



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Santa Barbara Zoo Celebrates the Life of Edward “Ted” McToldridge, First Director of the Zoo**

***McToldridge passed away on March 21, 2022***

(April 7, 2022) Santa Barbara, CA – A celebration of the life of Ted McToldridge will take place Friday, April 29 from 4 to 7 PM at the [Santa Barbara Zoo](#).

“Ted dedicated his life to building the Santa Barbara Zoo,” said Rich Block, President/CEO of the Santa Barbara Zoo. “His passion for animal care ran deep, and his vision and dream for what this place could be has truly become a reality that millions of guests from near and far get to enjoy today. Ted instilled in us the privilege we share working in the care and conservation of the animals at the Zoo. He cherished his staff and animals so much and leaves a tremendous legacy for us all. He will be dearly missed.”

McToldridge led the organization through its early development, while often caring for the animals and maintaining the grounds himself. He remained at the Zoo’s helm for more than three decades. Exceedingly resourceful, McToldridge managed to build a lot of the Zoo with very little money. His creativity and eye for aesthetics are evident everywhere on Zoo grounds, from lush landscaping, donated by local nurseries and Lotusland, to the original animal exhibits that he designed and built himself.

The celebration will be held on Friday, April 29 from 4 to 7 PM at the Santa Barbara Zoo’s beautiful hilltop, at 500 Niños Drive, Santa Barbara, CA. Friends and family of Ted McToldridge, the McToldridge family, and the Zoo are invited. No reservations are required, and casual attire is recommended.

The McToldridge family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the Santa Barbara Zoo in honor of Ted to continue his life’s work and pay tribute to his legacy.

### **About the Santa Barbara Zoo**

The Santa Barbara Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). AZA zoos are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great guest experience, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation and is the public’s link to helping animals in their native habitats. Visit [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org) to learn more.

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