



NOV. – DEC. 2018

Orange County Cemetery District

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

Honor Our Veterans on Sunday, Nov. 11th at 11:00 a.m. at El Toro Memorial Park's 30th Annual Veterans Day Program

According to Dictionary.com a “patriot” is a person who loves, supports, and defends his or her country and its interests with devotion. There is no better illustration of the term “patriot” than the Veteran. Veterans are the living embodiment of loyalty and commitment to country, regardless of the cost. On Sunday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m., El Toro Memorial Park will be holding its 30th Annual Veterans Day Observance to pay tribute to these heroes. We owe them a debt of gratitude, for it is through their sacrifice that we enjoy a life of freedom and liberty that is often taken for granted.

The program’s Keynote Speaker, Mr. Yoshio Nakamura, gives us a compelling example of almost unbelievable patriotism, courage, and grace. Even though he was born in the United States, at the age of 18, Mr. Nakamura found himself and his family forced from their El Monte farm and relocated to an interment camp in Gila River, Arizona by the United States Government. Then, an Army Recruiter traveled to the internment camp looking for volunteers to sign up for service in World War II, and Mr. Nakamura said, “Yes!” To meet this inspirational veteran and hear his whole story, you’ll need to come to the program.

This year also marks the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day and the end of World War I. Frank Cook with the American Legion Post 862, will have a WWI Patriotic Historical Display and will give a brief talk on the War to End All Wars.

The program will also include combined color guards, special music by local area vocalist, Mr. John Huntington, a wreath laying ceremony by council members from the surrounding cities, a POW/MIA Remembrance Table, a bagpipe performance of “Amazing Grace”, and “Taps” will be performed by a bugler. VFW Edward J. Kearns Post 6024 will also be providing an Honor Guard Firing Salute.



Yoshio Nakamura will be the keynote speaker at El Toro Memorial Park's Veterans Day Observance. Mr. Nakamura enlisted in the U.S. Army, despite being placed into an interment camp in Gila River, Arizona. He served with 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II.

Photo by Keith Durflinger for Southern California News Group (SCNG), Published 6/24/18, Whittier Daily News

In honor of our 30th Anniversary, we are also welcoming back Judy Deeter to serve as the program’s Mistress of Ceremonies. Mrs. Deeter, along with former General Manager Sam Randall, are largely responsible for the genesis of our Veterans Day programs. Judy Deeter has led the program almost every year since its inception.

Don’t let another Veterans Day go by without acting on the intent of the holiday. Come and thank our Veterans and show that you understand and appreciate their service. The event will take place rain or shine and admission is free.



Dia de los Muertos at Anaheim Cemetery is All About Family!

Please Join us on Friday, Nov. 2nd from 6:00 p. m. to 8:00 p. m.

Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, is a joyful time when families come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those loved ones who have passed on. The holiday, which runs from October 31st to November 2nd is steeped in traditions and festivities.

The Orange County Cemetery District recognizes the importance of this holiday and invites everyone in the community to come out to Anaheim Cemetery on Friday, November 2nd from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to enjoy an evening filled with entertainment, free refreshments and crafts for the kids.

The evening will begin with a brief Dia de los Muertos service conducted by St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church in Anaheim. As a part of the event, the District gives out free, small bouquets of marigolds, until supplies run out. Marigolds are an important symbol of the holiday and the vibrant blooms and scent are said to guide the spirits of departed loved ones to the altars or ofrendas that families lovingly create in their honor. The service typically includes a blessing on these flowers as well.



Anaheim Cemetery Groundskeeper, Malachi Rios holds Olivia Trejo, daughter of Anaheim Cemetery Leadworker, Andrew Trejo at our 2017 Dia de los Muertos event.

Angel of Hope to Hold 17th Annual Candlelight Service, Thurs. Dec. 6th

If you have experienced the loss of a child at any age, you will want to consider attending the Angel of Hope Candlelight Service scheduled for Thursday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. at El Toro Memorial Park.

The service is a beautiful way for families who have experienced this loss to come together to remember these precious lives who have left us all too soon. The program includes special music, poetic readings, and always ends

Family Friendly Entertainment

Following the blessing, children and teens from our local community who are learning the traditions of folkloric music and dance will provide the entertainment.

Ballet Folklorico Donaji is a local youth dance group that will perform a variety of traditional dances with performers ranging in age from 4 to 21. **Rhythmo Mariachi Academy**, a non-profit organization founded by Gabriel Zavalas will perform a variety of folkloric mariachi music for all to enjoy. The academy is dedicated to preserving, teaching and helping youth to appreciate the history, the art, and the music of the Indian and Hispanic cultural heritage.

Free Crafts for the Kids

We'll have an assortment of crafts ready for children to enjoy including crayon crafts for the little ones with Dia de los Muertos masks and coloring pages from the movie "Coco". Older children will enjoy drawing Dia de los Muertos faces on pre-painted stones with permanent colored markers and creating beautiful tissue paper marigolds.

Free Refreshments

As you enjoy the entertainment, snack on free desserts while supplies last, including locally baked Pan de Muertos, spiced hot chocolate, coffee, and water.

Build an Ofrenda

Families are encouraged to decorate the gravesites of their loved ones with ofrendas or personal alters. Items should be removed from gravesites by Tuesday, Nov. 13th. Please do not leave anything of great monetary or sentimental value on the graves as the Cemetery cannot maintain the security of items left in a public place. Remember, that candles with real flame are prohibited.

with a very poignant and personal time when families are invited to come forward, speak their child's name, and place white flowers of remembrance at the Angel of Hope Monument located in the Infant Section. Candles are provided for the adults and it is recommended that you bring your own lawn chair and a flashlight.

If you would like to learn more about the Angel of Hope, please visit www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope/.

Be a Part of the Movement to Remember Veterans this Holiday Season with Wreaths Across America at El Toro Memorial Park on Saturday Morning, Dec. 15th at 9 a.m.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization that was started when a wreath making company had a surplus inventory one holiday season. The owner, Mr. Morrill Worcester, remembered a boyhood trip to Arlington National Cemetery and immediately decided he would donate his unsold wreaths to decorate the graves in an older part of Arlington that was receiving fewer and fewer visits each year. This became an annual, although largely unnoticed effort for some time. Then one year, the iconic picture (bottom right) of his efforts in Arlington went viral and the movement took off. Today Wreaths Across America and its army of volunteers, places over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond.

Thanks to American Heritage Girls Troop 356, El Toro Memorial Park was included in this effort for the first time in 2017 with the laying of approximately 150 wreaths in the Southeast Section. (Middle right photo from 2017) The Troop is participating again this year and would like to place even more wreaths for our Veterans. There are two ways you can help.

SPONSOR A WREATH or PLACE A WREATH

To have a wreath placed on the grave of a Veteran at El Toro Memorial Park or to volunteer to help place wreaths that have been sponsored, please follow the directions below.

1. Visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org
2. You will need to select El Toro Memorial Park, so please do not just click on the red "sponsor" box. Instead, click on the white text just below the red "sponsor" box that says, "**Sponsor a Specific Cemetery**"
3. Type "El Toro Memorial Park" in the search field and then click on El Toro Memorial Park when the option appears.
4. Click on the "View" Tab.

From this page, you can either sponsor wreaths for placement at El Toro Memorial Park, or you can volunteer to attend the wreath laying ceremony and help place wreaths.

If you would like a portion of the proceeds to benefit one of the two fundraising groups that are selling wreaths for El Toro Memorial Park, scroll down to the bottom of the page to see "Local Groups Supporting Us." Just click on the "sponsor" box for the group you would like to support. Wreaths cost \$15.00 each. Please be advised that wreath placements cannot be assigned to specific gravesites. Wreaths ordered are delivered directly to El Toro Memorial Park prior to the wreath placement ceremony in December.

The wreaths are much more than just decoration. As each wreath is placed, volunteers are encouraged to take the time to speak that Veteran's name, thank him or her for their service, and to pray for the Veteran's family. It is an expression of appreciation that fits perfectly with Wreaths Across America's mission to remember U.S. Veterans, to honor those who serve, and to teach our children about the value of freedom.



PLEASE JOIN US ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15th at 9 AM

American Heritage Girls Troop 356 works very hard to make sure our Veterans are remembered and honored at this event. Before the wreaths are placed, the Troop holds a brief ceremony at the flag pole directly above the Los Alisos lawns.

Last year's program included a moment of silence to remember the fallen, prisoners of war, and those missing in action. The Troop presented the Colors and one of their members sang the national anthem. Then seven wreaths were presented honoring each branch of the United States Military including one for MIA/POW. As each wreath was presented, a member of the Troop accompanied a Veteran who had served in that branch of the Armed Services. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend. The event will take place rain or shine, so please dress for the weather.

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Honors the Orange County Cemetery District at Annual Conference

The District of Distinction is an accreditation program offered through the Special District Leadership Foundation that enables districts to demonstrate to their communities, legislators, and other key stakeholders, their commitment to operate in a sound, responsible manner. The Orange County Cemetery District was recognized by CSDA in September for renewing its District of Distinction accreditation at the Platinum step, which is the highest level possible.

To achieve this status, Districts must demonstrate proper fiscal management and sound operating policies. The District must earn the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence. All Trustees and the General Manager must complete the Special District Leadership Academy with modules in Governance Foundations, Setting Direction and Community Leadership, and the Board's role in both Human Resources and Finance and Fiscal Accountability. In addition, they must each complete another ten hours of continuing education. Finally, the General Manager must earn the Special District Administrator Certification.

The Orange County Cemetery District was also given the Exceptional Public Outreach and Advocacy Award for its efforts to improve and build relationships with communities and to increase the District's visibility. Specifically, the District was recognized for three events including: The Anaheim Cemetery Candlelight



(Left) Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Orange County Cemetery District Trustee Bill Nelson, Senator Jeff Stone, and CSDA Chief Executive Officer, Neil McCormick, present Trustee Nelson with a certificate for renewing our Platinum status as a District of Distinction.

(Right) Orange County Cemetery District Comm. Mgr. Mary Funk and General Manager Tim Deutsch (pictured center) receive an award for Exceptional Public Outreach and Advocacy from Neil McCormick and Marty Boyer, Owner of Communication Advantage.

Historical Tour, The El Toro Memorial Park Historical Tour; and the annual Dia de los Muertos Celebration held at Anaheim Cemetery every November 2nd. CSDA produced a video about these events featuring Board Chair Kelly Rivers, Huntington Beach Historical Society member Darrell Rivers, General Manager Tim Deutsch, and Communications Manager Mary Funk. To view the video please visit our website at www.occemetarydistrict.com.

El Toro Memorial Park to Close Daily at 5:00 p.m. Beginning on Sunday, November 4, 2018



Don't forget - Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday November 4th. Remember to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night. The end of Daylight Saving Time is also a good opportunity to check the batteries in your home's smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. It can save your life!

Beginning on Sunday, Nov. 4th. El Toro Memorial Park will close its gates promptly at 5 p.m. each night. The park will continue to close each night at 5 p.m. until Daylight Saving Time begins again on Sunday, March 10, 2019. There is no exterior lighting in the park and during the winter months it is very dark on the grounds as early as 5 p.m. We don't want anyone to trip or fall because they could not clearly see where they are going, particularly since staff is gone after 5 p.m. We ask for all visitors to please be respectful of this policy and exit the park before 5 p.m.

We also ask that you please take care to plan your visits to the park so that you do not arrive minutes before the gate is supposed to close. Last minute entry in to the park delays staff's ability to close the gates on time and results in overtime costs that must be paid when staff is forced to stay late. We appreciate your help and cooperation in this regard.

Staff Scrambles to Clean Up Parks After Damaging Winds

When severe wind gusts hit Orange County on Oct. 14th, staff struggled to clean up the debris left on the grounds. El Toro Memorial Park was hit hardest, with five trees downed and over a dozen other trees that lost large branches. The District estimates it will take staff approximately 120 hours to replace the trees that were destroyed. The District will buy new 24" to 36" box trees at a cost of \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Santa Ana Cemetery lost one smaller tree, while Anaheim Cemetery saw no significant damage. At all three parks, some lawns were so covered in pine needles and leaves that the lawns were no longer visible. Gravesite decorations were also scattered across the grounds, with no way for staff to know what decorations belonged on which gravesite. We appreciate your understanding if your decorations were lost and apologize for any inconvenience.



Staff is hoping to salvage this magnificent tree that was split down the middle in El Toro's Old Section. Only time will tell if the use of rods and cables will stabilize it.

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Holds Annual Tour



Actors from the Orange County School of the Arts portray Charity and Elton Remsberg and Nurse Sue Dauser who attended to an ailing President Harding.

On Saturday, Oct. 20th, approximately 300 people strolled through Fairhaven Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery learning about the fascinating, hidden history of Orange County's "American Royalty". This was the 21st annual cemetery tour organized by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. Volunteer docents provided historical narratives at each stop, and students from the Orange County School of the Arts made history come alive by acting out scenes from the lives of those featured on the tour. Santa Ana Cemetery stops featured Charity and Elton Remsberg and Benjamin and Franklin Grouard. Charity Remsberg was the sister of President Warren G. Harding, who died suddenly when he was only 57 years old. Benjamin Grouard was one of the earliest Mormon missionaries to French Polynesia and married Princess Nahina of the Island of Anaa. His son, Frank Grouard served with the Pony Express, was captured by the Sioux Indians, and adopted as family by Chief Sitting Bull. He later became Chief Scout of the United States Army under General George Cook.

Construction Update: Anaheim Restroom Renovations Complete

Visitors to Anaheim Cemetery will be happy to hear that work on the new public restroom is complete (pictured right). This means an indoor restroom is now available on weekends and when the office is closed. We hope you enjoy the new facility and that it makes for a more pleasant experience when you are visiting Anaheim Cemetery.

EL TORO NICHE PROJECT UPDATE

Framing for the new public restroom is almost complete. Rebar is in place for the footings of the covered niche structure, and rebar is being installed for the niche walls and the lower retaining wall. The upper retaining wall is complete, and new wrought iron fencing is being installed. Trenching for the sewer line is also underway. Due to various delays, the estimated completion date is now early 2019. We apologize for the wait, and appreciate your continued patience during construction.



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 birthday or anniversary 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, Kwanza and Hanukkah, flowers may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, November, 15th until Tuesday, January 8th.



A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2018 and 2019 is available on our website at www.occemetarydistrict.com. Just click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules.

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 Orange 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

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 10:00 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.occemetarydistrict.com. In January and February, meetings will be held as follows:

- ❖ **Tuesday, November 6th at 10:00 a.m.**
- ❖ **Tuesday, December 4th 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.

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

Veterans Day (Observed)
Monday - November 12th

Thanksgiving
Thursday & Friday, November 22nd AND 23rd

Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve
Monday, December 24th & 31st

Offices may close by 3 pm
(Depending on families requesting appointments)

Christmas
Tuesday, December 25th

New Year's Day
Tuesday, January 1, 2019

All offices are also closed on the weekends.

