

Presidio plaque honors king of Spain

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A Santa Barbara museum is unveiling a plaque dedicated to the King of Spain at the end of the month.

The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday for The Prince's Plaque.

The plaque is a decorative ceramic tablet commemorating the visit of King Felipe VI to the El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park in 2013. The king, who took the throne in mid-2014, visited the park while he was prince of Asturias.

The Prince's Plaque was made by artist Jeannie Davis and takes design cues from the Presidio chapel, said Christa Clark Jones, development assistant for the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

The plaque is installed on the outside of the Presidio's northwest wall, which has been renamed The Prince's Wall. Three other plaques are scheduled for installation on The Prince's Wall later this year to acknowledge the financial contributions of Presidio donors.

"There's a lot of history bubbling up with this plaque," said Dr. Jarrel Jack-



RAFAEL MALDONADO/NEWS-PRESS

A place is ready for the plaque on the northwest wall of the Presidio.

man, executive director of the trust.

The king's visit was historically significant to the Presidio, because it is the last Spanish fort built in North America. Dr. Jackman said he has looked across the United States, including Mississippi and New Mexico, for a younger presidio but has been unable to find one.

Adding to the historical context of the king's visit is the fact that Santa Barbara received the Order of

Charles III medallion in the 1950s and remains the only city to receive the Spanish honor.

Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider presented the medallion to King Felipe during his 2013 visit, and he acknowledged that the award represents the importance of Spain's relationship with the United States.

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