

KARATE FIVE ASSOCIATION

OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE TEACHING ISSHINRYU AND MARTIAL ARTS SERVING THE TENNESSEE AREA

The Karate Five Dojo has evolved its martial art cross training skills through alliances and partnerships with other great Masters' systems such as Military Arnis, the art of breathing, Vee Jitsu and many other martial arts systems



The inception of the Karate Five Dojo was the brainchild of Grandmaster Willie Wilson in 1975, over 40 years ago. Wilson approached Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr., with his idea and they met several times to exchange ideas after that first meeting on the front porch of Wilson's home. After both received their Black Belts under Grandmaster Harold Long (Lee in 1972 and Wilson in 1975), Wilson and Lee continued pursuing Wilson's idea of creating their own inner city dojo.

The first official business meeting of Karate Five was not held until March 30, 1980 at Lee's house to set out a business plan and elect officers—the other three members became part of their organization during that meeting. These individuals would later become known as the “*original five founders*” of the Karate Five Dojo—which has been the organization's namesake to this day. On May 1, 1980 the new officers (all under the first generation lineage of Grandmaster Harold Long) met to discuss their first Kids' Day event scheduled for Morningside Park at the YMCA. Thus, was the beginning of the Karate Five Association and Dojo in Knoxville, TN.

According to the early minutes recorded on that day, officers elected on March 30, 1980 over 37 years ago were:

Melbert Lee Sr. – President
William Faulkner – Treasurer
Linda Wilson – Secretary

Willie Garfield Wilson, Coordinator
Fredrick “Butch” Brabson – Assistant Coordinator



Willie Garfield Wilson



Melbert Lee Sr.



Linda P. Wilson



Fredrick "Butch" Brabons Sr.



William Faulkner

The Original 1980 Karate Five Founders

Karate Five Association is still conscientiously pursuing its original mission to follow the late Grandmaster Harold Long's determination to bring the martial arts program to Knoxville's inner city youth. The Karate Five founders have carried on its mentor's, Harold Long's dream. More importantly, Karate Five chose to focus and streamline its organization's energies and professional martial arts masters, sensei and instructors' talents on this city's youth and young adult through the further development of its own community outreach programs.

Since Karate Five's inception to run its martial arts business as a not-for-profit organization, Karate Five has never been established as a "for-profit" organization. Karate Five Board of Directors has five members (three members who are from the original five founders of the first generation black belts lineage under Master Harold Long). They are Grandmaster Willie G. Wilson, Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr., and Master Linda P. Wilson.



Grandmaster Melbert Lee Sr.



Grandmaster Willie Garfield Wilson



Master Linda P. Wilson

The early founders understood the intense concentration and focus demanded of students in martial arts training. The nature of the Karate Five Dojo training also promotes disciplined mental and spiritual development—an asset strongly encouraged in each of its students. To reinforce the Karate Five Dojo’s training philosophy, the Board insists the leadership and training teams exemplify this moral compass and leadership example. The organizational structure designed its martial arts program to accomplish these lifelong goals by promoting physical, moral and spiritual development.

A major partner in this success has been accomplished by working with the City of Knoxville’s Parks and Recreation Department through the use of their Oakland Community Center. The City’s Recreation Department has provided a home for the Karate Five Dojo and its students and this organization is careful to assure the City’s facility is well maintained and kept up. The Karate Five’s presence over the years has totally eliminated loitering in the parking lot and on the grounds of the Oakland Community Center and prevented a haven for drug trafficking. We thank the City and the surrounding community for their years of support.



Karate Five Dojo, 3816 Oakland Drive, Knoxville, TN 37918 – Tel: 865-933-7067