

PARADE GRAND MARSHAL BURT WARD

Caped Crusader Robin

As a teen-ager, Burt had all the makings of a true boy wonder. He was an all around athlete, strong in martial arts earning a black belt, wrestling, track, tennis and golf.

His first interview was with 20th Century Fox Studios where he was called for a screen test with Adam West. Burt showed off his athletic ability for producers by demonstrating some falls and tumbles and he even broke a one-inch pine board with his hand. Burt soon learned he had won the coveted role of Robin, the Boy Wonder, in the new “Batman” TV series which proved to be an overnight sensation!

A special piece of movie trivia is that Bruce Lee’s first filmed fight scene of his career was fighting Burt Ward. In October 2015, Burt was inducted into the International Karate and Kickboxing Hall of Fame.

Burt and Adam West made hundreds of personal appearances together and were featured in dozens of magazine articles, including the cover of Life magazine.

In 1994, Burt and his wife Tracy created non profit charity Gentle Giants Rescue and Adoptions. Gentle Giants has rescued and placed more than 15,500 giant and small breed dogs. Creators of all natural Gentle Giants dog food, Burt and Tracy have successfully doubled the average lifespan of their rescued giant breed dogs. Gentle Giants Products manufactures all natural Gentle Giants dog food, which is sold in more than 1,250 stores in California and in 339 Wal-Mart Supercenters in Oregon.

Burt likes to say the Caped Crusader has evolved into the Canine Crusader.