



2021 Inductees

Youth

Alexzander Cloonan

Junior Instructor of the Year

Training under the tutelage of GM James Goodwin, Mr. Cloonan is a Junior Black Belt in the art of Tae-Kwon-Do and is assisting with the Kid's Classes at 4-Mile Hill Tae-Kwon-Do in Searcy. AR. He dreams of the day he too can become a Grandmaster in Tae-Kwon-Do.

Charlie Grubb

Student of the Year

Training in Isshin-Ryu and Ju-Jitsu under Grandmaster Pete Mills for the past 2-1/2 years, Mr. Grubb has demonstrated a passion for learning and a don't quit attitude. He enjoys helping other students master what they are learning from GM Mills. Mr. Grubb loves science and after graduating high school, plans to serve his country in the United States Air Force flying jet airplanes.

Sadie Lillard

Junior Instructor of the Year

A junior black belt under GM James Goodwin, Ms. Lillard is an accomplished sports competitor with several first-place trophies to her credit. After attending a Women-Safe Self-Defense event at the IMAC National Training Camp, she taught a weekly self-defense course to students between the ages of 7 and 14 who were all part of a local Home School Cooperative. She assists GM Goodwin with classes at 4-Mile Hill Taekwondo in Searcy AR even as she continues her own training.



2021 Inductees

Sophis Matthews

Female Competitor of the Year (Sambo)

At the age of 10, Ms. Matthews started training with GM Andrei Popandoupoulo. At age 12, she began competing in Judo, Sambo, and Wrestling, winning every Judo match in Massachusetts. Between 2015 and 2018, she was a 4-time USA Sambo Open Champion, the only girl in her co-ed division to defeat all the competitors, male and female. Ms. Matthews is also the first female to become a Master of Sambo at the age of 17.

Autumn Rose Neary

Female Competitor of the Year (Shotokan)

The girl walks into the ring with a smile, and then she beats you. That's what her instructor, GM Janis Fraley, says about Ms. Neary. A Junior Black Belt in Shotokan, she's always ready to work out, teach, or to lend a helping hand when another student is struggling. Ms. Neary is a rated OKA and SWAT Competitor who is known for never backing down and never giving up.

Hanna Perez

Assistant Junior Instructor of the Year

Ms. Perez is one of the original students from Master Jose Ramirez' Dojang. She had the privilege of becoming Christian Taekwondo League's first Junior Blackbelt and Kohai. Ms. Perez assists children and adults in kata, weapons, as well as hand and foot techniques. She was recognized as Student of the Year in 2017.



2021 Inductees

Bronze

Van Adams

Assistant Tactical Instructor of the Year

Van Adams holds the rank of Expert Level 3 in Krav Maga under Professor Marty Cale. Mr Adams has assisted Mr. Cale in teaching Krav Maga Tactical Classes for more than 10 years. He has assisted in teaching Hand to Hand Combat, Israeli Combat Shooting, Defensive Tactics for Law Enforcement, Tactical Driving, Hostage Situations, Anti-Car Jacking and VIP Executive Protection Courses. Mr. Adams is also the Training Manager for Krav Maga Security, where Van oversees all security training that is regulated by the State of Arkansas.

Briles "B.C." Andrews

Instructor of the Year

Holding a 1st Dan in Kombat Jiu-Jitsu, Mr. Andrews is an assistant instructor at Beebe Martial Arts and 501 Fight Club. He is also a Combat Arts Inspector with the Arkansas State Athletic Commission and an Assistant instructor in Krav Maga.

John Anglin

Outstanding Tactical Instructor

A Level 3 Instructor in Krav Maga, Mr. Anglin is an instructor at Dark Horse Krav Maga under Tony McCallum. He has also trained in Shotokan. Mr. Anglin is also an instructor at Mid-America Safety Services, teaching tactical medical and first aid.



2021 Inductees

Noah Bezoni

Black Belt of the Year

At 18 years of age, Mr. Bezoni has demonstrated a maturity well beyond his years and a willingness to push himself and those he is training with. He currently holds a 1st degree Black Belt in Tae-Kwon-Do under his father, Master Brad Bezoni, and a blue belt in the style of Kuk-Sool-Won. In the Fall of 2021 Noah will begin classes at Lone Star college, where he has been accepted into the Honors College and awarded the Presidential Scholar's Award, given to less than 150 students nationwide.

Bobby Blakey

Master of the Year

A versatile martial artist, Mr. Blakey holds a 6th Dan in Tae-Kwon-Do and received a Kru in Muay Thai directly from Master Toddy in Bangkok. He also holds a 1st Dan in Ju-Jitsu and Kobudo. Mr. Blakey was inducted into the Masters Hall of Fame in 2016 and is a member of the Martial Arts History Museum.

Michael Brennan

Kickboxing Legend

A former PKA U.S. Welterweight Champ, Mr. Brennan was considered by his competitors as a formidable foe. He has received the prestigious Joe Lewis Eternal Warrior Award and has been recognized by the Sport Karate Museum as a Kickboxing History General. Mr. Brennan also holds a 6th Dan rank in the art of Kenpo under GM Dennis Nackord.

Zach Brine

Instructor of the Year

An Associate Instructor in Krav Maga under Todd Mills, Mr. Brine is also a practitioner of Isshin-Ryu and Ju-Jitsu under GM Pete Mills. He is also an assistant instructor at Battle Rock Krav Maga. Diligent in his studies, Mr. Brine is always eager to learn, and to share his knowledge with others.



2021 Inductees

Jason Brooks

Distinguished Ninjutsu Instructor

A master in the art of Bushin-Kai Ninjutsu, Mr. Brooks is a Marine Corps martial arts instructor and a practitioner of Tang-Soo-Do, Karate, Krav Maga, and Haganah. He is also been named an Ambassador to the Sports Karate Museum by Professor Gary Lee.

Exer Caraballo

Distinguished Kajukembo Instructor

Holding an 8th Dan in Kajukembo Kempo Karate under GM Adam Delacruz, Mr. Caraballo has been training for more than 46 years. He also holds a 3rd Dan Black Belt in Shuri-Ryu under Hanshi John Pachivas Sr. Mr. Caraballo is a member of the Kajukembo Self-Defense Institute and American Kajukembo Association.

Wilfredo Caraballo

Kajukembo Excellence

An 8th Dan in Kajukembo Kempo Karate under GM Adam Delacruz, Mr. Caraballo has been training for more than 46 years. He also holds a 3rd Dan Black Belt in Shuri-Ryu under Hanshi John Pachivas Sr. Mr. Caraballo is a member of the Kajukembo Self-Defense Institute and American Kajukembo Association.

Jwan Cater

Instructor of the Year

After going undefeated for four consecutive years as an under belt and maturing as a competitor and practitioner, Mr. Cater received a well-deserved black belt from his father, Master Thomas Cater in 2020. He now teaches at the Tobin Community Center in Boston and continues to model integrity and dedication.



2021 Inductees

Edward J. Chisholm III

Sambo Black Belt of the Year

Officer Chisholm is a local police officer, currently serving as a Defensive Tactics Instructor and Taser Instructor, as well as a member of the regional SWAT team. He has been training in Combat Sambo for 7 years and holds a black belt in Combat Sambo, Spetsnaz, and STS.

Zach Cochran

Instructor of the Year

Mr. Cochran is a Level 2 Associate Instructor in Krav Maga under Master Todd Mills and GM Pete Mills. He is currently a student and assistant instructor at Battle Rock Krav Maga in Knoxville, TN. Mr. Cochran was previously recognized as the International Instructor of the Year in 2019.

Kyle Craig

Distiniguished Combat Instructor

An Expert Instructor in Krav Maga under Professor Marty Cale, Mr. Craig teaches at Warriors Code Martial Arts. He also holds a 3rd Dan Black Belt in Bushido Kai Karate under Denny Holzbayer. Mr. Craig is a consummate D/T instructor with a passion to prepare his students for the challenges they may face on the street.

Aaron Dale

Aikido Instructor of the Year

A member of the Aikido World Alliance and holding a 4th Degree Black Belt in Aikido under Andrew Sato, Mr. Dale is a founding member and Chief instructor of Mid-South Aikido's three school locations. He has also trained in karate, Jiu-Jitsu, and American Combatives.



2021 Inductees

David Dempsey

Combat Sambo Instructor of the Year

Under the tutelage of Andrei Popandoupoulo, Mr. Dempsey has earned his 1st-Degree Black Belt in the Art of Combat Sambo. He also holds a 2nd Dan in Judo and Goju-Kai and a Brown Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Mr. Dempsey is a member of USA Sambo and Combat Sambo Spetinaz SA.

Jon Eaton

Instructor of the Year

A 4th-degree black belt in the Jeff Speakman Kenpo System, Mr. Eaton also has a black belt in Kung-Fu and a green belt in Choy-Lifut. He teaches at Golden Tiger Karate where his students say he is the “real deal”. Mr. Eaton treats his students as “family” and teaches them the value of servant leadership.

Lancing England

Iaido Instructor of the Year

Training under Master Iaido Instructor Dale Kirby, Sr., Mr. England received his 8th-degree rank in Iaido in June of this year. He has also trained in the Arts of Isshin-Ryu, where he holds a 7th Dan rank. He is a member of the World Sokeship Council and has received numerous commendations for his years of martial arts service.

Al Farris

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Not only a well-respected Grandmaster with a 10th Dan in Shaolin Kung Fu and a 9th Dan in Taekwondo, Mr. Farris serves the State of Kentucky as a distinguished law enforcement professional, where he has been recognized as the Kentucky Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. A dedicated public servant, Mr. Harris serves not only his community but fellow officers as a Defensive Tactics Instructor.



2021 Inductees

Dylan Fletcher

Tactical Firearms Master Instructor

A recipient of the Bronze Medal by the Western U.S. Police & Fire Olympics and “Top Gun” honors in Action Pistol, Mr. Fletcher demonstrated why he is a highly decorated Firearms & Active Countermeasures and Special Operations Instructor. He also has a background in Shorin-Ryu, Kobu-Jitsu, Kendo, Judo, Boxing, Wrestling, Hwa-Do, and Tai-Chi.

Lucas Araujo Gomes

Martial Artist of the Year

A Brazillian Jiu-Jitsu Black Belt under Master Rodrigo Antunes, Mr. Gomes began training at the age of 10. 20 years later, he is winning nationally and internationally in Pan Am, Mixed Jiu-Jitsu Gi and No-Gi tournaments. He is currently the #1 ranked IBJJF black belt in the world in his division.

Bernie Gorak III

Outstanding Kenpo Instructor

An 8th Dan practitioner of Kenpo, Mr. Gorak is an accomplished school owner, competitor, and instructor. He also holds a 1st Dan in Renzuko Jiu-Jitsu and is ranked in Shorei-Ryu, Soo-Bak-Do, and Tae-Kwon-Do. He has been ranked nationally in the Top 10 in the PKC on three separate occasions. Mr. Gorak has also received numerous commendations, including induction into the International Kenpo Hall of Fame in 2013 by GM Al Tracy.

Robert Brent Grillo

Tactical Firearms Master Instructor

Growing up in rural California where skillful hunting was a right of passage, Mr. Grillo honed his talent as a marksman early on in life. During his tenure with the U.S. Marine Corps, he received extensive training in handguns, rifles, and other tactical weapons. After serving as a law enforcement officer, he was exposed to “less than lethal” force options, expanding his knowledge and skillset, later named Officer in Charge of the marksmanship program for the California Cadet Corps. After retiring in 2019, he continues to offer civilian tactical firearms training.



2021 Inductees

Scott Dale Grubb

Leadership Award

Mr. Grubb honed his leadership skills serving in the navy Reserve and later in active duty in Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom. After a drunk driver ended his military career, he joined the Knox County Sheriff's Office where he served with distinction for 11 years. He is active in his church, serving people in their community in need. He currently trains with GM Pete Mills in Isshin-Ryu and Ju-Jitsu.

Loretta Hallmark

Master of the Year

With over 30 years of experience in the martial arts, 26 of those in the art of Taekwondo, Ms. Hallmark is the lead instructor at Impact Martial Arts and Fitness. She holds an 8th Dan in Taekwondo, and has studied Tang Soo Do, hapkido, Ju-Jitsu, Kajukenbo, and Shorin-Ryu. She is also the vice-president of the International Taekwondo Confederation and former Hall of Fame inductee.

Mark Paul Harris

Instructor of the Year

A 3rd-degree black belt in Tae-Kwon-Do under GM James Goodwin, Mr. Harris is a member of the teaching staff at 4-Mile Hill Tae-Kwon-Do in Searcy AR. Since joining the school in 2019, he has modeled an example of what a great instructor should be. He is caring, compassionate, and passionate about teaching and modeling excellence in training and in life.

Chris Hawkins

Master of the Year

Mr. Hawkins has been an incredible resource to GM Pete Mills over the years, not only assisting in instruction in the classroom but traveling internationally with the Pete Mills Karate Demonstration Team. A consummate gentleman, Mr. Hawkins is a man of integrity and an incredible practitioner of Isshin-Ryu and Ju-Jitsu. He is also a certified Krav Maga instructor.



2021 Inductees

Cody Hoffstatter

MMA Coach of the Year

A professional mixed martial artist with a 2nd-degree black belt in Karate, Mr. Hoffstatter has a background in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Muay Thai. He has competed in wrestling, grappling, karate, sumo, kung-fu, winning at the highest level. Mr. Hoffstatter is now focusing on training MMA fighters at the 10 PATX Gym in Texas. His students have competed and won both in individual and team competitions. He also teaches workshops and seminars to share his knowledge of MMA strategy and tactics with other Gym owners and their students.

Jeffrey Hollins

Distinguished Kickboxer

Pastor Hollins holds a 9th-degree in So-Ryu, a 7th-degree in Tae-Kwon-Do, and a brown belt in Kenpo. He is a former K.I.C.K. Cruiserweight Kickboxing Champion, former W.K.C. Heavyweight Kickboxing Champion, former I.K.B.A. Super-Heavyweight World Kickboxing Champion, former W.K.A. North American Heavyweight Kickboxing Champion, and former F.F.K.A. U.S. Super Heavyweight Kickboxing Champion. He is currently the chief instructor at Hollins Martial Arts Academy in Manor TX.

Heather Hooks

Woman of the Year

A gold medalist in self-defense and weapons in 2017 and in 2018, Ms. Hooks is a formidable foe in the ring. A black belt under Master Travis Bratton, she has trained in Aikido, Hapkido, Hankido, Karate, and Tai-Chi. She is also proficient in the Direct Action Response Training System, holding a Level 3 instructor certification. She currently teaches Hapkido and D.A.R.T.S.



2021 Inductees

Michael Hornsby

Executive Competitor of the Year

Lead instructor at True Force Tae-Kwon-Do, Mr. Hornsby not only teaches but is an active competitor in the Texas Sport Karate Circuit, competing several times a month and consistently placing in the Top 3 in his division. In 2019, he placed first in the AOK Rankings in the state of Texas. Mr. Hornsby holds an 8th-degree rank in Tae-Kwon-Do and a 7th-degree in Tang-Soo-Do. He is also an active seminar instructor teaching sport fighting strategies and tactics.

Andrew Hotchkies

Black Belt of the Year

A 3rd-degree black belt in Shotokan, Mr. Hotchkies is an instructor at Janis Fraley's Shotokan Tigers Academy. One of his greatest joys is seeing the students learn and advance in karate while also gaining self-confidence and the life skills that will guide them through life. He is known as a constant encourager and motivator.

Bruce House

Excellence in Instruction

An instructor at Elite Combat Martial Arts, Mr. House is focused on transforming the lives of his students through excellence in instruction. He holds a 6th Dan in Shotokan under GM Dean Pyles and has also trained in Jiu-Jitsu, Hapkido, and Taekwondo. Mr. House is a member of the AMAA and has been inducted into this organization's Hall of Fame.



2021 Inductees

Todd Jonas

Empowering Youth

Master Jonas has an extensive and impressive fighting career. He competed in the prestigious Sabaki Challenge tournaments, earning a reputation as a tough competitor. From there, he turned his attention to empowering youth through the martial arts, with many of his students going on to have their own successful martial arts careers. In 2002, Mr. Jonas was honored to serve as an Olympic Torch Bearer, being selected for his outstanding dedication to teaching martial arts to At-Risk school-age students for free. He is also the author of "Stories and Concepts Within Martial Arts".

Timothy Paul Joyner

Jiu-Jitsu Instructor of the Year

Mr. Joyner trained in boxing, Okinawan Karate and Chinese Kenpo before finding his passion in Gracie Jiu-Jitsu. Now he is a 4th Dan in Yudanshakai Jiu-Jitsu and a 3rd Stripe Black Belt In Relson Gracie Jiu-Jitsu. He is a 2-time Hawaii State Jiu-Jitsu Champion and a 2-Time Silver Medalist at the Pan American Jiu-Jitsu Championships. Mr. Joyner was also on the Relson Gracie Competition Team that won the IBJJF's Team Gold in 1997. He has coached and trained several MMA champions and a number of his Jiu-Jitsu students have won State Championships. Mr. Joyner is the owner and head instructor of Gracie 601 in Meridian MS.

Nathan Kirby

MMA Announcer of the Year

Chief instructor at Rock City MMA, Mr. Kirby teaches Mixed Martial Arts, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and Taekwondo. Winning a World Championship in 2008 and a total of ten State Championships as a competitor, he knows how to win, and train others to do the same. His experience as a fighter and trainer has led him to become an in-demand MMA Ring Announcer and Commentator for several MMA Fighting Circuits. Mr. Kirby knows how to get an audience pumped up and engaged. His experience as a competitor and a coach allows him to ask great technical questions in his post-fight interviews.



2021 Inductees

Keith Klok

Distinguished TKD Instructor

Holding a 6th Dan in Taekwondo, Mr. Klok teaches at his school in Mt. Pleasant, SC. He has been previously honored by the AMAA and is a member of the Pan Am Haw-Moo-Kwan and KMA. He is also an Expert Level 1 Krav Maga Instructor under Professor Marty Cale and holds a Purple Belt in Gracie Jiu-Jitsu. Mr. Klok was recognized in 2017 as the Five Guys Coach of the Year.

Scott LaPanne

Combat Arts Operator of the Year

Mr. LaPanne is an International Combat Sambo Instructor under GM Andrei Popandoupoulo, founder of Sambo 7. With a strong wrestling, Judo, and Sambo background, boasting more than 1000 wins, he has gone on to become a 4-time national champion of Sambo and a 3-time U.S. Open Sambo Champion after recovering from a broken back while serving our nation as a Marine. He currently teaches Sambo, wrestling, and Combat Sambo at Sambo East in Massachusetts.

Chris Landino

Outstanding Taekwondo Instructor

A student of GM Rick Arnold, and an instructor at Arnolds Martial Arts, Mr. Landino holds a 4th-degree black belt in Taekwondo and has trained in Kobudo, Karate, Krav Maga, and Judo. He has received the International Martial Arts Medal of Merit, the AKATO Integrity Award, and the Jim Harrison Natural Fighter Award. Mr. Landino is considered by his peers as an exceptional instructor.

Michael Lassiter

Innovator of the Year

The concept of thinking outside the box led Mr. Lassiter to start Adapto Martial Arts. With a black belt in Ninjutsu and an instructor certification in Jeet Kune Do, he blended these styles to form an adaptive self-defense system to teach students to defend themselves. Innovative in concept, and practical in application, Adapto Martial Arts teaches an eclectic style of personal protection.



2021 Inductees

Kenneth Lowe

Distinguished Grandmaster

A member of Taylor Family Lua and the Black Knights Karate Association, Mr. Lowe has been an ardent fan of the martial arts for over 40 years. At the age of 72 he is still active in supporting the Oklahoma Sport Karate Circuit, judging and assisting promoters in helping their events run smoothly and fairly. He is a Grandmaster in the art of Shotokan under GM Janis Fraley and continues to assist with teaching at Shotokan Tigers Academy in Broken Arrow.

Rebecca McCallum

Female Instructor of the Year

A Level 6 Krav Maga Instructor under Professor Marty Cale, Ms. McCallum and her husband, Tony, co-teach at their school, Dark Horse Krav Maga. She is also a certified tactical medical and first aid instructor who teaches combat medical and medical survival skills to law enforcement and civilians through their company, Mid-America Safety Services.

Tony McCallum

Outstanding Krav Maga Instructor

A Level 6 Krav Maga Instructor under Professor Marty Cale, Mr. McCallum and his wife, Rebecca, co-teach combat martial arts at Dark Horse Krav Maga in Southaven MS. A combat medic by training, he founded Mid-America Safety Services to teach and train combat medical survival skills to law enforcement and civilians, as well as martial arts school owners and instructors.

Michael McNamara

Outstanding Karate Instructor

A 9th Dan in Goju-Shorei, Mr. McNamara is part of the Olympic Karate Studio and has been training for more than 53 years. He's a member of the United Martial Arts Association, the American Karate Association, and the PKA. Mr. McNamara has received numerous commendations as an instructor over the decades.



2021 Inductees

Christopher B. Marshall

Martial Artist of the Year

A 3rd degree black belt in Shotokan, Mr. Marshall is an instructor at Arlandus Chimney's School of Martial Arts in Woodville TX. He has also trained in Karate and Taekwondo. Adapting to life's competing demands, Mr. Marshall has learned to balance work, home, and dojo life, and focuses on empowering students to grow and see success.

Christopher J. Marshall

Overcoming Obstacles

Battling with Asperger's his entire life, Mr. Marshall discovered the transforming power of martial arts. Having earned his black belt in Shotokan, he is now on a mission to help other children who are coping with the same or similar developmental issues learn to use the martial arts to overcome their challenges. He teaches and trains at Arlandus Chimney's Schools of Martial Arts.

Janice Mills

Head Instructor of the Year

Ms. Mills and her husband, Todd, own and operate Battle Rock Krav Maga in Knoxville TN. Under the tutelage of GM Pete Mills and Professor Marty Cale, she and her husband have built one of the premier Krav Maga schools in the Southeast. Ms. Mills was previously recognized in 2019 by our Association for her work as an International Martial Arts Instructor.

Todd Mills

Master of the Year

Mr. Mills is a 7th Dan in Isshin-Ryu and Jiu-Jitsu with more than 30 years of training in the Arts. He is responsible for the advancement of numerous black belts in Isshin-Ryu and Jiu-Jitsu and for promoting this system internationally. Mr. Mills is an Expert Instructor in Krav Maga and co-owner of Battle Rock Krav Maga.



2021 Inductees

Brian Monaghan

Black Belt Excellence

A 5th-degree black belt in Taekwondo under GM Bill Mischke and a Krav Maga instructor under Professor Marty Cale, Mr. Monaghan is the chief instructor at Monaghan's Taekwondo and Krav Maga in Flower Mound TX. His school has received Top Honors by Living Magazine as "Best Martial Arts School in TX". Mr. Monaghan is also a 2-time recipient of the Friends of Children Award for his excellence in teaching martial arts to youth.

Kristen Lynn Neary

Female Competitor of the Year (Shotokan)

A 3rd-degree black belt in Shotokan, Ms. Neary's entire family has grown up training under GM Janis Fraley. An active OKA and SWAT competitor, she's known for her tenacity, but also for her passion to help her fellow students uplevel their results in competition. Ms. Neary is a teacher at a Christian developmental center for preschool children with special needs.

Robert Nichols

Man of the Year

Chief instructor of Union UTA Martial Arts, Mr. Nichols is described by his students as a man of dynamic energy and integrity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he quickly pivoted to online classes to support the organization's 300+ students who were unable to train in person. Mr. Nichols is a 7th Dan in Taekwondo, a 6th Dan in Ninjutsu, and a 1st Dan in Shotokan. He also a certified SAMI Combat Systems instructor and head instructor of SAMICS of New Jersey.

Triston Norsworthy

Combat Arts Operator of the Year

A 5th Dan in Shotokan under GM Janis Fraley, he pivoted his focus on reality-based martial arts and received his Instructor certification in Krav Maga under Professor Marty Cale. Known for his integrity and moral code of conduct, Mr. Norsworthy is also a Youth Minister and leads the Security detail at their church. He teaches Shotokan and Krav Maga at Shotokan Tigers in Broken Arrow OK.



2021 Inductees

Peak Fighting

SW Region MMA Promoter of the Year

The growing popularity of mixed martial arts has created a need for quality promotional venues to give “up-and-coming fighters” an opportunity to hone their skill in the cage. Peak Fighting has been intentional about creating a venue that not only showcases good fighters but allows the audience to enjoy a professionally run venue at shows they host throughout the Southwestern U.S.

Clinton Randolph

Martial Artist of the Year

A Nidan in Ryu-kyu Kempo, Mr. Randolph has trained in American Kempo, Kajukenbo, and Krav Maga. Considered by his senior instructors as a gifted, naturally talented student and an impeccable instructor, he is committed to constantly bettering himself and evolving in the execution of his Art. Mr. Randolph believes in fully developing high-quality martial artists in order to perpetuate the lineage through future generations of students.

Thomas Riesselmann

Instructor of the Year (Kajukenbo)

Mr. Riesselmann has dedicated his time and knowledge teaching martial arts at the International Church of Las Vegas. He holds a 1st Dan rank in Kajukenbo Self Defense Systems under Professor Pasqual Urrabazo, his pastor, and teaches classes in his senior instructor’s absence.

David Cole Saugey

Krav Maga Instructor of the Year

Mr. Saugey is the owner and Head Instructor of Fayetteville Krav Maga and has been training in Krav Maga for 11 years. He holds an Expert Level 3 certification under Professor Marty Cale, and is the lead Krav Maga Instructor at the University of Arkansas, a certified Krav Maga D/T Instructor, and has trained in Israel with the IDF, Security Academy, and Counter-Terrorism Instructors.



2021 Inductees

Thomas Schlesinger

Martial Arts Influencer

After earning his black belt in Goju-Kai, Mr. Schlesinger was exposed to the world of tournament Karate. Becoming frustrated by the inconsistency in judging and scoring between various tournament venues, Mr. Schlesinger took a leading role in forming the Northern California Karate Referee's Association and helped to codify a standard set of rules for competition and a training program for officials.

Doyle Seiber

Grandmaster of the Year

A 9th Dan practitioner of Isshin-Ryu, Mr. Seiber has dedicated 40 years of his life to the mastery of this Art. He is the founder and Head Instructor of Seiber's Isshin-Ryu in Clinton TN. Mr. Seiber's attention to detail has led to a number of high-quality students coming out of his school to enjoy their own successful careers as teaching martial arts instructors.

James Edward Smith

Instructor of the Year (Tang Soo Do)

Starting as a student of GM Clarence "Daddy-O" Smith while in High School, Mr. Smith has continued his lifelong pursuit of black belt excellence as he's honed his Art of Tang Soo Do. Currently holding a 4th Dan under GM Walter Bryant and training at the Karate Institute of San Angelo, Mr. Smith has also taken time to serve in the U.S. Army National Guard, where he retired after 32 years of faithful service.

Steve Sosa

Outstanding Martial Artist

Founder of North Texas Martial Arts, Mr. Sosa has a Grandmaster ranking under GM Tim Kirby. He has also trained in the Arts of Tex-Quan-Do and MMA. Mr. Sosa has been training for 44 years, and his after-school program (prior to COVID) provided an alternative for working parents, allowing their kids to train in the martial arts in a safe, secure environment.



2021 Inductees

Randolph Speed

Distinguished Master

A strong faith-based practitioner of the martial arts, Mr. Speed, a 9th Dan in Hapkido, blends his faith into the teaching of martial arts with an emphasis on developing the whole person, body, mind, and spirit. During his military service, he lent his martial arts experience to improve the quality of self-defense training provided to soldiers.

Thomas Spellman

Kenpo Instructor of the Year

A member of Tracy's Kenpo Karate Yudan-sha and Tracy Family Kenpo Karate Hall of Fame, Mr. Spellman is deeply immersed in the world of Kenpo. He has also trained in Jujitsu, Judo, and San-Do-Kai. Perpetuating the lineage and legacy of the Tracy Kenpo system remains his focus as a Grandmaster of this Art.

Rick Stanford

Grandmaster of the Year

With an extensive martial arts backgrounds, Mr. Stanford has trained for more than 40 years, holding a 9th Dan in Taekwondo among his other black belt ranks. He is a national and international champion and has coached the USA Men's and Women's Taekwondo teams. He has received numerous commendations and awards for his martial arts leadership, and is an IMAC Regional Director. He was recently commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel, the highest civilian award bestowed by the State of Kentucky.

Freddy Godoy Torres

Instructor of the Year (Kajukenbo)

A native of Puerto Rico, Mr. Torres is a 4th-degree black belt in Kajukenbo. He began training in 1997 and opened his first school in 2001. In 2007, he was introduced to Filipino martial arts and began training in Kali. Of his many accomplishments, the 2016 Kajukenbo Seminar & Tournament was a personal highlight, as he took several first and second-place awards for Kata, Kumite, knife fighting, and self-defense. Today, he teaches children and adults in his school in Puerto Rico.



2021 Inductees

Louis Vazquez

Fighting Spirit Award

A 4th Dan black belt in Tang Soo Do under GM George Minshew and GM Robert Torres, Mr. Vazquez had distinguished himself as an accomplished competitor. He is the recipient of the Superstar of Texas Rookie of the Year Award, the Joe Lewis Fighting Award, and Key to the City of New Orleans. He is currently continuing his training and serving as an instructor at the Wilson Karate Academy in Houston TX.

Chris Yaeger

Outstanding Self-Defense Instructor

A blended martial arts practitioner, Mr. Yaeger is a student and 8th Dan under Professor Gary Lee. He holds a 7th Dan in Hapkido and Tang Soo Do, a 2nd Dan in Judo and Shorin-Ryu, and a 1st Dan in Shotokan and Taekwondo. Mr. Yaeger has blended these styles into the Yaeger Fighting System. Today he teaches this mixed martial arts system at Self-Defense America.

Silver

Myron Bursh

Silver Life Award

Author, teacher, and a grandmaster in the art of So-Ryu Karate, Mr. Bursh is a lifelong practitioner of the Arts. He has also studied Shotokan, Tae-Kwon-Do and Kenpo. He is a member of the World Moo-Duk-Kwon Alliance and So-Ryu Karate Association and has been received multiple Hall of Fame honors for his years of faithful service.



2021 Inductees

James Michael Butler

Martial Artist of the Year

Described as an “observant” student by his instructor, Mr. Butler has become a well-rounded student, competitor, and instructor. Holding a 3rd Dan Black Belt in Shotokan under GM Janis Fraley, he is deliberate, intentional, and focused. Mr. Butler is always watching, learning, and thinking into his craft and how to apply it both in a sports application as well as in real-life self-defense applications.

Ricky Butler

Distinguished Master

After making a name for himself in the world of Judo, Mr. Butler began training under GM Billy Smith in American Karate where he currently holds a 5th Dan Black Belt. He continues to train and also serve his Grandmaster as an instructor at the Billy Smith American Karate Academy.

Max Cardoza

Distinguished Grandmaster

With over 54 years of martial arts training, Mr. Cardoza is an accomplished American Karate Grandmaster and a Shodan in Shotokan. A student of the legendary GM Pat Burtleson, he has dedicated his life to taking what he has learned and sharing it with his students. Mr. Cardoza is also a 3-time martial arts hall of fame inductee.

Alexandre Dantas

Silver Life Award

A 5-time world champion, 5-time Pan American champion, U.S. Open Champion and a UFC veteran, Mr. Dantas was recognized as a “living legend” in the Jiu-Jitsu world by the UAEJJF. A 5th-degree black belt under Carlos Gracie Jr., he has been teaching Jiu-Jitsu since 1998 and has transformed the lives of thousands of students. He has also trained in Boxing, MMA, wrestling, Judo, and Muay Thai.



2021 Inductees

Ken Daugherty

Distinguished TKD Master

Currently serving as the Secretary-General of the International Tae-Kwon-Do Federation The Americas, Mr. Daugherty is committed to sharing his wealth of knowledge to perpetuate the Art of Tae-Kwon-Do for future generations. He has been recognized in “The World’s Greatest Martial Artists” (Volume 20) and in the “Who’s Who of Martial Arts – Special Tribute to Chuck Norris” as an Ambassador. He currently holds a 6th Dan in the Art of Tae-Kwon-Do.

James Debrow III

Distinguished Grandmaster

A 2020 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Mr. Debrow is also an accomplished martial arts instructor, holding rankings in Goju, Tae-Kwon-Do, Shotokan, Kempo, Judo, Ko-Shin-Kai, and Kung Fu. His accomplishments and accolades in the traditional martial arts world are many. Mr. Debrow is the chief instructor at the James Debrow Fighting Tiger School in Austin, TX.

Bobby Ray Edmonds

Silver Life Award

After earning a 3rd-degree Black Belt in Tae-Kwon-Do, Mr. Edmonds turned his attention to the world of mixed martial arts while continuing his own training in Judo and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He began training MMA fighters and kickboxers, which ultimately led to the opening of Off The Chain MMA in Hot Springs AR where he both trained and competed as a mixed martial artist before retiring from active competition. He is currently serving on the Arkansas State Athletic Commission.

Janis Fraley

Grandmaster of the Year

A woman who has dedicated her life to teaching the Art of Shotokan, Ms. Fraley is truly an Ambassador of the Martial Arts to her home state of Oklahoma. She remains active in the Sport Karate Tournament Circuit and has a loyal following of school owners and instructors who have honed their craft under her oversight and instruction.



2021 Inductees

Daniel Gossett

Silver Life Award

A Godan in Shuri-Ryu, Mr. Gossett has competed nationally, earning 2nd place honors in kata and weapons in 2012 and 1st place honors in kata in 2013. He consistently ranked in the PKC Top 10 from 2013 to 2018. He has been named a History General of the Sport Karate Museum and has been the recipient of multiple commendations and awards for his prowess as a tournament competitor and experience as an instructor.

Doug Grissom

Influential Living

A 40 year veteran of karate, Mr. Grissom has earned a reputation in Texas of being a tough competitor, but also a man with a servant's heart. He holds a 5th Dan in Tae-Kwon-Do and is still an active competitor in the Texas Sport Karate Circuit. Mr. Grissom is also a Krav Maga, Kajukembo, Ju-Jitsu, and Aikido practitioner who is constantly striving to become both a better martial artist and a leader in life.

Michael Hall

Distinguished Instructor

Mr. Hall is an 8th-degree Shotokan black belt under GM Janis Fraley. He is a member of the Black Knights. His martial arts journey began when he started taking karate classes with his young son over 20 years ago. Today, Mr. Hall is a contributor to the continued success of Shotokan Tigers and their influence and ongoing support of Oklahoma martial arts.

Barry Harbin

Silver Life Award

Listed among the "Who's Who in Martial Arts", Mr. Harbin is a 5th Dan in Yohu-Kai and has also trained in American Freestyle Karate. With over 40 years of martial arts experience, Mr. Harbin remains a fixture in Alabama martial arts and teaches at the Yoshu-Kai IKF Karate Academy in Albertville.



2021 Inductees

Alex Hogan

Silver Life Award

Mr. Hogan is a 9th Dan in American Karate under the legendary GM Billy Smith. For more than 40 years, he has been an active part of Texas martial arts. This has earned him the respect of his peers. He has also trained in Tae-Kwon-Do and Kuk-Soo-Won. Mr. Hogan is an active member of the WMAKA and is also a supporter of the Sport Karate Museum.

Ed Hozzian

Silver Life Award

An 8th-degree black belt in the Art of Shorei-Goju, Mr. Hozzian has dedicated 44 years of his life to martial arts training and instruction. He has been named a History General of the Sport Karate Museum and is a recipient of the Joe Lewis Fighting Award. Mr. Hozzian is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Police Council #12173 and an inductee into the Illinois Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

Brett Keel

Silver Life Award

Mr. Keel says his life changed for the better as soon as he walked into GM Janis Fraley's dojo in 1983 and he hasn't looked back since. Currently holding a 9th degree ranking in Shotokan, he is one of the teaching staff at Shotokan Tigers Academy who is training the next generation of martial arts instructors in their school. Mr. Keel has also trained in Muay Thai, San-Shan, and Taylor Lua and remains on a relentless pursuit to add to his martial arts knowledge to better equip those he is teaching to be the best martial artist they can be.

Dale Kirby Jr.

Distinguished Iaido Grandmaster

An instructor at Lance England Martial Arts, Mr. Kirby is the founder and Soke of Satori-Ryu Iaido. He holds an 8th Dan in Wado-Ryu Karate and a 3rd Dan in Kendo. He is a member of the Satori-Ryu Budo Association and the Sport Karate Museum. Mr. Kirby has been previously recognized for his expertise as an Iaido practitioner by several organizations.



2021 Inductees

Marty Knight

Silver Life Award

An American Freestyle Master Instructor, Mr. Knight is the founder and chief instructor at Marty Knight Karate in South Carolina. He has also studied Taekwondo, Goju-Ryu, Shito-Ryu, and Chin-Do-Kwan. Mr. Knight is a 12-time South Carolina State Champion and a 5-time NASKA Title Winner. He has competed and won internationally in Greece, Mexico, Ireland, Jamaica, Canada, China, and Russia. Among his many honors, Mr. Knight has received the prestigious Joe Lewis Warrior Award and a member of the Battle of Atlanta Hall of Fame.

Leonard John Pellman

Silver Life Award

After training for 54 years, Mr. Pellman currently holds the rank of 6th Dan in Okinawan Kobujutsu, a 4th Dan in Shito-Ryu and Eishan Ryu Iaido, and a 3rd Dan in Shindo Muso Ryu Jujitsu. In 1993, Shimabukuro Sensei founded the Jikishin-Kai International and appointed Mr. Pellman as one of its three directors. He has performed at Ozawa Osamu's International Tournaments in Las Vegas, impressing audiences with his sword showmanship. Mr. Pellman also co-authored a book with Shimabukuro Sensei called "Flashing Steel: Mastering Eishin Ryu Swordsmanship".

Lawrence Staples

Silver Life Award

A 7th Dan in Tang Soo Do under GM John Natividad, Mr. Staples has invested 42 years of his life in the world of Korean martial arts. He has also studied Kempo and Taekwondo. Mr. Staples has been recognized by the Mayor of Las Vegas, received a Clark County Commissioner Achievement Award, and received numerous other commendations. He has also been commissioned as a History General of the Sport Karate Museum. At 71, he still teaches at Natividad Karate in North Las Vegas.



2021 Inductees

Steven Starnes

Silver Life Award

A 9th Dan in American Karate under the late GM Billy Smith and GM J. Pat Burtleson, Mr. Starnes also holds a 1st Dan in Japanese Kubodo and has trained in Filipino Arnis. He is a member of the AKATO, AKBBA, the World Martial Arts Ranking Association, and the Gospel Martial Arts Union. He has received numerous commendations over his 36-year history of martial arts training and continues to teach at the North Texas Karate Academy.

Manuel Suarez

Distinguished Grandmaster

Kyoshi Suarez has the responsibility of organizing and supervising the development of the martial arts in his home country of Cuba. He held the Championship title for Kata, Team Kata, and Kumite from 1981 to 1989 and was promoted to the Cuban National Karate Team in 1989. In 1996, he won the World Jyo-Shin-Mon Karate-Do Championship. In 2007, he was recognized as a National Champion in Cuba. He currently holds a 7th Dan in Shotokan and has studied wrestling, Judo, Aikido, Jujitsu, and Eskrima & Kali.

David Taylor

Making a Difference

Mr. Taylor is the head instructor at Dragon Connections. He holds a 7th Dan in Shorin-Ryu under Tacachi Yamashita, along with a 7th Dan in Kenjutsu, a 5th Dan in Tang Soo Do, and a 3rd Dan in Arnis. He's received numerous awards for his accomplishments as a nationally recognized competitor and instructor. Mr. Taylor has taught many seminars across the U.S. including at the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Department. In 2010, he became a stunt instructor under Michael DePasquale Jr.



2021 Inductees

Larry J. Tolliver, Jr.

Distinguished Martial Artist of the Year

Mr. Tolliver began his martial arts career in 1994, training in Kenpo and Shorin-Ryu. He competed in the NASKA tournament circuit for 11 years, with numerous awards and recognition as a competitor. Mr. Tolliver is currently serving our nation in the Air Force, entering into his 18th year of military service. He is a 6th Dan in American Kenpo Karate, a 1st Dan in Shorin-Ryu, and has numerous certifications in Armed Forces Combatives and Weapons. He has also trained in Krav Maga.

John “Spinner” Vaughan

Distinguished Krav Maga Instructor

A talented Krav Maga Instructor, Mr. Vaughan has also trained in Aikido, Gracie BJJ, and Taekwondo. He is a member of KMA and the Aikido World Alliance. He is an instructor at Dark Horse Krav Maga who has distinguished himself as a talented coach and instructor who leads by example.

Joshua Abraham Walkingstick Silver Life Award

With 40 years of experience in the Art of Taekwondo, Mr. Walkingstick currently holds a rank of Roku-Dan. He is also a black belt in Bushido Kai (Kyo-Ku-Shin) Karate and has trained in Aikijutsu and Jujitsu. He was the #1 OKA Competitor of the Year in 1986. Earning an Instructor certification in Krav Maga, he now teaches defensive tactics at Kaizen Mixed Martial Arts in Duncan OK.

Gary Wilden

Silver Life Award

Mr. Wilden walked into a dojo as a bullied school student at the age of 10 and his life was never the same. 44 years later, he holds a 9th Dan in Combat Kenpo, an 8th Dan in Taekwondo, a 4th Dan in Aikido, and a 2nd Dan in Tang Soo Do. His passion to teach Combatives has remained the focus of his instruction, which he shares with his students at Combative Martial Arts USA where he teaches Aikido and Kenpo. He also teaches Children and Women’s safety programs and is a certified M-CAT instructor.



2021 Inductees

Gold

Johnny Dale Atkinson

Golden Life Award

A 5th Dan Black Belt in Shotokan under GM Janis Fraley, Mr. Atkinson believes in fighting hard and training hard. He instills a sense of respect, discipline, self-discipline, and self-control in the students he teaches both by conduct and conversation. With a passion for continual expansion, Mr. Atkinson also holds a brown belt in Goju and a green belt in Kempo and Aiki-Jujitsu.

Robert Goral

Golden Life Award

After receiving his black belt in 1978 under Sensei Hidy Ochiai, Mr. Goral was privileged to train under Sensei Kaicho Yamazaki of Ryobu-Kai, earning 7th Dan in Shotokan and opening his first school in the 1990s. He also holds a 2nd Dan in Washin-Ryu. He currently serves as Chief Instructor at Kaze-Kai in Connecticut where, at the ripe young age of 74, he continues to train the next generation of Shotokan practitioners in his dojo.

Joe Hidrogo

Honor Award

Starting his training in 1971 under the late, great GM Billy Brammer and under GM Pat Burleson at the YMCA, Mr. Hidrogo trained with a number of Texas "Greats" and earned his stripes the old-fashioned way. From there, he made his name known in the world of kickboxing and boxing. In 2018, he received his 9th-degree black belt in Karate from GM Billy Smith. For the past 14 years, he has continued to teach his Round 1 Boxing program in schools so underprivileged students can have the opportunity to learn the martial arts. In addition, he has donated 18,50 turkeys a year, along with countless bags of groceries, to students of the Ft. Worth School District and their families and helping provide scholarships for graduating seniors so they can continue their education.



2021 Inductees

Sinisa Ivanji

Int'l Lifetime Achievement Award

Born in Yugoslavia in 1958, Mr. Ivanji began training in Judo at the age of 8 before transitioning to the Chinese martial arts where he has become a Grandmaster in the Art of Kung Fu and the founder of the Hu Shen Fa Kung Fu system. He began hosting international tournament competitions in Kung Fu in the 1980s and started inviting world-renown Chinese martial arts instructors to share their knowledge and wisdom with his students. Mr. Ivanji traveled internationally teaching the Art of Kung Fu and competing in numerous tournaments. In 2006, he founded the Hu Shen Fa Kung Fu system, which he began to teach after immigrating to the United States in 2008. He relocated from Louisiana to Temple City, California in 2019 and continues to teach his Art of Hu Shen Fa Kung Fu.

Rickie Johnson

Pioneer Award

Hard work, dedication, commitment, and a passion for living life to its fullest. These words describe Grandmaster Rickie J. Johnson, who has given his life in the pursuit of constantly bettering himself as a martial artist. A perpetual student of the Art, he has trained and ranked in Taekwondo, Aikido, Karate, American Boxing, and expanded into the world of Mixed Martial Arts. Mr. Johnson has culminated a lifetime of training with the founding of the Art of Muso Sihinden-Ryu Iaido, also referred to as the Delta Iaido System.

Darrell Lassiter

Golden Life Award

An instructor of Black Lotus Martial Arts, Mr. Lassiter is an 8th-degree black belt under GM Donald Hiskel. He has spent over 50 years of his life in the pursuit of martial arts excellence. Mr. Lassiter also holds a 6th Dan in the Art of Shori-Ryu and teaches Cane-Fu. Mr. Lassiter is a member of the Black Dragon Fighting Society. His name appears in the history books of the Sports Karate Museum and in many martial arts magazines from the 1970s to 1980s.



2021 Inductees

Judith Lassiter

Golden Life Award

Ms. Lassiter is an 8th Dan in Black Lotus Martial Arts under GM Donald Hiskel. She also holds a 7th Dan rank in Shorin-Ryu. She has been recognized as a Martial Arts Pioneer and a Living Legend and previously honored for her Cane-Fu instruction. Ms. Lassiter is a member of the USKK and has spent the last 46 years of her life growing, learning, and maturing as a martial arts teaching professional.

Sheldon Marr

Martial Arts Legend

A former Judo and Wrestling Champion under the legendary GM Wally Jay, Mr. Marr has coached national and international Champions in Judo, Wrestling, Jiu-Jitsu, Grappling, Pankration, and MMA. He is a 10-time U.S. Grappling Team Coach and a 4-time Pankration Team Coach to the World Championships. Mr. Marr's school, Edge MMA & Fitness, has won 25 national team titles in Jui-Jitsu and Grappling. Mr. Marr is a true living legend who is still training champions.

Floyd Soo

Golden Life Award

For more than 50 years, Mr. Soo has shared his experiences in Tang Soo-Do. In addition to a 7th Dan in this Art, he has trained in Judo, Aikido, Krav Maga, and a variety of Okinawan weapons. He is a member of the USKKA, International Tang Soo Do Association, and International Association of Korean Martial Arts. His school, Floyd Soo's Korean Karate has a rich history of turning out quality students.

Daryl Stewart

Golden Life Award

A 10th Dan in Taekwondo with 58 years experience in the Art, Mr. Stewart has also trained in Tang Soo Do, Isshin-Ryu, Kung Fu, Modern Arnis, and Kobudo. He's a lifetime member of the Professional Karate Association, an Ambassador and History General for the Sport Karate Museum, and is listed in the book, "Masters and Pioneers". His accomplishments are numerous, and his influence in the martial arts community is notable.



2021 Inductees

Landrus James Stevens

Golden Life Award

A 10th Dan in the Art of Taekwondo, Mr. Stevens has a long, successful career as a tournament competitor. From the late 60s to early 70s, he racked up more than 60 Championship Awards. By 1974, he was the #1 ranked Fighter in the Southwest by Professional Karate Magazine. His nicknames “Louisiana Lightning Bolt” and the “Master of the Takedown” speak to his prowess in the ring. Mr. Stevens’ accolades are many, and he is well known for his numerous humanitarian efforts.

Platinum

William Drawe

Lifetime Achievement

Stationed with the Marine Corp in Okinawa in 1958, Mr. Drawe was introduced to the world of martial arts and it has been his lifelong passion for more than 60 years. From the early days of training on straw mats, he has trained in Okinawan and Korean Arts his entire life. Currently holding a 9th Dan in Tae-Kwon-Do under GM Sang Kyu Shim. While recovering from a stroke, his legacy is continued by the Chief Instructor at United Martial Arts, Master David Wright, who holds a 7th Dan ranking under Mr. Drawe.

Billy Smith

Pioneer Award

With over 52 years of martial arts training, much of that time under the late GM Billy Brammer, Mr. Smith commands attention and respect. Always willing to share his lifetime of experiences at his school, he has become a teacher of teachers as was his teacher before him. Honoring the lineage of GM Brammer and GM Pat Burleson, Mr. Smith has operated Billy Smith’s American Karate and continues to model excellence, and require it of his students.



2021 Inductees

Johnny Thompson

Lifetime Achievement Award

Holding a 9th Dan rank in Tang Soo Do, Mr. Thompson is the Founder and President of the Tang Soo Do Association. Celebrating his 50th year in the martial arts, he is a living legend in Texas Sport Karate, being nationally ranked by both Black Belt Magazine and Karate Illustrated in the 1980s and was considered a fierce competitor by his opponents. A former certified police instructor, Mr. Thompson has trained and certified many law enforcement professionals throughout Texas. He has received numerous accolades over the decades, including being named a History General by the Sport Karate Museum and prior inductions into the Hall of Fame. In 2016, he received the prestigious IMAC Ambassador Award.

Titanium

Daniel “Danny” Dring

Intentional Living

A quiet and unassuming man, yet one whose lineage is steeped in tradition, Mr. Dring holds an 8th Dan in the Bill Wallace Superfoot System, a 7th Dan in the Joe Lewis Fighting System, a 7th Dan in Weeping Style Ju-Jitsu, and a 4th Dan in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He also holds a 9th dan in Taekwondo under GM Robert Dunn and is an experienced Defensive Tactics and Weapons instructor. Mr. Dring is the founder of Living Defense Martial Arts in Sherwood AR and is an in-demand seminar instructor who is known for his “no-nonsense” style of teaching. He has received numerous awards and recognition over the years, both in the Law Enforcement & Defensive Tactics world as well as the traditional martial arts community. Mr. Dring lives is life on purpose, for a purpose, and is dedicated to teaching with excellence.



2021 Inductees

Amit Porat

International Krav Maga Instructor of the Year

Amit Porat has been a Krav Maga Instructor for the last 25 years, having studied Krav Maga under the tutelage of Master Eli Avikazer. He holds a 4th Dan in Jiu-Jitsu under Amir Barnea, and a Black Belt in Judo under Yehuda Vazdias. In 2019, he was recognized as a world-class expert, receiving a Krav Maga Master Degree. Mr. Porat has vast experience working with different units of the Israeli Defense Forces and was named a distinguished army reserves soldier for his contributions in the Krav Maga field to the Israeli Army, an honor few are awarded. Today, he lives 15 minutes away from Tel Aviv in Rishon, Letzion where he is the founder and head of a Krav Maga Security Training Academy, and travels the world teaching Krav Maga.