



MARCH – APRIL 2023

# Orange County Cemetery District

## TRUSTEES

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager



ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

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## Welcome to Our New District Website!

Everything you want to know about the Orange County Cemetery District and the cemeteries we manage is now more accessible than ever! We invite you to explore our new website, which is still at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com).

**QUICK LINKS:** From the home page, click these links to quickly find:

- Upcoming and Recent Interments
- Gravesite Locations
- Cemetery Pricing
- Upcoming Meetings and Agendas
- Board of Trustee Information
- Upcoming Special Events
- Information on Staff
- Current and Past Newsletters

**CEMETERY LINKS:** Do you want information fast on a particular cemetery? Just click these links for directions, hours of operation, pricing, upcoming events, employment opportunities and historical information.

**WHAT ABOUT MY FLOWERS?** Want to know when the next cemetery clean-up is? Just click here.

**BOARD MEETINGS:** Want to know what the Trustees will be discussing? Click here for current agendas and upcoming meetings.

We hope you enjoy our improved website!

Home Our Cemeteries Services & Fees Directions & Hours Flowers, Markers & Rules District Transparency



### District of Distinction

The Orange County Cemetery District was recognized as a District of Distinction by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). This...

**QUICKLINKS**

- DAILY BURIAL SERVICES
- DISTRICT FEES
- MEETINGS & AGENDAS
- BOARD MEMBERS
- EVENTS
- STAFF
- VIEW OUR NEWSLETTERS



### Anaheim Cemetery

Anaheim Cemetery

[READ MORE >](#)



### El Toro Memorial Park

El Toro Memorial Park

[READ MORE >](#)



### Santa Ana Cemetery

Santa Ana Cemetery

Founded 1870

[READ MORE >](#)



### View Our Newsletters

The District is proud to release an informational newsletter which is prepared and posted every other month. The newsletter covers district events, projects and services, along with information...

[READ MORE >](#)



### Flower Removal Schedule

The Orange County Cemetery District has a flower policy which allows for the placement of flowers and decorations on the interment spaces at all three of the District cemeteries. Each Wednesday there...

[READ MORE >](#)



### District Fees

The Orange County Cemetery District has several options available for the interment of Orange County. Please click on the cemetery location below for a list of the current interment space and service...

[READ MORE >](#)

### Board Meetings

[Current Agenda](#)

**FEB 22**  
2023

Board Finance and Investment Committee Meeting  
• Agenda

**MAR 7**  
2023

Board Meeting

## Gravesite Decoration Policy Changes You Need to Know

Since the late 1800's, Anaheim Cemetery, Santa Ana Cemetery, and El Toro Memorial Park, have been sanctuaries of peace for families grieving the loss of their loved ones. Our cemeteries are designed to create park like settings made beautiful by lovely trees and the sweep of green lawns.

But over the years, as the cemeteries have sold out of casket space and have been filled with interments, the amount of gravesite decorations has also exploded – to the point where it has become difficult for staff to efficiently maintain the beauty of the grounds.

Gravesite decorations are always a sensitive topic. We do understand that families are hurting and need a way to express their love for those they have lost. Tending to a grave is one of the last ways a person has to show their devotion and care. By no means do we want to prevent anyone from grieving in this way.

Asking families to limit their graveside decorations is one of the hardest tasks our groundskeepers face. As human beings we see the pain families are struggling with. That is why we are asking for your help and cooperation. Please work with us to ensure that we can maintain the lawns and that our cemeteries can be a refuge for everyone wanting to remember and honor their loved ones.

The changes we are making are significant. That is why we will be educating families over the next three months. **The new rules will go into effect with the full park clean-up scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>, after Mother's Day is over.**

### NEW REGULATIONS

During non-holiday periods, gravesites may **ONLY** be decorated with fresh cut flowers or artificial flowers placed in no more than two in-ground flower vases installed by cemetery staff or in temporary cone vases which are available at the cemetery office. Balloons are allowed if they are securely fastened to vase receptacles.

### ITEMS NO LONGER ALLOWED

The following items may no longer be placed on gravesites: solar or battery powered lights or candles; fencing of any kind; pennants and flags (not including small U.S. flags); pinwheels, shepherd hooks; statues, toys, and stuffed animals.

### OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

The District will relax gravesite decoration rules for the following Federal holidays:

- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

The District will also relax gravesite decoration rules for the following non-Federal Holidays:

- Valentine's Day
- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Halloween & Dia de los Muertos

### WHAT IS ALLOWED DURING OBSERVED HOLIDAYS?

During the holidays listed above, gravesites may be decorated using no more than two in-ground flower vases or temporary cone vases, AND two additional items. The



**When gravesites have multiple items as shown above, mowing and trimming is not possible. Please help us maintain the beauty of our grounds, by following the rules.**

additional items include: **potted plants** (containers should not exceed 12" in width or 10" in height); **planter dishes** (dishes should not exceed 14" in width or 6" in height); and **wreaths**. During Christmas, small Christmas trees are allowed, but cannot exceed 30" in height. Small U.S. Flags will be allowed on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day. All U.S. Flags will be removed on the first Wednesday clean-up following the holiday, regardless of whether it is full park clean up or a light clean up.

During Dia de los Muertos, families are allowed to create ofrendas on gravesites and small items including stuffed animals, toys, pictures, etc will be allowed. However, fencing is prohibited and ofrendas should not impede the ability of staff to mow gravesites. **These regulations are available on our website at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com).**

**We appreciate your cooperation.**



## The Lake Forest City Council Approves \$1,000 for Veterans Wreaths



We are excited to announce that on February 7<sup>th</sup> the Lake Forest City Council voted to approve a \$1,000 donation to benefit El Toro Memorial Park's participation in Wreaths Across America.

On the third Saturday of December at 9 a.m., American Heritage Girls Troop 356 leads a beautiful wreath ceremony and volunteers place fresh, beautiful wreaths on Veteran graves throughout

the park. Our sincere thanks goes to Councilmember Robert Pequeño for bringing this to the Council for consideration, and to the entire Council for voting to approve the donation. With the "buy two – get one free" program at Wreaths Across America, this donation provides 87 wreaths for our 2023 event! Wreaths cost \$17 and can be sponsored all year. For more information, please call the District Office at (949) 951-9102.

## Congratulations to Staff Reaching Milestone Years of Service!

The District would like to recognize the following staff members for reaching milestones in years of service to the District.

Congratulations to Anaheim Cemetery Manager, **Bill Stelter**, who has worked for the District for an impressive 35 years. Not to be outdone, Anaheim Cemetery Groundskeeper **Joseph Campos**, also received an award honoring his 35 years of service. During his employment Mr. Campos has worked at all three cemeteries, with the bulk of his career spent at Santa Ana Cemetery.

Our Irrigation Specialist, **Martin Galvez**, reached 20 years of service. He was hired in 2002 as a Groundskeeper and was promoted to Irrigation Specialist in 2015. In June of 2022, Mr. Galvez suffered a serious injury and is still recovering. We look forward to his return to duty as soon as possible!

El Toro Memorial Park Groundskeeper, **Matthew Lucas** reached his 15-year milestone. During his career with the District Matt has worked at both Santa Ana Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park.



**Bill Stelter** (pictured left) receives his 35-year plaque from General Manager, **Tim Deutsch**.



**Iris Tatro, Diane Fuentes, and Kim Eazell** (left to right), are all smiles with their 5-year awards.

We also have three staff members celebrating their five-year mark. District Secretary, **Iris Tatro**, was hired in September 2017. **Diane Fuentes**, who is a part-time secretary at Santa Ana Cemetery was officially hired in July of 2017. Ms. Fuentes, however, has worked for the District for many years in various roles in a 1099 capacity. El Toro Memorial Park Cemetery Assistant, **Kimberly Eazell** was hired in April 2017. Thank you staff for your hard work and dedication!!

## Extended Visitation Hours Return to El Toro Memorial Park on March 12<sup>th</sup>



Don't forget that Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> marks the start of Daylight Saving Time. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> before bedtime.

This also means the return of extended visitation hours at El Toro Memorial Park. Beginning on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the gates will remain open for visitation until 7:00 p.m. Please help us close the gates each night in a timely manner by planning your visit accordingly.

Be prepared to leave the park before 7:00 p.m. Please do not try to enter the park just before closing time. Extended hours are only available at El Toro Memorial Park. Anaheim Cemetery and Santa Ana Cemetery will continue to close nightly at 5:00 p.m. Thank you!

**ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT**

**March/April 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. Meetings are now being held in person and are open to the public. Members of the public may also attend Board Meetings remotely. Instructions to join remotely are posted on the agendas.

Agendas are available at least 72 hours prior to each meeting and are also posted on our District website at: [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com). In March and April, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 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 full park 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 Persian New Year flowers may be placed on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. In honor of Easter, flowers may be placed on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. During these periods, light clean-up will still occur each Wednesday and only flowers that are obviously wilted will be removed.

Please be advised, during full park clean-ups everything on gravesites are discarded. Please be sure to remove items you do not want discarded before the cemetery closes on Tuesdays.

The 2023 Cemetery Grounds Wednesday Clean-up Calendar is available on our website at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com). Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

**CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS**

**Anaheim Cemetery,  
Santa Ana Cemetery and  
El Toro Memorial Park**  
are open for visitation, seven days a week,  
from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
Starting on Sunday, March 12th,  
El Toro Memorial Park will offer extended  
visitation with gates closing daily at 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

