

Honestly - what image comes to your mind with the title - **Grandmaster!** Well most times - a man wearing a Karate Gi with a Black Belt wrapped around his waist. Also when people talk about martial arts never is the first name that is spoken a woman. Then for the individual to be **"Woman of Color"** - well maybe after the first 100 mentioned.

Yet the legacy of this 53 year old Grandmother has been an historical journey which includes... **capturing over 1900 trophies, four world gold medals and two world titles, most times against men half her age in forms, fighting, weapons and self-defense.** Uniquely her combat systems are from ancient AFrika! She is the only recognized Woman referred to as **"Askari" (Torch Bearer)** by her male colleagues as the first female in modern history to have been recognized as an Elder in the Afrikan Martial Sciences.

During 2008, Dr. Germon "Askari Mwalimu" Miller has been appeared on television shows, been featured in many newspapers/periodicals, lectured at academic institutions and demonstrated/taught monthly seminars at martial arts schools around the world.

She has been honored at the **2008 Grandmaster London International Hall of Fame** being unanimously selected as the first female in history to receive this celebrated international decoration. She then returned to defend her 2007 title and captured the **2008 Weapons Grand Champion** on her birthday on June 28th, 2008 at the Head of Family Third Annual Memorial Tournament. In front of an all male panel of Grandmasters, Dr. Miller decisively won against the field of Black Belt Male competitors.

Dr. Miller was invited to conduct several seminars at National Women's Martial Association 2008 Summer Camp and to help with implementing a Women of Color In the Martial Arts Council. She closed 2008 out with being voted by the United States Head of Family Martial Arts Federation with the title of **"2008 Grandmaster Warrior of Honor"** - again another female first time achievement!

And Dr. Miller hasn't missed a step in the New Year! In January, 2009, she boarded a plane to Hollywood and was featured in a major martial arts film. This prestigious invitation by the films star - world-renown **Grandmaster Gary Wasniewski** the ("**world's greatest kicker**") and the films director/producer **Martial Arts Pathfinder Grandmaster Leo T. Fong** (an instructor of **Bruce Lee**) was in recognition for her lifetime achievement. The films Co-Star, **Ultimate Fighting Champion Dan "The Beast" Severn**, acknowledged that Dr. Miller did cause him to "take two steps back" due to the intensity of her presentation.

Since her triumphant 2009 Black History presentation at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Miller's will continue her **Women's Urban Safety Self-Preservation Book Tour** to conduct a seminar in **Toronto, Canada**, to accept the **Pinnacle Award for Martial Arts from the World Head Of Family Sokeship Council in San Antonio, Texas** and then an encore **2009 Hall of Fame nomination for the Lifetime Achievement Award in London, England** which will include the premier of the movie in which she was featured.

But her first dedication is to serve her community. For over 30 years, "**Mama G**", has traveled the world in her bright colored outfits as a crisis educator specializing in youth and women anti-violence programs for 35, 000 participants. She shares her own experience of overcoming the obstacles of parental suicide, domestic abuse, incarceration, and homelessness while being a single parent of two sons.

Dr. Germon Miller has turned tragedy into testimony. As a victim of a near-fatal domestic attack, she trekked seven blocks, battered and broken, to the emergency room. The ordeal left her in intensive care for six weeks and then hiding in basements for two years with her sons to escape the death grip of her attacker. Determined to strengthen body and mind, she pursued AFrikan martial sciences and became an International figure.

Her professional accolades also include a Letter of Recognition from the Ambassador of Angola, being a candidate for the Damascus, MD Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, serving as the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence Maryland Representative since 2006 (a national program spearheaded by President Obama during his tenure as Senator) and being a recipient of the prestigious Effie Barry HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Grant to assist youth in alleviating stigma related crisis situations.

All of her life's blessings have been documented with the release of her autobiography, "A Journey of Self-Preservation - The Legacy of AKERU!" with her official book signing for the District of Columbia at historic Sankofa Video and Book Store.

As an advocate and female pathfinder in the martial sciences, Dr. Miller recalls many incidents in her manuscript where she had to endure prejudice and discrimination as a minority female. In the beginning of her martial arts career - she was "respectful"! Obedient to core! No jewelry - no makeup and her hair slicked to her scalp. She was so demur that the "baritone" voice she had practiced for her presentations was over done and quite laughable. Yet her inner soul always asked the question - "Why did she have to sound like the "Hulk" in order to punch someone...?"

But she continued to conform to the "rules" of the "boys club"! Year after year! She endured the getting dressed in the car, smaller trophies, no prize money and those slanted Grand Championship finals! Though allowed to compete with the males, the women always went first which always resulted in lower scores. Her most vivid chauvinistic experience was when this one guy outscored her 4 times in a row at 4 different tournaments. His "claim to fame" was he would take off his top and flex his "pecs" as he did his breathing kata.

Okay eventually she let the "wild wolf woman" out! In front of an audience of over 500 people, she stripped to a bikini bathing suit she had on under her uniform. On completing her routine, needless to say, she got 10's from the judges across the board. And the resounding laughter just got louder as "he" stormed out of the gym.

Dr. Miller addresses the major issues of why females, have to be so extreme in order to carve sections out in the history books especially in athletics. And even if it took a "You Tube" situation to get the attention to make change - Dr. Miller stepped up to the plate....

She insists that there is need for gender specific training activities - the need for competitions that are designed to highlight the skills of women of all ages. There is nothing worse than discovering that because of having breasts that cash divisions are few and far between. Or when she started in sparring the women just were paired with whoever showed up. She has film of herself fighting a woman who was 7 inches taller and 100 pounds heavier than her! When Dr. Miller turned to the center referee for clarification and all he did was shrug his shoulders. That fight plagued her psyche for years. She vowed to make "gladiator moments" for other young women a part of ancient history.

Dr. Miller's personal resolve is rooted in the Ashanti Andinkra Symbol of "GYNEME" which translates to "Fear Nothing But The Creator". Her wisdom mantra is - "If you always do what you always done - you always get what you always got!"