

would invite Ed Parker to go on tour with him and he would go, not as an employee, but as a friend and teacher. Elvis held Ed Parker in high esteem, his nickname for Parker was 'Kahuna' which is a Hawaiian term meaning 'High Priest'.

He was, over the years, involved in many film and television projects such as; I Love Lucy, Dangerous Robin, Mike Hammer Series, Kraft Mystery Theatre, I Spy, Kill the Golden Goose, Seven, Revenge of the Pink Panther, Curse of the Pink Panther plus many others culminating in Jeff Speakman's debut film "The Perfect Weapon" which was dedicated to Ed Parker. Through the connections that Ed Parker made at the Health Club doors opened to TV and film work.

These connections were to prove very useful in the introduction of Bruce Lee to an unsuspecting world. Ed Parker was involved in a television series called 'I Spy' starring Robert Culp and Bill Cosby. Through that work he met a Martial Artist called Jimmy Lee. Jimmy was studying Kung Fu in San Francisco and often asked Ed Parker for his interpretations of the moves that he was learning from his Kung Fu Master. One day Jimmy Lee telephoned Ed Parker and told him of this exceptional young Kung Fu Master who was living in Seattle and he arranged for Ed Parker and Bruce Lee to meet up.

Ed Parker later wrote of Bruce Lee;

"He was a cocky kid, he was very nice to me but cocky. But he was able to produce, I was very impressed with him".

"I knew without doubt that if he got on the screen, our industry would prosper and it did just that".

Ed Parker invited Bruce Lee to do a demonstration at his 1964 International's in Long Beach. That demonstration went into Martial Arts history and the legend of Bruce Lee was born.

Ed Parker filmed the demonstration and took the film to show Bill Dozier who was planning to do a television series called 'No. 1 Son' which was a take off of 'Charlie Chan'. In the event that did not work out, and Bruce Lee was given the part of Kato in the 'Green Hornet' series and started on the road to Martial Arts fame.

A countless number of movie stars, famous Martial Artists and international celebrities have all benefited from their association with this famous 'Father of American Karate'.

1964 saw the inception of one of the world's largest Karate tournaments, the Long Beach International's or International Karate Championships. Many future Martial Arts legends such as; Chuck Norris, Joe Lewis, Steve Saunders, Mike Stone and Eric Lee all competed and won at the

International's which are still held annually today, although they are somewhat smaller than they were in the 70's and 80's. Ed Parker was the first person to publish a rule booklet on a freestyle competition.

Although Ed Parker is universally accepted as the Father of American Kenpo Karate, Kung Fu had been secretly practiced in the USA for many years. Kung Fu was an integral part of Chinese culture and came with the Chinese labourers who were brought in to work the mines and build the railroads that were being constructed across the American continent at that time. China towns soon sprang up and flourished.

Some Chinese families brought Kung Fu Masters over as protection and of course the Chinese gangs also came and brought Kung Fu Masters over, many of which were hitmen. Kung Fu was kept secret and hidden from non-Chinese for over 100 years and this was the tradition. Ed Parker was one of the very few 'outsiders' allowed to be exposed to these closed classes. He was considered a 'safe man' in Chinatown after dark. He was highly respected by these clandestine Martial Artists.

"I did become friends with many of the resident Chinese Masters many of whom were illegal immigrants".

In 1963 he formed the International Kenpo Karate Association. One of his first black belts John McSweeney had moved to Ireland and was teaching Kenpo there and it was this move which transformed Ed Parker's K.K.A into the I.K.K.A. At it's peak the I.K.K.A was to become one of the largest Karate organisations in the world with members spanning the globe in such diverse countries as; USA, Ireland, England, Jersey, CI, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Holland, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Alaska to name but a few. Sadly after his passing the I.K.K.A fragmented through internal politics and there are now over 75 different Kenpo organisations in existence.

Over the years Ed Parker received praise from many top Martial Arts Masters and contemporaries such as; Tak Kubota, Tadashi Yamashita, Fumio Demura, Tino Tuiolosega, Hoon Rhee, Chuck Norris and many, many more.

Ed Parker was also a highly accomplished author. His completed works include; Kenpo Basic Booklet, Kenpo Karate, Secrets of Chinese Karate, Woman's Guide to Self-Defence, A Guide to Law Enforcement, Home Study Karate Workshop, Ed Parker's Guide to the Nunchaku, Inside Elvis, The Infinite Insights (series of five volumes - his definitive work on American Kenpo Karate), The Zen of Kenpo and the Encyclopaedia of Kenpo - Accumulative Journals (yellow to black).

Other works which were in preparation included - Speak with a Club, Speak with a

Knife, Ed Parker's Answers to Multiple Attacks on the Street and Everyday Gestures That Can Save Your Life.

Ed Parker appeared in many publications such as - Time, Look, Strength and Health, Show Business Illustrated, Iron Man, Action Karate, Black Belt, Karate Illustrated, Official Karate, Inside Kung Fu, American Karate and Karate/Kung-Fu Illustrated, Fighters and in newspapers nationwide, Martial Arts magazines worldwide, articles in the World Encyclopaedia and many others.

In 1974 - of Ed Parker 'Inside Kung Fu' magazine stated;

"Ed Parker has been one of the most innovative and successful influences in the development of the art in its' new environment".

In 1975 Black Belt magazine stated;

"Many Kenpo stylists refer to Ed Parker as the last word on the proper way to do their techniques".

At the time of his passing he was in the process of producing a 36 episode video series on American Kenpo with the idea of franchising schools. One of Ed Parker's main goals was to engineer American Kenpo as an entity in itself. While the origins come from the orient, America was a totally different environment.

"The philosophy on the street today is: It's not who's right but who's left that counts".

"I brought the first American version of the art into the continental United States. Not Okinawan, not Japanese, the American version, and that's all I've laid claim to".

Ed Parker set about the engineering of American Kenpo with an open mind and he employed typical American enterprise. When it was extremely unpopular to do so he challenged the traditional ways of teaching Martial Arts. In breaking with tradition he returned an important facet of the arts which had traditionally been missing (or deliberately withheld) which was creativity, insight and flexibility of thought and action.

He systematically structured the Art so that each movement learned became an alphabet of motion. His intention was that the knowledge, the language of American Kenpo, would be transmitted from one generation to the next without 'thinning down' or disappearing as seemed to him to have happened to most Martial Arts throughout history. Ed Parker felt there should be a way to categorise and explain Kenpo so that future generations could build on it and improve it, much like science is built upon and improved on as it is worked by successive generations.

He introduced a belt ranking system to