

MEMORIAL

GRANDMASTER MELBERT LEE SR. – KARATE FIVE ASSOCIATION

February 20, 1946 – December 2, 2017 - Knoxville, TN

“JOINS THE RANKS OF KARATE FIVE’S FALLEN WARRIORS”



The Karate Five Association and Karate Five Dojo staff, sensei's, instructors and students will sadly miss our beloved Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr. In honor of his memory, we are posting this memorial on the Karate Five website. This memorial only barely touches his 40 plus years contributions in his personal life, as an ordained minister (2005) and Grandmaster in the martial arts.

In honor of his memory, during Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr.'s, December 9, 2017 funeral services, the President of Karate Five Association, Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson, presented to the family during the *Reflections* portion of the funeral program, a "*Resolution In Loving Memory of "Grandmaster Melbert Lee, Sr."*" a *Karate Five Association Logo Scarf* and a poem written by Grandmaster Wilson, titled "*Friend*" in memory of just not his association in Karate Five but for his dear friend of over 40 years.

FRIEND

TO A FRIEND TO NO END,
HEARING THE WORDS, YOU WERE NO MORE, MY EMOTIONS SUDDENLY SOARED
AS AN EAGLE'S WINGS;

AS MY EYES FILLED WITH TEARS AND MY VOICE AND HEART QUIVERED IN PAIN, I
KNOW NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME—
YOUR FRIENDSHIP WAS DEEPER THAN MOST COULD UNDERSTAND;

WHEN I SEARCH MY FEELINGS, ONE THING COMES TO MIND, WHAT I AM GOING
TO BE MISSING—OUR CONVERSATIONS ON LIFE AND HOW WE COULD STOP
STRIFE;

TO NO LONGER HEAR YOUR VOICE CAUSES ME TO UNDERSTAND THE VOID
YOU'VE LEFT;

ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS IS GONE BUT THE MEMORIES LIVE ON FOR HE IS NOW
WITH CHRIST AND LEFT US WITH ALL OF HIS PLEASANT MEMORIES;

HIS MARKS IN LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE OUR LANDMARK
IF HE WAS HERE, I KNOW WHAT HE WOULD SAY,
"LET CHRIST SHOW YOU THE WAY"

By Willie Garfield Wilson
December 9, 2017



Karate Five
Resolution In Loving Memory of "Grandmaster Melbert Lee, Sr"

We the members of Karate Five Association want the family to know that our hearts are with you as we gather to bid goodbye to one of the founders and Sensei's Melbert Lee, Sr.

WHEREAS, We remember Grandmaster Lee as a man who loved Christ, family, church and the Karate family. We remember Melbert as a Sensei which means teacher. He helped preside over developing programs that created leaders. His Christian leadership led people to Christ what he claims was his biggest accomplishment through Jesus Christ. His family, Christ and Karate family helped him hold to his principles.

WHEREAS, We remember Melbert as a very gifted martial artist and the first African American to receive his Black belt under the Harold Long lineage. He has received numerous awards, such as the Isshinryu Hall of Fame, World Karate Union Hall of Fame and the IIKA award. Since there are so many, the rest will be on the Karate Five website, karatefive.com.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Karate Five embrace the family because all of us have a bond that will connect us the rest of our lives. We cannot replace Grandmaster Lee, but will attempt to demonstrate his love for his Karate members and family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Grandmaster Melbert Lee, Sr.'s name will be added to our memorial page. This resolution will be given to the family and a copy in the Karate Five files.

To the family of Melbert Lee, Sr., we know your loss is deep and your sorrow is great and the Karate Five wants you to know that we share in your sorrow.

When it is all over, we would like you to remember:

Lee and we were family,
We had a destiny,
We trained to protect me,
We are Karate Five Family,
We're here if you need us

Humbly submitted on this 9th day of December 2017

willie g wilson

Karate Five Association
Willie G. Wilson, President



Melbert Lee Sr., was ordained as a minister in 2005 and attended Knoxville Interdenominational Bible Institute until his health began to decline. He and his family are long-time members of Sentertown Missionary Baptist Church since the mid-1970s.

He grew up being nurtured in his church, F.B.H. Church in Greenville, South Carolina by his grandparents, Elder Aaron and Ethel Lee. His family traveled extensively in the south and eastern regions of the United States until he moved to Knoxville, Tennessee in 1961.

Over the years Rev. Lee served in various ministries at his home church but he did not limit his ministry to the church; he shared his strong faith in Jesus Christ with his students at the Karate Five Dojo. His family says he

loved and appreciated his pastor(s) and his church family and loved reading the Bible. His minister, Rev. Keith Elliot, spoke of his strong love for Christ and Mr. Lee's love for his family, church and a personality which did not dally about expressing the truth.

There are many facets to Mr. Lee's personality. His long-time friendship with Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson (and Linda Wilson) started when they were very young men in their twenties huddled on Willie's front carport deciding how they were going to start their own martial arts organization. That friendship has endured over the decades until his transition on December 2.



Willie Garfield and Linda Wilson

Grandmaster Wilson states, "The night before his passing on Friday, December 1, Lee and I were discussing truck parts and replacing engine and transmission since he was already restoring his old Chevy like I did my own antique 1981 Silverado truck. I was teasing him as we usually did that he was not going to do it *because I wanted him to do it* and now he was telling me I (Lee) told you I was going to do it! As usual we did our bantering back and forth about who was and who wasn't. Of course, he insisted he was going to restore his old truck. It was a tremendous shock for me to get news from his family the very next morning notifying me my best friend who was like a brother was no longer with us. Behind the scenes of Karate Five, we spent many hours on the telephone just being friends. My wife (Linda) and I will miss him deeply and my condolences go out to Sue and their family and the Karate Five organization."

Many of Grandmaster Lee's friends and peers in the martial arts community came to his December 9, 2017 services and extended their last respects to his passing, Mr. Lee's family and friends. It was a moving ceremony which spoke highly of the man we all knew him to be.

During the Reflections portion of the *Home Going Celebration*, Grandmaster Wilson shared funny antidotes of his and Melbert experiences during their younger days. Everyone who knew him emphatically agreed he loved traveling and “*not sharing the wheel*” on road trips. Even Melbert Lee Sr.’s pastor, Rev. Elliot, *had tall tales to tell* of Mr. Lee on those long mountain curves during their traveling days which left him breathless at the end of the trip. Melbert Lee Sr., was well known for his “*speedy*” personality on the highways and bi-ways when he got behind the wheel whether it was a van, car or truck—he did not believe in wasting any time reaching his destination point.

Over the years, Melbert Lee Sr., made many friends and left a lasting impression on those he met. All who knew him said as his health began challenging him tremendously; he never complained but lived his life to the fullest until God called him home to rest. We shall miss his towering presence in our lives and his no-nonsense personality.



Melbert Lee Sr., lived his life to the fullest and touched many lives over the years.



A special visit from the Chief



Karate 5 Association Board of Directors - 2007:
Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson, Master Melbert Lee
Sr., Master William Mason, Sensei Daryl Cox, Sensei Jon
Whitehead

and the dragon pens of Grand
Master Shaffer who has done a
lot of missions.

Having a lot of "friends" de-
monstrably impacts an organization.
For the Karate Five
founders and students to have
experienced and grown amid the
view of committed passion to
the martial arts through training
competition, social develop-
ment, country loyalty and sup-
port, a lot of "friends" in this pro-

tection have resulted in long-
lasting impacts to this organiza-
tion. Without a doubt, it has
been proven by the Karate Five's
successful and impres-
sive history, the legacy it is hand-
ing down to the students and
instructors. That the organization's founders have
not failed to pass on its indes-
table spirit, respect and pas-
sion for the martial arts.

633 Ed Bandy
High Game Scratch
-Female
202 Eason Niles
183 Hy Myers
183 Dorothy Colquist
High Series Scratch
-Female
500 My Myms
491 Dorothy Colquist
482 Evelyn Mcely
Thurday No Tap
High Game Scratch
-Male
276 Lee Loyer
269 Dan Patterson
265 Stanley Taylor
High Series Scratch
-Male
724 Doo Patterson
724 Curtis Tindell
694 Ed Bandy
High Game Scratch
-Female
243 Jo Tindell
224 Dorothy Colquist
212 Dorothy Shannon
High Series Scratch
-Female
845 Joy Tindell
820 Dorothy Colquist
566 Dorothy Shannon

Find A Sensei From the Military?



Morristown Police Chief Roger Overholt recently spoke to the students of the Karate 5 Morristown Dojo. Chief Overholt, a longtime black belt holder in Selukian Shorin-Ryu, shared many insights as to how the martial arts has been instrumental in his personal development.



GRANDMASTER MELBERT LEE SR.
KuDan (9th) Degree Black Belt
February 20, 1946 – December 1, 2017

Early Beginnings . . . Melbert Lee Sr.'s interest in Karate began when Jim Maples and he would sit at work and talk about martial arts. He began his training in 1972 under the late Grandmaster Harold Long and worked with other instructors such as Master Maurice Msarsa, Cas Cox, Glen Webb, the late Jim Maples and Master Allen Wheeler. Eighteen months of training later he earned his black belt. It was then Melbert was given the opportunity to follow his mentor's vision (Grand- master Harold Long) to teach martial arts to the Knoxville inner city youth.

Since his early beginnings as a martial arts teacher along with his partner and life-long best friend, Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson, they introduced martial arts classes at the Phyllis Wheatly Y.W.C.A. and later they moved their classes to the Eastside Y.M.C.A.

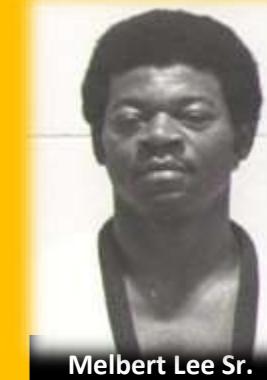
In 1980, Melbert Lee and Willie Garfield

Wilson along with three others—Linda Wilson, Fredrick Brabson and William Faulkner became the core group of martial artists and the original founders of the **Karate**

Five Association. This small group became the first-generation black belts under Harold Long's lineage under Harold Long.

When Karate Five moved its martial arts program to the Eastside YMCA, the organization continued sponsoring classes and tournaments. During this period, Karate Five Association was under Mr. Lee's leadership alongside Willie Garfield Wilson and they operated a com-munity **Karate Five Dojo** at the Oakland Community Center at 3816 Oakland Drive, Knoxville, TN.

To further Karate Five's commitment of Harold Long's vision the organization which was not officially established until 1980. Karate Five's inception began on the carport of Willie Garfield Wilson's home as Lee and Wilson put their heads together and agreed the organization would



Melbert Lee Sr.

Back Row (R-L) Fredrick "Butch" Brabson, Melbert Lee Sr., William L. Mason, Richard Stone; **Front Row (L-R)** Willie Garfield Wilson, Linda Wilson, Charles Allen

always be a not-for-profit organization. This major decision would allow Karate Five to facilitate a martial arts program designed for outreach to the inner city youth. Almost 40 years later, they have fulfilled the vision sponsoring inner city youth and young adults through the contributions and support of individuals, large and small businesses, and corporate sponsorship.

During Mr. Lee's martial arts career spanning almost 45 years, Sensei Lee made some historical strides in the martial arts community of Isshinryu as well as many personal successes.

Significant Milestones and Recognition:

On **April 18, 1974**, Melbert Lee Sr., was the first African American to be nominated to the Iika Board of Directors and re-nominated again in **2001**.

He was later nominated two years in a row as Sensei of Sensei.

April 28, 1974 Knoxville News Sentinel article, "Lee Limp but He Sure Can BELT You," Mr. Lee is interviewed about receiving his black belt and recognition as **the first African American man to earn a black belt** in Isshin-Ryu Karate in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Despite that Lee was suffering from a crippling pain in a hip joint discussed in the article below, a handicap which would have been devastating to many people; Lee continued to find success and



recognition in martial arts. In addition to studying under Grandmaster Harold Long, he studied jujitsu with Moses Powell of New York City—a recognized 8th degree master and 70-year old Master Vee of the Philippines.



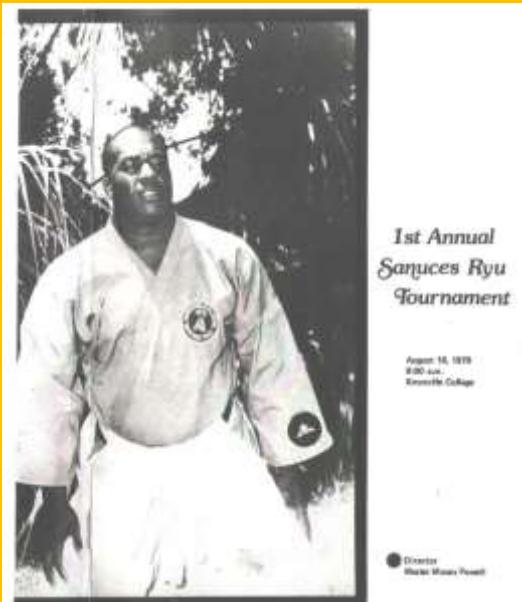
In this article, he stated, "I wish I had gotten into Karate 15 years; it has helped me both mentally and physically, certainly in building my confidence." When Mr. Lee first began training in the martial arts, he was quoted, "

first thought that white karate candidates would be shown favoritism because I felt that every pair of eyes were on me when I worked out. I later recalled it was only my imagination. People connected with Karate have been great to me."



(Left) Professor Florendo M. Visitacion recognized as "Master of Masters" and founder of Vee-Jitsu Federation is fondly called "**Master Vee**" among his martial arts peers and students.

In 1977 Grandmaster Lee started studying under Master Moses Powell after Grandmaster Wilson received an invitation from Grandmaster William Mason of the Morristown Dojo study Moses Powell Sanuces Ryu system. Grandmaster Wilson in turn extended an invitation to Granmaster Melbert Lee Sr. the opportunity to also study under Moses Powell. Master Powell founded the Sanuces Ryu system in 1968; then the jujitsu system four years later. The Karate Five Association sponsored their **1st Annual Sanuces Ryu Tournament** on August 18, 1979 on the Knoxville College Campus



**(Pictured Above) 1st Annual Sanuces Ryu
Tournament Program – August 18, 1979
9:00 a.m. – Knoxville College Campus
Grandmaster Moses Powell**

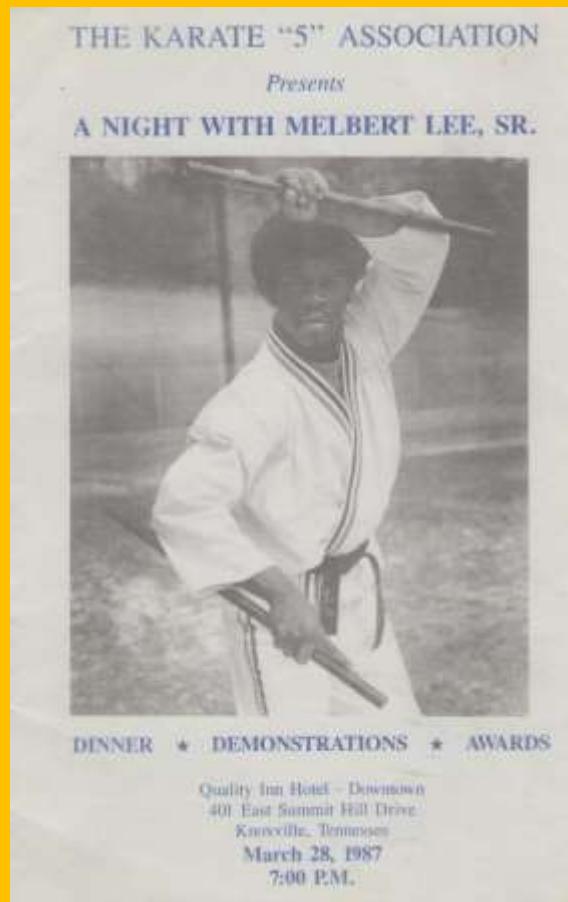


(L-R) Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson and Sensei Naomi Mason are shown in an August 18, 1979 article announcing Karate Five's 1st Sanuces Ryu tournament in Knoxville, TN.



(L-R) Grandmaster Moses Powell and Grandmaster Harold Long were both in attendance at Karate Fives 1st Annual Sanuces Ryu Tournament

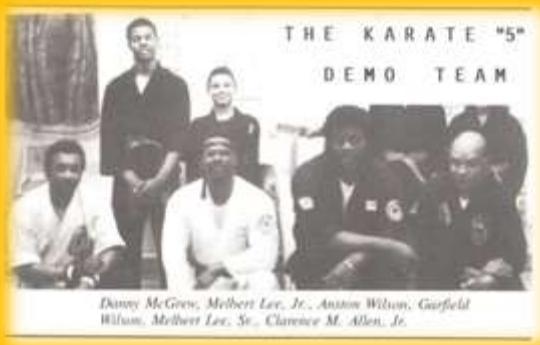
In a **March 28, 1987**, the Karate Five Association honored Mr. Lee at the Quality Inn Hotel – Downtown in a program titled, “*A Night with Melbert Lee Sr.*”



(Front Row from L-R) pictured are Fredrick “Butch” Brabson, Melbert Lee Sr., Willie Garfield Wilson, and Clarence Allen in the program honoring Mr. Lee

In the *Congratulations* section of this special program honoring Grandmaster Lee it read:

“Mr. Lee’s Success takes on significance because he has conquered crucial hurdles. He is disarmingly honest and whatever he says the students take to heart. They know Mr. Lee’s advice concerns the things that really matter in this world.”



(L-R) Back row are Melbert Lee Jr. and Anston Wilson, sons Willie Garfield Wilson and Melbert Lee Sr. (R-L) on front row



(L-R) Pictured above Melbert Lee Sr. and Willie Garfield Wilson

In this **March 25, 1987** Knoxville News Sentinel article, “**Karate**,” Mr. Lee was quoted. Lee called the . . .

“The Karate Kid, Part I is the best karate film I’ve seen in a long time. The chores the boy was told to perform as basic training gave him a logical sequence of moves and helped him to develop the discipline to perform them in a certain way.” He added, “*Our goal is not to teach a person to fight but how not to fight.*”



In **2000**, Mr. Lee received the Lifetime Achievement award.

On **May 4, 2002**, Mr. Lee was certified to rank of Hachi-Dan.

On **August 4, 2002**, Melbert Lee Sr., was inducted into the Isshin-Ryu Hall of Fame (IHOF) (pictured left).

In **2003**, soon after this coveted induction, Mr. Lee was inducted into the World Karate Union Hall of Fame.

In **2006**, he received “Dragons Forever Tab” from Grandmaster Shaffer at the 2006 IHOF Tournament.

In **2009**, he was promoted to Ku Dan (9th) Degree Black Belt.



Karate Five created a **Kids’ Day** which brought together children and youth from different communities in Knoxville’s inner city for a fun-filled day of creative activities. This program was particularly close to Mr. Lee’s heart. Several of his grandchildren participated in the martial arts program.

(Left) Student performing a demonstration at a 2005 Kids’ Day Event at the Karate Five Dojo



2007 Danny Shaffer Dragon Jam

2002 Isshin-Ryu Hall of Fame
Induction Photo of Grandmaster
Melbert Lee Sr.



2009 Karate Five Morristown
Dojo Christmas Party



Mr. Lee possessed a strong desire to learn more and amplify his skills in martial arts. He began expanding his cross training by studying under Grandmaster Jeffery Delaney (Hawaii) and Professor Lisa McManus in Modern Arnis in 2003.



(L-R) Willie Garfield Wilson,
Melbert Lee Sr., and Jeff Delaney
(Modern Arnis)



Mr. Lee is shown (far right) above
with Professor Lisa McManus
(Military Arnis)

Modern Arnis, Jujitsu and Isshinryu have become the core of Karate Five's martial arts program sponsors training in these various arts through workshops, tournaments and camps.



2005 Military Arnis Camp



Grandmaster Lee is pictured above and to the right demonstrating a martial arts technique with Karate Five's Dojo Sensei, Maurice Msarsa, during an Arnis Camp event

Mr. Lee states in his bio that with over 30 years' experience (now 45 at the time of his death), "I share my knowledge of martial arts by being open minded to those who have a desire to learn. Being a Sensei is a rewarding thing to me because you are able to observe your students grow physically, mentally and spiritually in Jesus Christ and find themselves doing things they thought were impossible. It builds up their character and puts discipline in the individual."



The Karate Five Association of Tennessee sponsored in the Don Between/Kids' Day mini Memorial tournament. The Association had 74 competitors and won trophies. The Association received a trophy for its contribution to community exercise as referenced on the Web site, MauriceReese.com of the local media.

Mr. Lee loved working with his students; encouraging their self-confidence with the same rewards he'd received from martial arts.



Demonstrating their skills for "Kid's Day" are (left to right) Melbert Lee, 4th Degree Black Belt; Jernaisine Hendricks, 1st Degree Black Belt; and Frederick Jackson, 3rd Degree Black Belt.

Karate Five Sponsors Kids' Day

Young lives changed kids, too!



IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS . . . **Melbert Lee Jr.**, has followed his father's love for the martial arts and bears the rank of Schichi Dan (7th) Degree Black Belt and his grandson, **Melbert Lee III** (known as **Lil Mel**) is also following the same path of father and grandfather's footsteps.

Sensei Linda Wilson, Schichi Dan (7th) Degree Black Belt, states "Lil Mel" has excellent skills and his performance shows he is a student who is naturally gifted in the arts. Other family members in the Lee and extended family who have also shown a genuine commitment to the martial arts are:



MASTER
MELBERT LEE JR.



Melbert Lee III



Aniya Foster



Jada Foster

These pictures were taken during the *2017 Isshin-Ryu Hall of Fame's 38th Annual Awards Banquet and Tournament* in Gatlinburg, TN. As always, Grandmaster Lee not only enjoyed the awards banquet but participated as one of the judges for the tournament activities on Saturday, July 22.



He always enjoyed the annual IHOF and WKU Hall of Fame events. Mr. Lee was always an eager traveler and his road companion, Grandmaster Wilson and he spent many years traveling the roads whether for pleasure or Karate Five tournaments business. They both loved being on the road whether it was in their early 80's conversion vans, motorcycles, cars, in a boat on the lake or on a TVA Parks and Recreation island for the weekend with their families—camping and water skiing.

**Isshin-Ryu Hall of Fame 38th Annual
Awards Banquet & Karate**



**Melbert Lee Jr. and wife, Tanesha at
2017 IHOF Awards and Banquet**



**Sensei Linda Wilson and Grandmaster
Lee confer after judging an IHOF
tournament competition**



**The entire Lee
family
enjoyed their
meal at the
2017 IHOF
Awards
Banquet (L-R)
Marvin,
Melbert Sr.,
Sue, Tanesha
and Lee Jr.**

During the **2017 IHOF Awards Banquet and Tournament** events, Grandmaster Lee accepted the *“The Harold Mitchum Humanitarian Award”* presented to the Karate Five Dojo on Friday, July 22. On Saturday, July 23, he also assisted as a judge during the tournament competition activities. This year had one of Isshin-Ryu Hall of Fame’s largest turnouts in its annual 38 years event.



Until Sensei Lee's health began preventing his regular presence at the Karate Five Dojo, his tall towering frame was missed by the Sensei's, Instructors, staff and students.

The *38th IHOF Karate Tournament* was a long day of demonstration and competition events for every age group.

(Left) Sensei Linda Wilson and Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr.

Many of the Karate Five Sensei and instructors worked as judges as well as participated in the competition. Mr. Lee never wavered in his time and commitment to these events; he loved the martial arts which became a lifetime commitment.



(Left) Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr., at the 2017 IHOF Annual Tournament events at the Gatlinburg Convention



**(L-R) CJ Burnett, Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson, Sensei Linda Wilson and Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr.
(Center)**

Another generation . . . June 20, 2017 was a very special occasion for Grandmaster Lee who made an appearance at the Karate Five Dojo to participate in Melbert Lee III's (grandson) promotion to orange belt. It was a proud moment for Grandfather Lee Sr. and Lil Mel's father, Melbert Lee Jr.



Pictured in center above are Melbert Lee III receiving his promotion certificate from father, Sensei Melbert Lee Jr., and Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson standing next to Sensei Linda Wilson; Grandmaster Lee Sr. is in the background



A generation of martial artists fulfilling Lee's legacy



Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr. presents orange belt to Melbert Lee III

Melbert Lee Jr. also carries on his father's tradition as Grandmaster Lee proudly states in his own bio, "my son Melbert Lee Jr. (Yo Dan 4th Degree Black Belt at the time) won first place in the men's heavy weight division and was crowned the IHOF 2002 Kumite Grand Champion."

Granddaughters, Donitra and Myshauna Blair were promoted to (blue belts) in July 2004.



Melbert Lee Jr.



His son, Sensei Melbert Lee Jr., has been known to defy gravity during tournament demonstrations!

Melbert Lee Sr., was born in Greenville, SC but moved to Knoxville, TN in 1961. He is a graduate of Austin High School Class of 1966 and shortly after graduation married his lovely and devoted wife of 49 years, Susie Naomi (Ray) Lee. They have two sons (Marvin and Melbert Jr.), a daughter (Misty), nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Melbert Lee Sr.'s pride and joy was his family and most of all his relationship with Jesus Christ.

He spoke of how he embraced martial arts in 1979 when the Karate Five Dojo sponsored their *1st Annual Sanuces Ryu Tournament* on the campus of Knoxville College in Knoxville, TN on August 18, 1979. The Knoxville News Sentinel Newspaper wrote an article announcing the event and he spoke openly and honestly about his introduction to the martial arts and his instructors' influence during that period in his life.



Melbert Lee Sr. pictured with his wife, Sue (married 49 years)

"I wish I had gotten into Karate 15 years ago; it has helped me both mentally and physically, certainly in building my confidence," he revealed in the article.

When he first began training in the martial arts, he was quoted, "I first thought that white karate candidates would be shown favoritism because I felt that every pair of eyes were on me when I worked out. I later recalled it was only my imagination. People *connected* with Karate have been great to me."

Lee was featured in an April 27, 1974 article by the Knoxville News Sentinel, "***Lee Limp but He Sure Can BELT You.***"

In this article he further explained the impact martial arts made on his life after a football injury prevented pursuing what he once referred to in the article, "I once thought there was nothing like football," he confessed.

As already mentioned earlier, Melbert Lee Sr., was an extra-ordinary person who never met a stranger and was known to many as a true encourager. Melbert enjoyed riding motorcycles especially riding his Goldwing which was exhilarating for him.

He was often involved in community events and enjoyed ministering with Praise, Honor and Glory for many years. He was the former Vice-President of Player Personnel for the Knoxville Crusaders minor league football team.

GALLERY



April 2011 Arnis Camp

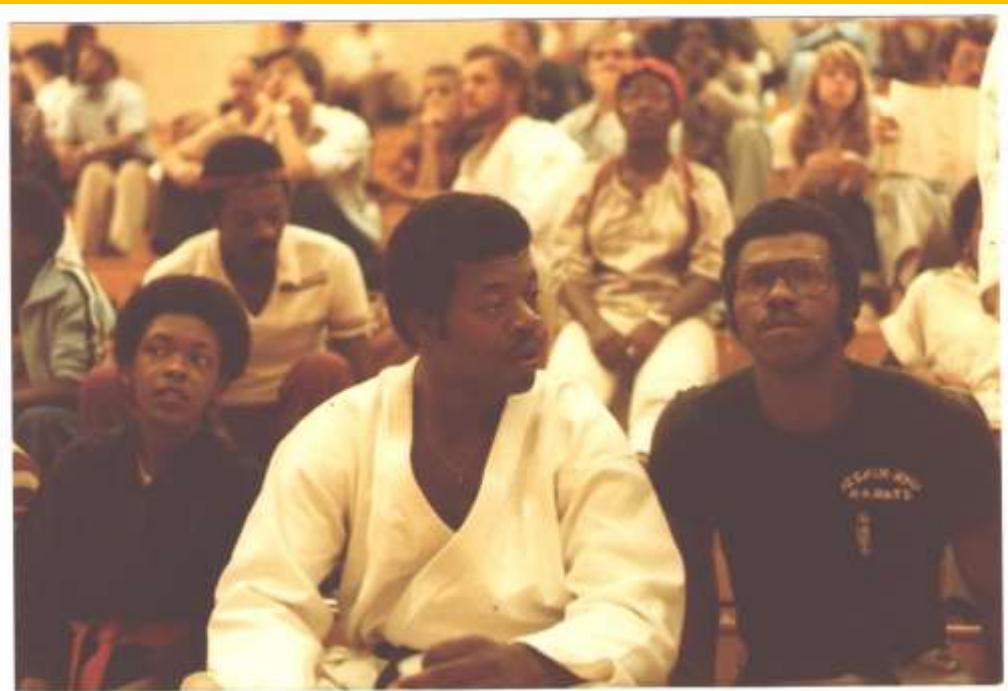


2002 World Karate Union Hall of Fame
“Master of the Year” Award – Pictured
above (L-R) Grandmasters Willie
Garfield Wilson and Melbert Lee Sr.



March 2013 UIKJA Hall of Honor Seminar













2017 IHOF Award Finalist

Female Junior Competitor of the Year

Samantha Agens - Black Dragon Karate Club (PA)
Jordan Chapman - NJ Martial Arts (NJ)
Amelia Chung - Family Self Defense Center (MI)
Nina Sayyarpour - Powers Martial Arts Academy (OH)
Anika Trotman - Ingram's Karate (FL)

Male Junior Competitor of the Year

Alex Langyel - NJ Martial Arts Academy (NJ)
Edward Miller - NJ Martial Arts Academy (NJ)
Zachary Kilduff - Golden Rule Karate & Fitness (NJ)
Taj Patel - Andalusia Isshinryu Karate (AL)
D.J. Robertson - Honeycutt School of Isshinryu (TN)

Female Competitor of the Year

Carol Brown - Cape Fear Isshinryu (NC)
Savanna McDavid - Kelly's Heroes (TN)
Leah Rigby - Rigby's Karate Academy (DE)
Victoria Paskiet - Paskiet Karate Academy (PA)
Kim Platt - NJ Martial Arts Academy (NJ)

Male Competitor of the Year

Elijah Bailey - NJ Martial Arts (NJ)
Douglas Honeycutt - Honeycutt School of Isshinryu (TN)
Ryan Horsey - Delaware Bushido Academy (DE)
Lee Sloan - Karate Five (TN)

Dojo of the Year

Art Palmers School of Isshinryu Karate (TN)
Family Self Defense Center (MI)
Honeycutt School of Isshinryu Karate
Okinawa Budo Kai (MI)
Rigby's Karate Academy (DE)

The Don Nagle Sensei of Sensei Award

Susan Baldassari - Toshikai Dojo (ON)
Kylie Forrest - Kylie's Isshinryu Academy (NC)
Brent Holland - Cape Fear Isshinryu (NC)
Maria Kristensen - Texas Isshinryu Karate Kai (TX)
Chris Szalap - Family Self Defense Center (MI)

The Steve Armstrong Outstanding Contribution Award

Carol Brown - Cape Fear Isshinryu (NC)
Kimberlei Camilli - Family Self Defense Center (MI)
Christina Heiser - NJ Martial Arts (NJ)
Coneil Loveless - Revolution Championship Martial Arts (MI)
Dell Norris - Jersey Judo Karate Academy (NJ)

The Harold Long Spirit of Isshinryu Award

Charles Agens - Black Dragon Karate Club (PA)
Susan Baldassari - Toshikai Dojo (ON)
Kelly Carmona - NJ Martial Arts (NJ)
Scott Fawcett - Tenchi Isshinryu Karate (NJ)
Leslie Kaiser - Detroit Martial Arts (MI)

The Harold Mitchum Humanitarian Award

Karate Five Dojo

The Tatsuo Shimabuku Lifetime Achievement Award

Tommy May

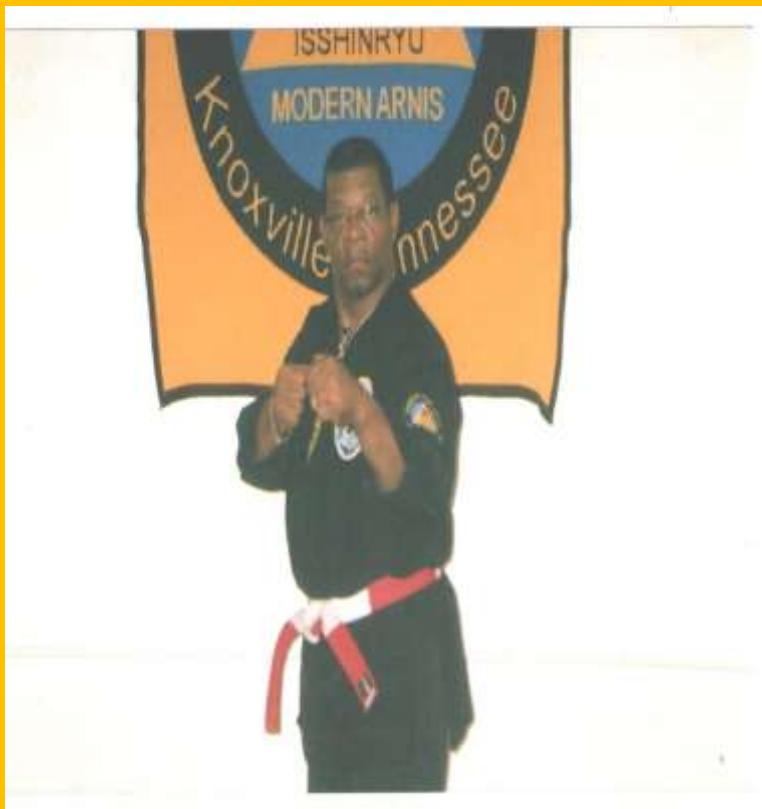
On July 21, 2017, Grandmaster Lee Sr., was present at the 38th Annual Awards Banquet to accept ***"The Harold Mitchum Humanitarian Award"*** on behalf of the Karate Five Dojo. This is an International Isshinryu Karate Association (IIKA) Board award. It is a great honor of recognition to receive this award.





(L-R) Melbert Lee Jr. and Melbert Lee Sr., "a legacy of martial arts carrying on the family tradition."

A GENERATION AND LEGACY OF MARTIAL ARTS



Melbert Lee Sr., Ku Dan (9th) Degree
Black Belt



Melbert Lee Jr., Schichi Dan (7th)
Degree Black Belt



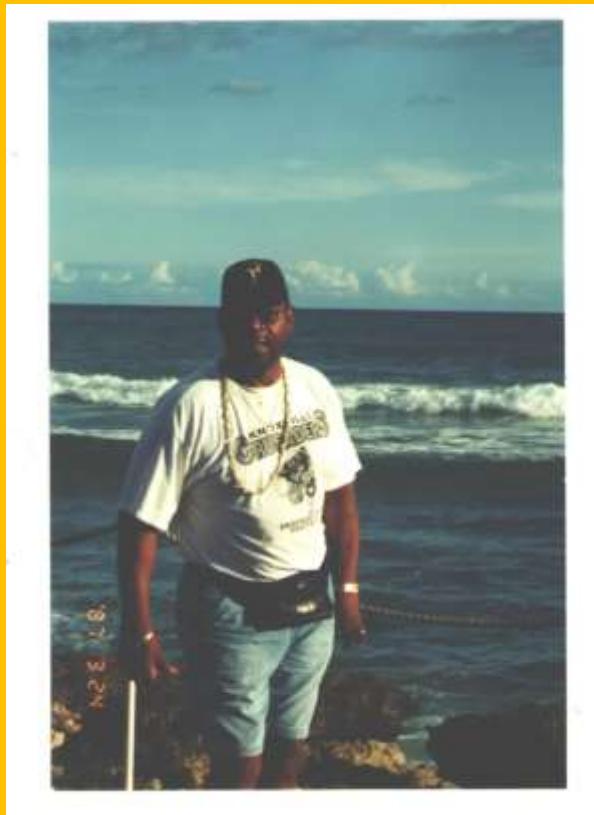
Melbert Lee Sr. presents Melbert Lee III
his Orange Belt June 20, 2017



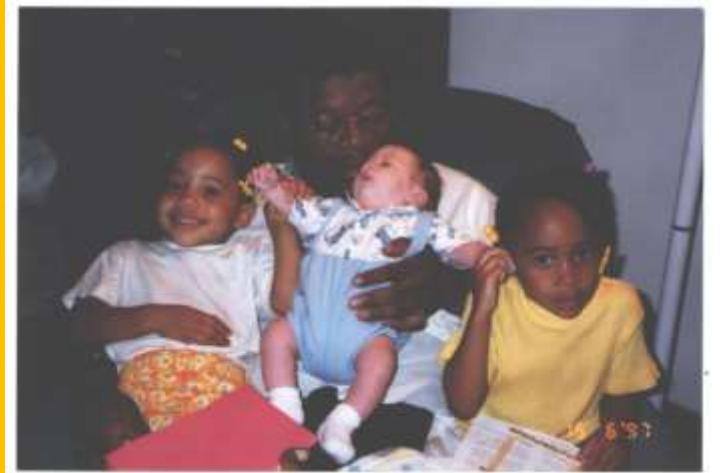
Jada Foster

Aniya Foster

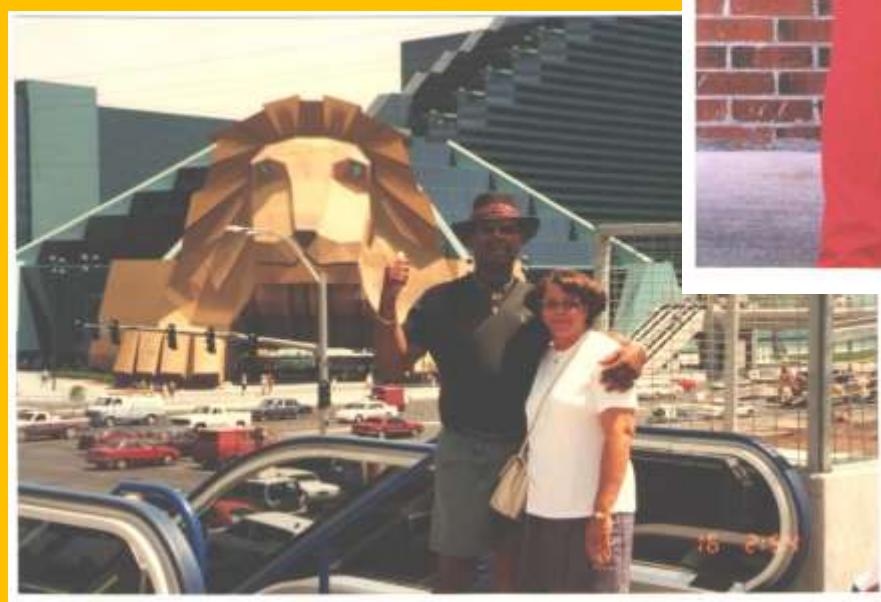
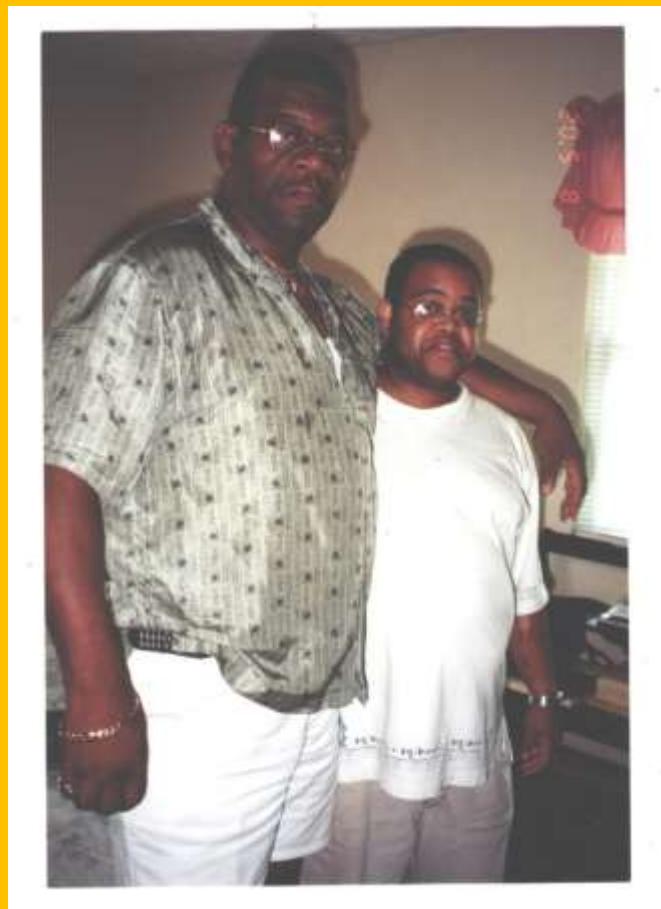
Personal Reflections



(Above Right) Melbert Lee Sr., with Sue Lee (Left Below) Melbert Lee Sr. pictured with sons Melbert Jr. and Marvin

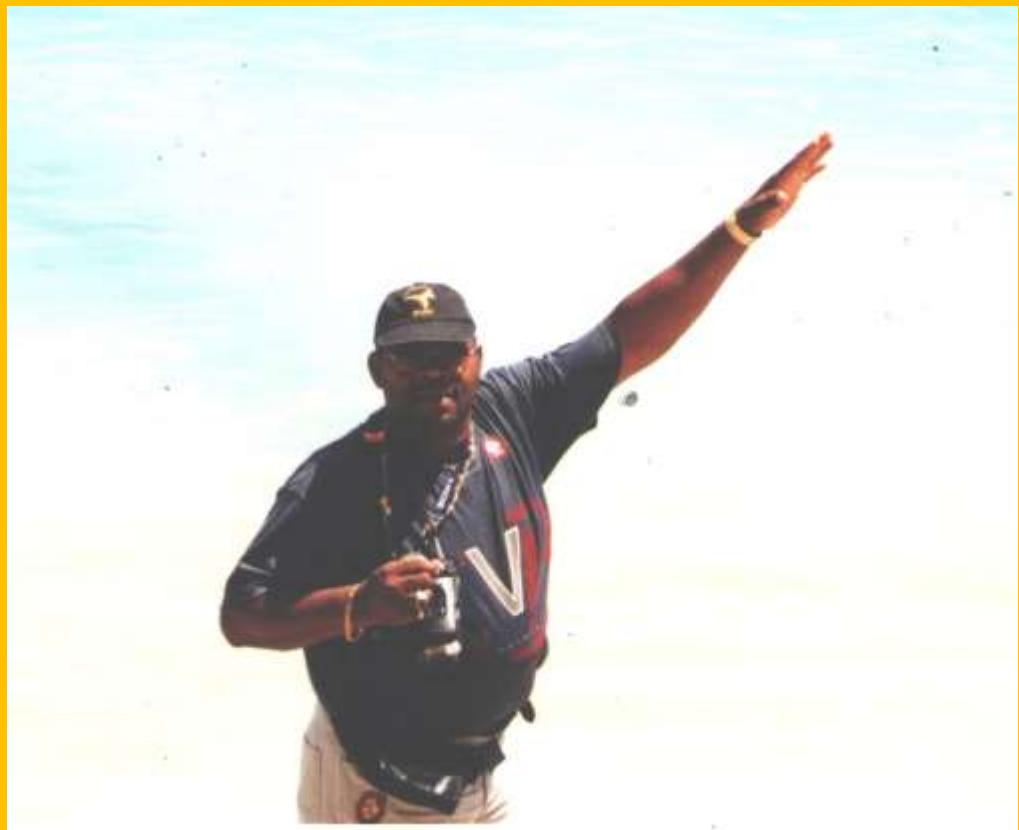












*Home Going Celebration
for
Rev. Melbert Lewis Lee, Sr.*



12:00 noon
Saturday, December 9, 2017

Sentertown Missionary Baptist Church

7149 Millertown Pike
Knoxville, Tennessee 37924

REV. DR. KEITH ELLIOTT, SR., OFFICIANT

Melbert Lee Sr. also known as
Grandmaster Lee and Rev. Lee Sr.,
loved his family, Church, martial arts
and living his life to the fullest until he
was called home on December 2,
2017. He fought the good fight!

As we look back and remember all that we shared together, we ask where did the time go, it seems so short? The joy, laughter, worry, fear, perseverance and love is the recipe God made just for you. All these only God can give, a predestined life He gave you. You did everything God had for you while here, not saying you were perfect but your heart made pure. Will we miss you? Yes we will, weeping endures for a night, but Joy comes in the morning! We don't say goodbye, only see you soon! Even though our hearts are heavy and eyes filled with tears, we remember what you would always say, "Live a life knowing that your destination will be in Heaven, living eternally." Until God completes His work in each of us, take you rest and we won't say goodbye, but see you soon!

Remembering You Always,
The Lee Family

Karate Five Association and the Karate Five Dojo and Board will miss our dear friend and one of the five original founders of the Karate Five. His contribution has touched many lives especially the youth to which our programs and vision for Karate Five is dedicated.

To those of you who have visited his Memorial page to pay your respect and knew him through the martial arts, family, church, or the community, we appreciate your support and kind words for our fallen warrior, Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr.

Thank You,

**Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson
December 2017**