



# BLACK BELT®

## HALL OF FAME

**W**elcome to *Black Belt's* Hall of Fame issue. In the following pages, you'll read about the men and women who were inducted into the prestigious 38-year-old fraternity. The people who attended the Hall of Fame Banquet and Reunion at *Black Belt's* 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of Martial Arts on July 28, 2006, already know the winners; it's for the other 99 percent of our readership that we've compiled this special section.

To come up with the list of this year's winners, we decided to try something new. We instituted online voting at [www.blackbeltmag.com](http://www.blackbeltmag.com) to get a feel for your favorite martial artists of 2006. Then we consulted with various industry insiders, as well as the editors here, to determine the finalists. We're sure you'll agree that they're a worthy bunch.

Two of the inductees have dedicated their lives to preserving and spreading the teachings of legendary masters. Two have changed the way the world practices self-defense. Two are being honored for lifetime achievement in competition, while another recently won what could be considered a career-capping bout—even though he has no intentions of retiring. One has devoted her energies to helping children, and another has helped hundreds through the self-perfection of sword training. And finally, we pay tribute to a man who was loved by everyone he knew and looked up to by thousands more.

Each one of them has added immeasurably to the martial arts culture of America.

