



***JULY – AUGUST 2020***

# Orange County Cemetery District

## TRUSTEES

Noel Hatch, Chair  
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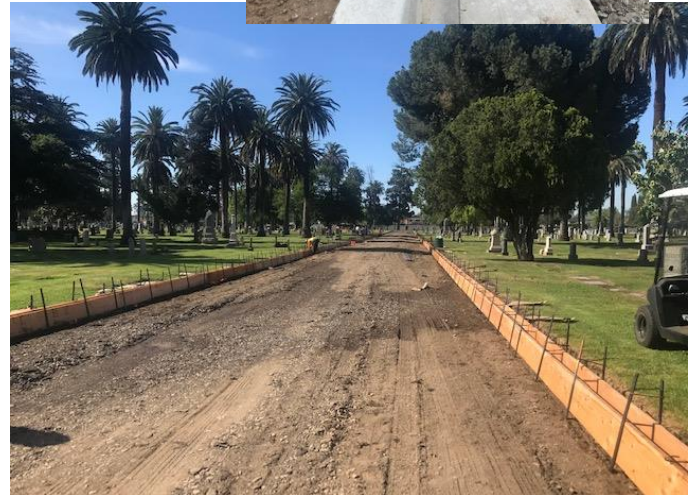
Tim Deutsch, General Manager

## Santa Ana Cemetery Paving Project Nearing Completion

We are happy to announce that the park-wide paving project at Santa Ana Cemetery should be complete by the end of July or early August. General Manager, Tim Deutsch, reported to the Trustees at the June Board Meeting that the contractor, Ben's Asphalt, has been very efficient and responsive. The project is moving along well and is within budget.

In order to minimize impact to visitors, the project was divided into three phases covering different areas of the park. During each phase, all of the existing asphalt roads were demolished, removed, and replaced with new asphalt. All of the deteriorating asphalt curbs were also removed and new cement curbs are being installed. In addition, three areas of the park that suffer from poor drainage during heavy rains will have retention basins placed with perforated pipe drains to filter the water away.

We realize that construction projects like this create nuisances for families with both noise issues and gravesite access. We appreciate your patience and hope you enjoy these important cemetery improvements.





## Veterans' Graves Adorned with U.S. Flags for Memorial Day

Even though all of the District's Memorial Day programs had to be canceled, the reason for the holiday was not forgotten. Thanks to the efforts of several volunteer groups, the Veterans at each of our three Cemeteries were remembered and honored. Our thanks to all who came out to help!

### Anaheim Cemetery

On Memorial Day, the Southeast County Young Marines placed a rose on every veteran's grave at Anaheim Cemetery. The roses were generously provided by the Young Marines National Foundation. The Young Marines is a national youth program for boys and girls, ages eight through high school, that focuses on leadership, citizenship through community service, self-discipline, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. For more information on the Young Marines, visit [www.secym.org](http://www.secym.org) and [www.youngmarines.com](http://www.youngmarines.com).

### Santa Ana Cemetery

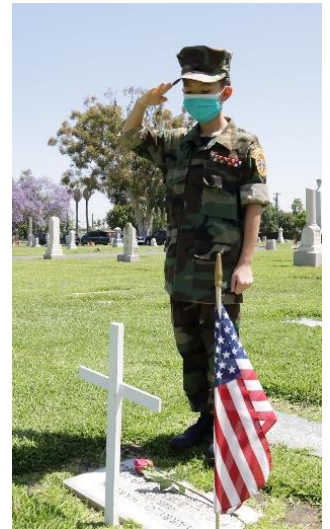
Local historian, Charles Beal, who has spent years documenting the veterans interred in Orange County, coordinated the placement of flags at Santa Ana Cemetery. Mr. Beal was joined by a host of community volunteers as well as members of the Young Marines who carefully walked the grounds making sure no veterans were missed. Through the historical research of Mr. Beal, numerous graves of veterans, some dating back to the Civil War, have been properly identified. *Continued on page 3.*

**Charles Beal, Paul Garcia and James Blauer, pictured above are all members of Sons of the American Revolution, Orange County Chapter. Pictured right are members of the Young Marines at Santa Ana Cemetery.**



**Wearing masks and practicing proper social distancing, the Young Marines honored each Veteran by placing a rose on each grave and saluting in their honor. (Pictured above and right)**

In addition to the rose placement, Boy Scout Troop 733 also honored Veterans at Anaheim Cemetery by placing crosses at each gravesite. District staff placed the flags at each gravesite.





## Memorial Day Flag Placement – Continued from page 2

### El Toro Memorial Park

Volunteers abounded for flag placement at El Toro Memorial Park. Boy Scout Troop 772 of Laguna Niguel placed over 900 flags on military markers. The next day, Troop 774 of Laguna Woods located the individual graves of approximately 150 Veterans whose families opted for civilian markers, but still wanted a flag placed to recognize their loved one's service. Cub Scout Pack 12 of San Juan Capistrano also visited the park to make sure no Veteran's marker was missed. On May 28<sup>th</sup> Boy Scout Troop 772 returned to remove the flags, saving our groundskeeping staff valuable time.

Our sincerest thanks to all those who worked so hard to make sure every Veteran was recognized on Memorial Day 2020.



Scouts and adult leaders from Boy Scout Troop 772 of Laguna Niguel set flags at El Toro Memorial Park.

## Staff to Present the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget at July Board Meeting

July 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of a new fiscal year and with it comes a new budget. The budget serves as the District's annual financing and spending plan and is an important accountability and management tool.

The District's mission is to keep interment costs for Orange County residents as low as possible, and considers many factors including the Consumer Price Index, current staff labor rates, District overhead, and benefit percentages.

The proposed 2020-21 budget includes a \$25 increase to all Endowment Care Fees, an increase to interment space fees of approximately one percent, and minimal

increases for interment service fees. The one exception is the cost a Saturday Casket Interment Service Fee which will increase from \$1,150 to \$1,230.

The budget also includes funding for El Toro's paving project (see below) and landscape beautification for El Toro's slope on Trabuco Road, equipment purchases including a new backhoe, and funding for further site study at the Gypsum Canyon property in preparation for the construction of a new cemetery.

**If the Board approves the budget at the July 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, the new rates will go into effect Monday, August 10, 2020.**

## El Toro Memorial Park Paving Project and Road Closure

Similar to the Santa Ana Cemetery paving project, El Toro Memorial Park will also see its roads repaved and new cement curbs installed in the fall of 2020.

In anticipation of dwindling casket space inventory at El Toro Memorial Park, the Board of Trustees has given approval for this improvement project to also include the demolition of the road between Southeast Section and Old Section. Staff will convert this

roadway into approximately 244 new casket spaces. It is estimated that these spaces will be available for sale in the Fall of 2021.

The paving project will be completed in phases so that the cemetery can remain open for visitation, but there may be days when access to particular areas of the park are limited. Watch for more information in the Sept./Oct. Newsletter.

## 250 New Rose Bushes Planted at El Toro Memorial Park

The groundskeepers at El Toro Memorial Park have been busy planting 250 new rosebushes in the garden where direct cremation burials occur. This will be a beautiful addition when the plants mature and bloom. The roses were acquired as seedlings. The

groundskeepers have been carefully nurturing the potted plants in the maintenance yard for the last six months until they became hardy enough to transplant. We hope you will enjoy the added color and beauty in the months and years ahead.

**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. **Until further notice these meetings are being teleconferenced, 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 July and August, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, August 4<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.

**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 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 flower 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 in this regard is greatly appreciated.



**In honor of Fathers' Day and Independence Day, flowers may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, June 11 until Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Full park cleanups will begin on July 15<sup>th</sup> and occur every Wednesday through September 9<sup>th</sup>.**

A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2020 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**

All District cemeteries are open year-round for visitation, seven days a week.

**Anaheim Cemetery**

is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Santa Ana Cemetery**

is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**El Toro Memorial Park – Extended Hours**

Open from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

When Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> the park will close 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.

**Our Mission Statement & 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

