

Garden Grove Strawberry Festival

Grand Marshals & Parade Participants (1959-2025)

1959-1970: Golden Age Icons

- 1959 — **Francis X. Bushman** | Legendary silent film star and matinee idol
- 1960 — **Governor Edmund Brown** | 32nd Governor of California
- 1961 — **Jimmy Durante & Mel Blanc** | “The Man of 1,000 Voices”
- 1963 — **Sebastian Cabot** (*Family Affair*) & **Connie Haines**
- 1965 — **Steve Martin** (Local talent winner) & **Johnny Crawford** (*The Rifleman*)
- 1966 — **Mark Goddard** (*Lost in Space*)
- 1968 — **Sen. Robert Kennedy, John Glenn** (Astronaut), & **Rafer Johnson** (Olympian)
- 1970 — **Mickey Mouse** | Disney's global icon

1971-1980: Small Screen & Big Personalities

- 1971 — **Debbie Reynolds, Lorne Greene** (*Bonanza*), & **Nancy Sinatra**
- 1972 — **Loretta Swit** (*MASH**) & **Lt. David Rehmann** (Local hero/returned POW)
- 1975 — **Tommy Lasorda** (Dodgers Manager) & **Charlie Tuna** (LA radio DJ)
- 1979 — **Dr. Demento** (Novelty radio host) & **Gordon Jump** (*WKRP in Cincinnati*)
- 1980 — **Scatman Crothers** (*The Shining, Hong Kong Phooey*)

1981-1990: Stars of the 80s

- 1982 — **Roger Mosley** (*Magnum P.I.*)
- 1988 — **Zsa Zsa Gabor** | Actress and socialite
- 1989 — **Phyllis Diller, Alyssa Milano** (*Who's the Boss?*), & **Fred Willard**
- 1990 — **Ben Vereen** | Tony Award-winning actor, dancer, and singer

1991-2000: Legends & Olympians

- 1992 — **Nadia Comănești** (Olympic legend) & **Bart Conner**
- 1996 — **The Platters** | Iconic early rock & roll vocal group
- 1998 — **Buddy Hackett & Pauly Shore** (*Encino Man*)

2001-2010: The Modern Era

- 2002 — **Hilary Duff** (*Lizzie McGuire*)
- 2004 — **Margaret O'Brien** (Child star legend) & **Michael Welch** (*Twilight*)
- 2005 — **Shirley Jones** (*The Partridge Family*) & **Ashley Benson** (*Pretty Little Liars*)
- 2006 — **Jerry Mathers** (*Leave It to Beaver*) & **Tibor Rubin** (Medal of Honor recipient)
- 2008 — **Martin Landau** (Oscar winner) & **Jennette McCurdy** (*iCarly*, author)

- 2009 — **Cloris Leachman** | Record-breaking Emmy & Oscar winner
- 2011 — **Rico Rodriguez** (*Modern Family*) & **Snoopy** (Peanuts icon)

2011–2020: Pop Culture Powerhouses

- 2013 — **Sabrina Carpenter** (Pop superstar) & **James Hong** (*EEAAO*)
- 2014 — **Xolo Maridueña** (*Cobra Kai*) & **Lauren Potter** (*Glee*)
- 2017 — **Burt Ward** (Robin from *Batman*) & **Kate Flannery** (*The Office*)
- 2019 — **Dawn Wells** | “Mary Ann” from *Gilligan’s Island*

2021–2026: The Newest Chapter

- 2022 — **French Stewart** (*3rd Rock from the Sun*) & **Kathy Garver** (*Family Affair*)
- 2023 — **Jamie McShane** (*Wednesday*), **William Hung** (*American Idol*), & **Vera Jimenez** (KTLA)
- 2024 — **Scott Klopfenstein** (*Reel Big Fish*), **Leigh Steinberg** (“The Real Jerry Maguire”), & **Frank Kramer**, **Jordan Fitzpatrick**, and **Johnny Ice** (*Heidi & Frank Show*)
- 2025 — **Kate Linder** (Grand Marshal), **Sylvia Mendez** (Civil Rights Icon), **Adan Correa**, **David Peterson**, and Janice LeAnn Brown, Alkaio Thiele, Max Matenko, Taylor Cora (cast of *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place*)
- 2026 — (Reserved for upcoming honorees)

Local Heroes & Legends

Steve Martin (1965)

A Garden Grove local and Disneyland cast member who earned one of his earliest public “breaks” by winning the festival’s talent search.

Lt. David Rehmann (1972)

A returning POW honored by the city and festival following his homecoming from Vietnam.

Tibor Rubin (2006)

Garden Grove resident, Holocaust survivor, and Medal of Honor recipient for extraordinary heroism in the Korean War.

Sylvia Mendez (2025)

Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient whose family’s landmark desegregation case began in this community.

Archive Highlights: By the Numbers

15+ Olympians & Sports Legends

Including Nadia Comănescu, Tommy Lasorda, and John Glenn.

Most Frequent Festival Face

Kate Linder holds the record for the most appearances and long-standing festival support.

A Heartfelt Thank-You to Our Celebrity Guests

For more than six decades, the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival has been honored by the presence of extraordinary celebrities who have brought joy, excitement, and star-powered magic to our parade.

From Hollywood icons and television favorites to Olympic champions, community heroes, and rising young talent, each guest has added something truly special to our celebration.

Their participation has helped create unforgettable memories for our families, inspired generations of festival-goers, and strengthened the sense of community pride that defines our event.

We are deeply grateful to every actor, musician, athlete, advocate, and local legend who has walked, waved, and shared their time with us.

Our parade shines a little brighter because of them — and we thank each one for being part of our story.