

## CHARLES GRACIE JIU-JITSU ACADEMY – RENO, NV.

My name is Gary Grate and I have been involved in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu for approximately 18 years. I became interested in BJJ after I had witnessed the efficiency and effectiveness of the art when I first saw the Ultimate Fighting Championship. As I began to seek out instructors that taught Jiu-Jitsu, I quickly realized there was no one near my area of Reno, Nv. I found a couple of different people to train with in Northern Ca. But it was not until I met and had the opportunity to train with Charles Gracie that I realized what the Gracie family had to offer. I immediately felt welcomed by him and continue to consider himself, his wife and two children as family to me, as well as being treated as a family member by them. All of this hooked me for a lifetime dedicated to Jiu-Jitsu.

In 1999, I opened my own school under the guidance of Charles Gracie and his association. I had been in the U.S. Air Force for 8 years and was a lighting specialist for 15 years. The possibilities of owning/operating my own academy was not something I had imagined at the time. The dues and fees associated with being part of the Charles Gracie Network are all well worth the many benefits provided including, personal advise, instruction, business plans, the seminars given personally by Charles, as well as the worldwide recognition of the Gracie name. As an instructor and business owner it is ever so helpful to have a support group such as this to continue to be as successful as we are. I am now in that elite group of Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Black Belts which I believe would never have been possible without the personal help of Charles Gracie both on and off the mats!

I now own two academies, Reno, Nv. and Carson City, Nv. My students appreciate the level of instruction and the structure of the programs that we run as part of the Charles Gracie Network. Jiu-Jitsu as well as MMA is growing quickly, and with so many people out there trying to open 'schools' it is important to keep the standards where they belong. The academy is much more organized, and our programs are relevant and conducive to providing the best instruction possible. As a second degree Black Belt, I am able to continue my learning and ensure that all of my students are ranked according to the standards of Gracie Jiu-Jitsu, lending credibility and recognition to my efforts. Charles Gracie is more than just our leader, he is a mentor to the entire association, providing a lifetime of experience to me as a Black Belt and academy owner. I would highly recommend the Charles Gracie Team to anyone looking to propel their business to the next level.

With Respect,



Gary L. Grate

2nd Degree Black Belt

