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## Spotlight on Que: Roberto Carlos Roena

By Jeffrey T. Smith

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Brother Roberto Carlos Roena is an Omega man who is considerate, disciplined, accomplished, discreet, intelligent, and religious. His mild manner character, well-groomed appearance, helpfulness and selfless service are the four cornerstones that frame Brother Roena and draw people to him seeking his time and talent.

I initially met Brother Roena in the early 80's in Denver during a Christmas break from college. He along with other Lambda Beta members (Rodney 'Hot Rod' Long, Edward Hughes, and Darnell Sykes) extended friendship and fellowship to a Neophyte. Brother Roena's professional and personal paths can fill a book with a variety of chapters. I present a foretaste of his story using the four cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

**Manhood:** Brother Roena was born and raised in Denver; a descendant of Puerto Rico and African American parents. The widower is the father of two, a son and daughter, and he has two grandsons, Bakari and Bayani.

Brother Roena was initiated through Lambda Beta Chapter on May 28, 1977 at 10:08 am. He was the ace (The Rock) on a line that started with 24 and crossed just four. Roena comes from an era in the fraternity when Florsheim shoes were preferred over gold boots. Yet, he wore gold boots and helped the chapter's step team win first place at the Delta Sigma Theta's Mile High Step Show in 2015.

**Scholarship:** Brother Roena graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology.

**Perseverance:** Brother Roena served 22 years as a law enforcement officer with the Denver Sheriff Department (DSD). He worked as a gang unit specialist assisting with critical incidents involving gang situations. In 2000, Roena received an award from the DSD for his efforts with at-risk kids; he created a scholarship program for kids to participate in Taekwondo training.

Brother Roena is a distinguished African-American 8th Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. He is also certified in Judo and Jujitsu martial arts. Master Roena was taught by world renowned Grandmasters (Charles E. Sereff/1970, Dan Beck/1972, Larry McGill/1980, Kwang Sung Hwang, Miguel Serrano and General Choi Hong Hi) over the course of his 50 years in the Korean martial art. He was recently celebrated by the International Tae Kwon Do Federation (ITF) America during Black History Month which featured his entire journey. In addition, Brother Roena is a member of the ITF National Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee. Here's a brief glimpse of his extraordinary martial arts pursuits:

### Brother Roena's Achievements:

- He triumphed at the Rocky Mountain National Championships by winning first place in the Lightweight Kumite division during the summer of 1981.
- Master Roena provided Tae Kwon Do training at the Air Force Academy, a Marine detachment located at Lowry Air Force Base and at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.
- Roena assisted in training the Junior ITF United States Team in Connecticut and he attended the KATU Summer Training Camp where he was selected by Grandmaster Kwang Sung Hwang to be a U.S. Team Coach. Master Roena performed the duties of the U.S. Team Coach at the 4th ITF Junior World Championships in New Delhi, India.
- In 2000, Master Roena was again selected to be one of the U.S. Team Coach for the 5th ITF Junior World Championships in Pyongyang, DPR Korea.
- The year 2015 was an awesome year for Master Roena who achieved three amazing milestones: 1) He was promoted to 8th Degree Black Belt; 2) Roena celebrated his 37th year as a founder of the Colorado International Tae Kwon Do (CIT) dojang; and, 3) He celebrated his 44 th year of practicing Taekwondo.

### Other Accomplishments in Tae Kwon Do:

- Brother Roena began his training in Tae Kwon Do at Colfax & York with the United States Tae Kwon Do Federation (USTF) in 1970.
- Master Roena earned his 1st Degree Black Belt in 1976 and in 1977, he expanded his training sessions by practicing Tae Kwon Do and competing in various Open Competitions and USTF events.
- Brother Roena trained with Brother Ronald McNair on four different occasions. Roena stated he learned a lot from Brother McNair who was an incredible person.



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- In 1981, Roena earned his 2nd Degree Black Belt. In 1983, Master Roena earned his World Tae Kwon Do Federation (WTF) 3rd Degree Black Belt. In 1987, he earned his WTF 4th Degree Black Belt and in 1993, the WTF 6th Degree Black Belt.
- In March 1991, Master Roena was crowned World Lightweight Champion in the World Kyuk Tooki Association (WKA) full contact bare knuckle event in Denver. He remained champion through 1992 and then retired.
- In 1997, Roena earned another 1st Degree Black Belt in Wado Ryu Karate and a certification in Jujitsu at the Shodan or 1st Degree.
- In 2015, Brother Roena received his 8th Degree Black Belt.

**Uplift:** Brother Roena's has helped others in the community through service projects and endeavors while working in the Sheriff Department and with his involvement in Tae Kwon Do. Master Roena has many contributions in martial arts that made an impact to dozens of teachers and students.

In closing, Brother Roena has several aspirations and hopes for Omega Psi Phi and Chi Phi Chapter. He would like the two organizations to continue to grow in active membership through new brothers or reclamation; Roena serves on the chapter's Reclamation committee. Brother Roena would like brothers to show appreciation one to the other and minimize or eliminate dissension within the Fold.

Brother Roena's interests and hobbies include playing the conga and bongo drums, hiking, tennis, weight training and photography. In high school, he enjoyed sports as a baseball player and wrestler. Lastly, Roena has traveled to historical sites around the world along with cultural events. He has seen the oldest church (1497) in Puerto Rico and 12th century churches in Spain.

When the honorable four founders of Omega Psi Phi established the fraternity's motto of 'Friendship is essential to the soul,' they knew men such as Brother Roberto Carlos Roena would lead lives that was an example for others to see and follow. May God continue to bless him with good health, safety, peace and prosperity.

## Birthdays & Congratulations

- Omar Montgomery - 5/24
- Clinton McCree - 5/27
- Ronaldo Babb - 5/29

## Sick, Shut-In & Health Challenges

- Bro Eric Dennis (303-949-3295) Prayer thanks
- Bro Kevin Wilson (720-434-9164) Prayer thanks
- Bro Lamont & Quincy (720-309-6685) Family death
- Bro Clint McCree (720-998-9559) Prayer for family
- Bro Ed Venerable (816-588-9641) Thanks brothers
- Bro Ronaldo Babb (303-204-2257) Wifes health
- Bro Daoud Hadee (303-908-4118) Thanks for calls
- Bro Hendrix Lewis (720-325-7016) Prayer thanks
- Bro Orrin Ellis (720-641-3875) Thanks for prayers
- Bro Calvin Taylor (303-915-7828) Prayer for surgery
- Bro Julian Ellis (225-362-1211) Death in family

## Spiritual Warfare

### Proverbs 31:26

"When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule over everything she says"

## Announcements

### Birthday Soulful Groove + Mother's Day Tribute

- **When:** Saturday, May 8th, 2021, 11 am - 7 pm
- **Where:** Montbello Village Place Park
- **What:** Free community event

### May Chapter meeting

- **When:** Saturday, May 8th, 2021 at 6 pm
- **Where:** Virtual via Zoom Meeting ID: 967 2782 3946, Passcode: 596441
- Meeting ID: 970 3646 7100
- Passcode: 513971

### OPPF Inc. 2021 Joint Father's Day Virtual Program

- **When:** Sunday, June 20, 2021, at 11 am MST
- **Where:** Virtual via Zoom
- Virtual links TBD