



WILLIE GARFIELD WILSON

The field...MARTIAL ARTS.

Mr. Wilson was born on August 17, 1949 in Blount County, Tn. Attended High School and graduated from Everett High of The Blount County school system.

- He is married to wife, Linda (46years), and the father of three...Shelia, Anston, and Shantala
- He served three years in the U.S. Army; honorable discharge with rank of sergeant.
- He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, B. S. Business Administration; Walter State Business College and Associate Degree from Knoxville Business College.
- Retired from U.S. Postal Service in 2004

Mr. Wilson is the first African American to achieve the level of MARTIAL ARTS GRANDMASTER in the Knoxville/East Tennessee area. His first exposure to martial arts was in the army. In 1973, he started his formal Okinawan Style Isshinryu Karate training in Knoxville under Grandmaster Harold Long (1992 Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame inductee).

Master Wilson is a cross-trained martial artist. He holds the following ranks: 9th Degree in ISSHIN-RYU; 4th Degree in VEE-JITSU; 2nd Degree in SANUCES RYU; 1st Degree in MILITARY ARNIS; and Certified Instructor in MODERN ARNIS.

- Master Wilson is one of the original founders of the Karate Five Association, Knoxville, TN.
- He presently serves as President of Karate Five.
- He is the chief Sensei with daily oversight over the training of the students at the Dojo (karate school).
- Karate Five Dojo was originally formed in 1974 with the blessings and encouragement of Master Harold Long to promote and teach Isshinryu Karate to the inner city youth of Knoxville, Tennessee.
- The organization was formally formed as the Karate Five Association in 1980.

The Karate Five Dojo is located in a community center. The Dojo doors are open to all that are willing to be a part of a program that is not only physical but also teaches hard work, honor, loyalty, discipline, and commitment. Over the years, Chief Instructor Master Wilson trained several hundred men and women. He has been and is influential in directing many of the youth away from the harmful ways of the streets. He also played a big part in the lives of many young men and women in the community. Some have continued their education in the engineering and

science fields. Some have grown to be government, private sector, and church leaders. He had the privilege to train legends like pro footballers, Reggie White (now deceased) and Willie Gault.

Master Wilson gave numerous martial arts demonstrations and seminars to civic groups, churches, schools...including the University of Tennessee, Black History Month activities, Dogwood Arts Festival, Knoxville College, Isshinryu Hall of Fame (IHOF), World Union Hall of Fame, and Local Radio and TV Shows. He's also conducted seminars at other local and out-of-state martial arts dojos.

Master Wilson was instrumental in organizing KIDS DAY, BACK TO SCHOOL DAY programs, and the Karate Five CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP. Through Kids Day, Master Wilson helped children from different schools learn about martial arts and the danger of crime on the streets. His efforts were recently recognized by Knoxville's Phi Beta Sigma fraternity. In partnership with Greater Mount Olive Moriah Church, Master Wilson was awarded the *Mentor Father Anajali Award*.

Master Wilson has excelled as a teacher/instructor/coach during his Martial Arts career. Recognized for his hard work and contributions in and outside the martial arts community, Grandmaster Wilson has been awarded the following by his peers:

- 1980 A TRUE SENSEI FROM KARATE FIVE STUDENTS
- 1999 INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR BY THE ISSIN-RYU HALL OF FAME
- 2000 RECOGNITION OF SUPPORT – ISSHINRYU HALL OF FAME
- 2001 APPRECIATION AWARD – SHAFFER'S RED DRAGON KARATE DOJO
- 2002 SPECIAL HONOR GUEST SPRING SHEAI from USIKA
- 2002 MASTER OF THE YEAR BY THE WORLD KARATE UNION HALL OF FAME
- 2003 INDUCTED INTO THE ISSHIN-RYU HALL OF FAME
- 2003 MARTIAL ARTS LEADERSHIP FROM GRANDMASTER JEFF DELANEY & PROFESSOR LISA MCMANUS
- 2004 DOJO OF THE YEAR ISSSHINRYU HALL OF FAME
- 2004 MASTER OF YEAR BY THE WORLD KARATE UNION HALL OF FAME
- 2005 MASTER OF THE YEAR - WORLD UNION HALL OF FAME
- 2005 DOJO OF THE Month -By Bohan Organization
- 2005 GOLDEN LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT WORLD UNION HALL OF FAME
- 2006 DOJO OF THE YEAR – ISSSHINRYU HALL OF FAME
- 2006 MOST DISTINGUISHED BOARD MEMBER – WORLD UNION HALL OF FAME
- 2006 LEADERSHIP PROMOTING MARTIAL ARTS – KARATE FIVE
- 2007 KARATE FIVE INDUCTED IN WORLD UNION HALL OF FAME
- 2007 CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE FROM – MARTIAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
- 2007 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR CROSS TRAINING/MIXED MARTIAL ARTS
- 2008 THE DON BOHAN AWARD
- 2010 CREATED CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENT ALREADY IN COLLEGE
- 2011 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR – WORLD UNION HALL OF FAME
- 2011 RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FROM – FOSTER CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
- 2012 TRUE WARRIOR ACHIEVEMENT – KARATE FIVE
- 2012 MASTER INSTRUCTOR FROM SEN I JUTSU SYSTEM
- 2012 GRANDMASTER APPRECIATION AWARD – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT & CONTRIBUTION
- 2012 MILITARY ARNIS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- 2013 CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION DOVE AWARD – PHI SIGMA CHAPTER
- 2013 GRANDMASTER OF THE YEAR CROSS TRAINING AWARD MILITARY ARNIS BY THE WORLD KARATE UNION HALL OF FAME
- 2013 DISTINGUISHED GRANDMASTER AWARD BY THE UNIVERSAL ISSHINRYU AND JUJITSU ASSOCIATION
- 2014 MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD (HIGHEST HONOR) WORLD UNION HALL OF FAME
- 2014 RECOGNIZED BY KELLY'S HEROES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARTIAL ARTS
- 2015 ACTION MARTIAL ARTS MAGAZINE – HALL OF FAME HONORS
- 2015 Received award from MIDDLE TENNESSEE KARATE TOURNAMENT FOR MOST SUPPORT
- 2016 LEADERSHIP AND SACRIFICE AWARD- KARATE FIVE
- 2016 DOJO OF THE YEAR-ISSHINRYU HALL OF FAME (from top five nominations).
- 2017 GRAND MASTER HAROLD MITCHUM HUMANITARIAN AWARD...awarded by IHOF Board

Grandmaster Wilson is very deserving for induction. His contributions to the Martial Arts at the national and local scenes will be remembered for a very long time. His lineage of trained martial artists will leave an imprint on the local and national scenes.