



# SANTA BARBARA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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To Encourage the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites in the County of Santa Barbara

## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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Photos available upon request

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### “Founding Day”

Saturday, April 21, 2007

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park

123 E. Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Free Community Event

For more information (805) 965-0093

**CELEBRATE SANTA BARBARA’S 225<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY WITH “FOUNDING DAY” AT EL PRESIDIO DE SANTA BARBARA STATE HISTORIC PARK – Watch history come alive while learning about life at the Santa Barbara Presidio in the early 1800s**

**(SANTA BARBARA, CA, MARCH 30, 2007)** – Join the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) in celebrating the **225<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the founding of El Presidio de Santa Barbara, our **city’s 18<sup>th</sup> century birthplace**. This **free community celebration** features **Early California living history demonstrations, traditional music and dance, pottery and adobe brick making, as well as hands-on archaeology activities for the entire family.**

Meet the fort’s uniformed soldiers (Soldados), cook delicious tortillas like Santa Barbara’s early settlers and try your hand at creating the red roof tiles that the city has become so famous for. Join **Master Potter, Ruben Reyes**, as he demonstrates the art of pottery making and the use of a traditional wood fired kiln.

**Traditional festivities begin at 11:00 AM** with mass in the Historic Presidio Chapel (Santa Barbara’s first church), immediately followed by a brief reenactment of the official founding of the Presidio on April 21, 1782 presented by Los Soldados de Cuera (soldiers of the Royal Presidio), a tribute to Saint Barbara (the city’s patron saint) portrayed for the final time by Phebe Mansur of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, and the singing of the “Alabado,” the original hymn sung at the Presidio Chapel dedication. This year’s **featured**

**speaker is Inocencio F. Arias, Consul General of Spain.** Guests will enjoy **free Presidio birthday cake, fresh lemonade, and traditional foods.**

**This project is funded in part by the COMMUNITY EVENTS & FESTIVALS Program using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission. Additional funding provided by Williams-Corbett Foundation, Towbes Foundation, & Venoco Inc.**

**ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation** – Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation works to protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites within Santa Barbara County. The Trust is the primary force in the reconstruction and preservation of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and the restoration of La Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. Most recently, the Trust has begun reconstruction on the Northwest Corner of El Presidio de Santa Barbara, the eighteenth-century Spanish colonial fort that is Santa Barbara's birthplace. These additions will eventually house the new Presidio visitors' center, and with the help of the new Presidio Resource Center, serve to interpret the city's Hispanic heritage, and the larger multi-cultural heritage of the surrounding Presidio neighborhood from the eighteenth century to the present. **For more information visit [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org)**

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