



MAY – JUNE 2022

Orange County Cemetery District

TRUSTEES

Kelly Rivers, Chair
Cynthia Ward, Vice Chair
Vladimir Anderson
Noel Hatch
Maribel Marroquin-Waldram

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Remember Our Veterans this Memorial Day – Monday, May 30th

After a two-year hiatus, in-person Memorial Day Observances are once again being held at all three District Cemeteries. Please join us on Monday, May 30th, as we remember and honor our heroes in the U.S. Armed Services.

ANAHEIM CEMETERY

11:00 a.m.

1400 E. Sycamore
At the Community Mausoleum

This program is sponsored by the American Legion Post 72 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3173. The program includes a presentation of wreaths, poetic readings, special guest speakers and a Rifle Volley Salute.

SANTA ANA CEMETERY

10:00 a.m.

1919 E. Santa Clara Ave.
At the Soldier's Monument

This observance is sponsored by the Tri-City Memorial Day Committee and includes participation from multiple organizations in Santa Ana, Tustin and Orange. The program includes a Parade of Flags, guest speakers, inspirational readings, a wreath presentation, special music by the Orange High School

Chamber Singers, and Canon Salutes and Honor Rifle Salutes. The program also includes the reading of General Logan's Order No. 11 and an Honor Roll of Fallen from recent years.

EL TORO MEMORIAL PARK

11:00 a.m.

25751 Trabuco Road
In Old Section (back of the park)

Vietnam Veteran William B. Ring will be the keynote speaker at El Toro Memorial Park. Mr. Ring flew over 500 combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, and 26 Air Medals while serving as a Pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165, First Marine Aircraft Wing.

The program will also include special music by the Master Chorale of Saddleback Valley, a presentation of wreaths, "Amazing Grace" by bagpiper Dean Johnson, "Taps" by bugler Michael McPhie, and an Honor Rifle Salute by VFW Post 6024.

Programs will be held rain or shine and the events are free to the public. Seating is limited and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.



Wreaths at Anaheim Cemetery.



Canon Salute at Santa Ana Cemetery.



El Toro Keynote speaker is Vietnam Veteran William B. Ring. Pictured above at the Marine Base at Khe Sahn, shortly before the 1968 Tet siege on the base.

The District Welcomes New Board Member Vladimir A. Anderson

On Tuesday, April 12th, the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved the appointment of Vladimir A. Anderson to serve as a Trustee on the District's Board. Mr. Anderson fills the seat vacated by the late William E. Nelson and the term runs through January 5, 2026.

Mr. Anderson was appointed by Supervisor Wagner, representing the Third District.

Mr. Anderson has over thirty years of law enforcement experience as a Patrol Officer, Motor and Traffic Officer, Background Investigator, Threat Assessment Expert, Bicycle

Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer and Detective. Prior to his career in law enforcement, Mr. Anderson achieved the rank of Sergeant with the United States Marine Corps and served our nation from 1983 to 1990.

In addition, Mr. Anderson has been a leader in several civic organizations including the nonprofit Newport Beach Police Foundation. He is currently the Vice Chair on the City of Lake Forest Traffic and Parking Commission. He also sits on the Board of Trustees for the Orange County Mosquito and



Supervisor Donald Wagner swears in Trustee Vladimir A. Anderson on April 18th at the Hall of Administration.

Vector Control District. We are very excited to welcome Mr. Anderson to the Board. He will certainly be a great asset to the District in the future.

Sales of Casket Spaces Limited at El Toro Memorial Park

As the inventory of available interment spaces for casket burial rapidly decreases at El Toro Memorial Park, demand for these spaces continues to soar. Currently the District has approximately 2,215 available casket spaces remaining.

This may sound like a large number, but in February alone, El Toro sold 164 spaces. Of these sales, 38 were for families who actually had a death occur (At-Need), and 126 were to families who purchased space for future use (Pre-Need). Based on these numbers, El Toro will be sold out in 13 to 15 months.

Even if all goes according to plan, our new 4th public cemetery, to be located in Gypsum Canyon, will likely not be operational until sometime in 2024 or even 2025. After El Toro sells out of casket space, families wanting to conduct a full body burial in Orange County will have to purchase space at private cemeteries. Financially, this is simply not an option for many families.

To assist as many At-Need families as possible, the Board passed a resolution at the April 5th Board meeting limiting the Pre-Need sales

of casket spaces at El Toro Memorial Park to no more than one space per Orange County household sharing the same street or mailing address. This will still allow families who want to do advanced planning the ability to purchase a space, but the limitation should also slow the pace of sales, allowing El Toro to remain an option for At-Need families for a longer period of time.

We appreciate your understanding of this new policy, and value your support as we move forward in developing a new public cemetery.

Trustee Marroquin-Waldram Attends CAPC Annual Conference

The California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) is dedicated to promoting the development of Public Cemetery Districts and Public Cemetery governance through interactive communication, education, and legislative advocacy. On March 10-12, 2022, CAPC was able to hold its Annual Conference in-

person in Monterey Bay. Trustee, Maribel Marroquin-Waldram was able to attend and benefit from the many educational seminars, meet with a variety of vendors from the cemetery industry, and enjoy networking opportunities with trustees and staff from other public cemetery districts.

During the conference, CAPC gave a beautiful tribute to our late Trustee, William E. Nelson. Elections for the Board of Directors was also held. **Congratulations to our Board Chair Kelly Rivers, who was elected to serve a second term on the CAPC Board. Her new term will expire in 2024.**

New Public Cemetery Development Update at Gypsum Canyon

At the April 5th Board Meeting, the Trustees approved a proposal from GMU for \$125,000 to complete a supplemental geotechnical site evaluation and address the corrective grading needed to support the project's mass grading plan. This is the final piece needed before the District can submit our cemetery development application to the City of Anaheim and an important step in moving the project forward.

Dedicated Section for Police & Firefighters

Per the request of the Board of Supervisors, the new public cemetery will dedicate up to ten acres for the development of a

special section reserved for sworn police officers and firefighters serving Orange County as well as their spouses. The sworn police officers and firefighters must have served in their community for over ten years to be eligible for interment in the reserved section. All of the District's space and interment service fees will still apply. The section will be similar to the reserved section for Allied Veterans also requested by the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.

Old Glory Soon to Fly at Gypsum Canyon

The 60'x30' U.S. flag that was unfurled on December 8th at the

proposed site of the future state Veterans Cemetery, will soon be flying high atop a 100' flag pole to be installed at the Gypsum Canyon site. The District hopes to hoist the colors before Independence Day and is working now to install the flagpole and proper illumination for the flag.

For the Record

It has come to the District's attention that some residents believe the District will operate a crematorium at the Gypsum Canyon site. As a public cemetery district, we are not allowed by law to operate a mortuary or offer any mortuary services. There will be no crematory in operation at the District's site at Gypsum Canyon.

El Toro Conducts Park-Wide Tree Trimming Project from April 25th - 29th

When planning visits to El Toro Memorial Park during the week of April 25th to April 29th, please be advised that the grounds will be undergoing a park-wide tree trimming project.

The main front gate to the park on Trabuco Road will be closed on Monday, April 25th and on Tuesday, April 26th. Crews will be trimming the rose vine growing on the front gate archway, all the trees in the office courtyard, and all the trees lining the main road from the office

to the public restroom. You will need to enter the park through the rear gate off of Old Trabuco Road. No appointments are being scheduled in the cemetery office on those days. During the remainder of the week tree trimming will continue throughout the rest of the park.

The company conducting the work is Treesmith Enterprises, Inc., based out of Anaheim. Due to the size and potential cost of the project, a request was sent out to landscape care service providers who have

worked for the District, local cities and other cemeteries in the area. Treesmith Enterprises was the apparent low bidder coming in at \$42,525.

We realize that this will cause some inconveniences as far as accessing the grounds and noise disturbances. We appreciate your patience during this time as this project is important for the maintenance of the park and the continued health of our trees. We apologize for any inconveniences.

District Staff Preparing 2022-23 Fiscal Year Budget and Fee Schedule

Each spring the District is required to prepare a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which runs from July 1st to June 30th, and present it to the Board for review and approval. The annual budget serves as a communication device, a policy document, a management tool, and an accountability tool,

granting spending authority to District staff. Currently staff are preparing a draft budget and plan to present it to the Board at the June 7th Board Meeting.

Included in the budget are revenue projections and estimates for expenses such as salaries, benefits,

services, supplies, equipment purchases and capital projects. In addition, the Master Fee Schedule is evaluated and updated. **For the 2022-23 budget, it is likely there will be price increases. After Board approval, these increases will go into effect 30 days after the June 7th Board Meeting.**

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

May/June Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees for the Orange County Cemetery District holds regular meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 25751 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630. **Until further notice these meetings are being video conferenced, but the public may also attend electronically. Please call the District office for the meeting link.**

Agendas are available at least 72 hours prior to each meeting and are also posted on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. In May and June, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, May 3rd at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m.**

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact the District Secretary, Mary Funk at (949) 951-9102 ext. 110.

Flower Removal and Holiday Schedule

Every Wednesday, groundskeepers remove and discard flowers and decorations throughout all three cemeteries. Families are encouraged to remove their flowers and/or decorations on Tuesday night. You can then place the flowers back on the space on Wednesday afternoon. Please remember that the District policy only allows for two items to be placed on gravesites. This includes the in-ground flower vase and one other item. If gravesites exceed the number of allowed items, staff may remove and discard the excess items. Please do not leave items of great monetary or sentimental value on gravesites as the District cannot prevent theft.

Throughout the year, various holidays are recognized with extended periods between flower clean-ups. During these times, we do ask that you empty the vase and place fresh water in the container every four to five days to eliminate mosquito breeding sources, which can cause serious health issues. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



In honor of Mother's Day, flowers may be placed on Thursday, April 28th and must be removed by Tuesday, May 17th. In honor of Memorial Day, flowers may be placed on Thursday, May 19th and must be removed by Tuesday, June 7th. In honor of Father's Day, flowers may be placed on Thursday, June 9th and must be removed by Tuesday, June 28th.

The 2022 Cemetery Grounds Wednesday Clean-up Calendar is available on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS

Anaheim Cemetery and Santa Ana Cemetery

are open year-round for visitation, seven days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

El Toro Memorial Park

is open year-round for visitation, seven days a week with extended hours which began on March 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Offices are open M-F - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All offices are closed on the weekends and on holidays.

The Orange County Cemetery District manages and maintains Orange County's public cemeteries in a manner that preserves their beauty, dignity, historical and cultural values, and offers affordable interment service for County residents.

The Trustees and staff of the Orange County Cemetery District are committed to the following values:

- Integrity ■ Respect ■ Accountability
- Responsiveness ■ Empathy ■ Transparency
- Appreciation for Diverse Needs

