

READY FOR VEGAS AND COUNTING DOWN

We tend to get a little excited when we do something we've never done before. Human nature, I suppose. And going to Las Vegas for our gathering for the purpose of IKCA Teaching, Learning, Sharing, and Camaraderie is something new for us. Not the training part, only the location. And if you've been reading your recent newsletters you know that this year we are once again altering the program to better suit our membership.

We try things for a couple of years and in the process add or subtract elements to refine it, and then on occasion we make a complete change, which is what we are doing this year. It's been heading in this direction for the past several years, but this is the year where we make the break.

JUST A BRIEF OVERVIEW

In the past, we have run a variety of competitive events at our Seminars. It was fun, everyone enjoyed it, but it was time-consuming and there was not much learning going on except by the contestants, but not everyone entered the competition. So, we cut the competitive events down and then continued to cut them down even further each year, adding more and more training to the event over the next several years, which was very well-received by those attending. This year we have decided to eliminate the competitive events altogether.

There will be much more time to train by eliminating the competitive events. More time to learn; more time to practice what you've learned to take back home to perfect or to teach your students if you are an instructor. It's what the membership wanted, so that's what we are bound by the IKCA Bylaws to give you.

For the past two years we've included people from outside the IKCA, from other Kenpo organizations, and that also was fun and rewarding because we got to see and appreciate other approaches to our art. The schools of thought may differ somewhat but the style is still the same and the differences are welcome. However, once again we found ourselves at odds with what we felt was in the best interest of *our members*. This year we feel we have come up with a plan that will benefit everyone to the fullest extent, everyone in the IKCA, that is.

We know what it takes to become an IKCA Black Belt and we have dedicated ourselves to getting everyone who wishes to be an IKCA Black Belt the opportunity to do so, and to do it in the most expeditious manner possible. What the IKCA under belts (White belts through Brown belts) need the most is the Karate Connection training that will bring them to Black Belt. That's their goal and that's the goal of the organization. Anything less is coming up short.

Once you are an IKCA Black Belt, you can go on to any kind of training that suits your individual needs, and the IKCA will not only guide you toward those needs, we will physically assemble the finest instructors available in the various disciplines that you may wish to pursue. And that's what this gathering in Vegas is all about.

Because our students are scattered all over the globe, it's not easy to assemble a great number of them in one place at one time so we decided on Las Vegas because other organizations find it to be the gathering place that seems the best. Everyone from Firefighters to Funeral Directors to International Electronics Manufacturers seem to hold their gatherings there, so why not the IKCA.

No matter your rank or your reason for attending, to expedite your progress toward your Black Belt, or if you are already a Black Belt, to take an abundance of knowledge back home to your students, we feel that this year we will be offering you the best training possible to attain your goals or fulfill your needs.

But we can talk all we want about what we have to offer and it's still all coming from the same source: us. So, if we may, we would like to print just a few excerpts from letters we have received, about some of the training people have gotten through their personal contact with Mr. LeRoux at recent IKCA Seminars.

The first is from a Mr. Rob Ray from Macon, Georgia:

Dear Master LeRoux,

My name is Rob Ray. I and my instructor, Wade Wilbourn, met you at the Kenpo in the Carolina's seminar in Raleigh, NC on 3/19/06. We were from Macon, GA and drove up specifically because we knew you were instructing. I just wanted to thank you for sparing the time to share with us. We learned a lot in that short time with you and we really appreciate all you did, as well as all you have contributed to the world of Kenpo.

The seminar is all we've talked about since it ended. To say we were impressed with you, the IKCA, and its members is simply an understatement. We witnessed a true brotherhood of Kenpoists that maintain a higher standard. All of the IKCA students we met and witnessed were extremely tight with their techniques and displayed a high level of skill and integrity as well. I'm sure you and Master Sullivan must be very proud. I just wanted to drop you a line and let you know how grateful we were for the experience.

You guys are truly awesome! We discovered that we share the same ideals and a desire to obtain the same high standards the IKCA obviously possesses and maintains. I've always had a "burning desire" to learn all I could about Kenpo and after the seminar it was like you dumped a can of gasoline on that fire! =) Anyway, I tend to get long winded and I know you must be busy so I'll end by saying "Thanks!" once again. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything!

Sincerely,

Rob Ray

Here's an Email we received from Mr. Scott Sumner:

Mr. LeRoux,

I just wanted to personally drop you a note and tell you how much fun I had at the Carolina seminar. It's been one week now, and I'm still feeling the rush. It had always been my wish to meet you and attend one of these. This was my first. You & Mr. Sullivan are like heroes to us, and it's a major event when you make personal appearances.

I always felt that being on the east coast, we were the forgotten members of the IKCA, especially after seeing how much fun everyone was having on the west coast. That sure changed for many of us last Saturday with your appearance. I drove almost 6 hours (one way), stayed in a hotel for 2 nights, just so I could truly feel like I belonged to the IKCA, at a time when I am on a fixed income. IT WAS WORTH IT. You may not know it if you don't read the chat rooms or hear the "buzz" from other members, but you really inspired many of us IKCA'ers after your visit here. We are still talking about it. You can count on my attendance at all future seminars on the east coast. By the way, some of the stories you told were priceless! Thanks for being there for us IKCA folks.

SCOTT SUMNER IKCA lifetime member, Brown Belt MARYLAND

Another Email, this one from Mr. Clayton Pait.

Gentlemen:

I wanted to thank you both for making the Raleigh seminar one of the milestones of my Journey. As you know, this is the first IKCA seminar I have had the pleasure of attending. In fact, this is the first time I have been able to meet a real, live Kenpo practitioner. Up until this weekend, anyone doing Kenpo with me was only doing what I had shown them (to prepare for one of my tests, etc). Now I know that Kenpo practitioners are NOT a fairy tale. They DO exist --- I've seen them, touched them, and been slammed by them! I have been with the IKCA for 12 years now (since 1994), and I think I have a fair understanding of many of the concepts and principles of the system. I have seen Chuck and Vic and Mr. Parker performing on video, and it was --- of course --- amazing. That is to be expected. But I saw a lot of guys at the seminar, from Purplebelts to Blackbelts, ripping out Kenpo like nothing could stop them. For me, it was inspiring and humbling at the same time. It's probably difficult for those who train in a group to understand what training solo is like. It is often a challenge to motivate oneself when no one is looking but you. You can't rely on your training partner(s) to cheer you on and encourage you, because you don't have any training partners. All you have is a love of the Art and a desire to reach each goal so you can strive for the next. For years, all that kept me training were the congratulations from Vic when he'd do my private lessons on my test tapes, and the motivational statements Chuck would make in the newsletters every guarter. To be honest, my training would often slump around the end of a quarter, only to be stirred up again when the newsletter came. It was great to see what everyone was doing and where the system was headed. I have watched the IKCA grow over the past 12 years, and I am glad to have been a part of it, however small. But it all seemed so far away.

The seminar last weekend started to change that feeling. The fellowship and brotherhood I felt was so refreshing. If this is typical of IKCA gatherings and the kind of unified spirit the founders of the IKCA promote, this organization will be here a hundred years from now. Although I had never met any of the people before I went, I left the seminar having made a lot of friends. I have been involved in several martial art styles in the last 15 years, and I have gotten something from each of them. But the style that fits me best is Kenpo, and I have now met a few of my many brothers, and the IKCA is our home. Thank you again for the decision to follow through with this seminar. I'm sure I'm not the only one who is glad you did.

Vic:

My mentor and teacher. Through the training tape series, the private lessons by video, and a few involved at Brown Belt, he is VERY impressive. I plan to continue to correspond with him from here on out. It was an honor to finally get to meet one of the legends and the man who has gotten me this far on my Journey. The topics you covered --- and the timing of the seminar itself --- could not have been better for me personally, since I plan to test for Black sometime this summer. I walked away from the seminar with a deeper understanding that only a true master teacher can provide. I also enjoyed your "war stories" at Bill's apartment after dinner. That sense of history is important to the Art, I think. You also provide a perspective that only firsthand experience can give. Thanks for making yourself accessible to the new generation, so that we may all get a deeper feel for the heritage we are receiving.

Sincerely, Clayton Pait 1st Kyu, Kenpo

And finally, we'd like to share with you an Email from Mr. John Willis. This one doesn't concern the Seminar Training but the System in general. We receive similar Emails and letters all of the time and could fill several Newsletters with them but it seems so self-serving and self-promoting that we just can't do it. It is nice however, to be able, once in a while, to let you see what others think of the System.

Vic,

Green Belt test is just around the corner. The Belt techniques with the required endings is pretty straightforward and should be pretty easy to memorize and perfect.

If I haven't told you yet, you and Chuck did an outstanding job putting these techniques together the way you did. I don't know if you guys did it on purpose but the entire system is set up so that it practically supports itself! It is bordering on genius in that, the way it is laid out and presented (even from the old videos) one can work the system and very quickly become proficient in Kenpo Karate. Not only can one be proficient, but I truly feel that I have learned more from this system in the past seven months than I have in the years of training in other styles!

The ULTIMATE goal of any system is to be able to borrow and blend and adapt one technique with another. MOST styles do not do that. They instead rely solely on the students' ability to recall a specific technique (OUT OF THE HUNDREDS THAT WERE TAUGHT AND MEMORIZED) when confronted with a specific threat. OUR system, on the other hand is presented in such an intuitive manner that the student learns to blend and borrow AUTOMATICALLY! Because we do not have to memorize hundreds of techniques, we can learn, practice and MASTER just the "Mighty 55" and be able to show as many techniques as any other system, BUT we can make ours work spontaneously, without thinking. We see what's going on around us and react with whatever technique (or part of a technique) that suits the threat. Our weapons strike out without our having to think and plan and then shoot. We just do. I like to think of my Kenpo skills as a loaded gun. All I need is a target.

So, my hat is off to this fantastic system!!! This is by far, the greatest fighting method I've ever practiced. I am confident enough, at this moment, that I truly believe I could handle whatever was thrown at me by just about anyone from any other style. (And right now, I'm just a BLUE BELT!!!! Imagine what I'm going to be able to do as a BLACK BELT!!!)

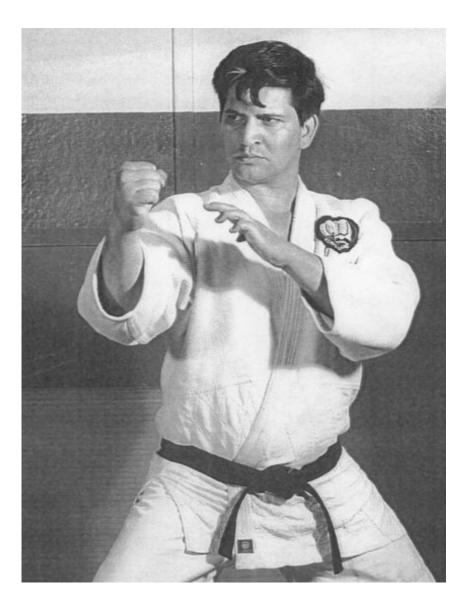
I could kick my ass so many times for stopping my training so many years ago. I should've finished it then. But now, it's even better!!! Thanks, bro. Hooyah John Willis

Thank you Gentlemen!

You don't know how much we appreciate your comments. It's gratifying indeed to have one's life's work validated.



In preparing for the **Ed Parker Memorial / Tribute Webpage** on the IKCA Website we are in the process of collecting old photos, films and videos, in addition to what we already have. Here is a preview we thought you might enjoy.



This is a very young Ed Parker, and that's a Judo Gi he's wearing. There were no Karate uniforms for sale back then. Notice, the Fist Patch, which preceded the Kenpo Patch. Notice also, that there is no rank on his belt.

This is a genuine piece of history. The photo is not dated but it has to be in the late fifties, because this is exactly how Ed Parker looked when I met him, and I'm sure that it's exactly how he looks today, in the

"Great Dojo in the Sky". This is the way I'll always remember my friend and partner.

THE SAMOAN PRINCESS

Just recently I was reminded of an incident that happened back when Ed Parker and I had our studio in Inglewood, California. We had a daytime Instructor and I ran the place at night, with Mr. Parker taking over the advanced class at least one night a week.

I hadn't thought about this for a long time but someone mentioned something about **Samoa** and it jogged my memory. This is a rather funny story but there is a point to telling it, otherwise I wouldn't be giving it the space in the Newsletter.

I arrived at the studio that Tuesday evening at the usual time and found everything about normal for that time of day. The beginner's class was being taught by our daytime Instructor and going along as usual. Some members of the intermediate class were on the mats, off to the side, warming up for their class and there was the typical activity in the dojo.

After the class, the Instructor introduced me to a new student that he had signed up just that day. The student, whose name I've long forgotten, told me that he was trained in an art I had never heard of, which was taught by a "Samoan Princess", so naturally I was interested in finding out more about him and what this system was all about. Ed Parker had taught me early on to always keep an open mind about any system. Even though you might never have heard of it and no matter how weird it might sound. Don't jump to any conclusions that could jump back on you.

The new student told me that our daytime Instructor had suggested that he start with the beginners class and go from there, but he felt after being in it, that it was far beneath his level of training and that he belonged in the advanced class. My suggestion was that the next step should be the intermediate class which was the next class up. He readily agreed to take that class.

Just before the Intermediate class began, the daytime Instructor told me that the guy had been a little disruptive in the beginner's class. He said the guy was questioning everything he was teaching and even wanted to dispute some of the moves and show how they would be done in his system. He said he let it go, this time, because he didn't really know how to handle it, and he just wanted to give me a heads-up about the guy and his behavior in class. I said thanks and made a mental note to keep an eye on him.

A couple of the advanced students also came to me and asked who that guy was. They had seen him in the beginner's class and had observed his behavior. I told them what I knew about his being taught by a "Samoan Princess" and that's all it took. They immediately tagged him with that as a nickname. So whenever anyone referred to him from that time on, *he* was the "Samoan Princess".

At this juncture I think I should take a minute to give you a little background on the people who populated the advanced class at Ed Parker's Kenpo Karate, Inglewood, California Studio at that time. First and foremost there was Crazy George, who didn't get that nickname by accident, then there was Big Carl, who was the biggest klutz on two feet until he got on the mats, then he was poetry in motion, with a fondness for hurling people into walls and sometimes partially through them, because he never quite understood the degree of his own strength. There was Larry Braun who was a Brown Belt at the time, and I've always said that the most dangerous people on earth are *Kenpo Brown Belts*, because they still have something to prove and ours took every opportunity to prove whatever they could, whenever they could. Add to that, Vic LeRoux, whose reputation always preceded him, because he also was a Brown Belt and was constantly trying to outdo Larry and the other Brown Belts, not only from our dojo but all Brown Belts from everywhere, and generally succeeding. There was Doc Schulz, who was a real doctor - or at least the certificate on his office wall said he was - who treated us for everything from busted faces to (from what I heard) social diseases. Then there was - ah hell - forgetaboutit, the list is too long. If I were to keep going there wouldn't be enough room in this issue for the promotion list, so let's just say that the above should give you some idea of the ilk and nature of our people of the time, because there were many others whose antics could equal or surpass those mentioned, on any given day. Like the time they picked up my little Triumph Spitfire in the parking lot and turned it the other direction, but then who remembers such insignificant incidents.

Those were some happy days. Those guys are among my fondest memories and best friends, and at times a real handful to manage.

But, back to the Princess.

He came into the intermediate class and generally conducted himself pretty well. I did notice however, that he tried to teach *his* techniques, rather than the one I was teaching, to whomever he partnered up with, but he didn't disrupt the class in general, so I let it ride. Unfortunately for him, there were others who also observed his behavior and took it as a display of disrespect to me and to the school. It didn't help that he did what he did in a cocky manner rather than a sharing one. You know, "This technique is okay, but I'll show you the real deal", wink, wink.

At the end of the class he came to me and said once again that he believed he belonged in the advanced class. This time I agreed with him and invited him to stay for the next class. He walked away two inches taller, having gone from beginner to advanced in just one night.

We took a short break between classes and I was besieged by advanced students asking if we were going to freestyle on this night. We didn't always freestyle every single class, but on this night my answer was, "Oh, yeah, we're gonna freestyle" which was greeted with grins or outright smiles and the request, "Can I have him, Chuck?" To which, my answer was always the same: "Only if you promise not to hurt him."

And I'd usually get something back like "Ah, come on, you're kidding me." To which my answer was, "No, I'm not! You can scare the hell out of him, but I don't want him hurt, understand?" "Yeah, I guess," they would say, but their sad little looks of disappointment could have broken your heart.

Now these guys might have been a little rough around the edges but they understood that I said what I meant, and I meant what I said, and they were up to it. They scared the poor dude down to his soul but never actually laid a hand, *or foot*, on him. Or if they did, at least they didn't leave any evidence.

It was really pathetic to watch a man's confidence get flushed down the toilet so completely and so quickly. He approached the first match with all the machismo in the

Continued from page 9

world and got his ass kicked by one of the smallest guys in the class, which shook him badly. The next match destroyed what was left and by the third he was visibly shaking. I couldn't call him up for any more. Frankly, I don't think he could have answered the call, because the guys had done a number on him and enjoyed the hell out of it.

They may have been a little rough, but at least they weren't sadistic. When the class was finished, I went into the office. In a short time there was a knock at the door. It was the "Princess". I invited him in, and it went something like this: "Can I talk to you for a minute?" he asked. I said, "Sure, what can I do for you?" He came in and sat. He looked a little moist around the eyes to me. He said, "I don't understand what happened tonight". "Oh, what don't you understand?" I asked him.

"Those guys, they beat me up," he said. I got a little defensive at that. "Hey, wait a minute, they never laid a hand on you. Nobody got beat up here tonight." "No, no," he said, "I mean they **could** have beat me up. I couldn't do anything against them, and they could have done anything they wanted to me. I was like, you know, defenseless." I nodded and said, "Oh, yeah, well that's true enough." He had a pained look on his face, "But, that's what I don't understand. I've been studying for years. I have a **gold sash** for God's sake."

To tell the truth, I don't actually remember what he said his sash was, it might have been a silver sash or a scarlet sash or whatever, but it sounded impressive, so I had to assume it was something high up by the way he said it. And I remember just sitting there with a rather quizzical look on my face as I asked him, "So, what is it you don't understand, again?" He said, "I've put years into this. I know how to defend against every kind of attack there is, but I couldn't do any of it against your guys, they were all over me."

Then I asked him if they freestyle much in his system and he said they did a kind of programmed freestyle where one person attacks and the other defends but each knows what the other is going to do. I said, "Uh-huh, well there you go. That's not freestyle. I don't know what it is, but it's not freestyle. You don't have someone coming at you with blood in one eye and murder in the other, the way these guys do it."

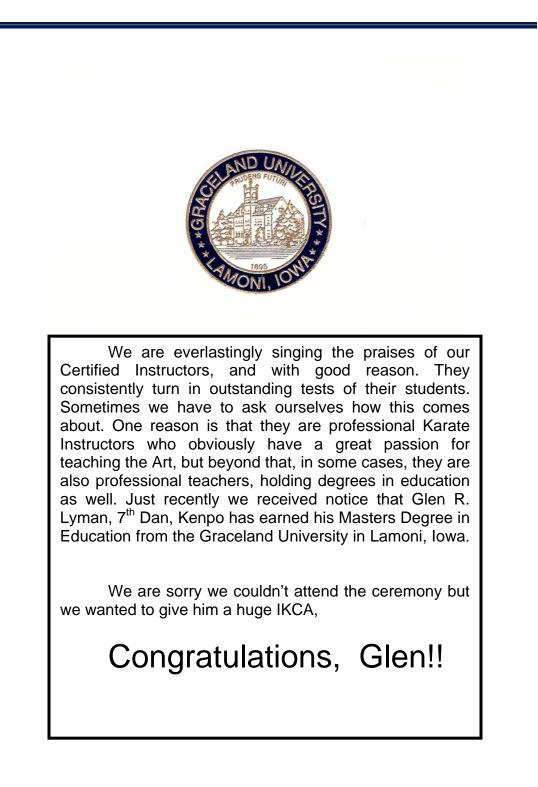
He almost jumped when I said that. "You're not kidding, and fast! My God, I've never seen anything as fast as that in my life." I said, "Well there's your problem. In your system you don't have someone who might smash your face in, if you screw up. Sounds to me like you have all the theory, but theory only goes so far. The rest has to come as close to reality as it can. And that's where your "Samoan Princess" screwed up."

We've all run into people who talk a great fight. Those guys who will show you in slow motion exactly how they're gonna take you apart. They'll say, "If you do this, I'll do that, and if you do that, I'll do this." That's when you ask, "What would you do for this?" Then you shoot a back-fist at their nose at about the speed of sound and after they blink a couple of times they'll usually come back with something like, "Ah, let me see that again?" That's when I'll laugh and say, "Sorry, too late." But if you really want to have some fun, do the Bonsai Run on them and watch the reaction. I don't remember much of the rest of the conversation, but what I do remember is that the "Princess" paid for three months, only took those three classes, and never came back. I felt sorry about

that. He didn't really move all that bad. I believe he could have been good, given the chance, and we would have given him the chance, but he didn't take it.

Oh, by the way, what I said about the guys at that dojo being a little on the edgy side, I was just kidding, they were all sweethearts, every one of them.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.





We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your promotion. We know what kind of dedication and perseverance it requires to earn rank in the Martial Arts and we wish to pay our sincerest respects to you for having shown what it takes to appear on this list.

Anthony Liggera Brian Pridmore Macenzie McCarthy John Lowe Chris Rush Jared Rush Niels H.K. Thomsen Allan Steven Back Lars Eriksen Jonas Olsen Dall Gustav Pynt Jonas Jensen Leanne Mathews Jeff Salzman William Ambrose Jessica E. Stevens Max A. Vinecke Jr. Andrew Jackson Doug Pilcher Phil Stilson Mari Nelson Holms Jason Shumaker Rachel Spagnuolo Rachel Spagnuolo Steven Parker Shelby Robinson Andrew Woodburn Rob Rurka Brad Endean Andrew Stevenson **Richard Jones** Cutter Rowoldt Ashton Rowoldt Katy Rowoldt Kim Armitage Michael LeBree Aaron Chambers Joseph J. Keene Thomas E. Carpenter, Jr Palermo, CA, USA Lapeer, MI, USA Fritz Creek, AK, USA Seven Point, TX, USA Everett, WA, USA Everett, WA, USA Denmark Denmark Denmark Denmark Denmark Denmark Bakersfield, CA, USA Irvine, CA, USA Fullerton, CA, USA Fresno, CA, USA Ft. Worth, TX, USA Bowie, MD, USA California City, CA, USA Coudersport, PA, USA Helena, MT, USA Grovetown, GA, USA Boonville, NY, USA Boonville, NY, USA Boonville, NY, USA Pittsburg, KS, USA Pittsburg, KS, USA Fritz Creek, AK, USA Prichard, BC, CAN Bakersfield, CA, USA Lapeer, MI, USA Midland, TX, USA Midland, TX, USA Midland, TX, USA Midland, TX, USA Buena Park, CA, USA Orland, ME, USA Orland, ME, USA Raleigh, NC, USA

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Richard "Chip" Pike Maria Roman Curbelo Reggie Goldsby Jeremy Legasse Nathan Foster Wayne Wrath Steve Zalazowski Roy Seely Brad Endean Dexter Atilano Jesse Smith Christian Santos Chris Moises Jess C. Lindsay Loyd I. Vansandt Doug Meeks Shawn Morey Joel Taylor Denise Ibanez Denise Ibanez Shane W. Vogt Mark A. Williams Rachel Spagnuolo Jeremiah Blasi Jay Pope Kimberly A. Freisheim **Gregory Johnston** Kimber Robinson Dr. David J. Brancato Natalie Hobby Randal Seyler Deysi Self Keith Howell Alyssa Wright Andrew Zebro Monica Partida Alexis Wright Jim Brown Carl Johnson Zach Ortiz Henry Zebro Logan Odneal Stacia Brown Carson Odneal Skylar Brown Scott Wright Scott Wright Scott Wright Scott Wright Alyssa Wright

Marietta, GA, USA Puerto Rico Amite, LA, USA Dedham, ME, USA Charlotte, NC, USA Henderson, NV, USA Salinas, CA, USA Centerville, OH, USA Prichard, BC, CAN Vallejo, CA, USA Fritz Creek, AK, USA Vallejo, CA, USA Vallejo, CA, USA Alberta, CAN Lompoc, CA, USA Napa, CA, USA Pittsburg, KS, USA Vass, NC, USA Bellflower, CA, USA Bellflower, CA, USA Redondo Beach, CA, USA Rockville, MD, USA Boonville, NY, USA Dublin, CA, USA Northport, AL, USA Redondo Beach, CA, USA Hermosa Beach, CA, USA Pittsburg, KS, USA Louisville, KY, USA Australia Prairie Grove, AR, USA Bakersfield, CA, USA

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Alyssa Wright Alyssa Wright Alyssa Wright Marius Ryborg Amanda Alvarez Amber Alvarez **Benjamin Bachara** Tim Mott Jeremy Cooper Zanches **Carlos Yram Ramos** Carlos E. Caro Suarez Eliezer Caro Suarez Eduardo Caro Suarez Adianne Navas Dorta Luis F. Velez Castro Efrain Dario Rivera Juan C. Gonzalez Carranza Giovanni Menedez Acevedo Johnatan Cardec Ramon E. Gonzalez Raymond Gabriel Correa Jonathan Aguila Rosado Jason Morales Maradiaga Juan C. Gonzalez Perez Charlene Rivera Sharpe Christian J. Serrano Jose V. Gonzalez Karl Kelson Andrew Stevenson Nikolaj Znaider **Dennis Winslow**

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ORANGE BELT PURPLE BELT BLUE BELT 1st Degree Black Belt YELLOW BELT YELLOW BELT ORANGE BELT ORANGE BELT YELLOW BELT ORANGE BELT PURPLE BELT PURPLE BELT PURPLE BELT **BLUE BELT ORANGE BELT PURPLE BELT BROWN BELT BROWN BELT**

