



50th Anniversary
helping the Santa Barbara community find their families



Congratulations

John C. Woodward on reception of the Griswold Award for Philanthropy, with most grateful appreciation for your munificence, wise counsel, and steadfast support of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society over many years, and especially for all that you have done to make its Sahyun Library a premier genealogical library.

Sincerely,
The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society Officers,
Board of Directors, and Members - past and present.

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Griswold Award for Philanthropy

John C. Woodward

JOHN WOODWARD'S WELL-KNOWN PASSION FOR HISTORY began in early childhood. John was born in Morristown New Jersey, known for Morristown National Historical Park, with important Revolutionary War sites like Washington's Headquarters Museum in the 18th-century home occupied by Washington and his aides in the winter of 1779-1780.

Those early years in a rural setting included playing in the woods of the national park with his brother, inspired by the beauty of nature and a love of wildlife.

Since establishing his home and law practice in Santa Barbara, John has been actively involved in most local historical organizations, having served on the boards of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library, the Pearl Chase Society, and as chairman of both the City and County Historic Landmarks Commissions.

John knew and worked closely with both the legendary Pearl Chase and the renowned local architect Lulah Maria Riggs.

His dedication to family history led him to join the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. John's legal expertise and property management background facilitated the establishment of a permanent home for the Society and the Sahyun Library.

In 1976 he drafted a complete revision of the El Pueblo Viejo Historic Landmarks Ordinance that was enacted into law, greatly strengthening protections for Santa Barbara's many historic landmarks, including 17 surviving old adobes.

John has conducted his own research over the past 50 years to comprehensively document all 200 adobe buildings that once dominated Santa Barbara's architecture.

He personally worked on the restoration of the historic Pico Adobe - laying down hand-crafted tiles on the dirt floor; building the adobe wall (with rebar); renovating the roof; and overseeing the restoration of the garden with historic plantings.

He formed a kinship with the late owner of La Arcada Plaza Hugh Petersen. They shared a love of history and historical artifacts. Many of the objects installed in the La Arcada Plaza (bells!) were secured with John's assistance.

John is currently busy writing several books on local history: the *Adobes of Santa Barbara*; *The Presidio*; *El*



John C. Woodward with Dodger on Figueroa Mountain

Paseo & Casa De La Guerra; the Bells of Santa Barbara; and the History of State Street.

John's enduring love of nature and humanity has also found a charitable outlet with numerous organizations benefiting from his generosity.

John prefers to support organizations that rely heavily on volunteers to advance their mission.

EXAMPLES OF JOHN'S PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Santa Barbara County Courthouse Legacy Restoration Projects: *Spirit of the Sea Fountain; Mural Room; Clock Tower*
- Santa Barbara Genealogical Society - Sahyun Library
- Santa Barbara Historical Museum
- Santa Barbara Public Library Plaza
- Santa Barbara Public Library Special Collections: *Archival Photos of Early Santa Barbara*
- Santa Barbara Maritime Museum
- Casa Del Herrero
- Fernald House
- All Saints-by-the-Sea Bell Tower Restoration
- Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation Return of the Original Presidio Bells
- Mission Canyon Bridge Restoration
- Pico Adobe Restoration & Perimeter Wall Construction (hand-built pro bono)
- *Lulah: A Passion for Architecture, A Life in Design* Award Winning Documentary Film
- Santa Barbara Zoo Education Center & Bald Eagle Sponsor
- Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network- Veterinary Hospital
- Santa Barbara Unity Shoppe: Purchased a Van during the pandemic to provide at-home deliveries to those in need.