



NOV. – DEC. 2021

Orange County Cemetery District

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

Dia de los Muertos “To Go” on Tuesday, Nov. 2nd At All District Cemeteries from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Because past Dia de los Muertos programs have drawn 500 attendees or more, and with COVID still being a serious threat, we will not be holding programs with dancers and musicians as we have in the past.

Instead, we will be recognizing the holiday with free Dia de los Muertos “To Go” goody bags. **While supplies last**, the District will pass out craft kits for the kids, small bouquets of marigolds to leave at gravesites or to decorate at home ofrendas, and of course some tasty Pan de Muerto to enjoy with family and friends.

On Tuesday, November 2nd, Santa Ana Cemetery, Anaheim Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park will set up tables outside of the cemetery office buildings. Beginning at 3:30 p.m., visitors can drive up or walk-up and receive these Dia de los Muertos treats to go. Please keep in mind that these “To Go” bags will only be available as long as supplies last. We do ask that you please take only enough for your family, so that we might serve as many people as possible.



Flower Decorations During Dia de los Muertos

Families are invited to build ofrendas at the gravesites of loved ones. To accommodate this tradition, the District is relaxing its policy of only leaving two items on a gravesite. Ofrendas may be constructed beginning on Thursday, Oct. 21st and must be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 16th. **Any items remaining on gravesites on Wednesday, Nov. 17th will be discarded.** Please do not leave items of sentimental or monetary value on gravesites as these items cannot be secured. Battery operated candles are recommended as real flame is prohibited in the parks.

Veterans Day Observance at El Toro on Nov. 11th at 11:00 a.m.

The public is invited to attend the 32nd Annual Veterans Day Program at El Toro Memorial Park on Thursday, Nov. 11th at 11:00 a.m. (Face masks are recommended.)

The program will feature special music by vocalist John Huntington and guitarist Gene Smith. Local city representatives will participate in a wreath laying ceremony. An Honor Guard Firing Salute will be conducted by the Rifle Team of VFW Edward J. Kearns Post 6024.

Orange County Sheriff-Coroner, Don Barnes will serve as the program’s keynote speaker. Sheriff Barnes was elected to this position in November

2018 and has been with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department since 1989.

The program will conclude with a performance of Amazing Grace by bagpiper, Jim Clements, and Eagle Scout, Michael McPhie with Boy Scout Troop 2020 will play Taps on the bugle.

Special thanks to: Maryann Herrera and the Mission Viejo Chapter NSDAR for leading the program; Frank Cook with American Legion Post 862 for providing his patriotic World War I historical display; Boy Scout Troop 918 for providing a Color Guard for the program; and to Troops 727 and 774 who will be placing flags on Veteran graves for the holiday.



OC Sheriff Don Barnes (above) will be the keynote speaker.

Angel of Hope Candlelight Service at El Toro Memorial Park - Dec. 6th

If you are grieving the loss of a child of any age, please join us on Monday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. at El Toro Memorial Park. We will be gathering in the Infant Section at the Angel of Hope Statue for a Candlelight Service.

The Angel of Hope was inspired by Richard Paul Evans' national bestseller, *The Christmas Box*. It is a story of a woman who mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. The original Angel of Hope Statue resides in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. The sculpture is the creation of father and son, Ortho and Jared Fairbanks. It was modeled according to the description in Evans' book. If you look closely, you can find in the angel's right wing the word "hope."

The sculpture was brought to El Toro Memorial Park to support parents who have lost a child of any age, for any reason. It was dedicated on September 28, 2002. While there are many Angel of Hope statues throughout the world, El Toro's monument is the only one in Southern California.

The service includes special music, poetic readings, and a special speaker. The program always ends with a touching and personal time when families are invited to come forward, speak their child's name, and place white flowers of remembrance at the monument.

Please bring a flashlight and chair. Dress for the weather as the event will take place rain or shine. For more information on the Angel of Hope please visit www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope/.



Honor a Veteran this Holiday Season with Wreaths Across America

**PLEASE JOIN US ON SATURDAY, DEC. 18th at 9:00 a.m.
WREATH CEREMONY & WREATH PLACEMENT
SANTA ANA CEMETERY & EL TORO MEMORIAL PARK**

Wreaths Across America started when a wreath company had a surplus of wreaths and donated them to Arlington Cemetery. Today over 1.5 million wreaths are placed on veteran graves worldwide. Local groups can register with Wreaths Across America to sell the wreaths as a fundraiser.

In 2017 a dedicated troop of American Heritage Girls were the first to sell wreaths for El Toro Memorial Park. Each year they lead a beautiful wreath ceremony at El Toro, and everyone is encouraged to place the wreaths that have been sponsored. Since then, several groups have joined this effort. The Santa Ana Elks Lodge is now coordinating a program at Santa Ana Cemetery and will be holding a wreath ceremony at 9 a.m. as well.

To sponsor wreaths for El Toro Memorial Park or Santa Ana Cemetery, please follow these instructions.

1. For El Toro visit: www.wreathseltoromemorialpark.org
For Santa Ana visit: www.wreathscrossamerica.org/casacc
2. From this page you can sponsor wreaths or volunteer to help place wreaths.
3. If you would like a portion of the proceeds to benefit one of the fundraising groups, scroll down to the bottom of the page to see "Local Groups Supporting Us". El Toro Memorial Park has nine groups who are sponsoring wreaths for the park. Click on the "View Our Groups" and then select the group you want to sponsor through.



The QR Code listed above will also bring you directly to the Wreaths Across America site for El Toro Memorial Park.

Wreaths cost \$15.00 each. **Wreath placements cannot be assigned to specific gravesites and are placed randomly on veteran graves. Also, sponsoring a wreath does not guarantee you will be able to place a wreath.** Most years there are not enough wreaths sponsored to cover every veteran who is interred. When wreath placement begins, if you did not sponsor a wreath, please wait at least ten minutes to allow those who did sponsor a wreath to have an opportunity to place at least one wreath. Wreaths ordered are delivered directly to the cemetery prior to the wreath placement ceremony on December 18th. **The last day to sponsor a wreath is Nov. 30th.**

El Toro's Old Section Road Closure Yields Over 200 New Casket Spaces

In order to increase the inventory of casket space at El Toro Memorial Park, the Board of Trustees approved the road closure between Southeast Section and Old Section at the June 2, 2020 Board Meeting. The Board directed that the road be converted into new lawn and plotted to create as many casket spaces as possible.

That project is now nearing completion. The new lawn is becoming firmly established and just needs a few more mowings before the area can be plotted and mapped by the Cemetery Manager.

There has been a great deal of interest from families wanting to purchase space in this new area. Therefore, we have established a

waiting list and we will be contacting families in late November or early December to schedule appointments to select the spaces they want and make purchases. We will do our best to schedule appointments in the order they appear on our list to ensure that those who have been waiting the longest, have the first appointments.

If you are not currently on the waiting list, but would like to purchase space in this new area, please call the cemetery office at (949) 951-8244, and request to be placed on the list.

Please remember, that due to the dwindling inventory, we are



limiting the number of spaces that Orange County residents may own. That limit is now no more than two double-depth casket spaces per physical Orange County address. If you already own two or more double-depth casket spaces, you may not purchase any more. You may, however, exchange gravesites, provided no burials have occurred in the space(s) you currently own. Since El Toro Memorial Park has no room to expand and to maintain safe traffic flow, these will be the last new casket spaces created.

Don't Forget to Fall Back on Saturday Night, November 6th El Toro Gates Will Close at 5 p.m. Beginning Sunday, November 7th

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 6th. Sunday, November 7th marks the end of Daylight Saving Time and also signals the end of extended visitation hours at El Toro Memorial Park.

We ask that all visitors please be mindful of the gate closing time and be sure to exit the park BEFORE 5:00 p.m. Security makes every effort to make sure the park is clear before locking the gates, but it is possible for visitors to get locked in the park.



All three District Cemeteries will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. El Toro Memorial Park will resume extended visitation hours on Sunday March 13, 2022 with the start of Daylight Saving Time.

Board Chair Marroquin-Waldram Attends CAPC Education Seminar

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 October 8-9, our Board Chair Maribel Marroquin-Waldram attended CAPC's Annual Education Seminar and Area Meeting in San Luis Obispo.

During the conference, she earned a certificate in Governance Foundations. The course focused on developing unity of purpose within the Board, understanding the Board's role in Special District governance, the Trustee's role as a Policy Leader, and creating a strong, positive culture on the Board.

Attorney Mark Velasquez from Best, Best & Krieger also gave a presentation

on whether Trustees should be considered Independent Contractors (1099) or if they are to be treated as employees (W2). Chair Marroquin also completed the required Sexual Harassment Prevention Training that is required of all Trustees and Supervisors every two years.

The conference also allowed attendees to discuss common industry concerns and share solutions.

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

November/December 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 November and December, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, November 2nd at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, December 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.

CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS

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

PLEASE NOTE: El Toro Memorial Park's extended hours will end on Sunday, Nov. 7th and the park will close promptly at 5 p.m.

When Daylight Saving Time resumes on March 13, 2022, El Toro Memorial Park will extend visitation hours to 7:00 p.m.

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

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, please 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 in this regard is greatly appreciated.

Flowers for Halloween, Dia De Los Muertos, and Veterans Day may be placed on Thursday, Oct. 21st and must be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 16th. Flowers for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa may be placed on Thursday, Nov. 18th and must be removed by Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2021 is available on our website at <https://www.occemeterydistrict.com/>. Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

**In Observance of
Veterans Day (Nov. 11),
Thanksgiving (Nov. 25 & 26), and
Christmas (Dec. 24)
All Cemetery Offices will be closed.
Cemetery grounds will be open for visitation
with normal operating hours.**

Our Mission Statement & Values

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

