



## MASTER LINDA WILSON The field . . . MARTIAL ARTS

Master Linda Wilson began her Isshinryu training in 1973. In 1977 she was the first African American woman in the late Grandmaster Harold Long's lineage to earn a black belt. The Karate Five Dojo was founded with the blessings and encouragement of Master Long "to promote and teach Isshinryu to the inner city youth of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Master Linda Wilson is married to Grandmaster Willie Wilson (2003 IHOF Inductee) and they have two grown children. . . Anston and Shantala. Yes, both of her children are Karate Five Isshinryu trained. In her professional career, she has over 40 years of administrative experience and joined the professional team of the Knoxville

Convention Center in 2002 and is the Executive Assistant to the CEO.

Her responsibilities and participation in martial arts with Karate Five include but are not limited to:

- In martial arts, she is a member in good standing in the International Isshinryu Karate Association (IIKA).
- She was also one of the five "original founders" of the Karate Five Dojo
- Master Linda Wilson is a Roku Dan (6<sup>th</sup>) Degree Black Belt
- Master Linda Wilson leads Karate Five teams in conducting Isshinryu Karate seminars and demonstrations at such places as the University of Tennessee, local high schools, churches, civic groups, and the dogwood Arts Festival.
- She served as instructor for the Ladies of Isshinryu Hall of Fame Self Defense Seminar for the 2016 IHOF Annual Banquet and Tournament, Gatlinburg, TN

For the past forty years she has taken her "teach Isshinryu" to heart. Many of the dojo's students come from a variety of backgrounds. That is where she excels in teaching, guiding and in dealing with their training and needs. Over the years and as a Sensei she assisted in teaching Isshinryu to dozens of Karate Five students.

Master Linda Wilson still continues to leave her mark in the Isshinryu ranks as a leader, a teacher, and a Sensei. Some of her awards, recognitions and accomplishments in the martial arts are as follows:

- Master Linda Wilson has travelled to many dojos and Isshinryu events in the Eastern and Southeastern part of the U.S.
- 2014 - She was awarded the 2014 WKUHF Instructor of the Year
- 2015 - Awarded 2015 Karate Five Leadership Award
- 2015 - Received the 2015 Universal Isshinryu/Jiu-Jitsu Silver Lifetime Achievement Award

- 2016 - Received the 2016 WKUHF Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2016 - Received the 2016 Female Instructor of the Year (IHOF)
- 2016 - Received a 2016 Sensei Appreciation and Leadership Award
- 2017 - The first African American female inducted into the Isshinryu Karate Five Hall of Fame (IHOF)
- 2017 – She was featured by Alan Williams in a television interview on WVLT Local 8 News at 5 PM who interviewed Master Wilson about her 44 years in the martial arts which prompted her induction into the Isshin-Ryu Hall of Fame (IHOF). She was the first African American female to have been bestowed this recognition and honor in the IHOF.
- 2017 – Sensei Linda Wilson received her Promotion Certificate which promoted her from Roku Dan (6<sup>th</sup>) Degree Black belt to Shichi Dan (7<sup>th</sup>) Degree Black Belt on August 17, 2017.

*Sensei Linda Wilson, “It filled my heart with pride when my students placed in the winner brackets in tournaments. However, it’s more rewarding when I see how some of the young men and women from my lineage that I taught at the dojo during their youth days have matured into responsible and professional citizens. It is very common for these former Karate 5 students to bring their children and ask to please teach and train them the way you taught me.”*

Master Linda Wilson is a member of the Foster Chapel Baptist Church. She’s the Ladies choir coordinator and a member of the Sanctuary, Ladies and Combined Choirs. She instructs and teaches in Vacation Bible School and when needed, is a substitute Sunday School Teacher. She is also coordinator and instructor for wellbeing of staff and family situations for upward mobility.

In her personal, professional and martial arts life, she is committed to the highest standard of performance no matter the challenge.