



# United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame



## INDUCTEE CLASS OF 2023

### Youth

#### **Fabian Jimenez                      Outstanding Competitor of the Year**

Awarded his 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Karate at the age of 10, and named the “Karate Kid” of Victoria, TX, Sensei Fabien Jimenez was the Grand Champion of the final Texas Four Season Karate Championship in 2018. Now a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan, he has more than 100 first-place finishes in his short career as a martial artist and was the Junior Kata Wars Champion in 2021. He is also a 2021 recipient of the James Woodson Natural Fighter Award and Ralph Jaschke Memorial Dragon Image Award.

### Bronze

#### **Gary Alvarez, Jr.                      BJJ Instructor of the Year**

A recipient of the 2020 Master World’s Silver Medal, Master Alvarez is a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Black Belt with more than 14 years of experience in martial arts. He is the instructor at Team Link Northhampton, and a member of the IBJJF and IJF. He has also trained in Judo, Wrestling, Muai Thai, and Boxing.

#### **Marcelo Herz Antunes              Master of the Year**

Master Antunes began his training at the age of 15 under the tutelage of Master Romero “Jacare”, and later under Master Luis Claudio in the famed Academia Carlson Gracie in Brazil. As a 6<sup>th</sup>-degree black belt, he has become a formidable competitor on the world stage, winning a Gold Medal in the 2020 World Championship and a Silver Medal in the 2021 Pan American Games.

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## **Raymond Autery                      Instructor of the Year**

After being bullied as an 11-year-old, Sensei Autery began his martial arts journey, initially studying Wing Chun and Boxing before discovering Pan American Goju-Ryu and Akujitsu. He later added a personal trainer designation and pursued a dream to be a truck driver owner/operator. Today, he teaches self-defense and martial arts classes while driving on the road, instructing multiple clients.

## **Jacqueline Ropes-Bozeman            Keeping the Faith**

A 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan Black Belt in Tang Soo Do under GM Gary Lenzi, Sensei Bozeman is an instructor with Defending the Faith Karate, a Christian martial arts program dedicated to developing the whole person, body, mind, and spirit. She is a member of Karate for Christ and the Martial Arts Council of the United States and a recipient of the Goodwill Award by San Kil Tang Soo Do. A decorated martial arts instructor, Sensei Bozeman teaches sparring and forms, but also important faith-based character values that help prepare students for life.

## **Alexander Carew                      Coach of the Year**

Currently serving as the wrestling, strength, & conditioning coach at NS Revolution Fitness, Coach Carew is a member of USA Wrestling and USA Weightlifting. He's been recognized as the Northeast Conference Coach of the Year and is a National Strength and Conditioning Certified Specialist and USA Weightlifting Club Coach. Coach Carew continues to lead by example, and even after 26 years in this grueling art, continues to advance his own training even as he is teaching and training others.

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## **Nabil Cherif**

### **Black Belt Author of the Year**

Having trained with multiple instructors across 3 continents, Sensei Cherif currently holds a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Black Belt in Shotokan Karate. He's also studied Krav Maga. The founder of Kansas City Interpreting, Sensei Cherif, and his wife Emily, provide interpretation and translation services for a variety of clients across the country. In 2022, he chronicled his journey from Tunisia to the United States and the lessons learned along the way, in his book, "I Wasn't Born to go Home, and Neither Were You," available on Amazon.com.

## **Samuel Cholico**

### **Master of the Year**

A 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in the art of So-Ryu Karate and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Kodocan Judo, Master Cholico has been training in the martial arts for 55 years. He's a member of the Texas Soryu Karate Association and has been recognized by the United Martial Arts Association. Master Cholico is the instructor at Family JuJitsu Karate Center in Cuero TX and continues to teach the art he loves to those who will one day take his place.

## **Antoine Cook**

### **TKD Instructor of the Year**

Affectionately known as "AJ" in the school, Master Antoine Cook is a 2<sup>nd</sup>-degree Taekwondo black belt and a full-time instructor at Union UTA Martial Arts. He not only dedicates a significant amount of his time to his students, and is known for his highly motivational speeches in the classroom. Master Cook is also an active competitor leading a traveling tournament team throughout the year.

## **Dr. Brian Cunningham**

### **AAU Competitor of the Year**

Dr. Cunningham is a teacher and leader in the world of Taekwondo. In 2023, he competed in the AAU National Championships, held at the world-famous MGM Grand, where he was named National Grandmaster Champion in two divisions. Dr. Cunningham is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Taekwondo and a member of the Kukkiwon, AAU Taekwondo, and US Judo Association. He is also an AAU National Point Sparring Team Member.

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## **Ethic DeJaun**

### **OKA Competitor of the Year**

Known as a fierce, highly skilled fighter, but a man who is also one of deep respect and humility by his peers, Sensei DeJaun was a force to contend with on the OKA circuit. He is a 4-time ISKA Open World Champion, a 3-Time National Champion, and a 3-Time OKA State Champion. Sensei DeJaun is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Karate, and has also studied Taekwondo, Kickboxing, Boxing, Muay Thai, Hopkido, and Judo.

## **Isak Dzanic**

### **Master of the Year**

An instructor in the Art of Wing Chun Kung Fu, Master Isak Dzanic his a Master Level 7 Instructor under GM Sinis Ivanji and GM Slavko Truntic. He has been honored with a Gold Plaque from UP Srebrenica and the Award of Merit and Interrelations from the Yon-Won Association.

## **Marco Flores**

### **BJJ Competitor of the Year**

Sensei Marco Flores is one of the most talented Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competitors from Ecuador. As the current National Champion, he is the #1 ranked athlete in his division. Sensei Flores is not just content with competing, but also inspiring a new generation of athletes in his home country of Ecuador to don the Gi and begin the journey of mastery of the art of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

## **Dennis Fritzing, Jr.**

### **Martial Arts School of the Year**

Master Dennis Fritzing is the lead instructor at Krav Maga of Albrightsville, recognized as the Best School in the Poconos by the Federation of Israeli Martial Arts. He's also been recognized by the London International Martial Arts Hall of Fame. Master Fritzing has also been inducted into the Action Martial Arts Hall of Honors and is a 2017 inductee into the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

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## **Tyson Gregg**

### **Instructor of the Year**

A 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in the Art of Kenpo, Master Gregg is the instructor at Boise Family Martial Arts and has been previously recognized as Orange County Instructor of the Year in 2009. He has also trained in SAMI Combat Systems, Krav Maga, Jiu-Jitsu, Muay Thai, Kickboxing, and Jeet Kune Do. Known for his family-focused approach to training, and actively involving himself and students in the local community, he is focused not just on martial arts excellence, but making a difference where he lives.

## **David Krapes**

### **Kru Coach of the Year**

GM David Krapes is a 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in the Art of Lua Halau O Kai-He-Wa-Lu, and has also studied American Kickboxing and Muay Thai. He's a 1989 WKA North American Light Heavyweight Kickboxing Champion, a 1990 NBL Pro/Am Adult Kata Champion, and a prior recipient of an Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award. He teaches Muay Thai, Kickboxing at the Janjira Gym, and also serves as a USA Boxing Coach.

## **Adam Lawson**

### **Overcoming Adversity**

Sensei Adam Lawson has experienced more than his fair share of adversity, even in the world of martial arts. However, he didn't allow what he experienced in one school to define his martial arts experience, choosing instead to overcome the challenges and difficulties he faced. With the support and encouragement of his Senior Instructor, GM Sandra Larwood, he has grown as a martial artist and matured into a kind, considerate, thoughtful instructor in his own right. Sensei Lawson holds a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Japanese Jiu-Jitsu and has been previously recognized as Assistant Instructor of the Year.

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## **Jennifer Musick**                      **Instructor of the Year**

Starting at the age of 15, Master Jennifer Musick enjoyed a spectacular competition career. Throughout her high school years, she won many national championships at AAU, USSSA, and NASTA events. Today, she's a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, and an instructor at the Humanitarian School of Martial Arts in Enid OK. Master Musick is also a full-time wife and mother of six children, and has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Central Christian College in Kansas.

## **Robert Nichols**                      **International Instructor of the Year**

A two-time best-selling author and senior instructor at Union UTA Martial Arts in Union, NJ, Both Master Robert Nichols and his school have been previously recognized for the difference they are making, not only in the United States but also in Germany, Austria, the UK, and Ireland. Master Roberts, a 7<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt, travels internationally, teaching the SAMI Combat System, all while leading a school of over 300 students for the past 20 years.

## **Gino Ossorio**                              **Black Belt of the Year**

Sensei Gino Ossorio, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Koju-Ryu Jiu-Jitsu, joined the Shotokan Karate & Fitness organization in 2022, bringing a valuable self-defense resource to the program. He has served the school with distinction, working with advanced students to deepen their knowledge of the self-defense aspects of martial arts in preparation for rank testing. Not just an instructor, he also trains regularly in the school to further advance his skill.

## **Jadiel Quesada**                      **Competitor of the Year**

A student of Shihan Sergio Tijerino, Sensei Dany Jadiel has established himself as a formidable competitor, with numerous Championships to his credit. He is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Kyokushin Karate and also trains in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He is a member of the IKO Matsushima Costa Rica and has been recognized as Distinguished Athlete Perez Zeledon City, Costa Rica. Never settling for good enough, Sensei Jadiel continues to push himself, striving for constant improvement to honor his instructor.

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## **Shannon Ramsey      Woman of the Year**

Actively teaching at Five Wave in Washington, Master Shannon Ramsey is a passionate practitioner of the Arts. Holding a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Tang Soo Do, she is also President of the TKA Northwest Chapter and serves as a resource for the Women's Self-Defense Network, where she is listed as a qualified Trauma Informed instructor for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sex Trafficking, and Abuse. Master Ramsey is truly dedicated to helping protect some of the most vulnerable among us, empowering them to be aware.

## **Nelly Rovira-Alvarez      Female Competitor of the Year**

The 2022 National and International Champion in Taiji Quan, Sibak Nelly Rovira-Alvarez is currently ranked #1 Among national and international competitors in the Art. In 2022, she was Grand Champion at the Golden State International Chinese Martial Arts Championships in California and Florida and a 7-Time Gold Medalist in New England and Houston Chinese Martial Arts Championships. She has been chosen to represent the 2023 USAWKF National Team at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Wushu Kung Fu Taiji Championships Emeishan China and the Pan-American Games in Ontario Canada. .

## **T.J. Steinebach      BJJ Competitor of the Year**

A Black Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Sensei Steinebach is a student of Hall of Famer, Rodrigo Antunes. He has also trained in wrestling, Muay Thai, Boxing, and Kickboxing. Sensei Steinebach is a 3-Time member of the USA Grappling Team, 3-Time MMA Champion, 7-Time BJJ State Champion, and has been a repeat NAGA National Champion in his weight division. He is also a member of Alliance Jiu-Jitsu.

## **Matthew Stephen      Martial Artist of the Year**

Chief Instructor at 4-Mile Hill Taekwondo in Searcy, AR, Master Stephen is a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Black Belt. An inspirational teacher, his students (both young and old) appreciate his good attitude and the example he models before them. He is also noted as a fierce tournament competitor, representing his senior instructor, GM James Goodwin, and 4-Mile Hill Taekwondo well.

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## **Erica Sweeney**

### **Instructor of the Year**

A student of IMAC Grandmaster Council Member, James Goodwin, Erica Sweeney is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Black Belt in the Art of Taekwondo. As a student, she was not only an excellent student, but one who was willing to help other students improve their mastery of the Art, gaining knowledgeable teaching experience. She has recently opened her own school in Batesville AR where she teaches Taekwondo, Muay Thai, and Kickboxing.

## **Sergio Tijerino**

### **Defensive Tactics Instructor of the Year**

Teaching at the Cobra Training Center in Costa Rica, Shihan Sergio Tijerino specializes in self-defense for the law enforcement community. He also regularly hosts women's self-defense classes, empowering women to walk unafraid. He is a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Karate under Shihan Moises Munoz and holds a black belt in Japanese Jiu-Jitsu. Shihan Tijerino is a member of the European Self-Defense Association, Costa Rick Jiu-Jitsu Federation, and the Kodenkan. He has trained in martial arts for 37 years.

## **Ellia Torkian**

### **Honorable Martial Artist**

With more than a decade of training under her belt, Ellia has been training in Wushu, Kali, Eskrima, Jun Fan Gung Fu, and Jeet Kune Do with Sifu Matt Emery. She received her 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Black Belt in the summer of 2022. When she's not training or competing, she attends the University of San Diego and is an active member of the Ultimate Frisbee Team. Her lineage includes GM Richard Bustillo, GM Ramiro Estalilla, Sigug Taky Kimura, and Sifu Andrew Kimura.

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## Silver

### **Brad Bezoni**

### **Taekwondo School of the Year**

Master Bezoni is the founder of Fighting Dragon Taekwondo, where he serves as Chief Instructor. A consummate leader, he pushes his students not to settle for less than their best, even as he models the example of Black Belt Excellence before them. Fighting Dragon focuses on Taekwondo, but elements of Tang Soo Do and Kuk Sool Won make their way into the curriculum as well. Fighting Dragon Taekwondo is committed to not only developing great martial artists but also Black Belt Leaders in Life.

### **Kimberly Blake**

### **Women Who Paved the Way**

The first female BJJ Black Belt in Oklahoma and the first African American female BJJ Black Belt under Carlos Machado, Master Blake continues to be a woman who models Black Belt Excellence and serves as a role model to others. She's a 2X world champion and has won more than 40 Karate Grand Championships. Master Blake has also been honored with multiple Hall of Fame inductions. She currently holds a 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Black Belt in BJJ and a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Karate.

### **Randy Blake, Jr.**

### **Living Intentionally**

Intentional living defines how "Boom Boom" Blake lives life. As his nickname suggests, Master Blake is a knockout artist who makes a habit of leaving his opponents on the canvas. Inspired by the movie, "Bloodsport", he took up martial arts at the age of six. Holding a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Karate, Master Blake is also a veteran of the Chuck Norris League, Glory, and the K-1 circuits. He is currently the reigning 5-Time ISKA Heavyweight World Champion, holding a record of 52 & 7 (including 35 KO's), a Best Selling Author, and a 2-Time Hall of Fame Inductee.

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## **Larry Collins**

### **Distinguished Instructor**

A 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Chinese Kara-Ho Kempo Karate under Kyoshi Shane Thompson, Master Collins has been training in martial arts for 30 years. He is an instructor at the Virginia Chinese Kara-Ho Kempo Karate Academy where the next generation of black belt instructors are being trained. A purist, he has dedicated his life to the perfection of the art of Kara-Ho and is one of the many gifted instructors who tirelessly gives back to his students and his community without thought of personal recognition or reward.

## **Bob Cruise**

### **Martial Arts Dedication**

Winner of the 2022 World Karate Championship, 4 Texas State Championships, and 2 Karate Olympics Championships, Sensei Bob Cruise continues to demonstrate that dedication to training, becoming better with each passing day, pays off. He holds a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan ranking in American Full Contact Karate and has also trained in Muay Thai and Taekwondo. Sensei Cruise is a member of Northside Karate and has been training for 47 years in the Arts.

## **Roger Dabney**

### **Distinguished Master Instructor**

A Golden Life Award recipient, GM Roger Dabney has invested 45 years in growing himself as a martial artist. A 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in American Open Karate, with a 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, GM Dabney has also trained in Kali, American Extension Fighting, and is a former professional kickboxer. He also received the Legendary Joe Lewis "Father of Kickboxing" Eternal Warrior Award in 2018. GM Dabney is the owner and chief instructor at Competitive Edge Karate.

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## **William Daggett**

### **Distinguished Master**

With a lineage going back to the legendary Jhoon Rhee, Master William Daggett has spent more than five decades growing as a martial artist. He currently holds a 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in the Art of So-Ryu and also has a background in Taekwondo and Kenpo. Master Daggett was known for his competitive spirit, outstanding physical ability, and his skill as a fighter during his days on the fighting circuit, and today instills those principles in the students he teaches at Family Jiu-Jitsu Karate.

## **Marcel DaSilva**

### **Silver Life Award**

One of Alabama's best, Master Marcel DaSilva is a passionate practitioner of Aiki-Jujitsu, and is the founder of American Kokoro-Ryu-Aiki-Jujitsu, sanctioned by the American Federation of Jujitsu. He currently holding a 6<sup>th</sup> Dan ranking in this Art. He also has a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Danzan-Ryu Jujitsu, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Bunbu-Ichi-Zendo-Kai-Aiki-Jujitsu and Yoshin-Ryu Jujitsu. A 42-year veteran of martial arts, he is a member of the American Jujitsu Institute and senior instructor at American Kokoro-Ryu Aiki-Jujitsu.

## **James Debrow**

### **Distinguished Defensive Tactics Instructor**

Distinguished service defines the life and legacy of GM James Debrow. He has given his life in service to this country, both as a military veteran and a highly decorated law enforcement officer. GM Debrow was a defensive tactics full-contact karate, boxing, Judo, and Jiu-Jitsu instructor assigned to the legendary Texas Dept of Public Safety State Troopers Training Academy, where he graduated 2093 cadets from the program during his illustrious law enforcement career. He is a previous Hall of Fame inductee.

## **Nick Donato**

### **Distinguished Grandmaster**

Chief instructor at The PIT Martial Arts Defence and Fitness Center in New South Wales, GM Nick Donato is a highly decorated martial arts practitioner. An 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Kwon Bop Do Taekwondo, he is an inductee into the London International Hall of Fame and Action Martial Arts Hall of Fame and a Sport Karate Museum History General. GM Donato's martial arts training extends to Ju-Jitsu, Kobu Jutsu, and Tai Chi.

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## **Dillon Dulay**

### **Honorable FMA Instructor**

A senior instructor in Filipino Combat Escrima under GM Ed Galang, Sifu Dillon Dulay has also trained in Silat Buka Lingkaran, Inosato-Blend FMA, Doce Pares Eskrima, Balintawak Escrima, Sayoc Kali, Abenir Kalis, Lekiti Tirsia Kali, and Jeet Kune Do. He is characterized by his helpful nature and desire to pass on what he has learned.

## **Russell Dulay**

### **Distinguished Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute Affiliate**

Sifu Russell Dulay is known as a respectful, hard-working, and highly skilled martial arts instructor. He teaches at Beale Air Force Base, providing quality instruction to military members and their families as they make sacrifices to serve our country. Sifu Dulay is a Certified Instructor teaching Jun Fan Gung Fu, Jeet Kune Do, Filipino Combat Escrima, and Ghose Elusive Combat. He was recently awarded the rank of Level One Affiliate under Sifu Andrew Kimura.

## **Matt Emery**

### **Distinguished Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute Affiliate**

As a Senior Affiliate of the Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute, Bruce Lee's original Seattle school, Sifu Emery has produced and hosted the Annual JFGF Instructors Conference, pulling together a diverse group of martial arts instructors to further the goal of preserving the body of knowledge left to us from Sigung Taky Kimura and his Sifu, Bruce Lee. He is a Black Belt in FMA under Guro Dan Inosato, a Certified Instructor under Sigung Richard Bustillo, a full Grandmaster under GM Ramiro Estalilla, Jr. a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan under GM Johnny Thompson, and a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in the art of Wushu.

## **Damon Evans**

### **Distinguished Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute Affiliate**

Sifu Damon Evans is a Master Level Instructor, with decades of experience in an eclectic blend of martial arts styles. He is a certified instructor in Krabi-Krabong under Kru Pedro Solana and was recently promoted to a Level 3 Affiliate in Jun Fan Gung Fu under Sifu Andrew Kimura, one of only two Senior Affiliates in the United States. He has also trained in Jeet Kune Do, Sayok Laki, and Muay Thai Chiaya under highly regarded, senior instructors in these respective Arts.

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## **Gary Glemboski**

### **Distinguished Fighting Career**

A 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in ShorinKen Kenpo, GM Gary Glemboski has had a long and distinguished career as a fighter and competitor. He was a 2-Time Light Heavyweight Fighter of the Year in the Southeast Karate Circuit and 2-Time Fighter of the Year in the South Georgia Circuit, earning a #3 Southeast Fighter Ranking in Karate Illustrated Magazine.

## **Deo Guerrero**

### **Distinguished Instructor**

Sifu Deo Guerrero is the owner and chief instructor at Bremerton Academy of Martial Arts, where he teaches Filipino Martial Arts, Jeet Kune Do, Silat, Muay Thai, Kickboxing, Boxing, Submission Wrestling, and MMA. Although he started training as a child in the martial arts, having been inspired by Bruce Lee, his martial arts career began in earnest when he served in the U.S. Navy, studying Butokukan Karate and then expanding into an eclectic blend of Filipino Martial Arts, earning instructor certifications in multiple FMA systems over the years. Sifu Guerrero has made an impact in his local community of Bremerton, and he has dedicated his life to passing on the knowledge he has learned, and continued to learn, as a lifelong student of the Arts.

## **Shannon Hall Girolamo**

### **Indomible Spirit**

Shannon "Dallas" Hall-Girolamo is an alumnus of American Gladiators and a world-champion boxer. He is an IFBA Platinum Division Champion, WuShu San Shou Champion, and Toughwoman World Champion. In addition to boxing, she has trained in Muay Thai, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and Submission Wrestling. An instructor at the Knockout Artist Fight Club, she is a member of USA Boxing, ISKA, and IFBA.

## **Mark Harris**

### **Distinguished Chief Instructor**

A 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo under GM James Goodwin, Master Harris is an instructor at 4-Mile Hill Taekwondo. He is known by his students as a good instructor who is patient and works well with children, teens, and adults, helping them expand their knowledge and application of the Art of Taekwondo. He has been previously recognized as Instructor of the Year in 2021.

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## **Chad Hellmuth**

### **Distinguished Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute Affiliate**

Affectionately known as “Mr. Chad” in the classroom, Sifu Hellmuth is a man of integrity. Respectful, hard-working, and thoughtful, he is always willing to serve the students at the highest level. He has been privileged to train under GM Richard Bustillo, Guro Dan Inosato, Sigung Taky Kimura, and Sifu Andrew Kimura, who recently promoted him to Level 2 Affiliate of the Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute.

## **Andrew David Hodnall**

### **Most Distinguished Instructor**

A student of the legendary Grandmaster Joe Blake, Grandmaster Hudnall is a Judan in American Open Karate. He’s also trained in Long-Fist Kung Fu, Taekwondo, and Shorin-Ryu. He’s a member of the Council of American Martial Arts, American karate Association, and Traditional World Karate Association. In 1993, he was the All Military Martial Arts Champion, and Virginia Karate Alliance Champion in 2007 and 2011. GM Hodnall was also recognized as National and International Instructor of the Year in 2016.

## **Mitzi Tyler Jeter**

### **Distinguished Master Competitor**

After starting martial arts with her sister in a Jhoon Rhee Institute of Taekwondo affiliate school, Master Jeter went on to earn a Black Belt in Taekwondo. In 1980, she became U.S. National Champion, her first major tournament win. She soon began to climb the list of top competitors, earning a #1 ranking in the Southeastern United States for several years and nationally ranked for more than a decade. In the mid-1990s, Black Belt Magazine named her one of the Top Ten Female Competitors of all time. She has also won Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals as a member of the USA Team competing in the IAKSA World Games. In 1997, she began a career as a professional boxer and became a two-time Welterweight Champion.

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## **Mike Jones**

### **Indomitable Spirit**

Grandmaster Mike Jones personifies what it means to be a Black Belt Leader in Life. A 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Tang Soo Do, he's been training in the Arts for 45 years. Despite many adversities in life, GM Jones has always found a way to overcome them. He is a member of the Tang Soo Do Karate Association and International Martial Arts Council of America, and is a 2-Time Hall of Fame inductee. GM Jones is often seen at our National Training Camp taking photos when he's not training, he has served as our Hall of Fame photographer for several years.

## **Diane Kirby**

### **Silver Life Award**

A student of Texas legend, J. Pat Bureson, GM Diane Kirby has enjoyed an illustrious career as a martial arts pioneer. She's a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo and a member of the Texas Black Belt Fellowship and World Martial Arts Ranking Association. She owned and operated Victory Martial Arts for 27 years, before semi-retiring in 2022. Today, her time is spent focused on teaching self-defense classes. She's been inducted into the Masters Hall of Fame and is a winner of the BBC Inspirations Award.

## **Tim Kirby**

### **Silver Life Award**

A fifty-year veteran of the martial arts, GM Tim Kirby is a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo and the founder of the Texas Black Belt Fellowship. He was the first winner of the Golden Greek Award, a 7-Time National Champion, and a 6-Time State Champion. GM Kirby has also been previously inducted into the Masters Hall of Fame. He teaches the art of "Tex-Kwon-Do" at Omega Martial Arts in Plano, TX.

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# United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame



## **Sandy Larwood**                      **Distinguished Female Grandmaster**

Hardworking, dedicated, driven, and demanding, GM Sandy Larwood expects nothing less than the best from her students, and she inspires them in each class to dig a little bit deeper, find something more, and bring it to the surface. GM Larwood not only invests in her students, but in their parents and in the staff members who help teach and train in her school. She models Black Belt Excellence, as do her students. GM Larwood holds a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shotokan and has also studied Kyhoushin-Kai and Tang Soo Do.

## **Raymond Loriaux**                      **Distinguished Master**

A 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Ju Kwon Do, Master Raymond Loriaux has a diverse and rich history in martial arts. Over a 44-year career, he has also studied Taekwondo, Aikido, Modern Arnis, Shito-Ryu, Fencing, Caopeira, Bu-jin-kan Budo Tai-Jutsu, and Army Combatives, all broadening his breadth and knowledge of the Arts. He brings a wealth of wisdom to the students he helps teach at Shotokan Karate and Fitness, and is known and loved for his kindness and patience.

## **Lowell Lyle**                              **Empowering the Lives of Others**

Grandmaster Lowell Lyle has a knack for making the complex simple. His analytical mind and communicative style of teaching help students not only understand the mechanics of how to punch, block, and kick, but the real-life application as well. With more than 4 decades of experience, GM Lyle, a 7<sup>th</sup> dan in Tang Soo Do, currently serves as a traveling instructor teaching at several Texas Karate Association member schools.

## **Jacob McCluskey**                      **Empowering Others**

A Full-Instructor in Jeet Kune Do, Sifu Jacob McCluskey is best known for his work with fellow veterans suffering from PTSD. He also offers personalized service dog training to meet the varied needs of veterans dealing with PTSD. While he teaches privately to small groups of men, women, and children, Sifu McCluskey also dedicates many hours each week to working with disabled veterans at various clinics and seminars.

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## **Sylvia McDonald      Making a Difference**

When she's not working a full-time job, you'll find Sensei Sylvia McDonald busy working out at the gym or assisting at Christian Taekwondo League every evening. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, she also teaches several classes, including a Women's Self-Defense class, each week. She's received several honors over the years, including prior Hall of Fame inductions, a fitting tribute to a life dedicated to serving others and making a difference.

## **Brian McLaughlin      Martial Arts Excellence**

Sensei Brian McLaughlin has combined competitive excellence with community action. Over a 25-year career in martial arts, he's traveled the world to further his knowledge. With multiple championships to his credit, Sensei McLaughlin is the lead instructor at Precision Boxing and MMA, with a student base exceeding 500 students. He gives back to his local community by offering free BJJ lessons to underprivileged inner-city children.

## **Nikolaj McLeod      Silver Life Award**

A 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shotokan, Master Nikolaj McLeod has received numerous recognitions for his decades of service to the martial arts community, including USMAA Instructor of the Year, 2-Time AOK Texas State Champion, and inclusion in Who's Who in Martial Arts. He is a member of the All Japan Budo Association and the Professional Kickboxing Association. Master McLeod currently teaches at Team Karate Academy in Katy, TX.

## **Edward Mattson      Silver Life Award**

An instructor at Fight Science Academy, Master Edward Mattson passes on his knowledge in the Art of Kung Fu San Soo to his students. Holding an 8<sup>th</sup> Dan, he is a member of the International Kung Fu San Soo Association and has previously been recognized as a Two-Time Black Belt of the Year and Two-Time Instructor of the Year. His love for martial arts extends to Jeet Kune Do, which he has also studied.

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## **Maggie Messina**

### **Martial Arts Excellence**

Master Maggie Messina understands what it means to be a Black Belt Leader in Life. Her decades of martial arts experience have opened doors outside the dojang to impact countless lives. Master Messina is a recipient of the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, a Marquis Who's Who in America Inductee, and was named the 2019 Most Powerful woman in business for New York State. She's also received a Special Congressional Recognition for our outstanding service to her community, along with being featured on the cover of Taekwondo Life Magazine, the first women to grace the cover.

## **Cassandra Morisch**

### **Distinguished Instructor**

From an early age, Master Cassandra Morisch found success on the tournament circuit, winning national honors at AAU, NASTA, and USSSA events. She has trained with the same instructor, GM Dustin Musick, for 22 years. Today, Master Morisch holds a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in the Art of Taekwondo and is an assistant instructor at the Humanitarian School of Martial Arts in Enid OK.

## **Brian Neeley**

### **Distinguished Grandmaster**

A student of the legendary Senior Grandmaster Jerry Smith, GM Brian Neeley is a 5 Level Method Practitioner, teaching the Art exclusively through private lessons. His distinguished career includes training in Tracy Kenpo and serving as a History General for the Sport Karate Museum. He continues to serve the martial arts world and his local community by teaching seniors, women, and disabled individuals who are empowered to live life unafraid. GM Neeley has also worked with groups who have rescued women from the sex slave trade and through the martial arts, they have regained a sense of value and worth, along with the confidence they do not have to be victims any longer.

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## **Alfred Parker**

## **Distinguished Combat Operator**

Kyoshi Alfred Parker, a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Kara-Ho Kempo Karate and Isshin-Ryu, is the chief Head of Security for Professor Chow's Chinese Kara-Ho Kempo Karate system. He is a retired U.S. Marine Corps First Recon Division Sargeant Major who was decorated numerous times for his distinguished military service. He has been training in martial arts 60 years, starting at the age of 9. Kyoshi Parker is also a Masters Hall of Fame alumnus, having been recognized by that organization in 2004.

## **Hugh Price**

## **Enduring Spirit**

A Cybersecurity Policy Department Team Lead for the Defense Health Agency, Naval Information Welfare Center, Sam Dan Hugh Price is at the forefront of helping keep our nation safe from global cyber threats. Not only is he a Black Belt Master in the art of cybersecurity, he holds a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Tang Soo Do and has been training in the Art for more than 25 years. A dedicated husband, father, and martial arts practitioner, he is committed to living a life of Black Belt Excellence at home, in the dojang, and at work.

## **Jose Ramirez II**

## **Edged Weapons Instructor of the Year**

After a distinguished career in the Navy, Master Jose Ramirez continued his life of service and dedication and devoted it to the teaching of martial arts. Holding a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan ranking in Tang Soo Do, he is also a Maestro in Derobio Ecrima under Tony Tanere. Versed in several systems, Master Ramirez has more than two decades of experience in edged weapons. He is known as a soft-spoken man with a passion for helping others and an accomplished martial arts instructor. He actively serves the International Martial Arts Council of America and is always there to lend a helping hand.

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## **Dan Roberts**

### **Founder of the Year**

A member of the Black Knight's Karate Association, GM Dan Roberts holds a 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo under Hong Sun Lee of the Korean Taekwondo Youn Moo Kwan Federation, and a 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in Soo Bok Kee under the legendary GM Victor Moore. He is also a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in the Art of Tang Soo Do, and his training extends to Wado Ryu, Hapkido, and Cheung Song Won. His accolades are too numerous to mention, but even with all the recognition he has received, GM Roberts remains a humble and dedicated practitioner and teacher of martial arts. Today, he teaches the Arts he loves as MSHQ in Killeen TX.

## **Greg Robinson**

### **Distinguished Grandmaster**

Behind a quiet and unassuming demeanor lies the heart of a true warrior in the Arts. A 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Aiki-Ju-Jujitsu under GM Michael Hornsby, he also holds Black Belts in multiple disciplines. GM Robinson is an assistant instructor at True Force Taekwondo and is a member of multiple martial arts organizations including the World Butokukai Federation, World Moo Duk Kwan Alliance, and Tang Soo Do Karate Alliance. He is a former World Champion, with numerous Awards and Honors bestowed on him during a long and illustrious career in martial arts.

## **Jeremy Schmidt**

### **Silver Life Award**

An instructor at the American Karate Institute in Placedo TX, Master Jeremy Schmidt teaches an eclectic blend of Ninjutsu, Karate, and Iaido. As he enters his fourth decade in the Arts, he is currently a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in the Art of Ninjutsu and the U.S. Representative of the International School of Koka Yyu Ninjutsu. His diverse martial arts background includes proficiency in Ju-Jutsu, Iaido, Karate, Wing Chun, Taekwondo, and Judo.

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## **William Shelton**

### **Silver Life Award**

A teaching member of the prestigious Al Francis Karate Association, Master William Shelton is a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Taekwondo and has also studied Jukwondo. A 2016 alumnus of our Hall of Fame, he is also a member of James Debrow Fighting Tiger and USMAA. Master Shelton has received numerous honors for his dedication to the Arts and as an instructor, and is celebrating his 35<sup>th</sup> year as a lifelong student of martial arts.

## **Wade Simmons**

### **Martial Arts Excellence**

Shihan Wade Simmons started his martial arts career at the age of 4, training in the Art of Chito-Ryu Yoshu-Kai, becoming the youngest 4<sup>th</sup> Dan and 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Yoshu-Kai history. He is a 3-Time Alabama State Champion and has been a repeat IKF Tournament Champion. Founder of a Youth Competition Team, his students have gone on to already win three Alabama State Championships. In addition to his duties as a martial arts instructor, Shihan Simmons is a full-time firefighter in Birmingham AL and is continually giving back to his local community. He remains committed to modeling excellence, as this is what he also demands of his students.

## **Melvin Stewart**

### **Most Distinguished Master Instructor**

A 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Karate under Hanshi Dan Wilson, GM Melvin Stewart is also a Nidan in Isshin-Ryu and a Chodan in Taekwondo. A member of the Okinawa Isshin-Ryu Karate Association, GM Stewart is an instructor at the American Oriented Style Karate Studio in Virginia. He has been honored for his prowess as a competitor and champion in the tournament circuit, as well as for the quality of his instruction in the Art of Isshin-Ryu.

## **Tyrone Upshur**

### **Most Outstanding Jiu-Jitsu Instructor**

Sensei Tyrone Upshur started his martial arts training in the art of Taekwondo before being exposed to Wing Chun and later to the Art of Judo and Jiu-Jitsu under GM E.R. Spruill. Today, Sensei Upshur holds a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Judo and Jiu-Jitsu as he continues his quest to grow and learn as a martial artist, and to pass on what he is learning to his students as he molds and shapes the next generation of Judo and Jiu-Jitsu instructors.

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## **Dylan Vargas**

### **Excellence in Instruction**

Master Dylan Vargas has a reputation for excellence, as evidenced by being ranked the USAMA #1 Instructor and #1 School in 2019. A 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Moo Duk Kwan Taekwondo, he has also gained proficiency in Tang Soo Do, Shotokan, Kenpo, and BJJ in his two decades of training in Martial Arts. Master Vargas is a member of the USAMA and IMAC, and a 2010 recipient of the Shannon Main Memorial Competitor of the Year Award.

## **Dan Walthers**

### **Leading By Example**

A 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Tang Soo Do, GM Dan Walthers is now helping groom his third generation of martial arts students and instructors. At any given weekend, you'll find him at a tournament, volunteering his time to work, supporting other school owners, encouraging the competitors to do their very best, and at times still competing. He not only still teaches, but he also lends his experience to other schools and instructors, passing on the wisdom of his years and technical experience to help them keep growing and improving.

## **Austin West**

### **Assistant Instructor of the Year**

Having joined Fighting Dragon Taekwondo after relocating, Austin West started over as a white belt, working hard to earn his black belt in a different system. During this intensive time of training, he also joined the Instructor Training Program and has demonstrated a passion for teaching and proficiency that has made him an invaluable member of the School. He graduated high school with honors, having taken his school debate team to the Texas State Finals. He's been accepted into Brigham Young University-Provo where he will be pursuing a degree in psychology.

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## **Robert West**

### **Distinguished Instructor**

With a background in Kun-Tao, Silat, and Filipino Boxing in his early years, Robert West followed in a tradition of family passing on knowledge from father to son. He broke with tradition and took on a non-family member as a student who had been turned down by a local martial arts school. That student, Moses Sanders, went on to win 2 boxing belts, 3 MMA titles, and a Gold Medal with Team Waco during an international competition in Italy. Today, he operates the Superior Boxing, MMA, and Martial Science Kids Foundation, training young students regardless of their ability to pay.

## **Timothy White**

### **Distinguished Law Enforcement Service**

A humanitarian and former Who's Who and AMAM Hall of Honors recipient, GM Timothy White is a veteran of Molum Pai Kung Fu and a law enforcement officer. He has also trained in Kei-Satsu Aikutsu and Kiru-Do Karate. GM White has been recognized for his distinguished law enforcement service, being honored as Tactical Officer of the Year. He's also a member of the PKA, PKC, TKA, AMAA, Sport Karate History Museum, and MLCAA Honor Society. Today, he teaches at Molum Combat Arts in Indiana.

## **Danny Williams**

### **Distinguished Grandmaster**

Master Danny Williams is a 7th-degree Black Belt and a United States Marine Corps veteran with nearly five decades of martial arts training, competition, and instruction under his belt. He also holds a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Combat Hapkido and a Black Sash in Wing Chun. He is a member of the International Combat Hapkodo Federation, the World Taekwondo Federation, the International Taekwondo Federation, and BBAC. He's certified in the MCMAP Program while serving at Camp Pendleton.

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## **Larry Wong**

### **Silver Life Award**

With more than three decades of martial arts experience, Master Larry Wong is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Taekwondo. He is ranked in the World Martial Arts Ranking Association and is a 4-Time TKO State Stick Combat Champion. In 2013 he was the TKO Competitor of the Year and took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the World League Finals. Today, he teaches American Taekwondo at Cros Training Martial Arts, passing his knowledge and experience on to the next generation of black belts in training.

## **Ashley Wood**

### **Distinguished Black Belt Competitor**

A 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in American Karate, Master Ashley Wood has a reputation as a relentless competitor. She is an 8-Time AOK Golden Greek Award Winner and has had a highly decorated career as a tournament competitor spanning more than two decades. Master Woods now shares her wisdom and experience with the students of the Texas School of Karate, instilling a sense of tenacity and a relentless drive for improvement.

## **Elizabeth Morninglane Yankee**

### **Distinguished Hapkido Instructor**

An instructor of Moo-Hap-Sool Hapkido & Tae Soo Taekwondo at McMurray's House of Discipline, Sensei Elizabeth Yankee currently holds a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Moo-Hap-Sool Hapkido and is proficient in Taekwondo. She is a member of the Korean Martial Arts Brotherhood, International Hapkido Alliance, National Korean Martial Arts Association, and a former inductee of the Korean Martial Arts Masters Hall of Fame.

## **Michael David Zang**

### **Distinguished Grandmaster**

About to enter his fifth decade in martial arts, GM Michael David Zang has enjoyed a long and diverse career. A former PPCT Instructor for the Dallas Police Department, he holds a 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in the eclectic self-defense systems of Jai-Yen-Yen under GM Duke Ali Shariff-Bey and Kyoshin-Tan-Kai, which he founded. Proficient in a number of martial arts styles, GM Zang is a member of several organizations, including the Brotherhood of Veteran Warriors, the Al Francis Karate Association, and the National Hapkido Alliance. Over the years, he has received numerous commendations for his Martial Arts service.

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# United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame



## Gold

### **Robert Aguilar**                      **Golden Life Award**

GM Robert Aguilar has more than 47 years of experience in martial arts, both as a world-class competitor and an instructor. He has competed internationally, dominating Texas in Sport Karate and Olympic Taekwondo Tournaments, as well as competing in South Korea during his tenure in the U.S. Army. Today, he holds a 7th Dan in Taekwondo and teaches the Art he loves at Tapout Fitness & Martial Arts in San Antonio.

### **David Archer**                              **Golden Life Award**

An 8<sup>th</sup> Dan Black Belt in Chung Do Kwon, GM Archer's lineage includes the legendary Skipper Mullins and Rick Vaughn. He also holds an 8<sup>th</sup> Degree Taekwondo ranking, recognized by the Kukkiwon World Taekwondo Headquarters, and has trained in Moo Duk Kwon and Go-Jo-Ryu. He was formerly recognized by the Master's Hall of Fame for his years of service to the martial arts community.

### **Richard Brown**                              **Golden Life Award**

Retired from the U.S. Air Force, GM Richard Brown has a long dedicated career of service and a relentless pursuit of personal and professional development. He is a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Universal Karate Do, and is proficient in Kuk Sool Won, Tang Soo Do, Okinawan Kenpo, Ju-Jitsu, Tai Chi, and Kickboxing. With a Master's in Organizational Management, he's built and managed several successful martial arts schools, raising up a legacy of quality instructors who adhere to GM Brown's life philosophy of "Excellence in ALL we do." This has earned him the recognition and respect worthy of a life well lived.

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## **Frederick Buck**

## **Golden Life Award**

GM Frederick Buck has dedicated more than 60 years of his life to training and teaching martial arts. He holds a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in Kyokushin, and has also trained in Aiki-Jujitsu, Kenpo, and Taekwondo. He is a member of the American Kyokushin Karate Association, founded by his father, Hanshi Donald Buck. GM Buck is a Master's Hall of Fame inductee, and has been decorated by the Lodi Police Department and Yolo County Sheriff's Department. He teaches at AKKO Buck's School of the Tiger, continuing the legacy started by his father.

## **Leslie Frederick**

## **Pioneer Award**

Kyoshi Leslie Frederick applies the lessons learned from nearly seven decades of martial arts training to help struggling students gain the mastery necessary to advance in their training. He is a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Koju-Ryu and Zu-Jitsu, a 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shito-Ryu, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Taekwondo, and a 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Shorei Goju and Hapkido. Truly a pioneer in the Arts who is passing on a lifetime of learning to the next generation of Black Belts in training.

## **John Goff**

## **Inspiring Lives**

Sifu John Goff is the founder of Martial Arts Reality Systems, and holds a 6<sup>th</sup> Dan Black Belt in Kenpo, and Black Belts in Lameco Escrima, and Wing Chun. He has also trained in Tang Soo Do, Soo Bahk Do, Sayoc Kali, Villabrilie Kali, Muay Thai, Kyokushin Karate, and Tai Chi Chuan. His students love the fact that he breaks down the movements of the Arts, providing a greater understanding of the forms and their applications in real life settings. Sifu Goff is an innovator, a teacher of teachers, and a Black Belt Leader who inspirationally serves humanity every day.

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## **Frank Gonzales**

### **Golden Life Award**

Sensei Frank Gonzales began his training in 1972 with the United States Karate Association. In 1975, transitioned to the American Taekwondo Association where he became known as a fearless fighter and competitor throughout the 1970s and 1980s. He later joined the Universal Taekwondo Association and began focusing his efforts on self-defense, in particular women's self-defense seminars to help protect some of the most vulnerable among us. He has also studied Tang Soo Do and Kung Fu.

## **Gabriel Green**

### **Golden Life Award**

A consummate professional, GM Gabriel Green epitomizes the phrase, "Speak softly, carry a big stick, and you will go far." An 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Tang Soo Do, he also holds a 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Shaolin Kenpo and a Guro ranking in ESKABO Daan, a blended system incorporating Escrima, Serrada, Kali, Arnis, Boxing, and Jeet Kune Do. An alumnus of the United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame and Texas Karate Association Testing Examiner, GM Green holds students to a high level of personal accountability, pulling the best out of each of them as they advance through the ranks.

## **Holger Horn**

### **Golden Life Award**

Having earned his 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shotokan in June, Master Horn continues his continual quest to learn, grow, and improve as a martial artist and a Black Belt Leader. He is a member of the International Japan Karate Association and has been a confidant of the legendary Mike Stone for several years. Master Horn makes his home in the Philippines where he teaches at the Martial Arts & Sports Academy Panglao Bohoi Philippines. He is also a History General with the Sports Karate Museum.

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## **Jim Nuanes**

### **Lifetime of Service**

Serving our nation both in the Air Force and Army, GM Jim Nuanes retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after a distinguished career spanning nearly 3 decades. An 8<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt in Kajukenbo, he has also trained in Kodokan Judo, Tae Kwon-Do, Tang Soo Do, Shotokan Karate, and Matsumura Shorin-Ryu during his six decades in the Arts. GM Nuanes has trained numerous military professionals and provided instruction to several Federal agencies around the globe, as well as holding classes at Eastern New Mexico University and Cornell University. He was recognized with a Master Instructor Certificate in 2022 by the International Martial Arts Council of America. Today, GM Nuanes teaches free self-defense classes in Flower Mound TX, giving back to his local community.

## **Chris Pollman**

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

A member of Budo Kai International, GM Chris Pollman is an 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Goju-Ryu. He distinguished martial arts career also includes training in Kubodo, the Joe Lewis Fighting System, and 11 years at the Karate College. GM Pollman is also an honorary 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Aibuijutsu-Ryu. At 73, he is still actively teaching at the school that bears his name, Chris Pollman Karate Academy in Weatherford OK, where he teaches Okinawan Karate, Goju-Ryu, and Sho Rei Kan.

## **Jerry Lee Potts**

### **Legacy of Excellence (Posthumus)**

Sensei Jerry Potts started his karate journey in 1968 in Wado-Ryu. He was privileged to train under GM Hironori Ohtsuka and Jiro-Ohtsuka, the second Grandmaster of Wado Ryu. Sensei Potts went on to earn a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan in Wado-ryu and was influential in the expansion of the Art well beyond the borders of Tennessee to the United States. He also successfully competed internationally. Sensei Potts was an active member of Karate for Christ International, offering free classes to students, and training thousands of students over his 52-year teaching career. Sensei Potts passed away in 2020 leaving a lasting legacy that lives on through the students who have become instructors in Wado Ryu.

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## **Duke Ali Shariff-Bey      Golden Life Award**

GM Duke Ali Shariff-Bey started his martial arts career in Goju-Ryu over 50 years ago and has expanded to include Black Belts in Do Hap Sool, Taekwondo, and Aiki-Ju-Budo-Ryu. He is a highly desired Law Enforcement Self-Defense Instructor and has been teaching Women's Self-Defense classes at Prairie View A&M University for 20 years. After retiring from the Air Force, he began a distinguished career as a Texas Peace Officer and has earned numerous certifications, and today still serves and teaches advanced combating fighting. He is a founding member of the Jai Yen Yen System of Martial Arts and the Brotherhood of Veteran Warriors.

## **Stephen M. Senne      Lifetime Achievement Award (Posthumus)**

GM Stephen Senne started his martial arts career in the 1960s and having earned his Nidan, he was personally appointed an official Branch Chief of the Kyo-Kushin-Kaikan by Sosai Masutatsu Oyama. He was also a direct student of GM Donald Buck, founder of the Tiger Karate School and American Kyojushin Karate Organization. Known as "The Leopard", GM Senne invested over 60 years of his life teaching and expanding the Art of Kyokushin through the instructors and students who now perpetuate his legacy. GM Stephen Senne passed away in June 2022. He received his honorary Judan from the Grading Council of the Kyokushin Karate School of the Serpent, a fitting honor to a life well-lived.

## **Michael Sullenger      Golden Life Award**

Ranked the #1 AKS Kata Competitor in 1973 and 1974, GM Michael Sullenger was a force to be reckoned with in the tournament circuit. Now in his seventh decade in martial arts, he currently holds a 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in Chon-Do-Kwon, an American Karate System. He has also trained in Judo, Aiki-Jutsu, and Shotokan. GM Sullenger is a member of the American Karate Association and the South Texas Karate Black Belt Association. Today, he teaches private lessons to individuals and the law enforcement community.

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## **Steven Tran**

## **Golden Life Award**

Hailing from New South Wales, GM Steven Tran started competing internationally from an early age, including Europe, Asia, and the United States. Today, he can boast 3 World Titles as he's represented the continent of Australia well. An 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in the Art of Taekwondo, A dedicated lifetime student of Martial Arts, GM Tran has also trained and is proficient in Hapkido, Karate, BJJ, Muay Thai, Kickboxing, and Krav Maga. He is a member of the International Taekwondo Federation and is a former recipient of the Action Martial Arts Hall of Honors. Nearing his fifth decade in the Arts, today GM Tran teaches multiple martial arts systems at the North Shore Martial Arts Club.

## **Lonnie Wright**

## **Golden Life Award**

A 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in Kajukenbo under GM Armando Saldana, Sigung Lonnie Wright has dedicated more than 40 years of his life to the pursuit of martial arts excellence. He also trained in the Art of Renbu-Kai under GM Ron Marchini. Sigung Wright is a member of the Sport Karate History Museum, the KAA, and the KSDI. Today, he still actively teaches the Art of Kajukenbo at the school that bears his name.

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# United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame



## Platinum

### **Billy Blanks**

### **Martial Arts Ambassador**

Martial artist, competitor, fitness guru, movie star, Man of Faith, these are but a few of the words that describe GM Billy Blanks. The founder of Taebo Nation, GM Blanks holds a 9<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, and has also trained in Gung Fu and Judo. After a career in motion pictures and television, he created the Tae Bo Workout while running a karate studio, later opening a studio in Los Angeles to teach his new workout, later expanding his reach and influence through mass-marketed videos, selling more than 1.5 million VHS tapes in his first year.

### **Andrew Kimura**

### **JKD Ambassador**

Sifu Andy Kimura has studied and taught Jun Fan Gung Fu / Jun Fan Jeet Kune Do for over 30 years. His father, Sigung Taky Kimura is one of only three people personally certified as an instructor by Sijo Bruce Lee. Andy Kimura is the only student whom Taky Kimura deemed worthy of a full instructorship and a Rank 6 in Jun Fan Gung Fu. Sifu Kimura has shown an impressive mastery of Jun Fan Gung Fu / Jeet Kune Do and has been put through the rigorous training required to obtain this unique distinction. He was a board member of the Bruce Lee Foundation, a non-profit organization formed for the sole purpose of preserving and perpetuating Bruce Lee's art and philosophy. Currently, he is an advisor for the Bruce Lee Foundation.

### **Lloyd Craft**

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Great Grandmaster Lloyd Craft, at age 75, is still making a difference in the lives of others. He is a second-generation student of the legendary William Chow, and currently holds a rank of 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shaolin Kenpo, as well as Black Belt Rankings in Kajukenbo and Modern Arnis. Today, he has blended what he has learned over more than 50 years of training to create the Crane Kenpo Karate system, now taught by his senior student, Tony Haraguchi in his school, Mighty Crane Kenpo Karate in West Sacramento, California.

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## **Frank Hargrove**

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

In the world of Okinawan Arts, the name of Grandmaster Frank Hargrove is synonymous with Shorin-Ryu. About to enter his 60<sup>th</sup> year of martial arts training, he is currently a 10<sup>th</sup> Dan in Okinawan Shorin-Ryu Karate-Do, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Okinawan Goju-Ryu, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in Omori-Ryu Iaido, and a 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Kodokan Judo and Shindo Muso-Ryu Jodo. GM Hargrove is a member of the International Okinawan Karate-Do Federation, Okinawan Karate Shorin-Ryu Shorinkan Association, International Ryukyu Kubodo Federation, and Okinawan Nakazato-Ha Shorin-Ryu Karate-Do Association. He has dedicated his life to the perfection and preservation of Okinawan Karate-Do for future generations.

## **Mike Stone**

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Martial artist, fight choreographer, stuntman, actor, and motivational speaker, GM Mike Stone started training in Shorin-Ryu while stationed at Fort Chaffee in Fort Smith AR, earning his black belt in only 6 months. Nicknamed "The Animal" for his ferocity in the ring, he won the sparring title at the first-ever International Grandchampionships in Long Beach CA in 1964, before. He then went on to enjoy an illustrious career fighting, amassing a record of 91 consecutive wins. GM Stone has also spent a number of years in the film industry, choreographing, directing, and even starring in fight scenes for a number of well-known actors.

GM Stone has also authored several books and toured as a motivational speaker for some time. He is also infamously known as the man who "stole Elvis Presley's wife", Priscilla. In 1985, Stone sold all his possessions and moved to an isolated island in the Philippines where he has his wife Taina live a quiet and peaceful life.

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