



**JULY – AUGUST 2023**

# Orange County Cemetery District

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

## Santa Ana Cemetery Welcomes Marriott Volunteers!

On May 10<sup>th</sup> Santa Ana Cemetery welcomed 32 volunteers from the Marriott Corporation who wanted to give back to their community. The volunteers went straight to work and for four hours scrubbed down sections of the cemetery's wrought

iron fence with metal bristle brushes and wash cloths to remove loose paint and dirt. A second group followed by applying a fresh, new coat of paint. A third group, armed with pumice stones and soft cloths focused their efforts on cleaning the

niches that had become stained over time with calcium deposits. The District wishes to thank all the volunteers and the Marriott Corporation for choosing Santa Ana Cemetery for your community service work! Great job everyone!!



Cleaning and Repainting our wrought iron fence!



THANK YOU MARRIOTT VOLUNTEERS!



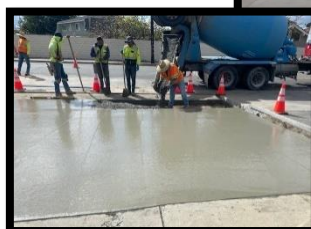
Our niches receive some tender, loving care!

## City of Santa Ana Improvement Project on Santa Clara Avenue

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> the City of Santa Ana began much needed street improvements along Santa Clara Avenue to make it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. The city demolished the old curbs, widened the street to make room for a bike lane, installed new curbs and a gutter, and for the first time, a sidewalk was installed on that side of the street. Not only does this project greatly improve the aesthetics of the street view, it makes accessibility to the park easier and gives greater protection to staff mowing and trimming the grass in front of the cemetery. Thank you City of Santa Ana!



With just the bike lane striping still to be painted, pictured above is the finished project.

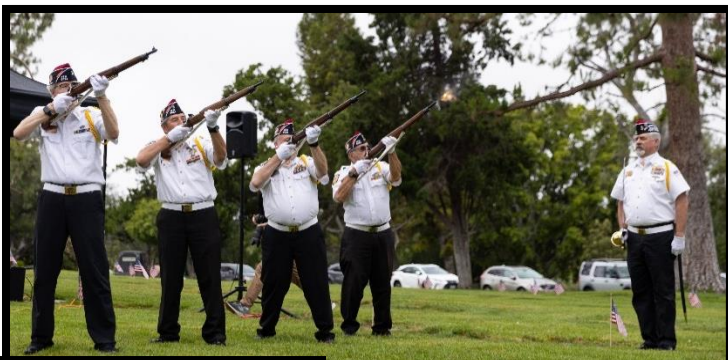


# Many Volunteers Make Our Memorial Day Programs Possible!

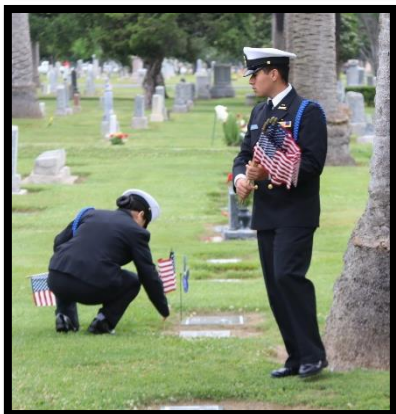
If you: planted a flag on a Veteran's grave; lifted your voice in song; led the Pledge of Allegiance; presented a beautiful wreath; participated in an honor guard rifle or canon salute; gave a speech; put out chairs or set up a stage; played a musical instrument; monitored a sound

system; passed out programs; led a heartfelt prayer; posted our nation's colors; gave a poetic reading; provided water bottles; directed traffic; created a patriotic display; manned a buddy poppy booth; served as host for a program; cooked food for a post-program

barbeque; stayed behind to clean up; or simply took time out of your day to attend one of our programs... **THANK YOU!** Together, your actions send a vital message of encouragement to our Veterans that they matter and they will always be honored and remembered!



**Thank You Veterans!**  
Your service and sacrifice to protect our liberty will never be forgotten!



## New Prices Take Effect July 13<sup>th</sup> with Board Approval of Budget

Every spring the Board of Trustees approves a new budget for the upcoming fiscal year. A part of this process is a review of the District's Master Fee Schedule. At the June 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, the Board approved a 5% increase on interment space prices and a \$50

increase on all Endowment Care Fees. There are also increases to the cost of interment services, which are based on several factors including labor costs, benefit percentages, the District's Overhead Rate and the Consumer Price Index.

The Board and staff make every effort to keep prices as low as possible for families while still maintaining the beautiful grounds. These new rates will go into effect on July 13<sup>th</sup>. New price lists are available at the cemetery offices and at: [www.occemeterdistrict.com](http://www.occemeterdistrict.com).

## Temporary Vases Now Easy to Find at El Toro Memorial Park

If you have an in-ground flower vase, at one time or another you have probably arrived at the park with flowers to place, only to find that your in-ground vase is either completely covered by grass or hopelessly stuck.

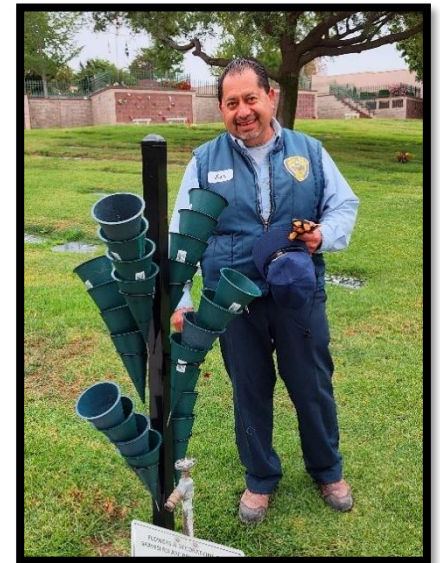
Staff at El Toro are aware of the problem, but with the number of burials occurring, coupled with the thousands of in-ground vases to be maintained, it is an unfortunate fact that vases can get overgrown. Cemetery Manager Bud Bales, was brooding over this problem, when it occurred to him that perhaps a solution might be to make temporary vases more accessible to families.

For years, the District has offered temporary vases for families to use who either did not order an in-ground vase, or the vase they purchased has not been installed yet because a gravestone has not arrived. These

vases are available in the office. But this was no help for families visiting on a weekend when the office is closed, plus many people don't know vases are even available at the office.

That's when Mr. Bales envisioned a stand that would be easily recognizable and hold multiple vases for public use. With a little imagination, he came up with a design and with the help of Leadworker, Juan Lopez Bautista they built the first prototype. Now staff are busy building 20 of these vase stands at a cost of only \$67 per stand. The vase "trees" will be planted next to each water spicket in the park.

If you have an in-ground vase, and it has been a while since your last visit, please call El Toro's office at least a week ahead of your visit. You can request maintenance to ensure that your vase will be ready for use upon your arrival. And for all those still



**Leadworker, Juan Lopez Bautista with the first vase "tree" installed in our Los Alisos Lawn.**

needing a vase, temporary cone vases are now on the grounds and easy to find! **Please take no more than two vases per gravesite. We appreciate your cooperation!**

## Santa Ana Section Marking and Speed Bump Painting Complete

Staff at Santa Ana Cemetery have been busy painting new section identifiers on the streets to make it easier for visitors to locate gravesites. They have also been repainting the speed bumps to improve visibility, as well as to clearly mark the handicap parking stalls that are located across from the cemetery office building.

New red curbs have also been painted at every intersection in the park. The red curbs extend out eight feet from each intersection and are meant to discourage visitors from parking right on the corners. When this occurs, other vehicles cannot turn and drivers become stuck. This is frustrating for everyone. Please abide by the red curbs and help keep traffic flowing smoothly in the cemetery. Thank you Santa Ana staff for all your hard work!!



**ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT**

**July/August 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 July and August, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**  
(July's Meeting is a week later due to July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday)
- **Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</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 Thursday morning. 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 Independence Day, flowers may be placed on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, July 18<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. Beginning July 19<sup>th</sup> there will be full park clean-ups every Wednesday through August 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 and Santa Ana Cemetery**  
are open for visitation, seven days a week,  
from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**El Toro Memorial Park**  
Is open for visitation, seven days a week,  
from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Cemetery 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

