



Grandmaster David Rivera is a 10th Dan Black Belt who began his Martial Art training in Brooklyn, New York in 1974 under Grandmaster Robert J. Cooper and his father; both of whom were taught by the late Supreme Grandmaster Florendo Vistacion. After many years of hard training, Grandmaster Cooper promoted Grandmaster Rivera in the arts of Vee Jitsu Ryu and Chung Do Kwan Tae Kwon Do. Subsequently, Grandmaster Rivera was introduced and continued training under the late Supreme Grandmaster Florendo Visitacion (VJJ), the late Grandmaster Duk sung Son (TKD), and Grandmaster Jao Grande (Capoeira Angola), all of whom influenced Grandmaster David Rivera's Martial Arts career. As a result of the knowledge gained from these relationships and hard work, in 1995 Grandmaster Rivera was selected by J.H. Park to train on the U.S. Olympic Tae Kwon Do National Team—one of Grandmaster Rivera's proudest moments. In 1989, Grandmaster David Rivera began teaching Vee Jitsu Ryu and Chung Do Kwan Tae Kwon Do at St. Hyacinth College in Massachusetts. An affiliate to UMASS. Upon graduating and returning to Brooklyn, Grandmaster Rivera opened a Martial Art School; namely, Most Holy Trinity Martial Arts Club in Brooklyn, NY, under the direction of Grandmaster Robert J. Cooper. Grandmaster Rivera produced many quality Black Belts from the Most Holy Trinity Martial Arts Club and in 1997 was featured in Soke Michael Depasquale's International Black Belt Karate Magazine.

Throughout his career, Grandmaster Rivera has taught, and participated in numerous demonstrations throughout the United States including participation as part of a seminar team, which conducted seminars and promotions in Tae Kwon Do, Vee Jitsu, and Capoeira Angola at Notre Dame University South Bend, Indiana (1995–present); seminars in Tae Kwon Do and Vee Jitsu at Indiana University Indianapolis, Indiana; seminars in Vee Jitsu and Capoeira Angola at “Kick-Connection Martial Art School” in Pasadena, Maryland (2002, 2003, and 2004); promotions and Maryland International Martial Art Tournaments hosted by Master Apolo Ladra; and by invitation of Hanshi Daryl King to conduct Vee Jitsu seminars at the Sanuces Ryu Jiu Jitsu School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland (2004–present); and by invitation of Grandmaster Daryl King to conduct Vee Jitsu seminars at the Sanuces Ryu Jiu Jitsu School in Capitol Heights,, Maryland (2004–present); Taught at the Mushin Combat School of Survival Sanuces Ryu in Rockville and Silver Springs, MD (2016–2018); by invitation of Masters Chonfa and Victor Rivera to conduct a Vee Jitsu seminar to Tae Kwon Do and Hapkido students in Puerto Rico (2002 and 2007); by invitation of Grandmaster Sayfullaah Al-Amriykiy to present at the Preserving the Legacy of Dr. Moses Powell held January 13, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA; and by invitation of Holton Arm board of directors to demonstrate Capoeira Angola (2008) and serve on faculty as the head martial art instructor.

In addition to providing training through seminars, and his own programs, Grandmaster Rivera has shown his commitment to sharing the Arts and works of charity by providing martial arts training to those unable to afford training. These programs include teaching at the “Y” on 92nd St, NYC, New York (1997), the Boy's Club of America in NYC, New York (1999), and the Beacon's Program (a program for the underprivileged, 2000), and presently teaches at the YMCA of Frederick County, MD. Grandmaster David Rivera not only taught adults, but also children with various physical and learning challenges such as, Autism, severe attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, and blindness.

Upon moving to Maryland in 2002, Grandmaster Rivera taught Vee Jitsu Ryu, Chung Do Kwan Tae Kwon Do, Arnis (Cinco Tero System), and Capoeira Angola drawing students of all ages and founded the International Martial Arts Academy, which is now located at the YMCA of Frederick County, MD.

Grandmaster Rivera has been awarded several honors due to his dedication and talent in the Martial Arts: Master of The Year from the Notre Dame Martial Arts School, Certificate of Achievement from Dr. Moses Powell, Plaque of Achievement from the Holy Trinity Martial Arts Club, Cosmopolitan Florida Hall of Fame inductee as Master of the Year, World Professional Martial Arts Hall of Fame Inductee at Madison Square Garden as Most Dedicated Martial Artist of all Time by Great Grandmaster Aaron Banks, Action Martial Arts Magazine Hall of Honors as Outstanding Achievements in the Martial Arts, and Action Martial Arts Magazine Hall of Honors as Ambassador to the Martial Arts and included in the Who's Who amongst martial artist in the world. In addition, Grandmaster Rivera will be inducted into the Legends of Martial Arts in June of 2019 in Las Vegas. However, Grandmaster David Rivera's greatest honor is the ability to give back to the Martial Arts in the form of teaching.