

The original inception of the [**Karate Five Dojo**](#) was created by Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson in 1975 when he approached Melbert Lee Sr. with his idea to organize a dojo. Karate Five's (K-5) very first unofficial historical meeting was held on the front porch of Wilson's home. After brainstorming about the name and how the dojo would function; their first official meeting and election of officers was held on March 30, 1980 at Lee's residence.

Their next meeting which set out their Mission statement and also elected officers was held at the YMCA on May 1, 1980. During this meeting, the "Karate Five" name was voted on and approved by the original five founders (Willie Garfield Wilson, Melbert Lee Sr., Linda P. Wilson, Fredrick E. Brabson Sr., and William Faulkner). This was over 40 years ago. Today, Grandmaster Willie Wilson and the Board are still conscientiously pursuing K-5's original Mission. Karate Five is continuing the legacy and vision of the late Grandmaster Harold Long's determination to bring a martial arts training program to Knoxville's inner city youth.

Karate Five's founders and its [**Board of Directors**](#) believe in the Mission started by Master Long. More importantly, Karate Five chose to focus and streamline its organization's energies and professional martial arts masters and instructors' talents with this city's youth and young adult through its own community outreach non-profit programs and educational scholarships since the organization's inception.

Since Karate Five's inception and mission as a non-for-profit martial arts organization, Karate Five has never been a "for profit" organization. For almost four decades, it has succeeded through the sustaining generosity and commitment by our individual, corporate and organizational sponsors who have made this program a success. Our goal is to bring the best martial arts training we can to our students, workshops and tournament participation.

"Let My Spirit be Protected

by the Knowledge of the Martial Arts"