arts, Master Ganz holds a 6th Dan from the Taekwondo Jidokwan Association, 3rd Dan from the World Taekwondo Federation and a 1st Dan from the Korean Kumdo Association. A retired Command Sergeant, Master Ganz was fortunate to teach martial arts both stateside and overseas, including Korea and Germany. He is a member of the Black Knight Karate Association and is in the process of organizing a Faith-Based Taekwondo class that will operate as a not-for-profit entity. Master Ganz is "giving back" to those who might otherwise be unable to train in martial arts.

Jonathon Garces – Instructor of the Year

Continuing the legacy of GM Richard Bustillo, Mr. Garces is a black belt at the IMB Academy under Esteban Delacruz, where he assists in teaching boxing, Muay Thai, MMA, JKD and the IMB curriculum. Nominated by his senior instructor, Mr. Garces is recognized as a talented, dedicated martial artist who continues the life and legacy of the "Iron Dragon" through his training and teaching.

Michael Hall – Black Belt of the Year

Master Hall's hunger to learn the martial arts comes from watching his son, Peter, participate in the sport. Following his son in pursuit of his black belt, Master Hall earned his 1st degree black belt in Shotokan in 2003. He credits his instructor, GM Janis Fraley, for being an



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inspiration in his life and learning respect, self-control, and how to make good life decisions. Now a 7th Dan, Master Hall teaches at Shotokan Tigers and is passing on what he has learned, and is still learning, to the students in the school.

Jim and Tracy Hammons – Martial Arts Couple of the Year

As teammates in life, Jim and Tracy Hammons have made a career punching and kicking together. Teaching at Martial Arts Advantage in Broken Arrow OK, they are focused on bringing out the best in their students and instructors. Holding black belt and instructor rankings in Taekwondo and Krav Maga, this couple teaches martial arts for fitness and self-defense. They are member of the International Krav Maga Association, under the leadership of Prof. Marty Cale.

Jennelle Hebert – Female D/T Instructor of the Year

After a 5 year internship, Ms. Hebert has been teaching defensive tactics for the past 10 years – the last 4 years as head instructor for CLEET. She has strived to enhance her knowledge by attending and training in Krav Maga, Gracie Jujitsu, Knife fighting and other combat arts. In the past 12 months, she has revamped the DTI Instructors course as the first female CLEET Instructor to become full time and now the head instructor for CLEET.

Ms. Hebert has become the most well-respected DTI Instructor in the State of Oklahoma, and continues to lead by example as she daily pursues excellence in training. The law enforcement community of Oklahoma is better for her leadership in CLEET.

Chad Hellmuth – Outstanding Team Manager

Mr. Hellmuth is a dedicated, loyal and respectful martial artist. He goes above and beyond to help others achieve their martial arts goals as he works to improve his own skills and techniques. A student of Sifu Matt Emery, Mr. Hellmuth has also trained with GM Richard Bustillo, Guro Dan Inosanto, Guro Pete Israel and other highly ranked and well-respected Grandmasters. He assists with in-house tournaments, seminars and events at Emery Academy of Martial Arts and handles the logistics of the school's competition team – all on a volunteer basis. He is a man of faith, who exhibits kindness, compassion and a willingness to help others.



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Sophia Hewitt – Outstanding Martial Artist

Ms. Hewitt has been studying martial arts since the age of five under Sifu Matt Emery. She fell in love with martial arts in kindergarten and set her sights on achieving her black belt, which she did at age 13. Ms. Hewitt is currently working toward her second degree black belt promotion. Her training focuses on Wushu, kickboxing, Kali, Eskrima and Jeet Kune Do. Ms. Hewitt has had the honor to train under Grandmaster Richard Bustillo, Guro Pete Israel and Sigung Taky Kimura. She was the valedictorian of her graduating class and will be attending the California Institute of Technology in the fall.

Brett Keel – Instructor of the Year

A student of GM Janis Fraley, Master Keel holds an 8th Dan in Shotokan, and has ranked in Taekwondo, Muay Thai and Kickboxing. He started martial arts under Dale “Apollo” Cook where he learned not just to fight, but also self-discipline, self-control, respect and more. Master Keel found a home in GM Fraley’s school and has not only grown as a martial artist, but has discovered potential within that he initially did not know was there. In fact, he was asked to train a PKA world champion to fight in the WKA, and this competitor went on to win the WKA lightweight world title. The words “*I Can’t!*” was replaced with “*I Can!*” His confidence, and his faith, continue to grow – and he continues to serve.

Angelica Kessler – Outstanding Martial Artist

Ms. Kessler has been training in the martial arts since the age of four. She is a student of Sifu Matt Emery and Kimberly Israel at the Emery Academy of Martial Arts, where she is a certified instructor. Ms. Kessler is a practitioner of Wushu, Kali, Eskrima and Jeet Kune Do. She has participated in martial arts competitions, worked as an assistant instructor and trained with renowned instructors including Grandmaster Richard Bustillo, Guro Dan Inosanto, Grandmaster Ramiro Estalilla Jr., and Sifu Pete Israel. Alongside her life's passion of martial arts, Ms. Kessler thrives in other areas. She has volunteered at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, OK and has won numerous awards from the National Center for Women in Technology. She instills confidence and inspires young girls by teaching coding with her, "GIRLS GET IT," program. She plans to study International Relations when she attends the University of Southern California in the fall of 2019.



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Stephen Khalfani – Outstanding Martial Artist of the Year

Dr. Khalfani has studied the martial arts for over 40 years. He holds a 5th Dan in Kin-jiu-jitsu, along with a black belt in Combat Jiu-Jitsu. He has also trained in Aikido, Hapkido and Sentoshin-Kai Bujutsu. Dr. Khalfani is a member of the USA Sentoshin-Kai Bujutsu Association and has received numerous awards over his distinguished martial arts career. He owns and operates Dakota Dragon Dojo in Fargo, ND where he continues to add value to the lives of his students.

Joyce Knight – KY Female Instructor of the Year

Sensei Knight has been a lead instructor at Noble Dragon Kenpo for several years, and has trained with her instructor, Shihan Jeffrey Wadle, since 2003. She is considered an exemplary role for the school's students, as well as a "fierce" competitor and coach for the school's tournament team. Sensei Knight has been personally ranked in both the RSKC and PASKA in various divisions.

She recently retired after 27+ years of service from the Kentucky State Police as both a Communications Supervisor and Academy Instructor. Sensei Knight is actively involved in teaching women's self-defense seminars and constantly strives to improve not only the school's students, but herself.

Monika LaFleur – TX Female Instructor of the Year

Holding a 3rd Dan in Shotokan under Shihan Sandra Larwood, Sensei LaFleur is an amazing woman who speaks softly, but carries a "big stick". She impressed members of the IMAC Grandmasters Council last year as she served as an Uke for her senior instructor, who was testing for rank advancement. Sensei LaFleur is known for her rapport with the "young ones" at Shotokan Karate and Fitness and has the respect of her senior instructors. She truly leads by example.

Daniel Levi - Master of the Year

Master Levi holds a 5th Dan in the Universal Martial System, along with a 4th Dan in Taekwondo, 3rd Dan in Karate and 1st Dan in Kenpo and Judo. He is a 4-time inductee into



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various hall of fame organizations, including the Action Martial Arts Hall of Fame. Master Levi instructs at the UMS Training Center, under the chief instruction of Professor Steve Levi.

Lowell Lyle – Master of the Year

A gifted speaker and communicator, Master Lyle is well-known for his seminars, and still possesses the same speed and quickness of his youth. A strong Christian, living his dream, he sees the best in everyone and helps them see the best within themselves. He is a dedicated family man, and committed to being a GREAT spouse and father to his daughter, Abigale. Learning how to teach and develop people has been a passion through his multi-faceted career with Wal-Mart, Hobby Lobby and now with the retailer, At Home. A 4th Dan in Tang Soo Do, he is a member of the Tang Soo Do Karate Association and a former USMAHOF inductee.

Sylvia McDonald – Instructor of the Year

This 60+ year old lady, a 1st Dan in Taekwondo, has “No Quit” and is always pushing herself to another level, even as she fights her own body with every step. Sensei McDonald steps into class and sets the bar high for others to push themselves farther than they ever thought they could go. She is a Pastor, a gifted speaker, and a tenacious martial artist, she is actively involved with the Texas Karate Association and the Christian Taekwondo League, going “above and beyond” again and again.

Robert Mayhew – Martial Artist of the Year

A student of IMAC Grandmaster, Dan Frazier, Sensei Mayhew recently earned his 1st Dan black belt in Kajukembo. He has also trained in Muay Thai, BJJ, Kung Fu, Kenpo, Silat, Kali and Goju Te. He is a member of the National Teacher’s Association of Kung Fu San Soo and an associate teacher at Frazier Martial Arts Academy in the OKC metroplex. He has been training for 12 years and is being recognized by his Senior Instructor for his dedication to the Art.

Molotov Mitchell – Outstanding Self-Defense Instructor

Mr. Mitchell is the chief instructor at Triangle Krav Maga in NC, focusing on teaching practical self-defense based on the Israeli combat system. Tom Fallon said of Mr. Mitchell, *“This is a fine young man who has faced some life challenging obstacles. Using the tools of Krav Maga*



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has transformed his life and the lives of countless others.” He received his black belt in Krav Maga under John Whitman, and has received several awards and commendations for his self-defense training.

Montey Mitchell – Black Belt of the Year

A student of IMAC Grandmaster James Goodwin, Sensei Mitchell holds a 1st Dan Black Belt in Taekwondo. He is an assistant instructor at 4-Mile Hill Taekwondo where he continues to train with GM Goodwin. An active competitor, this 18 year old has captured numerous awards for his tournament prowess – both in sparring and in forms competition.

Eric Nold – Instructor of the Year

In 1985, Mr. Nold was an 18 year old headed for trouble. The day he met GM Richard Bustillo, his life was forever changed. Mr. Nold was privileged to serve as an Uke while GM Bustillo taught law enforcement in Southern CA, and started competing in Golden Glove and Muay Thai tournaments. The discipline and structure in his life are a direct result of martial arts training. Mr. Nold was privileged to travel with GM Bustillo globally and assist him in running seminars. With the passing of GM Bustillo last year, Mr. Nold now continues as a Senior Instructor at the IMB Academy sharing what he learned so this knowledge can be passed on to the next generation of students and IMB instructors in training.

Charles Owens II – Combative Arts Instructor

A 6th Dan in the Art of Kong Soo under Dr. Charles Owens, Master Owens also holds a 5th Dan in Hapkido and is a Level One Krav Maga Instructor under Professor Marty Cale. He currently serves as President of the USJMKA and is a member of several prestigious martial arts associations. He is the chief instructor at JMK Martial Arts and Fitness, where he teaches multiple systems. Master Owens is a man of faith, principle and dedication and is committed to providing quality combative arts training to both young and old.

Anthony Price – Krav Maga Instructor

With over 30 years of martial arts experience, Mr. Price is an Expert Level 2 Krav Maga Instructor with the International Krav Maga Association. He also holds a 7th Dan in Chinese



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Kempo, 3rd Dan in Shaolin Kenpo and has trained in Muay Thai, Jiu-Jitsu, Kali, Escrima and Defensive Tactics. He is the chief instructor at Absolute Tactical Defense and a 2014 USMAHOF Inductee.

Rick Ramirez – Distinguished Master

A university instructor at Texas A&M-Kingsville, high school teacher at San Beniot High School, Master Ramirez is a 5th Dan in Taekwondo – being recently promoted at this year’s IMAC Grandmasters Council. He began training in TKD in 1995 and opened his first school in 2005. In 2009, Master Ramirez began training under Dr. Jose Luis Hinojosa. This took his personal and professional development to a new level of success.

He was recognized as the Texas Karate Association Competitor of the Year and Black Belt of the Year in 2017. Master Ramirez was also recognized as the 2017 HESTEC Science Teacher of the Year in a region spanning from Laredo to Brownsville in South Texas. Strong morals, a good work ethic and a commitment to excellence are among the values he lives out and teaches to his students – both in the classroom and the dojang.

Nathan Saunders – Martial Artist of the Year

A 4th Dan in Shorin Ryu, Sensei Saunders has spent nearly his entire life training in the martial arts. He assisted GM Anthony Ferguson, his senior instructor, with classes for several years before opening his own Dojo in Savannah, GA. Today, he carries on the traditions that were passed down to him by his teachers in a new generation of students – raising up new instructors who will one day take his place and perpetuate this traditional Okinawan martial arts system.

David Sinopoli – Man of the Year

A U.S. Marine veteran with a 20+ year career as a law enforcement officer and firefighter, Master Sinopoli is also a 5th Dan in Sento Julitsu. He also holds a 4th Dan in the Joe Lewis Fighting System and a 2nd Dan in the Superfoot System. Master Sinopoli owns Cutting Edge Fitness and Martial Arts and when he’s not serving his local community, he is pouring his years of martial arts experience into his students.



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After the terror attack of September, 2001, he volunteered to go to Ground Zero to help with the search and recovery efforts. Master Sinopoli juggles two jobs, running a martial arts school, and still finding time to be a husband and family man to his 4 children. To him, it's just doing his job. To the rest of us, it's leading by example and adding value to others – each and every day.

Jeremy Sloan – Outstanding Martial Artist of the Year

Master Robert St. Clair says of Sensei Sloan, *“Jeremy has over two decades of experience and training in the martial arts, and strives to assist the martial arts schools in his community by volunteering his time and sharing his knowledge of the martial arts.”* He holds a 2nd Dan in Shotokan, and has also trained in BJJ.

Charles Wallace – Self-Defense Instructor of the Year

An active martial artist with 17 years of experience, Master Wallace is a 6th Dan in the art of Aikido. Starting his martial arts career while in the Marine Corp, defensive tactics and self-defense have remained a mainstay of his training and teaching over the years. His experience in both open hand and weapons systems have expanded his knowledge base, enabling him to pass on a breadth of knowledge and training to his students. Master Wallace's dojo is CLEET certified for training law enforcement and security personnel, and this remains a major focus of his teaching efforts. He is currently serving as the Oklahoma State Director for the International Seishinkai Karate Union (ISKU).

Lara Wallace – Outstanding Martial Artist

Lara Wallace has trained in martial arts for the past 17 years under the instruction of Sifu Matt Emery. She has earned her 2nd Degree Black belt in Wushu, and has also studied Kali, Eskrima and Jeet Kune Do. She's also been privileged to train under the legendary GM Richard Bustillo and Sigung Taky Kimura. Ms. Wallace is a graduate of UC San Diego with High Honors and will be attending the Vancouver Film School in the Fall.



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John Webb – Grandmaster of the Year

GM Webb is the owner of Beebe Martial Arts, where he teaches BJJ, Kickboxing, Krav Maga, Taekwondo and other styles. With more than 34 years of training, he holds an 8th Dan in Kombat Siu-Jitsu, a 5th Dan in kickboxing, a 4th Dan in Taekwondo and Hapkido, and a 1st Dan in BJJ. GM Webb is also a certified instructor in Krav Maga with the International Krav Maga Association and an Arkansas State Police certified instructor in self-defense and weapons retention. He is currently serving with the Arkansas State Athletic Commission in charge of all Combative Sports in the state.

Christopher Wetherington – Instructor of the Year

Under the tutelage of Rick Brown, Sensei Wetherington has earned his 1st degree black belt in Tang Soo Do, and has also trained and ranked in Boxing and Hapkido. He is a member of the American Karate Kung-Fu Federation and is a 2-Time Gold Medalist in forms in tournament competition. Sensei Wetherington is the owner and chief instructor of Balanced Warrior MMA and Karate, featuring Tang Soo Do and taught through a combat-oriented philosophy. The goal is to present a curriculum to students that is practical and effective, but also one that will be a positive, uplifting experience for those involved.

SILVER

Scott Alan Arnold – Changing Lives Award

A black belt in Shotokan, Ryu-Kyu Kenpo, Kickboxing and BJJ, Sensei Arnold teaches at American Karate Do Kickboxing. He is a kickboxing promoter in Southern, Indiana. Known for his generosity and passion for making a difference in the lives of others, Sensei Arnold offers a FREE “Vet Fit” fitness program to veterans, and has founded “RockSteady” a program to help fight back against Parkinson’s disease.

Scott Arthur Brown – Ju-Jutsu Grandmaster of the Year

An 8th Dan in Samurai Ju-Jutsu, GM Brown also holds rank in Bushido Kai, Kyokushin Kai and Kali. He is a member of the Alliance World Council of Martial Arts and Karate for Christ



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International. Teaching at Makoto Dojo, GM Brown is not only a teacher, but a mentor who pours into his students. His students have gone on to become national and international champions. GM Brown has competed and taught abroad, and is known for his generosity and selfless giving of his time and talent to help those less fortunate.

Otis Burwell – Grandmaster of the Year

Nominated by several of his students, GM Burwell is characterized as a man who is truly “Others Focused”. Known for helping those who often can’t help themselves, GM Burwell has extended a helping hand to troubled kids, offering them a second chance. He holds an 8th Dan in Tae Kwon Do and is committed to making Alabama a better place by changing the lives of his students for the better. GM Burwell models character, and is a shining example of what it means to be a Black Belt Leader in Life.

William Donnell – Distinguished Grandmaster

The founder of Shim Duk Kwan Kong Soo Do, GM Donnell owns Shield of Faith Martial Arts Academy. Holding black belt ranks in Shorin-Ryu, Shotokan, Judo and other styles, GM Donnell is a dedicated practitioner who wants to see his students succeed not only in the dojo, but in life. He received the USMAHOF “Inspiring Excellence” Award in 2017 and is a member of the TWKA, Christian Martial Arts Council, IKBBO and International Martial Arts Council of America.

Anthony Ferguson – Silver Life Award

Author, teacher and community volunteer, GM Ferguson holds an 8th Dan in Shorin Ryu under Henshi Moises Colon. He is a member of the American Budokai and the International Martial Arts Council of America and was the USMAHOF 2017 Black Belt of the Year. GM Ferguson is known for service to his local community, focusing on building good character and leadership skills in the youth and teens enrolled in his classes. With numerous students being promoted to black belt, he continues to “pay it forward” by raising up the next generation of instructors and school owners.



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Mike Frazier – Distinguished Kempo GoJu Instructor

A grandmaster in the art of Kempo Goju under GM Israel Velez III, GM Frazier is vice-president of the American Modern Jujitsu Association. He is also a Senior Instructor in JKD and holds black belts in Ninjitsu and Ju-Jitsu. GM Frazier is a trial attorney, and the founder of Mike Frazier Martial Arts in IL.

Rene Garza – Grandmaster of the Year

Well versed in many systems, GM Garza is a kind but gentle man who carries a big stick if need be. He is known to bring out the best in his students and instructors and is known by his peers as a “Teacher’s Teacher” who is a true educator of the Arts. GM Garza holds a 7th Dan in Taekwondo Jidokwan and American Tang Soo Do. He also holds black belt ranks in Tsuru Kempo, Tendo Ryu Karate and Combat Wrestling.

Glen Dale Harris – Humanitarian

Master Harris holds a 5th Dan in Taekwondo and has been an avid competitor in the Southwest Association of Tournaments and competing circuits for years. He is a member of the SWAT Sport Karate Team and American Black Belt System. When the sudden death of GM David FISHINGHAWK occurred in late 2017, Master Harris stepped in to help the school deal with the loss of their founding instructor.

He continues to teach at FISHINGHAWK’s World Championship Karate studio in Sapulpa OK where he demands the same level of hard work, discipline and effort from his students that have made them top competitors in the SWAT circuit over the years. Master Harris comes from a long line of fighters, including his father, GM Vernon Harris, who began to train in martial arts after becoming a highly recruited collegiate wrestler.

He has participated in multiple missions trips to Monterrey and Mexico City and recently took the lead in an emergency clean up team after Hurricane Harvey.



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Sherman Harrison – Silver Life Award

With more than 40 years in the martial arts, Master Harrison has demonstrated consistency year after year. Dominating the TX tournament circuit in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, he was known as a “True Warrior” in the ring. A 7th Dan in GoJu-Ryu, Master Harrison is a member of the Richard Dixon Karate Club and was a 2-Time gold medalist at the Sport Police World Games in 2013. He was AOK State Champion in 2000, TKD State Champion in 1999 and Asian Pacific Champion in 1988-1989.

Joshua Horne – Man of the Year

As a teenager, Sifu Horne had to survive by his wits. It wasn’t long before he realized he had higher aspirations for himself. The martial arts became a life-changing event, causing him to absorb all he could as he devoted his life to pursue this calling on his life. Through the martial arts, Sifu Horne has had the opportunity to develop his other passion – community service. Training children classes and women’s self-defense classes has given him the opportunity to give back to others – and now he volunteers wherever and whenever he can. A black sash in Jeet Kune Do, he has also studied and ranked in Red Dragon Kung Fu and Filipino martial arts.

Michael Hornsby – Outstanding Grandmaster of the Year

GM Hornsby is an outstanding martial artist and dedicated both to his craft and to his students. He’s always willing to listen, teach and train – yet he is still out there competing at the Executive level to continually hone his skill. He recently opened a new retail location, giving his blackbelts a place to call “home” and renew their purpose to teach, to train, and to learn. GM Hornsby holds black belts in Taekwondo, Tang Soo Do, Ju-Jitsu and Filipino martial arts. He is the founder and chief instructor at True Force Taekwondo in San Antonio TX.

Stephen Horton – Distinguished Service

Master Horton began training in Isshinryu in 1961 under Master Harold Long, and later under GM Pete Mills. His initial training goal was to learn more about a sport that could improve his confidence, agility and balance. Now as a cancer survivor, his focus has shifted to helping others experience Christ through the study of martial arts. Master Horton continues to lead



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by example through service to others, giving selflessly of his time, talent and experience to others.

Mark Jimboy – Silver Life Award

According to his instructor, GM Allen Little Sun, *“Mark has been under my instruction for the past 30+ years. He has been a true martial artist and has been a role model for his community. He has instructed several students through the ranks and has proven to be my finest instructor. It is an honor to nominate him for such a great award.”* Master Jimboy is a fellow instructor at JFA Academy and currently holds an 8th Dan ranking in Senshi Ryu, 7th Dan in Hawaiian Kosho Ryu Kenpo Karate and a 1st Dan in Taekwondo.

Mike Jones – Silver Life Award

A 4th Dan in Tang Soo Do, Sensei Jones is known as a humble, caring man...one who never seeks the limelight, but always the first to step in and help when needed. Always there to support at a seminar, promotion test, tournament, special event, he is one of those guys who is reliable and trustworthy. He has trained under GM Johnny Thompson, GM “Daddy-O” Smith and GM Tom Balmos and has gained the admiration and respect of his instructors and his peers.

Gehrig Justice – Instructor of the Year

Master Robert St. Clair says of Sensei Justice, *“Gehrig is a focused and dedicated Sensei that has been involved in martial arts for over two decades. He strives for perfection of technique and instills this trait in his students.”* A 3rd Dan black belt in Shotokan, Sensei Justice also holds a 2nd Dan in American Tao Karate. He teaches at Gilbert Shotokan Karate Academy in Justice, WV.

Sandra Larwood – Distinguished Master

A 6th Dan in Shotokan and Kyokushin Kai, Master Larwood also holds a 1st Dan ranking in Tang Soo Do. She began training in 1981, earning her 1st Dan in Kyokushin Kai in 1984. She began studying Shotokan, and received her 1st Dan in 2000. Since opening her school in San Antonio, she has promoted 8 black belts and 12 brown belts, many who help teach in the school.



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Master Larwood is a member of the Tang Soo Do Karate Association and continues to make herself and her team available for tournaments and seminars. She is openly Faith-Based in her teaching, and leads by example.

Ione Laughlin – Female Grandmaster of the Year

A student of the legendary Kang Rhee, GM Laughlin holds an 8th Dan in PaSa-Ryu and is a World Black Belt Bureau Certified Instructor. She started her martial arts journey at the age of 34, and has continued this path for over 38 years. She began teaching in 1982 at the Frayser Academy of Christian Education where 3 of her children attended school. GM Laughlin taught there until 2011 when the church and Christian school ceased operations. She was inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame in 2016 and is a long-time member of the International Martial Arts Council of America.

Kenneth Lowe – Distinguished Master

Serving as a Board member of the Oklahoma Native American Martial Arts Association, Master Lowe is helping to perpetuate the lineage and history of the martial arts. Holding a 9th Dan in Shotokan under GM Janis Fraley, he is also a “6th Dan Black Knight” under GM Rubin. Master Lowe is the Shotokan Tiger’s All Women’s Tournament, Youth 17 and Under Tournament and the Shotokan Tiger’s Annual Open Tournament. He also serves as a corner man and assistant to Tora Tora Kickboxing under coach Brett Keel.

Eric McAffrey – Distinguished Law Enforcement Instructor

Adjunct firearms, defensive tactics and law enforcement defensive driving instructor with the Council of Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) in Ada, OK, Mr. McAffrey is a Reserve Academy Coordinator and School Instructor. He has also a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Firearms Instructor, and the 2011 Runner-Up for the Top Gun Award. His accomplishments in the law enforcement community as an instructor and trainer are numerous – and he has also trained as a martial artist in a number of disciplines, most recently adding Krav Maga to his list of instructor certifications.



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Mike McLaughlin – Distinguished Master

Sifu McLaughlin has been training in martial arts for more than 30 years. He holds a 3rd Dan in Taekwondo, a 4th Dan in Arnis and is a Sifu in the Ip-Man lineage of Wing Chun. Sifu McLaughlin was also certified as a Jeet Kune Do instructor by Grandmaster Richard Bustillo. He is the Senior Instructor at ActivStars Martial Arts Organization and has taught more than 10,000 students – with 130 of his students advancing to black belt. Sifu McLaughlin is also a certified MMA Conditioning Specialist and Muay Thai Fitness Instructor and is a Regional Director for the International Martial Arts Council of America for the Southwest Region.

Todd Mills – Combat Arts Instructor

Student and son of GM Pete Mills, Master Todd Mills holds a 7th Dan in Isshinryu Karate, and is ranked in Krav Maga, Small Circle Jiu-Jitsu and BJJ. He is a member of the Universal Isshinryu and Jiu-Jitsu Karate Association and has been recognized as “Instructor of the Year” by the International Isshinryu Karate Association. He assists his father at Pete Mills School of Karate and is a Combat Arts Instructor at Battle Rock Krav Maga in Knoxville TN.

Seth Norman – Distinguished Jiu-Jitsu Instructor

A black belt in Jiu-Jitsu, and holding rank in Combat Submission Wrestling, MMA, Boxing and Muay Thai, Sensei Norman is the lead instructor at Oklahoma Martial Arts Academy, the only Robert Drysdale Jiu-Jitsu affiliate school in the state. As Edmond OK’s first homegrown BJJ blackbelt, and currently undefeated as a BJJ professional, Sensei Norman is known for being an “encouraging coach” to his students, and recognized as having a high quality kid’s program where students are taught within a positive, “Can Do Attitude” environment.

James Ray Phillips – Distinguished Law Enforcement Officer

Training under the supervision of GM Pete Mills, Master Phillips is an 8th Dan in the art of Isshinryu / Jiu-Jitsu. His law enforcement career started in 1980 where he spent 35 years of service with the Knox County Sheriff’s Office, 11 years as a member of the SWAT Team, retiring as a Detective Sergeant in the Narcotics Unit. He also worked as a Special Agent with the FBI Narcotics Division and the DEA.



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Master Philips began training with GM Pete Mills in 1985 and has taken Top Honors in a tournament career that ran from 1997-2009, with many Gold medals and first place finishes to his credit. He is a man of faith and conviction.

Gregory Robinson – Silver Life Award

As a teacher at True Force Martial Arts, Master Robinson's gentle spirit is admired by all. A tenacious student, he is a "forever learner" when it comes to the martial arts. Master Robinson comes from a martial arts family and that tradition has been passed down generation to generation. Not only is he active in the School, but also in his community – making a positive difference in the lives of others. He holds a 6th Dan in Aikijujitsu under GM Michael Horsnby and has also studied Kali, Kajukembo, Goju-Ryu, Ju-Jitsu, Hiki-Ju-Jitsu, GoSho-Jitsu Kai and more. Master Robinson has dedicated 50 years of his life to martial arts training, and his quest to learn more remains as passionate today as it was when he began.

Charles Stahl – Distinguished Grandmaster

A man who makes ministry his main goal in life, GM Stahl has had a long and illustrious career in the martial arts going back over 45 years. An 8th Dan Black Belt, he has been a successful Taekwondo and Moo Duk Kwan teacher in San Angelo TX since the 1970s and touched hundreds, if not thousands of lives, over the years. When he is not teaching, you may well find GM Stahl on a missions trip to share his faith and to simply help those less fortunate. His school is aptly named Spirit Fit Christian Martial Arts.

Anthony Tanare – Distinguished Instructor

Known as a kind, gentle man with a soft voice, Maestro "Tony" Tanare is an excellent martial arts instructor and a master at his craft. Honorably retired from the U.S. Navy, he spent many years honing his Art while stationed in Hawaii and the Philippines. Maestro Tanare came from a family of fighters, and started training in Filipino martial arts, then going on to Judo and Jiu-Jitsu. He fell in love with Derobio Escrima, earning the Maestro (Master) status after years of training. He also holds 1st Dan rankings in Taekwondo and Tang Soo Do.



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Bobby Teague – Distinguished Master

A 5th Dan in the art of Taekwondo under GM Dennis Brewer, Master Teague is also a Kombat Jujitsu and Krav Maga certified instructor. He serves on the board of Karate for Christ International and operates Karate for Christ of Arkansas, teaching youth and adults. Master Teague is also a Combat Shooting Instructor and a member of the UTA and KMA. He has received numerous awards and commendations over his years of teaching, and serves his local community as a law enforcement officer. Master Teague is a man of faith and conviction, and passionate about helping bring about positive life-change in others.

Robin Webb – Distinguished Service

Master Webb began training under the instruction of GM Kang Rhee in 1981 in the Art of PaSaRyu. He trained in this system with GM Rhee until 1993 when he had what he calls a “divine spiritual experience” and began working on the concept of “Disciples of Discipline”.

Over the years, Master Webb has trained in Hapkido, Aikido and Krav Maga while developing the concept of “Disciples of Discipline” into a system now known as “Curtana Martial Arts”, a blended system bringing the best of several disciplines into a single training regimen in Fort Collins CO. He has also established the “S.E.R.T” system for training church security teams, and provides personal protection services for well known Christian evangelists and music groups.

In 2016, Master Webb was certified as an Executive Protection Specialist through Krav Maga Tactical Training Options. He continues to train in traditional martial arts under GM Wayne Carman of TCB Martial Arts in Branson MO.

Ming Xie – Distinguished Master of the Year

Master Xie and her husband, Master Su, have been teaching Tai Chi for more than 30 years. Students from all walks of life respect their expertise and experience in this Art. Master Xie and her husband both have direct teaching from Chen Village Master Chen Zhenglei.

With more than 100 students, Master Xie and her husband develop each student and promote health in San Antonio. They also share Chinese medicine to wheelchair-bound seniors to



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improve their health. Respect, self-discipline and long-term relationships are virtues they seek to impart to their students, and to the people of San Antonio through many free events to promote Chinese Arts in their community.

Master Xie is the director of the U.S. Chenzheng Lei Tai Chi International Promotion Organization.

Timothy Yancey – Distinguished Service

A black belt in Kenpo Karate, Sensei Yancey has been privileged to train with several Masters and Grandmasters during his martial arts career. He is a true Ambassador of the martial arts, serving as a volunteer coach and teaching martial arts in the “Stomp the Bullying” program in Palm Beach County. He is a volunteer medic for SAVES Ambulance and an aircraft crash rescue medic for the Civil Air Patrol. Sensei Yancey is also a volunteer with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s office’s Emergency Response Team and currently works as a Palm Beach County Ranger.

GOLD

Lee Allen – Golden Life Award

With more than 50 years in the martial Arts, GM Allen is one of the early students of the legendary David German, who opened Ed Parker’s first Kenpo Karate dojo in Las Vegas. Incorporating wrestling, judo and Chinn Na into their Kenpo training, the Art of Tai Karate was born. GM Allen’s accomplishments include appearing as an Uke for David German on prime time martial arts TV show airing on Channel 5 Las Vegas, and the first Master of a karate club at a major university, in 1967, at Nevada Southern University. GM Allen has 3 Masters, a PhD in Political Science, a JD in Law from the University of Houston, Texas and is a tenured professor at Valdosa State University in Georgia.

Manuel Arcos – Golden Life Award

Mr. Arcos is the Chairman of the Universal Kajukenbo Association, chairman of the Shadow Fist Federation, active member of the K.S.D.I. Black belt Society and active member of the



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World Butokukai Federation with a charter to the WBF. Master Arcos was promoted to Professor 8th degree Black belt in 2000 and to Grand Master in 2007 by Sijo Emperado. Manuel has trained and taught Martial arts for 50 years.

David Bailey – Lifetime Achievement Award

David Bailey is nothing short of a living legend in Oklahoma, known for his passion for law enforcement and the martial arts. He has trained in TKD, Moo-Du-Kwon, Kempo, Jujitsu, Combat Hopkido, Krav Maga and other styles. Mr. Bailey has received “Top Cop”, “Police Office of the Year” and “Police Officer of the Decade” distinctions, among others.

In his 50 years of experience, he has dedicated himself not only to furthering and honing his own skills, but imparting that knowledge into the lives of others. To those he has worked alongside as an officer, and those he has trained as an instructor, he is considered a man who is humble, gracious, talented and passionate – and one who pushes people to become the best they can be.

Robert Blackstone – Innovator of the Year

A 9th Dan in the art of Tae Kwon Do, GM Blackstone is a senior student and instructor of GM Wayne Carman. He is also ranked in Pasa Ryu, Shotokan, Kobudo, Judo and Kuk Sool Wan. GM Blackstone is a recipient of the “Disciple of Discipline” Award from the legendary Kang Rhee and has received an AAU Presidential Sports Award for Tae Kwon Do. He continues to innovate through constantly growing as a martial artist, and challenging his students to do likewise.

Ike Crossman – Golden Life Award

Professor Crossman has been an inspiration in the Joplin area, something he’s become wherever he has lived in the past 50 years. A positive influence in the lives of others, he is known for his selflessness and his passion for adding value to the lives of others. Professor Crossman holds a 7th Dan in Makaihi Ohana Lua and has holds black belt rank in several other styles. A veteran, he has received the coveted VFW Award for his service and is a previous inductee into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame. Professor Crossman currently teaches at his school, Hawaiian I-Kaika (pronounced E-Ky-Kah) / Joplin Krav Maga.



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Barbara Davis – Grandmaster Instructor of the Year

Training under the legendary Kang Rhee, GM Davis currently holds a 9th Dan in PaSa-Ryu and teaches this art at Davis Martial Arts in TN. She has been previously recognized as Instructor of the Year and Distinguished Grandmaster, and was inducted in the Pasa-Ryu Fighting Champions Society in 1983 and the Pasa-Ryu Forms Champions Society in 1984. She joined the International Martial Arts Council of America’s Grandmasters Council in 2017.

Dr. David Dunn – Living By Example

Dr. David Dunn received his 5th Dan in Shinsei Hapkido under Master Joseph Lumpkin. He has also trained in Shotokan, Goshin Jujitsu and Aikido. He is associated with Koshinkai Bujutsu Kai, the World Kido Federation, Shinsei Hapkido Federation. Dr. Dunn also leads Karate for Christ International, a faithbased martial arts organization dedicated to promoting faith and family values in addition to quality martial arts instruction. He started his first Karate for Christ ministry in 2001 and took the reigns as the leader of Karate for Christ upon the death of its founder, Dr. Darryl Covington, and is also a deacon at South Haven Baptist Church. He is a recipient of the USMAHOF’s “Global Humanitarian” award in 2016.

Dan Frazier – Golden Life Award

Mr. Frazier has more than 45 years of learning and teaching. A 9th Dan in Kajukenbo, he is affiliated with the Kajukenbo Self Defense Institute of Hawaii, Kajokembo Self-Defense Systems International, International Kajukenbo Association, American Kajukenbo Association, Guam United Martial Arts Association, Okinawa Karate Referee’s Association, Black Dragon’s Society, and Silent Warrior’s Fighting System. GM Frazier has practiced a diverse style of martial arts including Gung Fu, Tai Chi, Okinawan Kenpo, Goju Ryu, Kyokishin Kai, Kali, Arnis, Escrima, American Kenpo, Tae Kwon Do, ju-Jitsu, Sambo and Western Boxing.

Mr. Frazier was recognized as the founder of the Guam Defensive Tactics System and Guam Kajukenbo Association and a regional representative of Emperado’s KSDI for Guam and Okinawa. In 1995, Mr. Frazier was appointed head coach of the Guam Olympic Committee for the South Pacific Games held in Tahiti. In 2010, he was inducted as Grandmaster of the Year. He is a member of the IMAC Grandmaster’s Council and is current chief instructor of Frazier Martial Arts Academy in Oklahoma City OK.



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Gabriel Green – Distinguished Grandmaster

A well-versed martial artist, holding degrees in multiple Korean and Chinese systems, GM Green is a “forever student” – always learning, exploring and training. Known by his peers as a wealth of martial arts knowledge, but also a man of great intellect, humor and natural talent, GM Green is a humble man who is always focused on helping others. He teaches at the United Studio of Self Defense Foster City and is a former USMAHOF inductee.

Rodrigo Antunes Guimaraes – Honor Award

Gokor Chivichyan, co-founder of Hayastan MMA, says of this inductee, *“He is one of the most technical and talented fighters I have ever met in my life. He is a 5th degree black belt in BJJ and the only martial artist in the world to also hold a prestigious Black Belt in my system (Jiu-Jitsu, Grappling, Sambo and Judo) simultaneously. He is one of the best competitors of his generation.”* His partial list of accomplishments include being the current UFC Grappling Champion, Metamoris World Cup of Grappling Veteran, 2X JJWF World Champion, 3X American Nationals Champion, Fight2Win and FiveGrappling Veteran and was ranked 4th in his division as a BJJ Champion in 2017. He has two successful schools in Southern California and travels the world spreading the martial arts. A man of great talent, and an honorable man in and out of the ring.

Vernon Dale Harris – Golden Life Award

GM Harris began studying combat arts in 1961, initially training in boxing from his father, a formal Navy boxer with a record of 28-4. From there, he pursued training in martial arts and excelled in wrestling, becoming a widely recruited collegiate wrestler. Training under renowned kickboxer, Dale “Apollo” Cook in 1980, GM Harris earned his first black belt ranking. He went on to compete in the PKA and WKA he retired with a record of 17-7-2.

In 1991, he was seeded in the World Championships in Las Vegas after winning the Grands at the WKA Sport Karate Nationals. GM Harris now continues teaches alongside his son at Fishinhawk’s World Championship Karate where he holds a 10th Dan in Taekwondo, along with black belt ranks in Kenpo and American Karate. He is a veteran missionary to Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula where he helps provide medical care, housing, food, water and hope to the needy.



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Christopher Hawkins – Honor Award

Nominated by GM Pete Mills, Christopher Hawkins is an 8th Dan in the Art of Isshin-Ryu/Jiu-Jitsu. He is also a Krav Maga Instructor with the International Krav Maga Association. He began his training in 1973 and served proudly in the U.S. Army from 1977-1981 both stateside and overseas. Master Hawkins has trained continuously with GM Mills since 1980 and has accompanied him on international missions trips to train military and churches. Today, he continues to teach and train children and adults, as well as train local churches, military and law enforcement in defensive tactics. Master Hawkins is a man of dignity, respect and honor with numerous awards to his long list of accomplishments.

Fernando Limon – Golden Life Award

GM Limon is considered a “living legend” in South Texas. As a Junior Blackbelt in 1977, he won the prestigious Ed Parker Internationals in Long Beach, CA and continued on a historic pace to rack up many wins during his tournament career, both in the United States and Mexico. In 2010, GM Limon was inducted into the World Pugilist Hall of Fame the Sport Karate Museum in 2015. His instructor is well-known GM Salvador “Sal” Narvaez, a famous fighter. Known as an honorable, yet humble man, he continues to support the martial arts to this day. He is also a member of the South Texas Karate Black Belt Association.

Harold McVey – Pioneer Award

Master McVey has served his country as a Marine, a member of U.S. intelligence and a longtime student of the martial arts. He has instructed many in the martial arts and government agencies in the Combat Arts and dedicates much of his free time to teaching students with a particular attention to detail and doing things right. In his 57 years in the martial arts, he has trained with the Tracy Brothers and other well-recognized names in the industry. He holds a 7th Dan in Isshinryu and 5th Dan in Combat Martial Arts. He currently the representing U.S. Ambassador for the Okinawan Isshinryu Karate Kubudo Association and has produced a number of very fine students and great black belt instructors.



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Don Padgett – Golden Life Award

With over 44 years in the martial arts, GM Padgett is giving back what he has been given – the opportunity to train under 3 Grandmasters who instilled in him a sense of dedication and confidence, and who helped him find and cultivate the martial arts spirit within that makes one a champion in life.

Holding a 10th Dan in Taekwondo and 4th Dan black belt rankings in GoJu and Kyohushin-Kai, GM Padgett is the consummate martial arts instructor who seeks to impart wisdom and knowledge into his students and instructors. At the ripe young age of 62, he is still growing, still training and still learning as his lifelong martial arts journey continues. GM Padgett teaches at Padge Matis Hale Karate in Wewoka OK.

Dan Norman Roberts – Lifetime Achievement Award

A member of the Black Knight Karate Association, GM Roberts has been training for 56 years and holds a 10th Dan in Taekwondo and a 9th Dan in Tang Soo Do. He was promoted by Sr. Grandmaster Hong Sun Lee of the Korean Taekwondo Yong Moo Kwan Federation. His training has also extended to include Cheung Song Won, Wado Ryu, Hapkido, and Soo Bak Kee. He teaches in Kileen TX at Self-Defense America, where he excels in creating positive life change in those under his teaching.

He was recognized as Founder of the Year by the USMAHOF in 2014, and has numerous other commendations for his contributions to the global martial arts community. His reach includes Germany, Panama, Korea, Turkey, Pery, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Japan and Iraq.

With over 22 years of active military service, GM Roberts has received over 25 medals or commendations for distinguished service. He's also been privileged to host two TV shows for kids, "Self Defense for Kids" and "We Do It For Kids".



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Ron Turchi – Pioneer Award

One of the pioneers of bringing the art of Taekwondo to Arkansas, GM Turchi is a pillar in the Arkansas martial arts community. After a distinguished tournament career, GM Turchi has spent more than 5 decades raising up, equipping and empowering a host of black belt instructors to continue to teach and train the next generation of martial arts students and instructors.

Recently honored at a gathering of Taekwondo pioneers in Little Rock AR, GM Turchi was among those who received a special commendation from Mayor Mark Stodala for his years of service to the people of Arkansas and his efforts to help establish Taekwondo's permanent presence in the state. He remains an "in-demand" guest at black belt promotions, tournaments and seminars across the U.S. and despite some health issues, logs thousands of miles each year to continue to support his instructors and their students and continue to add value to their lives. GM Turchi remains a man of great humility and grace – and a true model black belt excellence.

Kris Wilder – Lifetime Achievement Award

Kris Wilder is an award winning author of more than 20 martial arts books, many of which have shaped how practitioners think about traditional karate, bunkai and the generation of striking power. His titles include "The Way of Kata", "The Way of Sanchin Kata", "The Way to Black Belt" and "Sensei Mentor Teacher Coach". Since 1976, Mr. Wilder trained formally with the likes of Kenji Yamada, Shihan John Roseberry and Hiroo Ito while earning black belt ranks in Taekwondo, Kodokan Judo and GoJu-Ryu Karate. When he's not writing, Mr. Wilder shares his deep knowledge of martial arts as owner and Head Instructor of West Seattle Karate Academy. He also produces a weekly podcast with over 300 shows recorded. He is a lifetime member of the United States Judo Federation and a member of Heikosai Yudanasha Kai.



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Andrew Wilson – Humanitarian

Kung Fu Master, Andrew Wilson began his martial arts training at the age of 16. He also became a national gymnastics champion and went on to train in Wrestling, Karate, Taekwondo and Kickboxing. Master Wilson brought the first “All Black Belt” completion to national television, “The American Black Belt Championship” and “Stan Wit’s World Championships from Las Vegas”.

Wilson, a student of natural medicine, perfected “Cellular Tea” which has earned him an audience with Pope John Paul II for the tea’s medicinal qualities that have demonstrated remarkable healing properties.

Wilson was the spokesperson for the World of Bruce Lee Museum in Hollywood and spearheaded a campaign with Linda Lee to secure a star for Bruce Lee on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which was unveiled in April, 1993. He is currently working with Linda Lee to form a coalition of like-minded martial artists to establish a Bruce Lee Museum in Seattle WA.

Master Wilson has authored six books and was featured in Black Belt Magazine’s Millennial Issue: “Influential Masters of the Century”.

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Leon Rogers: Adding Value to Others

Leon Rogers is the Senior Vice President of Operations at Century Martial Arts, and if you’re a member of the Century Martial Arts School Network, you know first-hand how busy this individual stays. His duties at Century include product development, purchasing, manufacturing and quality assurance, and he’s been with the organization for 34 years. A common phrase among martial arts schools and instructors who know Mr. Rogers is this: “*Leon is just a GREAT guy, who is passionate about the martial arts!*” True leaders in life add value to others, and this is something Mr. Rogers embodies in his role at Century Martial Arts.



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PLATINUM

Don Ackerman: Lifetime Achievement Award (Posthumously)

Grandmaster Ackerman was a pioneer in the martial arts in the state of Oklahoma. Recognized by the Oklahoma Martial Arts Alliance, American Self-Defense Association and Harding's International Hall of Fame, GM Ackerson committed over 40 years of his life to martial arts training and was known for his many community contributions. He was a Grandmaster in the Art of Goju-Ryu and Jiu-Jitsu and leaves behind his beloved wife, Evonne Ackerman, and a legacy of students and instructors who continue his work at Trinity Martial Arts.

Century Martial Arts – Distinguished Martial Arts Supplier

Century is a company of martial artists founded more than 40 years ago by Mr. Mike Dillard with the goal of providing martial arts students and professionals around the globe with top quality equipment. Working with leading martial artists and instructors from a range of styles has provided Century with a special understanding of how training gear should work. However their mission goes far beyond training bags and uniforms, they are committed to sharing the life-changing benefits of martial arts to every individual.

Mike Dillard – Visionary

Mike Dillard graduated from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science – Major in Accounting. While attending OSU, Mike studied and taught martial arts, which was the beginning of his 40 plus year legacy. A martial artist at heart, a businessman by nature, Mike is an 8th degree black belt in Taekwondo, Tang Soo Do, a 9th degree Kang Duk Won and a 8th degree in Chuck Norris's Chun Kuk Do system.

He founded Century Martial Art supply. Century has since become the world's largest supplier of martial arts products producing product lines for many martial arts styles.

Mike has competed in over 300 tournaments and matches. He is affiliated with numerous martial arts organizations including the United Fighting Arts Federation, Budo-Kai International, United States Martial Arts Association, World TaeKwonDo Federation, Martial



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Arts International Federation and United States Martial Arts Federation. He was a captain of the 1990 UFAF team that went to the USSR and was honored as Black Belt Magazines Man of the Year in 2011.

In 1999, he founded the Martial Arts Industry Association, which educates martial arts school owners and instructors to better teach, as well as run and manage their facilities connecting thousands of schools.

Mike's other endeavors have included professional kick boxing, TV and movie Stuntman, spear-fishing, scuba diving, mountain climbing, golf, hiking, skiing, biking and professional race car driver.

He is on the Oklahoma University Board of Advisors, a retired Professor from the University of Oklahoma, Price College of Business Entrepreneurial Business program and he is retired from the Screen Actors Guild.

Mike continues to train in the martial arts today. He teaches classes at Century's headquarters and also takes part in various martial arts competitions.

Mike Gassaway – Intentional Living

A man who wears many hats, Mike Gassaway has been a professional fighter, race car driver, combat private combat instructor, attorney and an actor. He is a World Land Speed Record holder and has been inducted onto the Rosa Parks Wall in Torrence CA. he is the recipient of the Criminal Lawyer of the Decade Award and has been awarded the Freedom Foundation's George Washington Honor Medal. He is also a Daytime Emmy Award Winner.

Mr. Gassaway obtained his black belt in Taekwondo under Mike Anderson and is a member of the Black Belt Karate Association. He was instrumental in forming The Professional Karate Association and produced the first ever World Professional Karate Championships, which was hosted by Telly Savalas (Kojack) in 1974 and televised on The Wide World of Sports. This was the beginning of professional full contact karate. Joe Lewis, Bill Wallace, Jeff Smith and Howard Jackson were among the fighters.



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He did the legal work and counseled Mike Dillard in forming Century Martial Arts Supply, which is now the largest martial arts equipment manufacturer in the world. His movie and TV appearances include HBO's Westworld, Dallas, The Magnificent Seven, Machete, Longmire, Friday Night Lights and Thrilla in Manilla.

Pete Mills – Living Legend

Grandmaster Pete Mills is not only an accomplished martial artist. He is a man of great faith, character, insight, passion and conviction. Since 1967, he has operated the Pete Mills School of Karate and trained several hundred students to Black Belt in Isshinryu over the years. He has appeared on TV, travelled extensively throughout the United States and abroad, teaching martial arts, defensive tactics and self-defense. He is a staff member of the Martial Arts University, serving as the Senior Advisor for Isshinryu Karate. He is also an instructor with the International Krav Maga Association, teaching defensive tactics to law enforcement, government agencies and the military here and abroad and credentialed as a VIP security specialist with Tactical Training Options. He holds a 10th Dan in the art of Isshinryu under Tatsuo Shimabuku, and has ranked in Small Circle Jiu-Jitsu, BJJ, and Eskrima.

GM Mills is an Army Veteran, serving in Vietnam where he trained with the Korean Ranger Division. He received five campaign stars as a decorated soldier and also received the Army Commendation Medal for his service. He has also been previously associated with Chuck Norris in the "Kick Drugs Out of America" Campaign, and is known for his service to his community and to his church, traveling as a missionary on multiple occasions to help those less fortunate.

GM Mills is a long-time member of the International Martial Arts Council of America, and has served on the IMAC Grandmasters Council for many years. He is a regular instructor at the IMAC National Training Camp and has been inducted into 11 Hall of Fame organizations. GM Mills is well-loved by his family, his students, and to all who have had the privilege to get to know this amazing man.



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Dan Netherland – Lifetime Achievement Award (Posthumously)

A long-time IMAC member, 10th Dan in Aiki-Bujutsu and a former Head of our Grandmaster's Council, Dr. Dan Netherland passed away April 14, 2018. Designated by the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame as a "Living Legend", Dr. Dan was known for his feats of strength, as well as his wit and wisdom. Diagnosed with polio at the age of 3, Dr. Dan was not expected to ever walk again. In 1954, he began taking martial art lessons and found himself the only kid in a class full of police officers and law enforcement personnel. As he trained, the effects of polio diminished.

In 2002, Dr. Dan set a Ripley's world record, breaking 3014 pounds of concrete in 17 seconds he went on to break other records, including breaking 2000 pounds of 1200 psi poured cement in a single strike, 21 red commercial house bricks in a single strike as well as breaking 480 pounds of free standing poured cement through a Class 3A bulletproof vest in a single strike – making Dr. Dan the Undisputed World Breaking Champion.

Dr. Dan was a pastor, a family man, and well-loved by the martial arts community. He was the Director of Training and ran the IMAC Grandmasters Council for many years. Dr. Dan held multiple Guinness World records for feats of strength. His son, Chad, who carries on the family's "feats of strength" lineage, was featured as one of Stan Lee's "Superhumans" in the popular TV series.

Andrei Popoandopoulo – Distinguished Combat Arts Instructor

Andrei Popandopoulo is a world class instructor and recipient of multiple awards and achievements in Sambo, Judo and Mixed Martial Arts. He began his career in 1978 in the Olympic Development School of Moscow Sambo 70, one of the Soviet Union's most prestigious schools. He graduated in 1981 with the title Master of Sport in Sambo of the USSR and was awarded a 4th Dan black belt in Judo. From 1983- 1985, Andrei served in the Special Forces of the Soviet Army. He graduated from the State Central Institute of Physical Education in Moscow in 1990 with a dual degree in coaching & physical training and in sports medicine.

After graduation, Andrei became a Professor of Physical Education and was the judo and sambo head coach at the Moscow State University of Civil Engineering. Since 1991, after



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immigrating to the USA, Andrei has worked as a personal trainer and self defense instructor. In 1993, he obtained a massage license and opened the International Massage Therapy Center and from 1995 to 2006 he was the massage therapist for the Boston Bruins. In 2007, Andrei founded Sambo 7 and in 2009, his school became champions of the USA Open Sambo Championships.

Alexandr Popeskou – Distinguished Combatives Instructor

Alex is a veteran of Airborne Special Forces (VDV) (Warrant Officer, Instructor Close Quarter Combat Tactics) from 1985 – 1992. He is President & CEO of BERKOOT International Protection Agency and the Berkoot Training Center, both headquartered in Sarasota, Florida since 2003. Alex is also the Chief Instructor of the Berkoot Training Center. He an honors graduate of the Moldova College of Physical Education (1984) and of the Academy of Bodyguards (ESI 2000 USA) in Aspen, Colorado. A practitioner and teacher of the martial arts for over 45 years, Alex is a graduate of over 55 formal military, security, and martial arts training courses.

He has also studied Karate, Sambo, Tae Kwon Do, boxing, and Systema Russian Martial Art (since 2001), a unique combat system taught only to the most elite combat units of Soviet/Russian Special Forces and to bodyguards of the highest level. Integrating bodyguard protection principles and RMA Systema, Alex has developed a new and very necessary system – “Systema Personal Protection by Alex Popeskou.” This system is designed to give people the tools to recognize, prevent, and avoid being victims of violent crime, as well as methods for keeping them and their families safe.

Since immigrating to the USA in 1997, Alex has worked as a professional in the following areas:

- Certified Protection Specialist
- Certified Private Investigator
- Certified Life Coach
- Certified Russian Martial Arts Instructor The System
- International Protection Consultant (Moldova, CIS)
- Military Close Quarter Combat Instructor



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Clarence “Daddy-O” Smith – Living Legend

Recently inducted as a History General in Houston at the Sport karate Museum, GM Smith has been a force, and a fixture, in over 40 years of tournament competition. In addition to teaching at his school, Karate For Your Body, “Daddy-O” Smith has earned and achieved almost every award you can imagine – yet remains a man who is on a quest to learn, to get better and to give back for all that has been given to him. A regular instructor at the IMAC National Training Camp, “Daddy-O” Smith is a man who sets the example for others to follow and is just as concerned about teaching right from wrong as he is technique or fighting strategy.

An honorable man with several educational degrees who had nothing given to him, and worked hard for every accolade he has earned. “Daddy-O” Smith has chosen to take the road less traveled, and invites others to join him on this journey through life. A true gentleman, with wit and humor, who makes learning fun, GM Smith holds an 9th Dan in Tang Soo Do and Taekwondo under GM James Cummings. He has also trained in Krav Maga and Shotokan.

Mark Shuey Sr. “The Canemaster” : Ambassador

Starting Martial Arts in 1970 in Tang Soo Do, he received his 1st degree Black Belt in 1978 under Master Harold Gross, Master Dennis Itchakawa and Master Neil Citron, and started teaching the martial arts in 1979. Head of Family Sokeship Council, the Independent Karate School Association, and the International Martial Arts Association. In 2002 Mr. Shuey was promoted 10th Degree Black Belt for Cane Master. Mark is also the Head of Cane Instruction and Nevada State Director for the International Combat Hapkido Federation, and is certified by World Black Belt as a Certified Instructor for their "America in Defense" program.

Because of his love for the Cane, his weapon of choice, he was one of the founders and sole owner of "Cane Masters". This company has introduced the Cane to a greater audience in the martial arts community, as well as senior citizens and the physically challenged. Furthermore, Mark travels throughout the world giving seminars on using the cane for self-defense as well as exercise.



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Shuey formed the Cane Masters International Association for students of the cane and to certify instructors for his system, and is currently focusing his attention on teaching senior citizens, the military, police departments, and the disabled.

Oleg Taktarov – Martial Arts Excellence

Russian born actor and former MMA fighter, Oleg Taktarov entered UFC-5 as “The Russian Bear”. His infectious smile captured the hearts of many in the audience. Despite a knee injury, he competed where he lost to the eventual champion, Dan Severen.

Not content to having competed and lost, Oleg returned to compete in UFC 6 where he bested all comers, taking out legendary Tank Abbott in the finals to be named the UFC 6 Champion. He was the runner-up in the UFC Ultimate Ultimate 1995 tournament, losing to Dan Severen on points. Oleg fought friend and training partner Ken Shamrock in UFC 7 only to have the match be declared a “Draw” after going into overtime with neither fighter being able to gain a tactical advantage.

In 2003, Oleg was named as one of the Top 10 Most Popular Fighters in the history of the UFC in a poll taken at UFC 45.

After retiring from mixed martial arts, Oleg found success as an actor, starring in the movies “15 Minutes”, “Bad Boys II”, “44 Minutes - The North Hollywood Shootout”, “Air Force One” and the 2002 version of “Rollerball”. He also made TV appearances on Season 3 of “Alias”, and the “NCIS” Season 5 finale. He also appeared in “National Treasure” and on an episode of “Miami Vice”. Oleg has also released several instructional Sambo videos. He’s also appeared in several Russian productions as well.

Bill “Superfoot” Wallace – Ambassador

Bill Wallace began his historic career as a wrestler in high school. He began studying Judo in 1966 and after a injury to his right knee, left the Art and began training in Shorin Ryu. Wallace entered the world of full-contact fighting, winning 23 consecutive professional fights between 1974 and 1980, becoming the Professional Karate Association middleweight world full-contact karate champion and retiring undefeated. He was known for his lighting left leg



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kicks, especially his roundhouse and hook kick, earning him the name “Superfoot” from PKA President, Don Quine.

Wallace has a Bachelor’s in physical education and a Master’s in Kinesiology from Memphis State University, where he also taught karate, judo, wrestling and weight lifting. He was the inaugural play-by-play commentator for the Ultimate Fighting Championship Pay-Per-View event in 1993 alongside Kathy Long and NFL Hall of Famer, Jim Brown.

Wallace oversees an organization of karate schools under his “Superfoot” system and continues to teach seminars and workshops here in the United States and abroad. He was elected to Black Belt Magazine’s Hall of Fame in 1973 as “Tournament Karate Fighter of the Year” and again in 1978 as “Man of the Year”. He has been a fixture at the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame, and a crowd favorite at the IMAC National Training Camp. He continues a relationship with Century Martial Arts, and has a number of movie credits including “A Force of One” with friend and martial arts legend, Chuck Norris and “The Protector” with Jackie Chan.