



CHARLES GRACIE JIU-JITSU ACADEMY

July 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

My life with martial arts and the Charles Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy in particular has been nothing short of an amazing and blessed experience. Today I am very fortunate to say I am able to live and provide for my family practicing and teaching what I love thanks to Charles.

My first exposure to Gracie Jiu-Jitsu was in 1991 when a cousin of mine came over and said "Do you remember the fight scene at the end of Lethal Weapon?" then triangle choked me. At the time he was a sheriff and was taking periodic lessons with Carley Gracie (Charles Gracie's uncle) in San Francisco so every now and then my cousin would take me to the park and we would practice what he learned. When I was 16 he then took me to a class with Carley and I could remember getting yelled at every time I used any wrestling technique so I never returned. Over the years I started seeing the dominance, effectiveness and beauty of Gracie Jiu-Jitsu over all martial arts in videos and various MMA events. From then on I knew I had to learn nothing but pure Gracie Jiu-Jitsu. Luckily in 1998 I ran into Charles at Bank of America in Daly City and he saw my wrestling headgear hanging from my backpack so Charles invited me to try a class. After my first class with Charles, although he was very intimidating I was also comfortable and knew I wanted to learn from him. It took over a year to finally become a student and my training was sporadic because I was attending college, involved in athletics and my financial situation made it tough. Although, I had many friends who wanted me to train with them at others academies I developed a sense of loyalty with Charles and felt nothing could compare. In 2004, I was again blessed by Charles to have the opportunity to help with kids classes in exchange for training which I graciously accepted. From then on I never stopped.

In 2009 when I thought it couldn't get any better, Charles offered another life changing opportunity which was to head the Daly City Academy and be a part of the Charles Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Association. Almost six years in now I believe there is no other Association I would have taken this opportunity with. Having a martial arts business is a very difficult task in the bay area with so many competitors flooding the market as the popularity of the art of Jiu-Jitsu, the sport of MMA and the fitness world are growing. Every day there are individuals of all ages who have interest so I am forced to establish a facility that can accommodate their needs and make them want to stay like I did and even share with their friends or family. But because I have Charles as my mentor and being a member of the CGJJA we continue to be successful in many ways. Although displaying Gracie Jiu-Jitsu helps as it distinguishes us above the rest, it goes far beyond the trademark name. Not only do I receive direct detailed instruction from Charles in my training to be best practitioner I can be and compete at the highest level, I learn to pass down techniques of the Gracie family and become one of the best instructors around for my students. I am also privileged to receive second



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to none business coaching and advice from Charles. Despite being a very busy man, he is able to assist me with anything I need and even be on top of what I need to be doing to elevate the academy. Although there is a fee to be a part of the CGJJA, Charles makes sure that he goes above and beyond to provide invaluable assistance to make sure we succeed. As well as providing a belt promotion ceremony and seminars Charles also periodically visits the academies to make sure everyone is happy and everything is up to his high standards of excellence. Being part of the association also means that we are a part of a very large organization and family that Charles has established. We are fortunate to have a systematic layout of promotion and progression in the art as well as an extended network where a student can walk in to an affiliate academy and be welcomed like family. I appreciate and think so highly of the association that I have referred a close friend to be an affiliate and he has been gracious for success it has brought ever since. Above all Charles has taught me to live and pass on Jiu-Jitsu for strength, confidence and safety as a way of life to my students and there is no other Jiu-Jitsu family I would want to be a part of.

Sincerely,

Clint James Gerona
Instructor

Jiu-Jitsu for Strength, Confidence, and Safety!

"Protect your child from Bullying! Learn Self-Defense - Gracie Jiu-Jitsu!"

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