



Orange County Cemetery District

TRUSTEES

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Kelly Rivers, Vice Chair
Leslie Keane
Vivien Owen
Cynthia Ward

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

JAN. – FEB. 2017

Angel of Hope Candlelight Service held Tuesday – Dec. 6th

For the fifteenth consecutive year families and friends gathered at the Angel of Hope monument at El Toro Memorial Park on Dec. 6 for a Candlelight Memorial Service to honor their deceased children. The service drew more than four hundred participants to Lake Forest this year.

Sponsored by the Angel of Hope Committee of the Guild for Infant Survival of Orange County, the event pays tribute to children deceased at any age, from any cause. During the service, attendees held candles, placed white flowers at the Angel's feet, and spoke the name of their deceased child into a microphone for all to hear. The ceremony included David and Jenny Lockwood singing "You Raise Me Up," "Be Still My Soul," and "Amazing Grace," and an inspirational reading titled "Love, Hope and Strength" written and read by Jason Devor. Julieanne Papa, a mother who recently lost a young daughter, shared her experiences in the evening's featured presentation, "A Message of Hope." Another of Ms. Papa's children, daughter Kylie, read two of her original poems, "Endless Love" and "My Sweet Angel."

The Angel of Hope was inspired by *The Christmas Box*, Richard Paul Evans' bestselling novel about a mother who mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. The monument in the fictional story actually existed in a Utah cemetery, but was destroyed by a flood in 1984. When he heard reports of parents who were seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal, Evans commissioned a new angel monument that was dedicated in 1994 on December 6 – the date on which the child in



Evans' book had passed away. The new monument was modeled after the description given of it in *The Christmas Box*.

Dedicated on September 28, 2002, the Angel of Hope at El Toro Memorial Park became one of the first of what are now well over one hundred copies of the original monument that reside in cemeteries and other public places in Canada, Japan, and thirty-nine US states.

The 2017 Orange County Cemetery District Board of Trustees

At the December 6, 2016 Board Meeting, the Trustees elected the new Board Chair and Vice Chair for the 2017 calendar year. Trustees are appointed by the Orange County Supervisors to serve four-year terms and may serve multiple terms. A Trustee's primary function is to set policy, define goals, and adopt rules and regulations.

Your 2017 Board of Trustees are as follows:

Chair, William Nelson, Dist. 3 – Service began 7/22/03
Vice Chair, Kelly Rivers, Dist. 2 – Service began 1/26/16
Vivien Owen, Dist. 1 – Service began 2/7/89
Cynthia Ward, Dist. 4 – Service began 11/9/10
Leslie Keane, Dist. 5 – Service began 3/27/01

Inaugural Dia De Los Muertos Celebration – A New Tradition

In November 2015, Trustee Cynthia Ward was visiting with a dozen people who had come to Anaheim Cemetery to erect ofrendas at the gravesites of family members for Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). That visit revealed interest in a formal Dia de los Muertos observance at the Cemetery. Cynthia shared the idea with District staff and fellow Board Members, and planning began on a new OCCD tradition.

That tradition began at 4:00 PM on Nov. 2, 2016 as over two hundred people gathered at the Cemetery for the first annual Dia de los Muertos celebration. The free event was a flurry of activity as attendees built ofrendas, enjoyed Pan de Muertos and skull sugar cookies, admired displays of Dia de los Muertos artwork by Anaheim artist Chris Maya, picked up marigolds to decorate gravesites, and watched their children color Day of the Dead masks.

At 5:00 PM Anaheim mariachi legend, Gabriel Zavala, served as Master of Ceremonies and introduced Father Arturo Ferreras of St. Matthew Church in Orange who conducted a brief memorial service in honor of deceased family members. Next came the entertainment. Ballet Folklorico Donaji delighted the audience with a number of traditional dances performed by talented artists ages 3 to



25. The RHYTHMO Mariachi Kids followed with a lively set of musical selections complemented by young vocalists. The group included students at Zavala's mariachi academy in Anaheim, as well as several adults and Zavala himself. Every seat was taken as the crowd regularly responded with hearty applause as the two groups took turns entertaining for two hours.

Even before the celebration concluded, attendees were seeking out District staff to pronounce the event a success and inquire about helping to plan a second annual celebration at the Cemetery for 2017. We can't wait to do it again next year!

28th Annual Veterans Day Program Held at El Toro



**Keynote Speaker -
Doug Milliken**

El Toro Memorial Park hosted the 28th annual Veteran's Day observance at "the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month" (November 11 at 11:00 a.m.). Many veterans of military service dating back to the Civil War are interred at El Toro, and hundreds of flags adorning interment sites throughout the park greeted visitors arriving for the ceremony. More than one hundred veterans and their families attended the observance,

representing service in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Milliken, author of "Testimony of the Protected." U. S. Representative Mimi Walters (R-CA) spoke about the government's commitment to veterans, and noted Orange County singer John Huntington performed the "Star Spangled Banner," "America the Beautiful" and a stirring vocal rendition of "Taps."

Wreaths were presented by the cities of Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills and Lake Forest, and the program also included recognition of the veterans in the audience who served in each of the conflicts in which America has been involved since the 1940's. Two veterans of World War II were in attendance. The VFW Post 624 Rifle Team provided an Honor Guard Firing Salute, and a POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony Table and its contents were shared with the audience by Judy Deeter, a past president of the Mission Viejo Chapter of the DAR. The table was highlighted by a single empty chair representing veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice and are therefore unable to attend the Observance.

This year's Veteran's Day Observance was dedicated to Vietnam veteran Christopher W. Carlson of the U.S. Air Force, who passed away earlier this year. Mr. Carlson was 2nd Vice Commander of American Legion Post 862.

Planned jointly by American Legion Post 862, VFW Post 624, the Mission Viejo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Orange County Cemetery District, the observance featured a keynote address titled "The Faces of Freedom" by highly decorated Vietnam veteran Doug



Meet Lead Worker - Tony Gallegos

If you have visited the office at Santa Ana Cemetery within the last six years, chances are you have already met Leadworker Tony Gallegos. As Leadworker, Tony not only supervises the groundskeeping team at Santa Ana Cemetery, he also works in the office assisting families as they purchase space and make arrangements for their loved ones. Tony is a true asset to the Orange County Cemetery District and extremely knowledgeable and experienced, having worked at Fairhaven Memorial Park even before he was hired on with the District. When asked what he likes best about his job, Tony said two things: first, helping people; and second, working with such a great group of guys. Lucky for us, Tony plans on staying with the District until he retires.

A California native, Tony grew up in Orange and graduated from Orange High School. He enjoys riding bicycles, going camping and spending time with his two children, Christopher who is sixteen, and Madison who is eight.

Santa Ana Lead Worker – Tony Gallegos

Santa Ana Cemetery: Home to Key Pioneers in OC History

On Saturday, Oct. 22, the Orange County Cemetery District participated in the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society's 19th annual Historical Cemetery Tour. The theme for this year's tour was "The Way We Learned: A History of Education in Orange County." Spotlighting a few of the historic Orange County personalities interred in the District's Santa Ana Cemetery, student actors from the Orange County School of the Arts, in period costumes, performed scenes from the lives of those historic personalities near their gravesites.

Clara Mason Fox, who came to Orange County in the 1880's and became the first teacher in the Silverado Canyon, was featured in a scene titled "The Spelling Bees of Silverado Canyon." The scene recounted the day that Clara's class, in the midst of a spelling lesson, was invaded by the residents of a nearby hive of angry bees. Clara Mason Fox passed away in 1959 at the age of 86 and today rests in Section F of Santa Ana Cemetery.

The second scene was titled "Saturdays at the Stephenson's" and gave a peak at one of the Saturday afternoon current events discussions regularly hosted by Terry Stephenson and his wife Cora in the early 1930's in the parlor of their home on North Broadway in Santa Ana. Stephenson was the editor and part-owner of the Santa Ana *Register* and loved to host lively debates among his neighbors on hot topics of the day. One of his guests in this scene was future Orange County Recorder J. Wylie Carlyle, who passed away at age 69 in 1980 and is interred in Section I of Santa Ana Cemetery. Terry Stephenson passed away in 1943 at age 63 and rests with his wife in Lawn P of neighboring Fairhaven Memorial Park.



Student actors portray Clara Mason Fox and her class in one of three scenes at Santa Ana Cemetery.

The remaining scene acted out in Santa Ana Cemetery, "Education of Dr. Willella," told the story of one of Orange County's first woman doctors, Willella Howe-Waffle, and the challenges she faced in getting her medical education in far-off Chicago while caring for the baby daughter she brought with her from Santa Ana. She recounted several stories of the difficulties she encountered in becoming a woman doctor in a male-dominated profession in the mid 1880's. Although Dr. Howe-Waffle is not interred in the Santa Ana Cemetery, she lived in Santa Ana and her medical practice travels took her near the cemetery on numerous occasions.

Around 500 people attended the Tour, which also included six scenes acted out in neighboring Fairhaven Cemetery.

Flower Removal and Holiday Schedule

Every Wednesday, groundskeepers remove flowers throughout all three cemeteries. Living plants in approved containers or planter dishes and other non-perishable items placed on graves will be taken to the pick-up locations near the maintenance yards at each cemetery and held for a reasonable amount of time. Unless claimed, they will be disposed of.

Families are encouraged to remove their flowers or decorations on Tuesdays; you can then place the flowers back on the space on Wednesday afternoon.

The District does allow for flowers and decorations to be left on the spaces during holidays/events or for special occasions, such as anniversaries, birthdays and for new interments. Please come to the cemetery office and let us know that you have a special occasion and request that the flowers and decorations be left on the space. 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 in this regard is greatly appreciated.

In honor of Valentines Day, flowers and decorations may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, February 2nd until Tuesday, February 21st.



A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2017 is available on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. Click on the tab for Rules, Regulations and Flowers for more information.

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

January and February 2017 Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees for the Orange County Cemetery District holds regular meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 11:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 25751 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630. The public is welcome to attend.

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

- ❖ **Tuesday, January 3rd at 11:00 a.m.**
- ❖ **Tuesday, February 7th at 11:00 a.m.**

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

All Cemetery Offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

CHRISTMAS
Monday, December 26th

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Monday, January 2nd

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
Monday, January 16th

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
Monday, February 13th

PRESIDENT'S DAY
Monday, February 20th

Our Mission Statement and Core 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

