



**NOV. – DEC. 2022**

# Orange County Cemetery District

## TRUSTEES

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

25751 Trabuco Road  
Lake Forest, CA 92630  
(949) 951-9102 – Phone  
(949) 951-0236 - Fax  
[www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com)  
Tim Deutsch, General Manager

## Help Us Honor Our Veterans at El Toro Memorial Park's Veterans Day Program: Friday November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

### The meaning of Veterans Day

On November 11, 1918 at 5:00 a.m. an Armistice was signed that went into effect six hours later at 11:00 a.m., officially ending World War I. This global conflict was fought by 65 million men. Of those soldiers, 8.5 million lost their lives and another 21 million were wounded.

In 1919, President Wilson commemorated the first Armistice Day to honor the Veterans of World War I with parades and remembrances as well as a pause in activities at 11 a.m. In 1938, it was made a legal federal holiday.

But with the advent of World War II and then the Korean War, in 1954 the holiday was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, so that Veterans of all conflicts could be honored.

Veterans Day is a day, not only to remember those who died in service to our country, but to honor those who continue to serve today. As you enjoy the pageantry and patriotism on display this Veterans Day, be sure to truly observe the holiday by thanking each Veteran you see for keeping us safe and free!

### Join Us on Nov.11 at 11:00 a.m.

Please make plans to attend our 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program to be held at El Toro Memorial Park on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The program is attended by many Veterans and is a wonderful opportunity to express your gratitude and appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker will be Retired U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and Lake Forest Mayor, Robert Pequeño (pictured right). Mayor Pequeño served in the U.S. Marine Corps for over 21 years. He first enlisted in June 1983 and by 1999 he had achieved the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. In January 2003, he was deployed for a second time to Kuwait and was the Acting Sergeant Major for the Advance Party. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Operation Iraqi Freedom began. He returned to the U.S. in November 2003 and retired from service in August 2004.

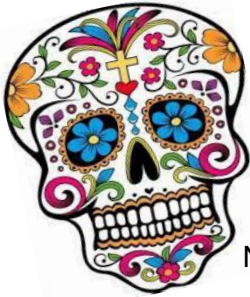
After leaving the Marine Corps, Mayor Pequeño served with the Orange County Sheriff's Depart-



ment as the first-ever Homeless Liaison Officer, bringing innovative solutions to homelessness right here in Lake Forest. He retired from the Sheriff's Department in March of 2020 as a Sergeant and was elected to the Lake Forest City Council in November 2020.

Our program will also include special musical performances by vocalist, John Huntington, and bagpiper Richard Cook will play "Amazing Grace". VFW Post 6024 will provide an Honor Guard Firing Salute and representatives from local cities will present wreaths. Our free program will take place rain or shine. We hope to see you there!

## Enjoy Free Dia de los Muertos Treats at All District Cemeteries! Wednesday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3 p.m. - While Supplies Last



Make plans now to visit Anaheim Cemetery, Santa Ana Cemetery or El Toro Memorial Park, on Wed., Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

In honor of Dia de los Muertos, staff from each cemetery will be passing out free small bouquets of marigolds, free Pan de Muertos, and free craft kits for children to enjoy. The event will go until supplies run out.

Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a two-day holiday that reunites the living and the dead. It is not a Mexican version of Halloween, as is sometimes thought. Rather, it is a time when families remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones who

have passed. Families create ofrendas or offerings to honor their departed family members. Often families will set up ofrendas at home or on a loved one's gravesite.

Families are welcome to build ofrendas on the gravesites of their loved ones at our three cemeteries. Ofrendas should not encroach on neighboring graves and may be constructed beginning on Thursday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Any items remaining on gravesites on Wed. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> will be discarded. Please keep in mind that nothing of great monetary or sentimental value should be left on the gravesite unattended as staff cannot secure these items. Also, due to safety concerns, candles with real flame are prohibited.



**A gravesite Ofrenda (above)  
Dia de los Muertos "To Go" at  
Anaheim Cemetery in 2021**

## Cover a Veteran's Grave with a Wreath for the Holidays!

Please help us make sure as many Veterans as possible are honored and remembered with the placement of a wreath this holiday season.

To sponsor wreaths for El Toro Memorial Park or Santa Ana Cemetery, please visit Wreaths Across America at the following links:

**For El Toro Memorial Park visit:**  
[www.wreathseltoromemorialpark.org](http://www.wreathseltoromemorialpark.org)

**For Santa Ana Cemetery visit:**  
[www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/casacc](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/casacc)

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". Click on the "View Our Groups" and select the group you want to support.

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. Wreaths ordered are delivered directly to the cemetery prior to the wreath placement ceremony.

Ceremonies will be held at both Santa Ana Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park on Saturday morning, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. The Santa Ana Elks Lodge will lead Santa Ana Cemetery's ceremony.



American Heritage Girls Troop 356 will lead El Toro Memorial Park's Program.

After the ceremony is over, volunteers place the sponsored wreaths on military gravesites. **The last day to sponsor a wreath is Monday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>.**

All sponsorships are appreciated!



## Annual Angel of Hope Candlelight Service – Tues., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



The Angel of Hope Statue at El Toro Memorial Park, enveloped in flowers the morning after the annual candlelight memorial service.

Twenty years ago, on September 28, 2002 the Angel of Hope Statue, pictured left, was dedicated at El Toro Memorial Park. Written on the granite base are the words, “Angel of Hope, Our children loved, missed and remembered.” Bricks adorn her base inscribed with the names of children who have not been forgotten.

Every year on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., a candlelight memorial service is held for those who have lost a child of any age. The service provides parents, family members and friends an opportunity to share their grief and remember these children who have left our lives too soon.

The program includes guest speakers, poetic readings, beautiful music, and a



moving flower tribute. Each person attending can take a white flower and is given the opportunity to speak their loved one’s name and place their flower at the Angel of Hope Statue.

The event takes place rain or shine and attendees should bring their own chairs and flashlights. Free candles and flowers are provided.

## Extended Visitation Hours at El Toro Memorial Park Ends on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour with the end of Daylight Saving Time.

This also marks the end of extended visitation hours at El Toro Memorial Park. Beginning on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, El Toro Memorial Park will close at 5:00 p.m. These hours will remain in effect until Daylight Saving Time resumes on Sunday, March 12, 2023.

We ask that you please be mindful of this time change and help our security personnel by planning your visits so that you are leaving the park at or before 5:00 p.m. Please do not try to enter the park just before closing time, as this makes it very difficult for our security company to close the gates in a timely and efficient manner.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



## Join Us for a Tour of Anaheim Cemetery – Saturday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

You are invited to take a tour of Orange County’s oldest public cemetery led by Orange County Cemetery District Trustee and Anaheim Historian, Cynthia Ward.

and walk among the Dawn Redwoods that mark the graves of Chinese pioneers.

**TOUR SPACE IS LIMITED!**

As you stroll the grounds you will discover the origins of Anaheim and the pioneers who helped to establish this community. See the oldest public mausoleum on the West Coast, visit the private mausoleums of founding families,

The tour is open to all but space is limited. **Please RSVP by calling (714) 904-6725.** A suggested donation of \$10 per person is greatly appreciated. This tour is brought to you by the Anaheim Historical Society.



The historic Pioneer Memorial Archway was once the grand entrance to the cemetery grounds.

## 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](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com). In November and December, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, December 6<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.

## 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. Extended hours from  
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. are ending on Sunday,  
Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Starting on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, El Toro  
Memorial Park will close daily at 5:00 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  
Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> (Veterans Day), Nov. 24-25<sup>th</sup>  
(Thanksgiving), and Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> (Christmas).**

*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

## 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 note: For Day of the Dead, the two-item limit will be relaxed from Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> to allow families to build gravesite ofrendas.** 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 Halloween and Dia De Los Muertos, flowers may be placed on Thursday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. In honor of Thanksgiving and Christmas, flowers may be placed on Thursday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</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 2022 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.

