



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **GEMINA THE CROOKED-NECKED GIRAFFE REMEMBERED ON TUESDAY, MARCH 31 AT 10:30 A.M.**

**WHAT:** The Santa Barbara Zoo remembers one of its most popular and inspiring animals with the installation of a permanent bronze plaque. Gemina, the “crooked-necked giraffe,” was one of the Santa Barbara Zoo’s most recognizable residents before her death in January 2008 after a long life, by giraffe standards, at age 21.

This brief ceremony dedicates a two-foot tall bronze plaque that shows her image and reads: “During her long and healthy life she showed us that differences can be accepted and celebrated.” Young Zoo Campers will be on-hand for the ceremony.

*Zoo guests are invited to come to the unveiling and to bring any memories, cards or drawings to share (no flowers or eatable items please). Donations to the Gemina Fund are still being accepted; funds directly benefit the Santa Barbara Zoo giraffes. Free with admission.*

**WHERE/** Tuesday, March 31, 10:30 a.m.

**WHEN:** [This event has been rescheduled from February, when it was cancelled due to rain.]  
Santa Barbara Zoo, Giraffe Deck

**WHO:** Nancy McToldridge, Zoo Director  
Giraffe Keepers Trent Barnhart and Michele Green  
Zoo Campers, who are attending Spring Zoo Camp

Gemina was by far one of the most recognizable residents at the Santa Barbara Zoo. She was born at the San Diego Wild Animal Park and lived at the Santa Barbara Zoo from the age of one. Her condition began around age three and developed over the years, though the cause was unknown. She had been x-rayed and examined by the Zoo’s veterinarian, but the findings were not conclusive. She did not appear to be in discomfort and was accepted as a normal member of the Zoo’s herd.

In 2005, Gemina was featured in the television show “Miracle Workers” as the source of inspiration for a young boy with severe scoliosis. In 2007, Gemina was voted first in a list of “Seven Wonders of Santa Barbara” by residents on a local radio station poll.

The Zoo’s giraffe herd remains on exhibit and is comprised of one male, Taru (aged 15), and two females: Sulima, aged 17; and Eritrea, aged seven. They are all Baringo (or Rothschild’s) giraffes, which are found in Uganda and in western Kenya. There no plans to expand the Zoo’s herd at this time.

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