

# **INDUCTEE CLASS OF 2025**

## Youth

### Angel De Luna Junior Martial Artist of the Year

Since joining the Christian Taekwondo League in 2022, Ms. De Luna has demonstrated unwavering dedication, discipline, and perseverance. His diligence in training has earned him two rare spot promotions, demonstrating exceptional growth in technique and character. Mr. De Luna is a multi-tournament champion and a Hyper-Accelerated Math student, taking high school-level math courses in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He is also part of AVID, a college preparatory program, and has been an Honor Roll Student for 6 consecutive years. He's also a budding entrepreneur, running a small business at a flea market.

# Ariel Jing Top Team Performer

Ms. Jing excels not only at martial arts, but ballet, jazz, and hip-hop dance, showcasing her incredible versatility and artistic talent. Since 2021, she has competed in numerous TKO and AOK martial arts competitions, routinely taking top honors. This includes 5 state titles in traditional forms, open hand forms, specialty weapons, point sparring, and continuous sparring at a recent AOK State Tournament. She's a Straight-A student, a blue belt in pursuit of her black belt, and a champion in pursuit of what's next.

# Keidy Rivera Outstanding Youth Instructor

As a white belt, Ms. Rivera's journey toward martial arts excellence began with her first tournament wins in Open Hands and Sparring. From there, she joined the CTL Competition Team, beginning a stellar tournament career. In her first year, she racked up 17 first-place medals, 4 second-place medals, and 3 third-place medals, ultimately taking Top Honors at the State Tournament. She's an "A" Honor Roll Student and a valuable asset to her classmates in the dojang.



## **Bronze**

### Patrick Anaya Enduring Spirit

Medical challenges have marked the life of Sensei Anaya's training, including a debilitating foot injury that threatened his mobility. Through a force of will, he regained his ability and went on to earn his black belt in Shinja Kenpo Karate. He also spent most of 2021 hospitalized during the COVID pandemic. Despite the medical setbacks, Sensei Anaya has remained focused, dedicated, and a shining example of resilience to the students and instructors of Lotus Martial Arts.

### Myloreal Anderson Inspiring Greatness

A 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Mikio Surai Martial Arts, GM Anderson has spent more than 35 years training in martial arts, with black belt rankings in several systems. As senior instructor at Myloreal's Martial Arts Academy, he inspires others to not only become masters of martial arts, but also learn important social skills, develop self-discipline, raise mental awareness, and overcome physical challenges. GM Anderson stresses the importance of family, morality, survival, and tactical training.

# Joyce Austin Overcoming Adversity

Serving as a Sargeant First Class and Communications Chief at Fort Hood, Chodan Austin's life was forever changed when a kerosene lamp malfunctioned, burning over 25% of her body. Even as she recovered from surgery, she continued to lead and inspire her soldiers. A 1st Dan in Taekwondo and Tang Soo Do, Chodan Austin fulfilled a lifelong dream, opening her own martial arts school. In her spare time, she's a Harley-Davidson enthusiast a volunteer at the VA, and is a highly sought-after DJ, affectionately known as "DJ Lady J." She's leaving a lasting legacy and a shining example of a warrior.

# Robert Ballou Motivating Others

Founder of Move to Meditate, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Master Ballou is a mindfulness and martial arts evangelist. With more than 30 years of training in various martial arts systems, he has obtained multiple black belt rankings, as well as an honorary PhD. Today, he teaches Martial Vinyasa Arts, incorporating martial arts and yoga, helping to create a more mindful martial artist. He is also a NASKA fourteen-time World Top Ten Finalist.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

**Phone**479-970-2079



#### **William Castro**

#### International Instructor of the Year

A native of Costa Rica, Master Castro has trained in various martial arts over 37 years and holds black belts in Taekwondo, Hapkido, and Ryukyu Kempo Karate. He is also a certified Kyusho Master Instructor under GM David Hogan. Master Castro spent more than fifteen years learning Pressure Points Fight Karate and SCJJ from the late GM Jack Hogan. Today, he continues to travel internationally, perpetuating the teachings of his instructors and continuing their legacy.

## Antoine Cook Distinguished Black Belt of the Year

Holding a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, Sensei Cook is recognized by his students and instructors for his deep dedication to martial arts. He is an inspiring instructor, and is especially gifted in working with teenagers, using humor and life experience to impart important life lessons to his students, preparing them for life outside the Dojang. Sensei Cook leads by example, modeling excellence, and inspiring greatness in others.

## Evan Currier Rising Star

Embodying the true spirit of Shinja Kenpo Karate, Sensei Currier demonstrates not only exceptional technical proficiency, but a profound understanding of the Art's philosophical and spiritual qualities. He consistently dedicates over 25 hours a week as an instructor, driven by a genuine desire to equip and inspire others. Sensei Currier currently serves as the Program Director for Lotus Martial Arts' Tiny Tigers program, fostering a positive and supportive environment for students of all ages and abilities.

## Brandon Delaney Black Belt EMT of the Year

A former D/T instructor for the State of West Virginia, Sensei Delaney currently holds a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Shotokan and Taekwondo. He's currently an instructor at Wreckage Combat School, but serves his community as an EMT and firefighter, known for lending a helping hand to those who are in need. Sensei Delaney serves as a role model for young and old, leading by example, saving lives, and making a positive difference in his students.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

**Phone** 479-970-2079



## Steven Easley Empowering Others

Sifu Easley started training in martial arts at the age of 9. Now 30 years later, he continues to train in the Art of Jeet Kune Do. He's been using martial arts for self-help and teaching self-defense. He also helps women suffering from PTSD, focusing on helping women strengthen their inner voice and develop inner strength, empowering them to go from being victims to victors over their circumstances.

## Robert Ezagui Jr. Instructor of the Year

Holding a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Moohapsool Hapkido under GM James McMurray. He is a member of the House of Discipline Martial Arts Group, serving as the organization's Assistant Instructor. Master Ezagui has been training for nearly two decades and is also an active seminar instructor. He is being recognized by his senior instructor for his years of dedication and training, along with his service to others.

### Dan Fields Black Belt of the Year

Sensei Fields is disabled, but doesn't let his disability define or confine him. He is known as one of the most knowledgeable students of the Art of Ed Parker Kenpo in Arizona, and an honorable man who works hard at everything he sets his hand to do. Sensei Fields holds a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in American Kenpo and is a member of Family Self-Defense School.

#### Andrew Flores Black Belt of the Year

An assistant instructor at Christian Taekwondo League, Semsei Flores exemplifies dedication, passion, and a deep commitment to the martial arts and his students. His teaching approach not only focuses on the physical aspects of the Arts, important character values such as integrity, respect, and self-control. He has also trained in boxing and Capoeira, bringing a unique perspective to his instruction that motivates and inspires students of all ages.



### Michael Glasgow Martial Arts Excellence

A 20-year veteran of martial arts, Sensei Glasgow holds a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, a 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Karate, and a Purple Belt in BJJ. In 2017, he took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the All Arm Combatives Tournament as a Bantamweight. was the 3018 IBJJF Flyweight Champion and the 2019 TKO/TNT Texas State Flyweight Grappling Champion in 2019. In 2020, he was recognized as a Martial Arts World Showcase Top 100 Competitor. That same year, he was commended by the Mayor of Houston for his contribution to the martial arts.

#### Jeanelle Hebert Martial Arts Excellence

Sensei Hebert holds a rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Aikido and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, along with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Hapkido. She has been a CLEET-certified law enforcement instructor since 2002 and a lead instructor since 2019. Sensei Hebert and her husband opened Rebellion Martial Arts Gym in Ada OK in 2020 and a second gym in Duncan OK in 2022. She continues to push herself training hard, not seeking perfection but continual improvement, a hallmark of martial arts excellence.

## Tony Hebert Indomitable Spirit

Sensei Hebert became a defensive tactics instructor in 2015 and became a lead instructor in 2018. After suffering a major heart attack in 2019, he battled back to return to instructing. In 2020, he and his wife opened Rebellion Martial Arts and expanded to a second location two years later. He's also fought his way back from major knee surgery and remains one of the Top Instructors in Oklahoma. In 2023, he earned his black belt in BJJ, demonstrating once again the indomitable spirit of a martial arts warrior.

#### Jill Hernandez Golden Warrior

A second-generation Jeet Kune Do student, GM Hernandez has dedicated the last 40 years of her life to the pursuit of martial arts excellence. She's a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in JKD, and Soke Dai of Street Defense Systems International. GM Hernandez holds Master level rankings in Kobu-Jutsu, Ken-Jutsu, Kempo, and Ju-Jitsu, as well as black belts in Taekwondo and Military Combatives. Her international accolades are numerous, and include recognition in several Hall of Fame organizations.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone 479-970-2079



## Brad Hutchinson Leading By Example

With nearly 3 decades of experience in martial arts, Sifu Hutchinson holds a 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Kung Fu. He had dedicated his life to working with children who have been sexually abused and is deep into the mental health world of abuse recovery. Sifu Hutchinson is a recipient of many national and international awards, including the Ontario Volunteer Service Award and the Peel Outstanding Service Award. He walks the Warrior's Way to fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

## Varun Jettly Distinguished Goju Master of the Year

Shihan Varun continues to demonstrate outstanding leadership, commitment, and an incredible skillset for teaching martial arts. A 7<sup>th</sup> Dan with more than 3 decades of training, he has developed his own style of Goju Ryu, "Goju Shin Ryu," which he teaches. Shihan Varun is a member of ChunJiDo International, the World Karate Federation, and is a certified WKF Referee and Judge. He is also a national Kata champion.

## John Kerecz Overcoming Adversity

A student of Ed Parker, Jr. GM Kerecz has trained for more than 5 decades and currently holds a 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in Coiled Dragon Kenpo. After suffering a stroke 3 years ago, GM Kerecz made the conscious decision this would not define him. He continues to train and teach, with a renewed passion for the Arts. He is a member of the International Kenpo Karate Federation and a Martial Arts Hall of Honor recipient.

# Remington Keyes Overcoming Adversity

Sifu Keyes is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan black belt in the Art of Kung Fu. A skilled competitor, he's a Western Massachusetts Open Champion. Despite suffering from heart failure, Sifu Keyes chose not to let this define him. Like a true martial artist, he fought his way back to health and continues to pass on his knowledge, wisdom, and insights to the next generation, preparing them to one day take his place as a teacher and mentor.



#### Zella Kincaid

#### **Martial Arts Excellence**

Holding a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, Master Kincaid continues to demonstrate what it means to be a dedicated martial artist. Since earning her 1<sup>st</sup> Dan ranking, she has assisted with teaching, making sure each students gets personal attention. Outside the school, Master Kincaid volunteers in her local community, teaching martial arts to underprivileged kids and adults, many of whom are disabled. She continues to better herself as a martial artist so she can better serve those around her.

## Adrian Marquis Assistant Instructor of the Year

Outstanding dedication, humility, and servant leadership are the defining hallmarks of Sensei Marquis' role at Christian Taekwondo League. A highly technical black belt with over 20 years of experience, he goes above and beyond to support students, assist instructors, and help maintain a positive, disciplined training environment. Sensei Marquis is also a Sparring Coach for the U.S. Martial Arts Team – South Texas Region, preparing athletes for elite-level competition, including the 2025 World Martial Arts Games in Oslo, Norway.

## Bryan Marshall Martial Artist of the Year

A 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Shotokan, Sensei Marshall comes from a martial arts background filled with disappointment and abandonment. Rather than let this define him, he chose to use this to make his life better. Now, he's helping students become a better version of themselves in and out of the dojo. This has led to a doubling of student enrollment and an opportunity to partner with the Chamber of Commerce to host local self-defense seminars

# Candi Marshall Leading by Example

As co-owner of a martial arts studio, Ms. Marshall is known by staff and students as the "powerhouse of the dojo." She runs the administrative side of the martial arts business, allowing the instructors to focus on teaching their craft. Born with a heart defect and starting life with multiple surgeries, she credits God with giving her the strength to survive, and how her heart of compassion continually touches the lives of students, parents, and staff. She's living a second-chance life, encouraging others to do the same.



#### **Steven Matias**

#### **Martial Arts Excellence**

A 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Judo under Professor John Ouanto, Professor Matias teaches at Cohesion BJJ in Oklahoma. He is the vice-president of the United States Judo Association and was recognized as the USA Judo Coach of the Month in 2016. Professor Matias is also a certified Krav Maga, Muay Thai, and Kickboxing Instructor. He is also a Marine combat veteran who served with distinction.

### Sylvia McDonald Leading by Example

In both her personal and professional life, Sensei McDonald demonstrates exceptional leadership, commitment, and a heart of service. Her influence both in and out of the dojang is felt, in part due to her exceptional ability to engage, connect, and inspire young lives. Sensei McDonald brings a nurturing approach to teaching that draws out the best in students, both in their technical skills on the mat as well as in valuable life skills, including confidence, respect, and compassion. She is a "Pastor" to her community and widely respected for her wisdom, loyalty, and kindness. She leads by Godly example.

## Andrea McKey International Instructor of the Year

Bermuda is better because Sensei McKey is there. A 26-year of martial arts, she currently holds a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shotokan. Not only has she dominated on the tournament circuit, she has trained and molded many of her students to become champions as well. Outside the dojo, she's served the people of Bermuda for 35 years in her role with the government. She is highly respected by her peers and coworkers and the public she serves.

#### Thomas Meehan III Instructor of the Year

A man who exemplifies Black Belt Excellence, Master Meehan is on a personal mission to spread the virtues and values of martial arts to students of all ages. He's a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo and has also trained in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. A member of Chunjido International, he continually trains and works with students daily, both in the studio as well as through daycare and after-school programs. For those who want some extra time, you'll find him teaching private lessons via Zoom training sessions.



### Stephen Miller

#### **Grandmaster of the Year**

A 41-year veteran of martial arts, GM Miller currently holds a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo under GM Duk Gun Kwon. He is a member of the United States National Taekwondo Federation, Kukkiwon, and World Koryo Gumdo Association. He's received several accolades for his illustrious career as an instructor, including recognition by the American Martial Arts Alliance Hall of Honor, and the Martial Arts Magazine Hall of Honor. GM Miller also earned Best Martial Arts Studio honors in 2023 and again in 2024.

### Michelle Molina Leading by Example

Born into a martial arts family, Sensei Molina competed throughout Texas and Mexico, earning numerous tournament wins. She became a mentor, teaching at-risk youth, children experiencing bullying, and those with special needs, instilling confidence, discipline, and resilience in her students. Sensei Molina opened the Molina Institute of Martial Arts and remains a champion for children with special needs and an advocate for women suffering from domestic violence. In 2023, she was inducted into the World Pugilist Hall of Fame, a testament to her contributions to martial arts.

## Elizabeth Moringlane Woman of the Year

An instructor of Moo-Hap-Sool Hapkido & Tae Soo Taekwondo at McMurray's House of Discipline, Sensei Elizabeth Yankee currently holds a 4rd Dan in Moo-Hap-Sool Hapkido and is proficient in Taekwondo. She is a member of the Korean Martial Arts Brotherhood, and the National Korean Martial Arts Association. She has been recognized by the International London Martial Arts Hall of Fame and Action Martial Arts Magazine.

#### Mika'il Naseem Instructor of the Year

After starting his martial arts training at the young age of 5, Sensei Naseem became a Junior Instructor at the age of 17 after earning his black belt. At 19, he joined the Marine Corps where he continued to train during active duty. In 2023, he fulfilled a lifelong dream of opening his own school, The Crucible Karate Academy, a place for physical training, but also a center for personal growth, respect, and transformation for all who enter. Semsei Naseem also serves as an Assistant Coach for the U.S. Martial Arts Team – South Texas Region, preparing athletes to represent Team USA at the 2025 World Martial Arts Games in Oslo, Norway.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone 479-970-2079



#### **Gino Ossorio**

#### Instructor of the Year

Master Ossorio started training in the Art of Go-Sho-Jitsu-Kai at the age of 13, putting in countless hours honing the soft and hard skills of this Art. From there, he went on to train in Aiki-BuJutsu under GM Greg Robinson. Today, he's teaching under the "Black Dragon of Self-Defense" at Shotokan Karate and Fitness in San Antonio. His goal is to share his love for the Arts and to instill a sense of purpose and pursuit of potential in his students.

### Hanna Perez Martial Arts Excellence

Sensei Perez began her martial arts journey at age 9 under Master Ramirez at Christian Taekwondo League. It was there she quickly distinguished herself through discipline, perseverance, and remarkable talent, becoming the schools' first Junior Black Belt and Kohai. Now a proud 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan, she's a certified instructor with a focus on kata, weapons, and core striking techniques. She graduated high school with a perfect 4.0 GPA and currently holds a full scholarship to the University of the Incarnate Word, where she's on a pre-med track to become an anesthesiologist.

#### Ronald Pettie Martial Artist of the Year

Master Pettie has been an incredible martial artist and mentor for more than two decades. Kenneth Hill, Jr. says, "His exceptional teaching skills were developed through decades of training here and abroad. He continues to invest in our organization's instructors and students. He uses his deep understanding of martial arts to help our students build confidence, mental toughness, and strong leadership skills."

#### Michael Rash, Jr. Enduring Spirit

With over 35 years in the martial arts, GM Rash holds a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan ranking in Karazenpo Go Shinjutsu, having inherited the system at the sudden passing of his father. He has spent countless hours completing the training of his father's students as well as traveling to Hawaii to continue his own training. Future generations will continue to benefit from the traditional values of this Art, as GM Rash expands on the legacy of Sijo Gascon, as well as the legacy of his father, Michael Rash, Sr.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone 479-970-2079



#### Lorenzo Reid

### **Empowering Others**

Master Reid gives back, teaching women and children for free in his time off from government work. A former 3-time combat Marine, he served as a machine gunner, scout sniper, and MCMAP Instructor. He still returns to the base as a civilian to teach defensive tactics and traditional martial arts to student officers and marines. He also gives back to his community in tangible ways, empowering others to rise to their potential.

### Rebellion Martial Arts Martial Arts School of the Year

Rebellion Martial Arts opened in 2020, bringing martial arts to Ada OK. Each class, the dynamic duo of Tony and Jeanelle Hebert teach a mix of striking, BJJ, and self-defense to their students. Two years later, they expanded to a second location in Duncan OK, adding street survival to the training regimen. Today, Rebellion Martial Arts is recognized as one of the Top Gyms in Oklahoma, setting the standard for practical defense training.

## Duncan Seton Making a Difference

A 26-year student of Shaolin Kung Fu, Sifu Seton continues to perpetuate the Warrior Way in the next generation of Kung Fu practitioners in Canada. He is a member of Shaolin Kung Fu Canada and received his black belt from Shaolin Temple China. When he is not training or teaching classes, Sifu Seton spends his spare time encouraging young patients and their families at Children's Hospital dressed as Wolverine and Batman, inspiring them to keep fighting. He is truly making a difference in his local community and representing the best of martial arts.

#### Chris Shedd Instructor of the Year

His instructor, Hanshi Therold Davenport says of Sensei Shedd, "Chris is my right-hand man and he runs my school. He is a very good Sensei." Sensei Shedd is a black belt in Shorinji Ryu and Tomosa Bujitsu, with more than 28 years of training under his belt. When he's not teaching, he serves as a Corrections Officer fo the State of New York. Sensei Shedd is a member of the United States Karate Association and the Black Belt Gathering.



#### **Sarita Smith**

#### Martial Artist of the Year

A student of GM David Bailey, Sensei Smith started in martial arts in 2019 with a goal of achieving her black belt by the age of 50, which she received 3 years later. She was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in 2024 and continues to push herself to improve as a martial artist. Unwilling to settle, she works each day to gain greater mastery of Taekwondo.

## Troy Smith Grandmaster of the Year

A battle-tested competitor, GM Smith has earned 2 national titles, 21 state titles, and 4 elite world breaking titles over his illustrious multi-decade career. In the ring, he was known for his tenacity, speed, and power. As the highly successful school owner of Texas Martial Arts Academy, GM Smith has produced more than 60 state champions, while teaching students to focus on building confidence while they learn how to effectively defend themselves and others.

#### Eddie Tolentino Black Belt of the Year

A long-time student of GM Dan Frazier, Sifu Tolentino holds a black belt in the Kajukenbo Self-Defense System. He is a member of the World Head of Family of Family Sokeship Council, and was recognized as the Instructor of the Year Kanjkenbo NV 2025. Sifu Tolentino teaches at Battle Born Fight Academy where his outstanding qualities as an instructor are constantly on display.

# Jacquelyn Tolley Female School Owner of the Year

The former Mayor of Wichita, KS says Master Tolley is an example of perseverance and martial arts excellence. She has owned and operated a successful school, where she continues to teach and lead others even as she battles cancer. Master Tolley's school was recently recognized as the best karate studio in Wichita KS, a testament to her focus on martial arts excellence. She is considered a community treasure, in part because of the positive influence she has on the next generation.



#### **Justin Warwick**

#### **Dedication to Service**

An exemplary young man who has overcome adversity through persistence, hard work, and dedication, Master Warwick overcame anger issues as a teen to become a force for peace and patience as he teaches at Family Self-Defense School in the Art of ATAVISM. He holds a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Polynesian Goju and Adaptive ATAVISM. Today, he teaches children and adults with the same patience and skill that he devotes to his own studies. Master Warwick is also a member of ChunjiDo International.

### **Chris Wetherington**

### **Serving Others**

Master Wetherington's life can be defined in one phrase: service to others. He's a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Tang Soo Do with a passion for teaching those most vulnerable among us to defend themselves from the dangers they face in their local communities. He has taught self-defense to women and children, regardless of their ability to pay. Master Wetherington is a member of TYGA Martial Arts Int'l and teaches at Balanced Warrior MMA & Karate.

### Valerie Wetherington

### **Serving Others**

Sensei Wetherington has dedicated her life to supporting her husband, Chris, and his passion for helping the most vulnerable among us. She continually puts others before herself, serving others as she would want to be served. Sensei Wetherington is an integral part of Balanced Warrior MMA and Karate and believes that together, we can make the world a better place to live and raise a family.



## **Silver**

### Brian Birdwell Inspirational Leadership

A 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, Brian Birdwell is a distinguished Texas State Senator, a US Army combat veteran, and a co-founder of a non-profit for burn victims. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart during a distinguished 20-year military career, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Senator Birdwell survived the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2011, experiencing burns over 60% of his body. He has served as a State Senator for District 22 since 2010, and he is currently serving as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Committees on Border Security and Natural Resources.

### Jason Brooks Ambassador

One of the top defensive tactics instructors in Nevada, Master Brooks brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. He successfully blends traditional and combat arts into a practical, results-oriented defensive tactics system that's highly effective. Master Brooks also enjoyed a distinguished career in the military, and continues to serve and support through his work with Wounded Warriors. He is a law enforcement firearms instructor with countless military, law enforcement, and martial arts commendations.

### Henry Cuellar Silver Life Award

Holding a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Shotokan, Congressman Henry Cuellar proudly represents Texas' 28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Born the eldest of eight children to migrant farmworkers, he was raised with strong family values, deep faith, and a tireless work ethic. Today, he serves on the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, the Defense Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. His reputation as one of the most bipartisan members of Congress ensures that, no matter who's in power, he has a seat at the table, fighting for Texas families. Congressman Cuellar is a former TX State Representative, TX Secretary of State, and currently holds a Master's degree, a Juris Doctorate, and a PhD, and continues his lifetime commitment to learning.



## Mary Lou Daczka Sport Karate Ambassador

A member of the Marysvale Karate Club, Sensei Daczka currently holds a 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Goju Ryu. She was recognized by the Sport Karate Museum with a Power of Women Recognition in 2018 and an Ambassador Award in 2020. This year, she will be recognized as Woman of the Year by the American Martial Arts Alliance.

### Spencer Fusselman Distinguished Master Instructor

Master Fusselman has dedicated himself wholeheartedly to the growth and development of his students, both in martial arts and their spiritual journey in life. His commitment and passion are evident in all he does, always seeking to exceed expectations. From creating easy-to-follow instructional videos to supplement their in-person training, to transforming at-risk youth into individuals who receive commendations from their teachers for improved behavior, he is committed to modeling faith, family, fitness, and focus.

## Mark Hawley Servanthood

With a passion for serving others, GM Mark Hawley has dedicated his life to helping those less fortunate experience the empowerment that comes from martial arts. He created an adaptive martial arts program, ATAVISM, for individuals who are physically, mentally, or emotionally challenged. Always studying, learning, and applying what he has learned, GM Hawley remains committed to growing as a martial artist so he can continue to uplevel what he brings to his students, serving others at the highest level.

# Walter Hathaway Distinguished Military Service

Serving comes naturally to Master Hathaway. With more than 28 years dedicated to military service, he continues to serve his country as a Reservist with the U.S. Army. His unwavering commitment has made him eligible for the rank of E-8, Master Sargent. A member of the House of Discipline, Master Hathaway has risen to the rank of 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Moo Hap Sool Hapkido and brings the same exemplary level of dedication and commitment to the classroom.



## Kenneth Hill, Jr. Distinguished Master

A 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Hapkido, Master Hill is a highly respected martial artist, representing the very best in martial arts. Despite many health challenges, he's pressed forward to achieve levels many thought were unattainable. His dedication and commitment to seeing challenges as opportunities have been passed on to his students, who have also embraced this "I Can Do It" mindset. With 51 years of training under his belt, he isn't done yet. Master Hill embodies what it means to be a lifelong student of the Arts.

## Dan Hinman Distinguished Master

After COVID shut down his program, Master Hinman used this time to revive, rebuild, and rebrand his program, ultimately relaunching a new school with renewed energy and excitement. He believes that the martial arts are ever evolving and as instructors, we must evolve with this, so he remains open to learning and adapting. Master Hinman's leadership qualities are evident not just in the classroom, but as a leader in his community. He commands the respect and attention of his students through his skill and his endlessly positive attitude. Master Hinman is a 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in Tang Soo Do and has trained 33 years.

#### Donald Hurst Silver Life Award

With more than 7 decades in martial arts, GM Hurst has been training longer than many of his peers have been alive. A student of Donald E. Hurst, Seiyu Oyata and Al Tracy, he holds a 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in Okinawan Karate. GM Hurst has been featured in World's Greatest Martial Artists, Who's Who in Karate, and Masters, Founders, and Leaders of American Martial Arts. He is also a member of the American Combat Tactics Association and the United States Black Belt Association.

#### Kickstart Kids Transformational Martial Arts Team

Kickstart Kids, a martial arts-based character development program, was founded by Chuck Norris in 1990. Originally named Kick Drugs Out of America Foundation, it aimed to teach life-changing values to middle and high school students through karate. The program was officially launched in four Houston-area schools in 1992, with the support of former President George H.W. Bush. Today, Kickstart Kids operates in over 50 schools across Texas, impacting over 120,000 students.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone 479-970-2079



#### Monika LaFleur

### **Distinguished Instructor**

Overcoming her struggles as a young girl, Master LaFleur has transformed herself into a warrior with confidence who knows who she is and what she's been put on this earth to accomplish. She credits Karate for helping her let go of the past and move forward to all that God has prepared for her. A 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shotokan, she is now inspiring a new generation of martial artists to hold their heads high and live confident lives. Master LaFleur challenges students to believe in themselves and see their limitless potential.

## Sandy Larwood Distinguished Female Grandmaster

GM Larwood brings an unwavering dedication and polished skill set to her career as a martial arts instructor. With over 40 years of experience, she consistently excels and remains at the top of her game, with a tireless commitment to excellence and a relentless pursuit of training. One of her most notable accomplishments is her "Damsel in Distress" women's self-defense course, impacting hundreds of lives. She is an IMACUSA Camp Teaching Alumni, and a member of the Texas Karate Association, American Kyokushin Karate Association, and the IMACUSA Grandmasters Council, holding a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shotokan and Kyokushin.

# Lowell Lyle Humanitarian

A highly respected martial artist and esteemed member of the Tang Soo Do karate Association, GM Lyle has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serving his fellow man. His generosity, leadership, and tireless advocacy for the welfare and well-being of others sets a shining example of how we should all live our lives. To GM Lyle, martial arts is more than a physical discipline, it is a vehicle for fostering compassion, unity, and positive change. His humanitarian spirit, which includes working with at-risk youth and underserved communities, has touched the lives of many families in need, providing them not only with resources, but hope, strength, and opportunities for a brighter future.



#### **Robert Magao**

### **Distinguished Defensive Tactics Instructor**

Mr. Magao is the Founder/CEO and head instructor of the Officer Survival Series, a "deescalation through confidence program" for law enforcement personnel. With more than 25 years of law enforcement experience, including 18 years serving as a SWAT officer. Mr. Magao's focuses on engaging officers in realistic self-defense scenarios, based on real-life scenarios. He involves a psychologist and CT District Attorney so when an officer becomes in a use-of-force scenario, they can understand the split-second decisions that are required to be made to protect and serve. A 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, he is also the owner and head coach of Bushido Jiu-Jitsu Academy.

## Chris Malarkey Distinguished Master

Master Malarkey is a phenomenal teacher and active practitioner, holding a 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo. He goes above and beyond, teaching and serving his local community with distinction. Master Malarkey sacrifices time and money to ensure others have a better future, modeling servant leadership in all areas of his life. He is also the author of "Journey from White to Black: Translating Martial Arts for Life."

# Nikolaj McLeod Distinguished Grandmaster

A weapons expert, 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shotokan, 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Nihon Budo Ryu Ju-Jutsu, GM McLeod teaches a blended system, Shiro Tora Ryu Karate Do, incorporating elements of these Arts. He is an outstanding school owner, with "Team Karate Academy" being among the most successful schools in Texas. A man with a stellar reputation, he is admired by students and other martial arts instructors across the state. GM McLeod is also an active seminar instructor, adding value to other organizations.

# Joe Pawlowski Distinguished Military Service

"Gunny Ski" is a distinguished Marine veteran, ultimately serving as the Security Chief & Anti-Terrorism Officer for the First USMC HIMARS Fox Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment in 2007. He was privileged to serve on a special Navy Security Team to help protect Chuck Norris during a visit to the Al Asad Rec Center. Master Pawlowski holds a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan ranking in American Seido Karate/Kickboxing under the legendary Dale "Apollo" Cook, as well as black belt rankings in other systems. Thank you for your service.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone 479-970-2079



#### Jeanette Rana

### **Distinguished Female Grandmaster**

An 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Kuntaw Legacy International Martial Arts under GM Ariel Delgado, and an 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo. GM Rana has dedicated over three decades of her life to the pursuit of martial arts excellence. She is a 2024 ISKA Gold Medalist in open forms and a 2024 and 2025 Battle of Dragons Grand Champion. GM Rana also holds a Masters in Criminal Justice, a Doctorate in Christian Counseling with a distinguished list of personal and professional accomplishments, including a 2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award and the Athena Women Warriors International Award in 2024.

## Gregory Robinson Honorable Grandmaster

Behind the quiet demeanor lies a man with an impressive martial arts career. GM Robinson has earned multiple black belts in various Arts over his 57+ year history. Known for his depth of knowledge, he has been appointed to several leadership positions within renowned martial arts organizations. GM Robinson is currently teaching at his Kojukan Jujitsu School, applying the principles of the Study of Harmony while teaching the Black Dragon of Self Defense. He's received numerous awards over his illustrious career, and debuted as one of the IMACUSA Camp Instructors at this year's National Training Camp.

#### Omar Salinas Silver Life Award

With more than 53 years of martial arts experience, Master Salinas has dedicated more than five decades to mastering the Art of Taekwondo. He is a student of the legendary Jhoon Rhee, as well as Jose Santamaria. Master Salias holds a 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in Jhoon Rhee Taekwondo and is a member of the Amateur Organization of Karate. He was a 2016 inductee into the Masters Hall of Fame and now joins the illustrious ranks of Alumni of the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

# Marie Shanahan Sport Karate Ambassador

A 35-year veteran in the Arts, Sensei Shanan holds a black belt in Kogoshian Ryu Aikijutsu under GM Rick Shanahan, Prof. Ron Duncan, and Prof. Gary Lee. She is actively involved In the development of SETVR-XL Unleashed, a virtual reality, immersive martial arts experience and a History General with the Sport Karate Museum. She is also a recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone 479-970-2079

### Mike "Ziggy" Siegfried Distinguished Instructor

A Medal of Valor and Medal of Meritorious Service recipient, Master Siegfried is the president of the Universal Kenpo Karate Association, holding a 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in UKKA Kenpo. He worked for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, where he was the lead defensive tactics instructor. He is a court-recognized expert in the use of force. Today, Master Seigfried is the COO of the Verbal Judo Institute, a law enforcement, military, and security de-escalation training company, teaching verbal de-escalation strategies and tactics to help defuse potentially dangerous or violent confrontations.

## Anthony Tierney Distinguished Military Service

Master Tierney holds a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo and is a Level 4 Instructor in Modern Army Combatives and Marine Corps Martial Arts. He has been previously recognized as a Distinguished Combat Operator, having spent the past 15 years teaching hundreds of soldiers and civilians to be prepared for whatever the world has to offer. When he's not teaching combatives, he continues to add to his 20 years of experience in Taekwondo.

### Brendan Wilson Honorable Grandmaster

An 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo and 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Tang Soo Do, GM Wilson has dedicated more than 5 decades to training in martial arts. He has been recognized for his outstanding contribution to military martial arts and has received numerous commendations and awards for his contributions to the global martial arts community. GM Wilson earned in Silver Medal in the 2009 USA Taekwondo Open and is certified as a Pan American Taekwondo Union International Referee. He is also an international best-selling author.



### Gold

#### Walter Alves

#### Lifetime Achievement Award

At the age of 68, GM Alves has spent more than five decades training in martial arts. He currently holds an honorary Judan rank in Kyokushin under Dan Layne and Steve Senne, and has also studied Tai Chi and Hung Gar. He founded The Karate School of Griffin in 1985 and has trained hundreds of students, many who have gone on to open their own schools as well.

# James "Amo" Amorosi Black Belt Leadership

Grandmaster Amorosi began studying martial arts in 1970 and earned his first Black Belt in Jujitsu in 1975. From 1973 to 1994, he competed in more than 300 Kata and Kumite events throughout the U.S. and Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Japan, the Netherlands, South America, and Spain. In his studies abroad, Shihan Amo practiced and ranked in many forms of martial arts, later blending these into an innovative system, Amorosi Martial Arts, focused on "adaptability" in any scenario or against any attacker. Shihan Amo is also the founder of S.N.A.P. (Special Needs Adaptive Program), creating a unique opportunity for students with Autism, neurological disorders, or cerebral palsy to benefit from martial arts training. He is a NJ Public Safety Certified Police Instructor and has also been a bodyguard to many sports celebrities and A-Listers.

#### Frederick Buck Lifetime Achievement Award

A 65-year veteran of the martial arts, GM Buck holds a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Kyokushin Karate and Aiki-Jujitsu under Donald Buck. He has been inducted into numerous Hall of Fame organizations, and is an active member of AKKO Kyokushin Karate, ATAMA, and ISOK. GM Buck is also a Sport Karate Museum History General, under Professor Gary Lee.



### Lori Coppinger

### **Golden Life Award**

In 1991, Master Coppinger was selected as the Professional Karate League's "Woman of the Year" alongside Bill (Superfoot) Wallace, who was named "Man of the Year" at the same Hall of Fame banquet. With more than 50 years as an active martial artist, she has been a fierce competitor, winning numerous Grand Championships at prestigious sport karate events. A retired Captain from the West Hartford Police Department, she still teaches as an adjunct professor. Today, this FBI National Leadership Academy graduate teaches at Level Up Karate Academy in Canton and continues to serve her community.

#### **Bob Cruise**

#### Golden Life Award

A student of D.E. Chambers, Master Cruise holds a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in American Full Contact Karate. He's a member of the Houston Stuntman Association, Screen Actors Guild, and the Sport Karate Museum. Master Cruise is a 4-Time Texas State Champion, 2022 World Karate Champion, and 2-Time Karate Olympics Champion. He is also affectionately known as the "Captain America" of Houston, Texas, appearing in costume at multiple events throughout the year.

### James Debrow III Texas Top Cop

The Honorable James Von Debrow III, Academic Professor, 10th Ju-Dan Red Belt, is a retired Chief of Police and retired Sergeant with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) as a State Trooper and a legendary Texas Highway Training Academy Bureau Staff Member. GM Debrow is recognized as a State and Federal Use-of-Force Expert and was designated as the TXDPS Use-of-Force Expert following judicial designation. He graduated from the Texas Department of Public Safety-State Trooper Academy 88th Session, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, and the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission.



#### **Nick Donato**

#### Lifetime Achievement

Hailing from the "Land Down Under", GM Nick Donato is a memorable martial artist holding a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Kwon Bop Do Taekwondo. He is the Australian Ambassador and a History General for the Sport Karate Museum, as well as the Australian Representative for the WMARA World Martial Arts Ranking Organization and the International Taekwondo Confederation (ITC). GM Donato currently serves as the WTO Continental President Oceania and a GM Member of the World Head of Family Sokeship Council. He has been recognized by the WHFSC, Int'l London Martial Arts Hall of Fame, Action Martial Arts Hall of Honors, and the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

### Patrick Kelly Golden Life Award

After a distinguished military career in the Marines, Master Kelly suffered a career-ending injury that resulted in more than 30 surgeries. His introduction to martial arts came through learning the art of Qwan Ki Do. Master Kelly has become the technical director for the United States and has taught the Art he loves in more than 30 countries. He also holds a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Pyles Vale Tudo and serves as an Ambassador and History General with the Sport Karate Museum. He has received numerous commendations over the years.

## Gary Glemboski Lifetime Achievement

With 57 years in martial arts, GM Glemboski holds a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shorinkan Karate. He has been a PKA Worldwide Honoree, with more than 100 awards for tournament fighting, forms, and weapons. GM Glemboski is a recipient of the Joe Lewis Dragon Image Fighting Award and is a decorated Sport Karate Museum History General. He's been previously recognized with an AMAA Legacy Award, and is an alumni of the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame and American Freestyle Kaizen Association.



#### Gabriel Green Honor Award

GM Green has dedicated nearly 5 decades of his life to the pursuit of Black Belt Excellence, leaving an indelible mark through his exemplary teaching, leadership, and service. He is a member of the IMACUSA Grandmasters Council and a National Training Camp Teaching Alumni, as well as a long-standing member of the Texas Karate Association. A quiet man, GM Green embodies the values of excellence, discipline, and honor that have earned him the respect of peers from coast to coast. He holds an 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Tang Soo Do and remains committed to elevating the standards of martial arts and inspiring the next generation of practitioners and leaders.

#### Jesus Martinez Golden Life Award

Master Martinez's martial arts journey began in 1972 and over the years, he has achieved a level of mastery in his craft, earning his 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in Goshin Jutsu. Despite multiple strokes, two heart attacks, and severe bleeding over a 7-year period, he has persevered, demonstrating the indomitable spirit of martial arts. As a teacher and mentor, he has influenced and trained countless students, promoting values such as discipline, respect, and compassion. Master Martinez has made martial arts a unifying force for individuals from diverse backgrounds, strengthening local communities in the process.

### Robert Morton Golden Life Award

Since earning his first black belt in 1974, Hanshi Morton has go on to achieve technical ranks across multiple disciplines, including a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Okinawan Karate, Takeda-Ryy-Aiki-Jujutsu, and Isshin-Ryu. He has been a pillar of leadership and operated his own dojo for more than 30 years. Hanshi Morton's commitment to teaching extends far beyond the dojo, instilling discipline, humility, and perseverance in every student. His legacy are the generations of students he has inspired, mentored, and empowered.

### Vince Murdocco Martial Arts Legend

From his contributions to the Arts, as well as his contributions to TV and film, Mr. Murducco is a Canadian actor, stunt performer, and former kickboxer. He won the National American Cruiserweight Kickboxing Championship in 1990. The next year, he appeared in Kickboxer 2: The Road Back and Ring of Fire. He also appeared in multiple action movies, done stunt work on TV shows, including The A-Team, and most recently added his voice to the 2021 release, New York Ninja.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone Website



### **Andrew Snyder**

### **Golden Life Award**

For nearly 5 decades, GM Snyder has continued to evolve himself as a martial artist, learning, applying, and teaching what he has learned. Today, he holds an 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Okinawa Jujitsu under Jon Bonner, and is the Chief Instructor at Tatsu Do Jujitsu. He is a member of the National Karate Jujitsu Federation, the South Texas Karate Black Belt Association, and the International Martial Arts Federation. GM Snyder has also been inducted into the Universal Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

# Bruce Lee Wynn Golden Life Award

A 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, with Black Belts in American Karate, Kenpo, Jeet Kune Do, Arnis, and French Silvate, GM Wynn has spent more than four decades expanding his knowledge and understanding of martial arts. After serving with distinction in the U.S. Army, he has gone on to develop the Wyn-Gym-Kata Martial Arts System, molding faith and martial arts, training students to become Soldiers for Christ. He is a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Freemason, a Sport Karate Museum History General and an AMAA Lifetime Member.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone 479-970-2079



### **Platinum**

#### Joe Hidrogo

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

GM Hidrogo holds a 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in American Karate under GM Billy Brammer. With more than 5 decades of training in martial arts, GM Hidrogo has literally seen and done it all. He's been recognized by the Masters Hall of Fame, the USA Hall of Fame, the Universal Hall of Fame and is a prior inductee of the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame. Outside the dojo, GM Hidrogo is known for his generosity, providing over 2000 turkeys to underprivileged students for the Holidays as well as tens of thousands in scholarships so they can pursue their education beyond high school.

## Dexter Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award

A 49-year veteran of martial arts, Master Kennedy is a decorated competitor, distinguished instructor, and well-respected businessman who practices the Art he loves in every area of his life. Master Kennedy holds a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in American Karate - Isshin Ryu. He is a veteran of Desert Storm and earned the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 2 during hid distinguished military career. Master Kennedy has published several books and is currently pursuing the creation of the National Martial Arts Teams League. He lives by the motto, "Making people better for life."

# Twain Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award

A 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Art of Shotokan, GM Twain Kennedy has invested more than 5 decades of his life in pursuit of martial arts excellence. He is a Masters Hall of Fame inductee, an International Black Belt Hall of Fame inductee, and a founding member of the Sport Karate Museum. His father, Karl Max, was the founder of Keichu-Do, a Cajun self-defense system of martial arts that incorporates elements of Judo, Karate, Jiu-jitsu, and street fighting. A successful oil man by trade, GM Kennedy has taken the martial arts principles of discipline, dedication, and hard work and has applied them to the world of business.



## Reginald Lee

#### Lifetime Achievement Award

A medical doctor by trade, GM Lee brings a unique understanding of the human anatomy to martial arts training. Having dedicated 50 years of his life to the martial arts, he currently holds a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Aiki Ninjutsu and Kung Fu. Dr. Lee is a History General with the Sport Karate Museum and one of the co-creators of Set-VR XL Unleashed, a virtual reality experience where he and his team are preserving the lineage and history of martial arts for future generations. Set VR XL Unleashed also provides a virtual training ground for martial arts practitioners to hone their craft outside the classroom, engaging in a variety of self-defense scenarios to hone how they respond to danger. Dr. Lee is a USMAHOF alumni and was recently inducted into the International London Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

#### Fernando Limon Pioneer Award

Having dedicated more than five decades of his life to the martial arts, GM Limon embodies the spirit, discipline, and perseverance that represent the finest in us all. His contributions span teaching, mentoring, and innovating within his chosen disciplines, influencing the lives of countless students in the process. As a pioneer, he's learned how to blend tradition and adaptability, enduring his influence and legacy are impactful for future generations. His leadership and vision have fostered the growth of martial arts not only here in Texas but around the globe.

## George Minshew Lifetime Achievement Award

Under the tutelage of the great J. Pat Burleson, GM Minshew initially dominated in the tournament circuit before setting his sights on making the martial arts better. He built an empire of karate studios and was one of the early influencers of sports safety equipment. GM Minshew was an NBL World Champion and went on to train a number of world-class competitors and champions. He founded the Karate Olympics, one of the Top Five Tournaments in the country, and was a co-founder of the AOK and TNT Circuits. GM Minshew remains active today, training, teaching, writing, and influencing the future of martial arts for generations to come.

#### **Shawn Powell**

#### Lifetime Achievement Award

With 52 years of proven martial arts experience, GM Powell holds a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan ranking in American Karate under the legendary GM Jim Butin. He is a History General with the Sport Karate Museum. GM Powell has continued the legacy of the incredible martial artists who came before him and poured into his life. He has impacted the lives of hundreds of students and instructors, and today remains active supporting tournaments in his home state of New Mexico.

#### Rick Shanahan Lifetime Achievement Award

With an illustrious martial arts career spanning more than 6 decades, GM Shanahan holds a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Kogoshian Ryu Aikijutsu and Koga Ninjutsu. He is a member of the Way of the Winds Martial Arts and the National Federation of Law Enforcement Training Center. GM Shanahan has also served as a Sport Karate Museum History General since 2023. He is instrumental in the development of SETVR-XL Unleashed, an immersive virtual reality martial arts experience. He's been recognized as a Living Legend and is a recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

## Ivan Ujueta Pioneer Award

Kyoshi Ujueta has dedicated his life to the teaching of martial arts. His journey began at the age of 13 in Queens, and he continues that journey 57 years later. Kyoshi Ujueta developed Ju Ki Do, the "Gentle Powerful Way", to blend together many of the styles he has mastered over his 5+ decade career. In 1989, he was ordained as a Pastor, transforming his journey from the Warrior Way to the Godly Warrior Way. Today he directs five academies while serving as Senior Pastor at Homeplace Fellowship in Helotes TX.

#### Steve Vitali Lifetime Achievement

Col. Vitali has served our nation with distinction, even as he continued his lifetime pursuit of martial arts excellence. A 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in American Karate and Tai Kwan Doe, he's been inducted into the South Carolina Black Belt Hall of Fame and the North Carolina and South Carolina Legends of Carolina Martial Arts. Col. Vitali is a recipient of the Joe Lewis Eternal Warrior Award and the Sport Karate Legend Award. His distinguished military career includes decorations with a Bronze Star and two Legion of Merit Medals. Col. Vitali is also the recipient of the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto, along with the Army Infantry's Order of Saint Marice.

Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone Website



#### L. Charles Willis

#### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Ask those who know this man, and they will describe GM Lewis as courteous, persistent, patient, and a man of integrity with an indomitable spirit. He is an 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Oh Do Kwan Taekwondo and chief instructor at Elite Martial Arts Academy. For more than 4 decades, he's committed to learning and growing as a martial artist, allowing him to continue to uplevel his instruction to his students. Over his illustrious career, GM Lewis has received numerous commendations and awards, an acknowledgment of his years of success.



Honoring deserving martial artists of all styles from around the world...

Phone 479-970-2079



### **Diamond**

#### Mike Dillard

### **Transformational Leadership**

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, GM Dillard 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.

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 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 Magazine's Man of the Year in 2011.

In 1976, GM Dillard founded Century Martial Art Supply. From its humble origins, Century has since become the world's largest supplier of martial arts products, producing product lines for many martial arts styles. 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.

GM Dillard's other endeavors have included professional kickboxing, TV and movie stuntman work, spear-fishing, scuba diving, mountain climbing, golf, hiking, skiing, biking, and professional race car driving. 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 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.



## Gary Wasniewski Humanitarian

GM Wasniewski is a world-famous martial artist and actor. During a martial arts seminar in Santa Monica, he was approached by Hollywood film director Leo Fong, which led to a career in film. Today, he is an award-winning film and stage actor and director in the United States, the United Kingdom, and worldwide. GM Wasniewski founded TYGA Martial Arts in 1974, which now boasts a global membership. He is also the founder of the International London Martial Arts Hall of Fame, recognizing those who are making a global difference through martial arts while donating the proceeds of this annual event to cancer research in honor of his two parents, whom he lost to cancer.

