

# In loving memory of **John Franklin Hileman**

January 19, 1947 - May 16, 2009

On May 16th 2009, we lost our dear friend John Hileman. John was a native of Kannapolis, NC and an incredibly caring and compassionate person. His love and passion for animals led him to immediately becoming a volunteer which later evolved into employment. He would greet every customer that visited Tiger World and would tell stories about the animals. His love for the the animals was amazing and they loved him back. Every morning when he arrived for work the animals would be waiting to receive his affection. Fozzy the Lion would lick John on his face and snuggle close to him. Our 3 legged Leopard, Begara, would roll over for him to pet her belly. John developed bonds with these animals for over 7 years and they were his passion. He traveled all over the east coast educating the public about exotic animals and their endangered status. John will be missed tremendously and Tiger World will not be the same without him. John's life was committed to conservation of animals and educating the public about the plight of endangered species. His commitment and dedication will live on through Tiger World. He called Tiger World one of his proudest accomplishments in life and we were honored to be part of that.



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