**Biography Chief Master Marcus Roby**

Marcus Roby has been training in the martial arts since the age of 7, beginning under his uncle Joe Lasker. Around age 10 he began training under his uncle’s instructors Bob and Witt Blankenship. When Roby met Bill Barton and Dr Rick Balkin as a teenager, he was so impressed with their skill and attitude that he decided to begin training with them under (future GM) Buddy Hudson. After he lost his father and after the tragic death of his brother, Roby then 14 was very close to being taken over by the streets of Little Rock. (Future GM) Buddy Hudson arranged a plan to keep Roby training under him and alongside (future GM) Jason Wadley. Roby often states, “Buddy saved me, if he hadn’t done that I would have been lost.”

In 1989 Roby advanced from recommended to First Dan Black Belt in one year. He was the undefeated Sparring Champion in the United States Taekwondo Federation and open circuit from 1990 to 1995. Marcus Roby was the USTF National Champion in 1992 and the same year he met Grand Master Park Jung-Tae who encouraged him to try out for the International Competition Team. He won a spot on the USTF International Competition Team coached by (future GM) Scott McNeeley and (future GM) Robert Hardin. While training for international competition during the early 90’s, Roby regularly worked out with Bill Barton, Lafayette Lawson, Boris Washington and Keith Kirk to stay sharp. He traveled to Moscow, Russia in 1993 for the Global Taekwondo Federation World Championship winning 3 gold medals, a bronze medal and awarded the Overall Male Competitor. Also held the record for high jump turning round kick board break at 10’ 4”.

The following year Roby won 6 gold medals in the 1994 Goodwill Games USA vs Russia sponsored by USTF and GTF and won 7 gold medals in the 1995 Goodwill Games USA vs Canada, and later won a silver medal in Sardinia, Italy. (Future GM) Jason Wadley introduced Roby to his brother (future Jujitsu GM) James Wadley. Roby then began training under GM Berl Parsons and (future GM) James Wadley in Weeping Style Standup Jujitsu until he earned his Brown Belt in 1998.

From 2005 to 2010 he taught TKD to public school students in 6th through 8th grades as an enrichment course. This gave him the opportunity to reach children who would not be given the chance to be introduced to the discipline and concepts of Martial Arts training that develop a sense of self-respect and courtesy.

In 2010 he went back to international competition and won 2 gold medals and a bronze medal at the British Championships. The following year in 2011 he won a gold medal and a bronze at the WTA Independent Goodwill Taekwondo Championships where he first met Grand Master Nam Tea-Hi and Grand Master Kong Yong-Il. Master Roby advanced to seventh dan in 2013 and joined UTA Master’s Counsel. In 2015-2018 he acted as UTA Testing Advisor and coached the 2017 UTA USA Scotland Pan European Championship Team.

Master Roby and wife Desiree opened Ultimate Warrior Martial Arts Academy in Hot Springs, AR in 2017. Grand Master Saeed Almarri took Master Roby as a student of Olympic Style Taekwondo. The UWTA was founded in 2018 by Master Marcus Roby, Grand Master Richard Anderson, Grand Master Jameson Kendall and Desiree Roby. In 2019 he achieved eighth dan black belt and is now training under Grand Master Robert Dunn of IJTF.

He has won metals, fought internationally, trained with legends and pioneers Grand Master Nam Tee-Hi, Grand Master Park Jung-Tea, Supreme Grand Master Kim Bok-Man, Grand Master Park Jong-Soo and Grand Master “CK” Choi Chang-Keun but his most proud accomplishments are his children: Jessica Gross 2nd dan, Christian Roby 5th dan, Seth Purcell 2nd dan, Liam Purcell 5th dan, Riley Roby who will reach black belt in August 2023 and Brady Harvey in December 2023. “I have been able to do all these things and succeed because God said I could.”