

UNITING THE WORLD THROUGH **MARTIAL ARTS**

태권도를 통해 전 세계를 화합하자

July 2022

# TKD *TaeKwonDo* TIMES



**ALONG WITH GRAND MASTER G.K. LEE, MEET THE NEW GRAND MASTERS OF THE  
FASTEST GROWING MARTIAL ARTS ORGANIZATION IN THE INDUSTRY**

GLOBAL TRADITIONAL

# GTMA

MARTIAL ARTS™

**#THEJOURNEYCONTINUES**



Being a traditional based martial arts company with their foundation focused on excellent training and curriculum (solidified by the fact that their leader Grand Master GK Lee has more than 7 million views on his 9th Degree Testing on YouTube), GTMA's leadership is forward thinking when it comes to the business side of martial arts. Grand Master Lee puts a major emphasis on the words "Martial Arts" in the name "Global Traditional Martial Arts." While the focus of the organization's curriculum and style is GShim Taekwondo, his goal is to expose everyone to the good of all Martial Arts training. This is evident with the list of partners GTMA is working with. Fuji Sports, Adrenaline Action Design and Carlos Machado Jiu Jitsu are just a few of the recognizable names collaborating with the new organization. GTMA is constantly pursuing partnerships with other styles and organizations. One unconventional event GTMA hosted was a 5-Minute Fight Film Festival they held in conjunction with Adrenaline Action Design! Schools across the world participated by filming and editing their own 5-minute action film with concepts and choreography learned from Adrenaline Action Design. It was an amazing way to build excitement and comradery within a school while utilizing martial arts as the main catalyst!

Some benefits of working with high quality partners are the synergy of working together with like-minded martial artists, buying power in bulk of supplies and resale merchandise, and the ability to provide different martial art's schools customers with high quality events in upscale arenas such as the Gaylord Resorts.

GTMA is already hosting events with thousands of participants at high-end facilities across the world. One of GTMA's biggest goals is to update their members' tournament experiences by partnering with UVentex Labs and using their tournament software. Bringing the tournament process and structure into the 20th century is a goal all GTMA's leadership share. This year GTMA announced that they will be holding their Inaugural Tournament Season with events across the country and around the world! Points can be earned at these events, and competitors have opportunities to earn championship titles at the end of the season!

On July 9, 2022, GTMA celebrates the inauguration of four of its Founding Chief Masters to the title of Grand Master. The organization is honored to promote these talented martial artists to the next level of leadership in the GTMA Family. Grand Master G.K. Lee is the heart and soul of GTMA, and by adding four Grand Masters to the fold, he continues to leave a legacy of humility, graciousness, and discipline. Grand Master Lee is humbled to promote Apprentice Grand Masters Todd Lee Droege, Stephen Westbrook, Daniel Longoria, and Marilyn Niblock to the title of Grand Master. Apprentice Grand Master Marilyn Niblock also has the honor and distinction of becoming GTMA's first female Grand Master. Together, these four martial artists have contributed more than 200 years of martial arts training and experience to an organization that is leading the way in martial arts innovation.

The “Fab Four,” as they have been coined, will ascend to the level of Grand Master at a special Masters’ Ceremony surrounded by their loved ones, friends, and GTMA Family at GTMA’s 2022 Global Celebration in Kissimmee, Fla. In this very special celebration, not only will GTMA multiply its Grand Masters fourfold, but an international testing with hundreds of high ranks will midterm and test towards their next Taekwondo Rank; GTMA Apprentice Masters, Senior Masters and Chief Masters will ascend to their new titles of Master Instructors; and competitors from around the world will commence in different levels of competition while celebrating the love and excitement for GShim Taekwondo! Every moment of this memorable event is truly a celebration of many accomplishments!



## Meet the GTMA Fab Four Grand Masters:

### Apprentice Grand Master Todd Lee Droege

#### Where the Journey to Grand Master Began:

Newport, Kentucky - I started Martial Arts in 1975 because my brother wanted to start training, we both received our black belts in 1977. I moved to Atlanta in 1982 and owned my first school by 1984. Swift journey that was only realized because of my parents made sure my brother and I went to class. Our family held a strong work ethic and were disciplined. My family gave me the determination continue I continued to my pathway to Grand Master.

Martial Arts Styles: Taekwondo 47 Years - 9th Degree Black Belt, Krav Maga 21 Years

Favorite Martial Arts Memory: Becoming an integral part of "The New Journey" which became the development of GTMA.

Advice to Your Younger Self: It might not always be easy, but ALWAYS do the right thing; not necessarily what is easy or popular.

Inspiration for White Belts: Never Quit.

Inspiration for Black Belts: Now your true martial arts experience begins.

Inspiration for Instructors: Let the targets answer their questions.

Inspiration for Masters: And now, your real leadership responsibility begins!

Best Memory with Grand Master G.K. Lee: The day he asked me to join the Weapons Training Team, once known as Protech, about 30 years ago. It was an honor to be selected for

What Does GTMA Mean to you? GTMA is loyalty. We are different because we have Grand Master G.K. Lee as our leader.

What Do You See for GTMA in the future? GTMA will deliver the best product martial arts can provide to our communities while continuing to have integrity and respect for all members of the organization. We work best when we work together.



## Apprentice Grand Master Stephen Westbrook Where the Journey to Grand Master Began:

I started Martial Arts in 1980 because I loved the physical activity of sports and grew up “fighting back” with three brothers who loved to pick on me. When I started taekwondo after college, it was a natural fit for me and gave me a sense of who I could be and what I was capable of doing. Taekwondo provided me with a vision of my future.

Styles: Taekwondo - 9th Degree Black Belt

Favorite Martial Arts Memory: The first time I heard Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee say my name. I was in such awe that he knew my name and I felt seen in a huge sea of black belts!

Advice to Your Younger Self: Be fierce, but humble. Keep training, keep learning – it will be a magnificent journey.

What you do and what you say does make a difference.

Inspiration for White Belts: You can do this.

Inspiration for Black Belts: You have built a strong foundation, now train.

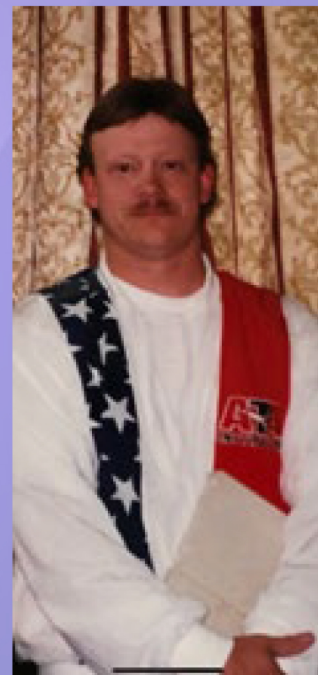
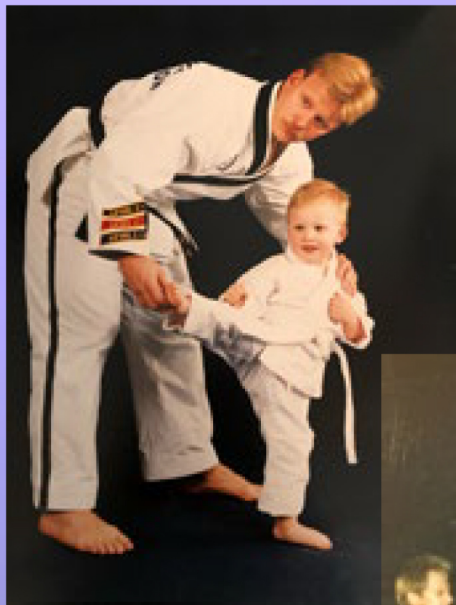
Inspiration for Instructors: Share your knowledge with your students; help others achieve their best.

Inspiration for Masters: Be humble.

Best Memory with Grand Master G.K. Lee: When Grand Master G.K. Lee allowed me the opportunity to test for 9th Degree Black Belt. This was such an overwhelming and spectacular moment in my martial arts journey.

What Does GTMA Mean to You? GTMA means family. We are here for each other, and that is why we are successful - and why we will continue to be so! We are different from other martial arts organizations in that we have a leader, a Grand Master, who believes in each and every one of us. We are on a magnificent journey as a premier martial arts organization that is doing it the right way.

What Do You See for GTMA in the Future? We are what others want to be. We will be the leaders, the driving force on what martial arts should be.



## Apprentice Grand Master Daniel Longoria Where the Journey to Grand Master Began:

I started Martial Arts in 1962 because I've always enjoyed the fighting arts. I started with boxing, then wrestling, so learning the kicking arts was next for me; plus, I loved Billy Jack and Bruce Lee movies.

Styles: Boxing at 6 Years Old, Wrestling through High School

Taekwondo since 1978 - 9th Degree Black Belt, Hapkido since 1986 - 5th Degree Black Belt

Shodokan for 4 years - Green Belt, Founder of Tac Krav Maga in 1999 - Expert Level

Favorite Martial Arts Memory: In 1982 or 1983, I was in a Little Rock Grand National meeting with Droege and Westbrook for the first time. I was warming up for competition and I sensed these two men standing cross-armed, watching me while I was practicing my form. Westbrook, whom I'd never met before that moment, calls me over and says with a straight face, "You know they have changed that form." Droege turned away from me, but the look on my face must have been classic. I was psyched out, they totally got me! Once I got over the shock, I thought these are my kind of guys.

Advice to Your Younger Self: Sit back and enjoy (more often) every step of this incredible life you've been able to live.

Inspiration for White Belts: Less is more! Focus on the quality, not the quantity.

Inspiration for Black Belts: Now your journey begins.

Inspiration for Instructors: Empathy is the most important attribute to become an instructor that impacts lives.

Inspiration for Masters: Be humble and ready to serve.

Best Memory with Grand Master G.K. Lee: Just a few months ago, Grand Master G.K. called to tell me how excited he was about hearing from some new to GTMA Masters based in California. They shared with him that they had watched one of my training zoom classes and knew they made the correct decision in joining GTMA. Grand Master G.K. Lee told me it was because, "I'm such a great instructor." Hearing that from my mentor and instructor was priceless to me.

What Does GTMA Mean to You? GTMA is a validation of the principles, ethics, and integrity of how we live and how I run my academy. It's different from other organizations because it is led by martial artists and for martial artists.

What Do You See for GTMA in the Future? In the future, I see GTMA as an industry trendsetter.



## Apprentice Grand Master Marilyn Niblock Where the Journey to Grand Master Began:

I started Martial Arts in 1971 because I liked watching Bruce Lee movies and wanted to be like him.

Styles: Taekwondo – 9th Degree Black Belt

Favorite Martial Arts Memory: I have been doing this for so many years it's hard to have just one. My most “memorable moment” was when I tested in front of Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee. It was not one of my best moments for sure. Let's just say, I learned a lot that day in a short period of time! Another time that really stands out was having the honor to be one of the first to go to Korea with my taekwondo association and meeting some very influential people. Most importantly, there's been nothing like having my family stand beside me all these years and watch me achieve my dream of becoming a Grand Master. And finally, now I get to watch my two grandsons start their own journey as white belts!

Advice to Your Younger Self: Take care of your body and your health because with these you can grow old and continue to be the young person that you believe in your heart and mind that you are. Continue to train every day like it's your very first day. Never stop learning or moving.

Inspiration for White Belts: Have fun!

Inspiration for Black Belts: Now the true journey of martial arts begins. Get ready to learn and work even harder than you did to achieve the rank of Black Belt

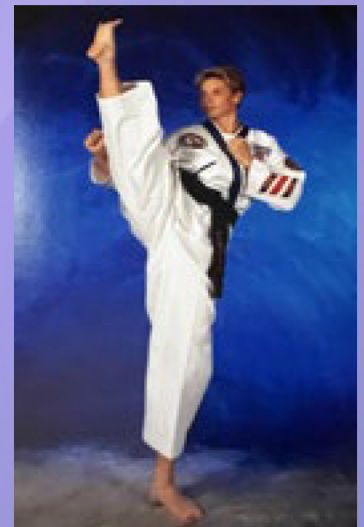
Inspiration for Instructors: Dream Big! Dreams are only dreams until you take steps to make them a reality.

Inspiration for Masters: You are now the example of what a true Martial Artist should be. So, make that example one that others want to follow and lead them down the correct path of truth and knowledge without arrogance or selfishness.

Best Memory with Grand Master G.K. Lee: When Grand Master G.K. Lee personally asked me to help him develop his vision for the Combat Weapons Systems, and making it one of the most successful programs today. What Does GTMA Mean to You? It means loyalty and love for my instructor, mentor and friend Grand Master G.K. Lee and following him on this path and any future paths he may lead us on knowing that the true martial artist will have a home for generations to come after we are gone. We value passing our knowledge as seniors down to the future leaders of GTMA and making sure they are ready to take on that enormous responsibility. GTMA is different from other organizations because we believe family always! We have a vision that transcends time and is always evolving to be better than we were yesterday.

What Do You See for GTMA in the Future?

It's constantly changing to keep up with what we need to do to prepare the next generation for a lifelong love of being a Marial Artist.



## The Fab Fours' shared values of humility, integrity, family, and creating a strong foundation of martial arts are invaluable assets to GTMA.

The organization and its founders are enthusiastic about this step forward alongside the new Grand Masters and all look forward to what the bright future of GTMA will bring their way.

Every martial artist has a generational path they follow in their martial arts journey. It will twist & turn many times as they continue down their path. GTMA is consistently growing and actively seeking out other like-minded school and club owners to meet with and share their vision with. From the small club owner, to the large multi-school operator, the leadership of GTMA wants everyone to know there is a place for them in the organization. Everyone is treated with honor and respect, no matter rank, style, organization affiliation or school size.

“On Target Martial Arts joining GTMA was a smooth, easy transition and the best business decision I made for my school” said Andi Johnson, 5th degree black belt and owner of On Target Martial Arts in Statesboro, Ga. “Not only does GTMA trust school owners to run their schools how they deem fit, but as an organization GTMA is open to suggestions from school owners and they treat them with respect. As far as transitioning to the GSHIM curriculum, it is extremely applicable and explosive. There is a notable difference and great improvement in the students and their demonstration of self-defense, sparring, and board breaking.”

[Email info@gtmaonline.com](mailto:info@gtmaonline.com) or visit their website at [www.GTMAonline.com](http://www.GTMAonline.com), and enter your information to learn how you can continue your martial arts journey #theGTMAway! #thejourneycontinues

