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## Senate

### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join Senator Feinstein and me in recognizing the centennial of the San Diego Zoo Global, a world-class facility dedicated to providing expert animal care and promoting wildlife conservation.

Founded in 1916, the San Diego Zoo Global began as a sanctuary for abandoned animals left behind after the Panama-California Exposition held in San Diego. The zoo expanded quickly, opening its doors to rare and exotic animals donated by private owners, purchased from circuses and other zoos, and rescued from the wild. In the 1950s, zoo director Dr. Charles Schroeder had the idea of exhibiting animals in a large, free-range habitat that provided space for breeding and conservation research. His dream became a reality in 1972 with the opening of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, a one-of-a-kind 1,800-acre habitat that is now home to more than 3,200 animals. Over half of the park has been set aside as protected native species habitat.

Throughout the years, the San Diego Zoo Global has played a critical role in preserving rare wildlife and habitats through its Institute for Conservation Research, housed in the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center for Conservation Research. Founded in 1975, the institute is one of the largest zoo-based research centers in the world and has led several successful efforts to protect some of

the world's most endangered species, including the magnificent California condor. The zoo led the effort to save the condor by designing and implementing a successful 25-year captive-breeding process that reintroduced the species to its native habitat. At the start of the program, the California condor was near extinction; today the current condor population is more than 420, with approximately 200 living in the wild in California, Arizona, Utah, and Mexico.

The San Diego Zoo Global is also making an immediate and lasting impact in our Nation's classrooms. Each year, the San Diego Zoo and the Institute for Conservation Research hosts a workshop for middle and high school teachers from across the United States. This hands-on experience allows educators to develop innovative lessons in conservation to bring back to their students.

Over the past 100 years, the San Diego Zoo Global has opened its doors to millions of visitors from around the globe, setting a new standard for zoological institutions worldwide. Senator Feinstein and I want to congratulate the staff, volunteers, and supporters of this extraordinary organization for the important role they play in the care and preservation of our earth's most beautiful creatures and habitats. We know their work will continue to make a profound difference for generations to come.