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**RAPPIN'**  
**Tommy Wyatt**

## Sometimes I feel guilty!

Whenever I start to complain about the hot weather that we are experiencing in Texas, I am reminded that there are people in other parts of the country who have larger problems.

For example, the weather bureau has been tracking Hurricane Dorian for more than a week now trying to determine where it will hit the mainlands in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. And because they cannot be sure, residents of these areas are being told to leave the area. This is because there is no way to guarantee their safety, if they stay.

We have been hit by some very powerful storms in the past, but we have not been told to evacuate the entire Central Texas area for our own good.

The one thing that is heart warming is that the first responders from around the country rush to these disaster areas the minute that they hear about the problem. They do this in spite of the fact that they put their own safety at risk.

News reporters are also quick to rush to the areas that are expected to be affected, in order for us to have the latest information about the situation on a continuous basis.

I spent some time in the army, but it was peace time and I was never sent overseas. I did volunteer to go abroad but was denied the opportunity. It was peace time and I was needed more back home as a clerk who drew up the orders for others to be sent over.

I could not wait to complete my two years on active duty as a peace time soldier. And I was happy that I was out before the Vietnam War broke out. As a result, I had done my time. I am grateful that I was not drafted for this war. But, I sometimes feels guilty that I did not serve.

## Fire Dragon Championships Held at Givens

By Carolyn Jones | Special to the VILLAGER



Pictured above is Kung Fu Grandmaster Moses Williams (top row center, eighth from left) along with black belts from around the state. Standing (from L to R) are Willie Galloway, Myron Burse, Clarence 'Daddio' Smith, Michael Hornsby, Dan Roberts, Danny Baker, Abel Villareal, Moses Williams, Ray Johnson, Willie Simpson, Thomas Gohring, Meranda Matthews and Craig Speer. Kneeling are Ricky Reed, Joe Yanez, Eric Ryan, Jeff Richardson, Dedrick Burns, Dustin Matthews, Jason Matthews, and Moses Williams, III. Photo by Carolyn Jones

(AUSTIN, TX) - Beginning at age nine, Moses Williams competed in countless martial arts tournaments, earned First through Tenth Degree Black Belts, participated in Point Karate, and competed on the professional circuit in full contact Karate as well as Kickboxing.

Now at age 58, Grandmaster Williams is sponsoring martial arts competitions of his own.

On Saturday, August 31, 2019, Grandmaster Williams and his wife, Stephanie, hosted their fourteenth annual Fire Dragon Championships, which drew the top martial artists in Texas.

The one-day tournament was held at Givens Recreation Center in east Austin and drew over 100 competitors. Youth and adult martial artists ranging from pre-K to senior citizens in their eighties competed in the categories of weapons, forms and fighting.

Growing up in Austin in a family of nine children, Grandmaster Williams' love of the sport began when he was introduced to martial arts in 1968 at the downtown Young Men's Christian Association. Between 1974 and 1986, he trained at the Bergstrom Air Force Base Youth Center. He earned

his First Degree Black Belt in 1973 and later a Tenth Degree Black Belt in 2001.

He also competed in Point Karate and was a competitor in full contact Karate and Kickboxing on the professional circuit between 1977 and 1987. He presently teaches Austin Police Department law enforcement officers as well as Travis County sheriff's deputies. He has participated in the police Olympics where he also served a judge.

Grandmaster Williams decided to make a career out of martial arts because he wanted to work with youth. When he first started teaching others in 1980, he spent 14 years working out of his mother's garage. In 1992, he opened the Fire Dragon Martial Arts Institute in Pflugerville, Texas where he teaches young and old alike.

Grandmaster Williams feels it is good for people to know how to protect themselves.

"Martial arts teaches discipline, respect and honor, and also keeps you in good health" he said. "Discipline is very important because you have to learn to train your mind, body, soul and spirit. It all becomes one."

## Trump says he'll work with Congress to stop mass shootings

By Associated Press

(AP) - President Donald Trump expressed a commitment Sunday, hours after the latest deadly mass shooting, to work with a divided Congress to "stop the menace of mass attacks." He said any measures must satisfy the competing goals of protecting public safety and the constitutional right to gun ownership and seemed to cast fresh doubt on the merits of instituting more thorough background checks for gun purchases.

Trump spoke shortly after the death toll in Saturday's rampage in West Texas rose to seven as authorities worked to understand why a man pulled over for a traffic infraction opened fire on state



President Donald Trump speaks at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019, in Washington. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

troopers and fled. He shot more than 20 people before he was killed by police. A motive has not been released.

The president said it would be "wonderful to say" he'd work to "eliminate" mass

shootings, but acknowledged that that was unlikely.

"We want to substantially reduce the violent crime," Trump said at the top of a briefing about Hurricane Dorian at Federal Emergency

Management Agency headquarters in Washington.

Trump's commitment to gun control has been in doubt ever since 17 students and adults

See WAFFLED, pg 7

## INSIDE



TLD, Inc. hold annual retreat. See CAPITAL Page 3



Texas native returns to film Netflix original movie. See EMMY Page 5



New Orleans native serves up flavorful cajun dishes. See SCHOOL Page 6

## Dorian triggers massive flooding in Bahamas

By Associated Press



(AP) - Hurricane Dorian unleashed massive flooding across the Bahamas on Monday, pummeling the islands with so much wind and water that authorities urged people to find floatation devices and grab hammers to break out of their attics if necessary. At least five deaths were blamed on the storm.

"We are in the midst of a historic tragedy," Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said in announcing the fatalities. He called the devastation "unprecedented and extensive."

The fearsome Category 4 storm slowed almost to a standstill as it shredded roofs, hurled cars and forced even rescue crews to take shelter until the onslaught passed.

Officials said they received a "tremendous" number of calls from people in flooded homes. A radio station received more than 2,000 distress messages,

See POLICE, page 2