

## KARATE FIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



(L-R) Master Willie Wilson, Master Melbert Lee Sr., Sensei Melbert Lee Jr., Sensei Linda Wilson and Sensei John Whitehead

Grandmaster Willie G. Wilson, Ku Dan (9th) Degree Black Belt  
Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr., Ku Dan (9th) Degree Black Belt  
Sensei Melbert Lee Jr., Schichi Dan (7th) Degree Black Belt  
Sensei Linda Wilson, Roku Dan (6th) Degree Black Belt  
Sensei John Whitehead, Go Dan (5th) Degree Black Belt



### Karate Five and Grandmaster Harold Long –

Willie Wilson, Linda Wilson and Melbert Lee Sr., are three of the original five 1975 Karate Five founders who were Master Long's "first generation" black belts. Other Karate Five first generation black belts under Master Long's lineage were Master Maurice Msarsa, Master William Faulkner and Master Fredrick Brabson.



The Board's mission to continue the vision of Karate Five's mentor, **Grandmaster Harold Long**, was adopted by Karate Five, to teach martial arts to Knoxville's inner city youth.



Master Long learned the Isshinryu style of karate in the 1950's from **Grandmaster Tatsuo Shimbakuku** while serving in the U.S. Marines in Okinawa (pictured below). ). The Dojo was founded with the blessings and encouragement of Master Harold Long "to promote and teach Isshinryu to the inner city youth of Knoxville, Tennessee."

**Master Harold Long's mentor, Grandmaster Tatsuo Shimbakuku, the creator of Isshinryu 60 years ago.**



**(Above)** Pictured is Grandmaster Tatsuo Shimbakuku who taught Master Harold Long the Isshinryu style of karate in the 1950's.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing, in October 2008, Karate Five celebrated the memory of Grandmaster Harold Long's passing with a tribute to his passing. Master Long's gift to the early Karate Five founders has been the Board's mission since its inception.

### **Other Karate Five Relationships**

Karate Five has trained and participated in seminars and instructor seminars with Masters of great and distinguished careers whose martial art abilities created their own systems such as **Grand Master Jeff Delaney** of Modern Arnis (Hawaii). Furthering this system, Karate Five has welcomed **Professor Lisa McManis'** military Arnis skills shared in her workshops in Knoxville and Morristown, TN. Whenever possible, it is important to the Karate Five Dojo to participate in out-of-state Arnis workshops. In 2006, Board of Directors of the Martial Leadership Institute issued a decision to align its organization with its "first and only civilian martial arts school, Karate Five Dojo, as an official Military Arnis Affiliate.



**(Above L-R)** First picture are: Masters Willie Wilson and Melbert Lee Sr. with Master Jeff Delaney; Second picture Professor Lisa McManis in foreground; Third picture are Master Melbert Lee Sr., Master Jeff Delaney, Sensei Daryl Cox and Master Willie Wilson; Fourth picture is Master Jeff Delaney

## Karate Five “Original” Five Early Founders



The original Karate Five founders are pictured (**above in early photos**) from (L-R), Willie and Linda Wilson, Melbert Lee Sr., pictured with Willie Wilson, Fredrick Brabson, Melbert Lee Sr., and William Faulkner.

Throughout the years, the original 1975 “Five” founders have evolved to a dojo with black belts who are highly respected and well recognized and honored in the martial arts circles. Karate Five staff and students regularly attend, participate and sponsor martial arts tournaments, seminars, workshops and shiais.

During the Dojo’s 40 plus years, the Masters and their students have been inducted into the Isshin-Ryu Hall of Fame (IHOF) and the World Karate Union Hall of Fame (WKU HOF). Masters Willie Wilson, Melbert Lee Sr., and Master Maurice Msarsa (K-5 Dojo Sensei) have earned multiple nomination as well as inductions into several martial arts halls of fame...among which is the International Isshinryu Karate Association (IIKA) Board of Directors. Master Maurice Msarsa is an emeritus IIKA Board member and Isshinryu Hall of Fame Board Member.



(**Above**) Grandmaster Willie Wilson in first two pictures demonstrating techniques; second picture of K-5 students at 2007 Arnis camp; Master Msarsa working with student; and Master Melbert Lee Sr. judging at 2007 Dragon Jam tournament

## Training, Tournaments, Workshops, Seminars and Awards

Since Karate Five's inception as a non-profit martial arts organization, Karate Five has never been established as a "for profit" organization. Our goal is to bring the best martial arts training we can to our students, workshops and tournament participation. We want our staff and students to always strive for excellence, loyalty and commitment to the arts to not only strive and push their physical training limitations but to mature morally, spiritually and evolve into individuals who will exemplify leadership qualities among their own peers.



(Above L-R) April 2012 Seminar; 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cross-Training Camp (April 2013) with Masters Willie Wilson and Msarsa two of featured grandmasters; K-5 Students receive award at June 2014 tournament; and Instructor Anston Wilson and lastly Sensei Melbert Lee Jr., performing at November 7, 2015 Children's Tournament



(Above L-R) Sensei Linda Wilson demands a rigorous workout from students before martial arts training in the Karate 5 dojo but the rewards of their commitment to training are reflected at competition tournaments.