



*NOV. – DEC. 2017*

# Orange County Cemetery District

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dia De Los Muertos Celebration at Anaheim Cemetery

Please join us at Anaheim Cemetery on Thursday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Dia de los Muertos celebration.

This free program will begin with a short Dia de los Muertos blessing honoring deceased family members. Father Arturo Ferreras of St. Matthew Ecumenical Church will lead the service.

Following the blessing, attendees will be entertained as Mariachi marvel Sean Oliu and Ballet Folklorico Donaji take turns performing. Sean Oliu is a gifted mariachi performer who is also the founder of “Kids Giving Back,” a nonprofit organization that has raised thousands of dollars to support orchestra programs in Anaheim schools. Ballet Folklorico Donaji is also a nonprofit group founded by parent volunteers who wanted to provide children and teens with positive cultural activities. Dancers range in age from 4 to 21 and will perform a variety of traditional Mexican dances.



### Free While Supplies Last:

- Guests can enjoy free refreshments, desserts, and Pan de Muerto prepared by a local Anaheim Mexican bakery.
- Free small bouquets of marigolds to decorate gravesites.
- Craft station where children can color their own free Day of the Dead skull masks.

Please be advised that, due to limited parking and safety concerns, no vehicles will be allowed in the cemetery after 4 p.m. Please use street parking near the cemetery.

### What is Dia de los Muertos?

Originating in Mexico, Day of the Dead is a festive holiday spread over Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate and remember departed loved ones. The holiday is not connected to Halloween, nor is it intended to trivialize the grief that death brings, but rather to remember with joy those who have passed away. Traditions commonly associated with the holiday include the construction of private altars called ofrendas, honoring the deceased using sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these gifts. Gatherings at gravesites become festive, family reunion picnics – with the dead invited. Food, drink, music, flowers and even dancing can be a part of the celebration.



**Ofrendas welcome!** An important tradition associated with Day of the Dead is the creation of ofrendas, beautiful displays meant to remember and honor the memory of loved ones. Ofrendas may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> and should be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. Candles with real flame are prohibited and you should not leave items of value unattended.

## El Toro Memorial Park to Honor Veterans at 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Observance – Saturday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

The Commander of the Southern California Recruiting Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Troy Alexander, will be the keynote speaker at the 2017 Veterans Day Observance to take place at El Toro Memorial Park in Lake Forest on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. His address is on a very timely topic and is titled, "Leadership in Complex Times."

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander entered active duty in 1998 and his career has taken him to assignments across the United States as well as The Sinai, Egypt; Baghdad, Iraq; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and Stuttgart, Germany. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and a post-graduate certificate in international relations from California State University, San Bernardino and a Master of Arts degree in human resource management from Webster University in St. Louis. Among his many military awards and decorations are the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He has also earned the Expert Infantryman's Badge and the Parachutist Badge.



The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend to show their support and gratitude to all veterans. In addition to Alexander's address, the ceremony includes: a wreath presentation by representatives of surrounding communities; an honor guard firing salute provided by VFW Edward J. Kearns Post 6024; and a historical display by American Legion Post 862. Noted Orange County singer and stage actor John Huntington will provide choral music selections. The poignant refrains of "Amazing Grace" will be played on bagpipes and Life Scout, Noah Boihem, with Boy Scout Troop 636 will play "Taps" on the bugle.

## Angel of Hope Candlelight Vigil - Wed, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at El Toro Memorial Park

Please join us as we come together as friends and parents to remember our children on the 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Angel of Hope Candlelight Vigil at El Toro Memorial Park on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The Angel of Hope monument, located in the children's section of El Toro Memorial Park, is a place for grieving parents to gather who have lost a child of any age, for any reason. At the candlelight vigil, parents, relatives, and friends gather around the base of the Angel of Hope monument, lay white flowers and mementos at her feet and, most importantly, speak their child's name. For many, this is the most important aspect of the evening. The program also includes guest speakers, inspirational readings, and special music.

**Please bring a flashlight and a chair for use at the ceremony. Candles and flowers are provided free of charge. Please dress appropriately for the weather. The vigil will take place rain or shine.**

For more information on the Angel of Hope Monument and the annual memorial service, please visit: [www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope](http://www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope).

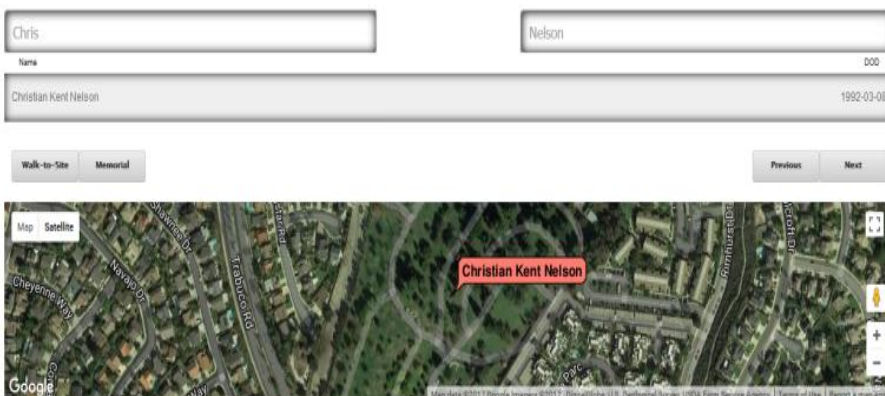


## Introducing “Walk-to-Site” – Gravesite Location

If you are looking for an easier way to locate a gravesite at any of the three District Cemeteries, try using our new “Walk-to-Site” feature on your smart phone or mobile device. Here’s how:

1) On your smart phone or mobile device, go online to our District website at: [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com).

2) Scroll down until you see:



Search here for gravesites and services:



Anaheim - [Desktop Version](#) | [Mobile Version](#)  
 El Toro - [Desktop Version](#) | [Mobile Version](#)  
 Santa Ana - [Desktop Version](#) | [Mobile Version](#)

- 3) Click “Mobile Version” for the cemetery where the gravesite is located.
- 4) Scroll down and you will see search fields (pictured above right) where you can enter the first and last name of the loved one you are searching for. Their name will populate on the 2<sup>nd</sup> row and the location will show on the aerial map.

In the above example, the feature is locating the gravesite of Christian Kent Nelson.

- 5) You can click on either the name that populated or the “Walk-to-Site” button and it will take you to a map. The red pin is the location of the gravesite. The blue pin is your mobile device. As you drive or walk closer to the gravesite, you will see the blue pin on the map get closer to the gravesite. The “Walk-to-Site” feature typically gets users within ten feet of the gravesite.

Please note, we are still testing this feature and have found some mapping issues that prevent some interment records from appearing. If your loved one’s name does not populate, please contact the District office at (949) 951-9102 so we can work to resolve any issues. Thank you!

## CAPC Members Tour Whited Cemetery Service & Miller-Jones Mortuary at September Local Area Meeting

The California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) strives to be a resource of education and shared information for those concerned with and interested in the operation of public cemeteries. Periodically the association sponsors Local Area Meetings where attendees visit a member cemetery to learn how that cemetery operates and to discuss topics of interest and concern for the benefit of all members.

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, approximately 50 CAPC members, including El Toro Memorial Park Cemetery Manager Bud Bales and General Manager Tim Deutsch, traveled to Menifee for tours of Whited Cemetery Service and Miller-Jones Mortuary. Freddie Sannipoli led the Whited Cemetery Service tour, where they manufacture burial vaults, liners and crypts. Jaeger Jones of Miller-Jones Mortuary then led the group on a tour of their facility, educating the group on procedures and processes that take place at a funeral home. Since public cemeteries are not legally allowed to provide mortuary services, this was the first time many participants had seen a crematorium



and learned first-hand about the work of their mortuary industry partners. Miller-Jones then hosted a lunch and the group discussed several topics including leave policies, public cemetery law, and the Brown Act. Members also participated in a question and answer session where they discussed recent concerns and shared feedback with one another.

## The Orange County Cemetery District is Dedicated to Excellence

The Orange County Cemetery District is committed to the ethical and responsible management of Orange County's public cemeteries for the benefit of Orange County residents. That is why the District is a member of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), which exists to provide legislative advocacy, education and member services for all special districts. A part of CSDA is the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF), a nonprofit organization formed in 1999 to foster excellence in local government. SDLF has designed and implemented the following programs:

- Special District Administrator Certification:** To obtain this certification, candidates must complete a two hour exam that covers all key aspects of special district administration, including governance, legal requirements, policy development, ethics, strategic planning, public & customer relations, organization, budget & finance, personnel and supervision, and more.
- Recognition in Special District Governance:** This program requires board members and trustees to complete four courses that cover Governance Foundations, Setting Direction and Community Leadership, the Board's role in Human Resources, and the Board's role in Finance and Fiscal Accountability. In addition, they must complete ten hours of continuing education.
- District of Transparency Certificate of Excellence:** This certificate demonstrates a district's commitment to being open and accessible to the public they serve. Districts must meet basic transparency requirements including: website posting requirements; public outreach requirements; and policies that ensure adherence to the Brown Act; Public Records Act; disclosure of board member/employee reimbursement, etc.
- District of Distinction Accreditation:** This accreditation demonstrates to constituents that the district has sound fiscal management policies and practices in place among other areas of importance in district operations. To receive this recognition districts must undergo regular financial audits that have no major deficiencies; demonstrate that their operations conform to all statutes and regulations under state law as reflected in a policies and procedures manual; all trustees, the general manager, and executive staff must complete the required governance, ethics and sexual harassment prevention training; and the District must have completed SDLF's District Transparency Certificate of Excellence.

We are pleased to report that the Orange County Cemetery District has achieved all of these recognitions.

The District's General Manager, Tim Deutsch, not only holds the Special District Administrator Certification, but recently participated on the panel that reviews the exam to ensure test questions are timely and appropriate. He also regularly participates as a presenter in CSDA's training seminar, "So You Want to be a General Manager."

Every Trustee on the Board and the General Manager has completed the program for Recognition in Special District Governance. In addition, the District was just recognized by CSDA for renewing its District of Transparency Certificate of Excellence at the most recent CSDA Annual Conference which was held in Monterey in September. This Certificate of Transparency will stay in effect until September of 2019. The Orange County Cemetery District will also be renewing its District of Distinction Accreditation which will also extend to 2019. For more information on the California Special Districts Association, you can visit their website at [www.csda.net](http://www.csda.net).

## California Association of Public Cemeteries Holds Area Meeting

The California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) held its Annual Education Seminar and Area Meeting in Sacramento on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Board Chair Bill Nelson, Board Vice Chair Kelly Rivers, Anaheim Cemetery Manager Bill Stelter and Santa Ana Cemetery Manager Julio Amarillas all attended.

The conference featured: breakout discussion groups where trustees, managers and secretaries shared

common concerns and explored solutions; a legislative update by CSDA; a seminar on the Basics of LAFCO and its impact on public cemetery districts, and a session on understanding Senate Bill 1179 which deals with interment rights for public cemetery districts. The conference also offered a full day of training through CSDA, focusing on the board's role in setting long-term direction and educating the public on the purpose and mission of their cemetery district.

## New Interment Spaces Available Soon at Santa Ana & Anaheim

### NEW NICHE AVAILABLE SOON

Work is nearing completion on the new niche features at both Santa Ana and Anaheim Cemeteries. Pictured left is the new covered niche area at Santa Ana Cemetery located directly across from the office, which will provide 420 new niches. The Anaheim project, located adjacent to the existing niche wall next to the Community Mausoleum, will create an additional 240 niches. We anticipate full project completion before Thanksgiving.

The project will be presented to the Board for their acceptance at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Upon Board acceptance of the project, niches will be available for sale at the current cemetery rate beginning on December 6<sup>th</sup>.



### SANTA ANA ROAD CLOSURE CREATES NEW CASKET SPACES

Over the summer, Santa Ana Cemetery staff demolished the road between Section L and Section G, removed the asphalt, reset sprinkler lines, and planted new lawn. The work will result in the creation of 138 new full casket double-depth spaces which will be available for purchase beginning on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Prices for these spaces will remain in line with current fees.

## El Toro Memorial Park Included on CSDA Legislative Tour

The Orange County Cemetery District was the second stop on a Legislative Tour organized by the California Special Districts Association to educate legislative staffers on the purpose and function of various special districts in Orange County.

Representatives from the offices of Assemblymen Travis Allen, Bill Brough, Steven Choi, Matt Harper, Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, Senators John Moorlach and Tony Mendoza and Congressman Darryl Issa were all in attendance.



### General Manager Tim Deutsch leads legislative staffers on a tour of the grounds at El Toro Memorial Park.

The tour began in the morning with a stop at the Orange County Water District and then proceeded to El Toro Memorial Park, where our District hosted a boxed lunch. General Manager Tim Deutsch gave a brief history of the District and answered questions about the District's operations, budget and finances, the three properties currently managed by

the District, space availability, and the pressing need for land to develop a fourth public cemetery. Following lunch, General Manager Deutsch led the group on a tour of the grounds explaining more about the daily operations and unique features such as the Garden of

Innocence and the Angel of Hope monument. The tour concluded with a stop at Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control. Our thanks to CSDA for organizing the tour and to all of the legislative staffers who took the time to visit and learn more about special districts.

## 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 Tuesday night; 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 Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Day, flowers may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**



A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2017 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.

## ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

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

- ❖ **Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**
- ❖ **Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### The offices at Anaheim Cemetery, Santa Ana Cemetery, and El Toro Memorial Park will be closed on:

November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
**Thanksgiving**

December 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Christmas**

January 1<sup>st</sup>  
**New Year's Day**

**All offices are also closed on the weekends.**

## 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

