



Stephen M. McArther

Taekwondo: 8th Dan USNTF; 7th Dan Kukkiwon

Koryo Gumdo: 7th Dan WKGA

1982: Started training in Tae Kwon Do at the age of 13.

1984: Received 2nd place at Illinois AAU/USA State Championship (junior red belt div. sparring).

1985: Received 1st Dan from Kukkiwon.

1985: Received 1st place in Illinois USTU State Championship in Chicago, Illinois (junior black belt div. sparring).

1985: Received 3rd place in 5th USTU National Junior Olympic Tae Kwon Do Championships in Chicago, Illinois (junior black belt div. sparring).

1985: Received 1st place in AAU/USA Junior Olympics in Iowa City, Iowa (junior black belt div. sparring).

1985: Attended Junior Elite Athlete Training Program at US Olympic training center, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

1987: Received 2nd place in Indiana USTU State Championship (adult black belt div. sparring).

1987: Competed in 13th USTU National Championship, Anaheim California Championship (adult black belt div. sparring).

1988: Received 1st place in Indiana USTU State Championship (sparring).

1988: Competed in 14th USTU National Championships (Pre-Olympic Trials) in Miami, Florida (sparring).

1988: Became President and Team Captain of Purdue University Tae Kwon Do team.

1990: Competed in Collegiate Championship, San Francisco, California (sparring).

1991: Graduated from Purdue University with Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

1992: Began teaching private Tae Kwon Do lessons in Norcross, Georgia

1995: Visited Kukkiwon in Seoul, Korea.

1995: Received 1st place at the “Brawl at the Hall” Full Contact Kickboxing Competition in Collinsville, Illinois.

1997: Opened Mitchell & McArther’s Tae Kwon Do, Inc. in Granite City, Illinois.

1999: Qualified for Illinois state team: Team Force.

2000: Began training under the direction Grandmaster Thomas Perry.

2001: Received 3rd Dan USNTF; 2nd Dan Kukkiwon.

2001: Opened McArther’s Tae Kwon Do & Fitness in Collinsville, Illinois.

2002: Received “Grand Champion” title in forms at the 10th USTNF International Games in Chicago, Illinois.

2002: Received “Grand Champion” title in forms at the 1st Annual Missouri Invitational Championship.

2003: Received 4th Dan USNTF; 3rd Dan Kukkiwon

2003: Received “Referee with Best Attitude” at the 11th USNTF International Championships in Chicago, Illinois.



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2004: Accepted invitation to compete at World Games in Athens, Greece (forms and sparring).

Captured 3 gold and 1 silver medals at the games. Won overall World Champion.

2004: Inducted into I.C.K.O. Illinois State Martial Arts Hall of Fame as “Tae Kwon Do Competitor of the year.

2006: Received I.C.K.O. “Instructor of the Year” Award.

2006: Traveled to S. Korea to receive special training in Tae Kwon Do, Hapkido, Yong Moo Do, and Gumdo.

2006: While in Korea, was promoted to 4th Dan Kukkiwon certified and 5th Dan USNTF certified.

2006: Left full time career in Information Technology industry to focus on teaching martial arts as a full-time, professional instructor.

2007: Received Letter of Commendation from Kukkiwon, Seoul S. Korea for dedication to and development of Tae Kwon Do.

2007: Received 1st Dan in Koryo Gumdo under the World Koryo Gumdo Association

2007: Received I.C.K.O. “Black Belt of the Year” Award.

2008: Received intensive training in Koryo and Haidong Gumdo from Master Noh Hwa Lee in Seoul, S. Korea. Received Letter of Appreciation from the World Haidong Gumdo Association for dedication to the growth of the art.

2010: Appointed Midwest Region Administrator for the World Koryo Gumdo Association.

2011: Received 6th Dan USNTF, 5th Dan Kukkiwon

2012: Received 4th Dan WKGA

2014: Appointed Vice Chairman for the World Koryo Gumdo Association.

2014: Received 5th Dan WKGA.

2015: Appointed Chairman of the World Koryo Gumdo Association.

2016: Received 7th Dan USNTF, 6th Dan Kukkiwon.

2022: Received 8th Dan USNTF, 7th Dan Kukkiwon.

2025: Inducted into Granite City Sports Hall of Fame