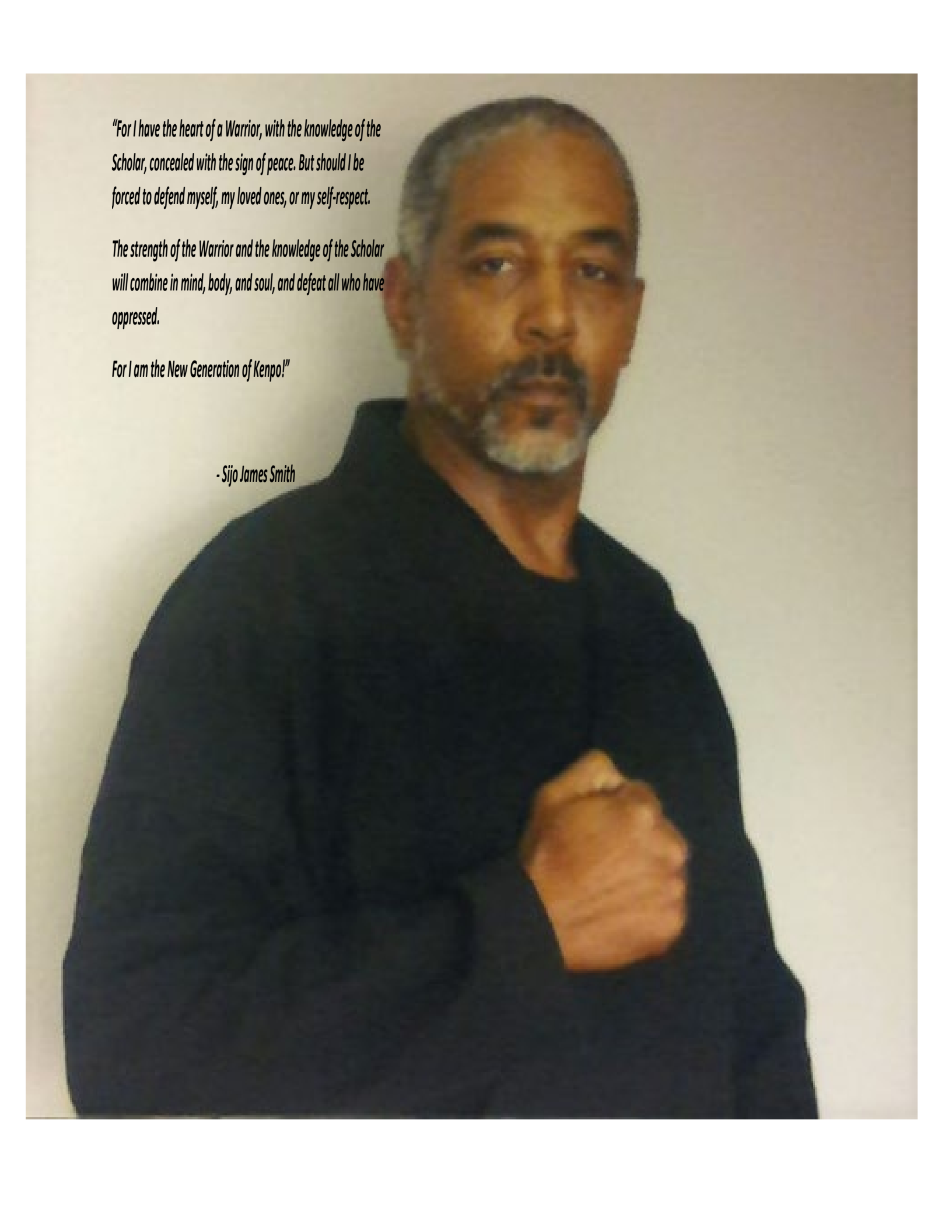# Bio Sijo James Smith

Sijo James Smith started his martial arts journey in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After his family relocated to East Liberty on the east side of Pittsburgh in 1968, his dream of pursuing martial arts became a reality.

One Saturday morning, his mother took him to The Kingsley House, a neighborhood community center. Here he met his first instructor, Mr. Johnson, a Pittsburgh Police Officer. This was the beginning of an amazing journey. James trained in the art of Jiu Jitsu. The intrigue of martial arts was forever engrained in his heart.

It has been 52 years since that introduction, and he still trains and studies daily to seek knowledge to mature in his craft. He states it is a joy and privilege to have been trained by some of the best instructors in the world. James have received several black belts in various forms of martial arts such as: Shorin Ryu, Wing Chun, American Kenpo, and Kajukenbo Ju Jitsu. In addition, he has reached senior ranks in arts of Thai Isshi Man Bo (JDK Concepts), Hung Gar Kung Fu, Kho Shu Kenpo and Shinjimasu. Recently he has been promoted by Professor Jak Othman to Guru in Harimau Berantai Silat and Gayong Harimau Silat. James is also training Silat Buka Linkgaran (SBL) under Alvin Guinanao.

He charts his greatest accomplishment as having the platform and the ability to give back that which was been given to him. He believes that Martial Arts creates a commitment for self-discipline, confidence, and honor which can be used in every aspect of life. His love for the craft is evident, as he works daily to teach children and adults to build their dream of becoming a martial artist.

"For I have the heart of a Warrior, with the knowledge of the Scholar, concealed with the sign of peace. But should I be forced to defend myself, my loved ones, or my self-respect.

The strength of the Warrior and the knowledge of the Scholar will combine in mind, body, and soul, and defeat all who have oppressed.

For I am the New Generation of Kenpo!"

- Sijo James Smith