



JAN. – FEB. 2017

Orange County Cemetery District

TRUSTEES

Kelly Rivers, Chair
Cynthia Ward, Vice Chair
Noel Hatch
Maribel Marroquin
William E. Nelson

25751 Trabuco Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 951-9102 – Phone
(949) – 951-0236 – Fax
www.occemeterydistrict.com

Tim Deutsch, General Manager

Remembering Our Beloved Trustee – Vivien Owen

For the last 28 years the Orange County Cemetery District has benefited from the wisdom, experience, humor and dedication of Trustee Vivien Owen. It is with great sadness, that we learned of her sudden passing on November 4, 2017, just days after celebrating her 88th birthday.

Trustee Owen was a native of Los Angeles and graduated from UCLA with an Elementary Teaching Credential. She married fellow UCLA alumni Charles Owen in 1951 and together they raised two children, daughter Janet, and son, Jack. She worked as a substitute teacher for 30 years which allowed her to pursue her top two priorities - devotion to family and service to her community.

Vivien joined the Tustin Area Women’s Club in 1959 where she held many positions and served as President from 1979-1980. She enjoyed being active with TAWC. She was an Alpha Xi Delta Sorority Order of the Pearl and a member of the Central O.C. Panhellenic. In 1976 she was recognized as Tustin Woman of the Year for her efforts in organizing a U.S. Bicentennial celebration



and for helping to found the Tustin Museum and Tustin Area Historical Society where she enjoyed serving as a docent.

Vivien served on the Orange County Grand Jury from 1984-85. Her volunteering expanded to the Past Grand Jurors Association, and an appointment to the Municipal Water District of O.C. In 1989 she was appointed to the Board of the Orange County Cemetery District and was honored as Trustee of the Year by the California Association of Public Cemeteries in 2015 (pictured right with Board Chair Bill Nelson).

Vivien’s remains were placed at Santa Ana Cemetery on the grounds that she loved, in a new Rose Garden dedicated in her honor. She is survived by her husband Charley of 66 years and her amazing extended family. All of us at the Orange County Cemetery District will miss her laughter, her counsel, and her generous spirit.



Rest Well Trustee Owen



El Toro Memorial Park Observes 29th Annual Veterans Day Program



The Commander of the Southern California Recruiting Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Troy Alexander (pictured left) served as the keynote speaker at the 2017 Veterans Day Observance on November 11, 2017.

In his address titled, "Leadership in Complex Times" he reflected on the veteran using the words of General Douglas MacArthur who said, "Duty, Honor, Country – those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn." Lt. Col. Alexander noted that today our nation is engaged in a fight against tyranny and oppression and our enemies cower behind killing the innocent and repressing the rights of their own citizens. We must face these global and domestic challenges with the very best of our character. He closed his speech with a challenge to embody the pledge of Pvt. Martin Treptow, who left his small-town barbershop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. After paying the ultimate price for our freedom, they found these words in Pvt. Treptow's diary, as true then as it is today. "America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone."



Photos by Jared Funk

Huntington in the background) played "Taps" on the bugle. Rev. Christopher McCullough closed the program with a lovely and warm benediction.

Special thanks to the Planning Committee Co-Chairs Wendy Hill and June McLaughlin with DAR Mission Viejo Chapter for organizing the program. **Please mark your calendars for Memorial Day on Monday May, 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.**

Angel of Hope Holds 16th Annual Candlelight Service

Despite the blustery winds and cold temperatures, approximately 150 people gathered at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6th for the 16th annual Angel of Hope Candlelight Service. The program gives families who have lost a child of any age an opportunity to come together to honor those precious lives who have left us all too soon.

During the program Andrea Dunn delivered an address about her personal experiences with the loss of a child, Rachel Clayton performed special music, and there were also inspirational poetic readings. The program always ends 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. By the conclusion, the Angel was overflowing with flowers of tribute.

The event took place at the Angel of Hope monument in the Infant section of the park. There are over 125 Angel of Hope monuments throughout the world and the El Toro Memorial Park statue is the only one in Southern California.

The candlelight vigil always takes place every year on December 6th at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to learn more about the Angel of Hope you can visit their website at www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope/.

Hope 4 Restoration Hosted “A Homeless Day of Remembrance” at Anaheim Cemetery on Dec. 21st

While most people think of Winter Solstice as the shortest day of the year, for homeless people it is the longest night of the year. That is why this date was chosen to remember and pay tribute to the 207 homeless members of our Orange County community who lost their lives in 2017.

The event was planned by the non-profit organization, Hope 4 Restoration and its founder, Tim Houchen, who was once, himself, homeless. Their mission is to address chronic homelessness and to promote solutions for both the homeless and for cities impacted by it. The program included remarks by Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva who talked about the State’s efforts to secure more affordable housing. She also asked citizens to urge County Supervisors to release mental health funds that could provide much needed resources for the homeless.

An Interfaith Memorial Service was led by Rabbi Stephen Einstein and Rev. Karen Stoyanoff who spoke about the intrinsic value of human life and how the Golden Rule is interwoven throughout almost every world religion. After reading the 23 Psalm, Rabbi Einstein reminded the audience that we are all called to show goodness and mercy to others.

Tim Houchen and Sheena Innocente both spoke about their experiences with homelessness, with Ms. Innocente stating, “All humans are worthy of safe housing. We all need to step up and be our brother’s keeper.” Afterwards, everyone gathered at a memorial wall that listed the names of all those homeless citizens who had died in 2017. In a candlelight vigil the names were read one by one. The program concluded with a lively musical set played by the John Safari Band. For more information visit www.hope4restoration.org.

American Heritage Girls Troop 356 Honored Veterans with Wreaths Across America at El Toro Memorial Park

On the morning of December 16th, American Heritage Girls Troop 356, led by Troop Coordinator Heather Ridout, and about 50 volunteers gathered at the flag pole at El Toro Memorial Park to remember, honor, and celebrate the lives of veterans.

The program, which was completely conducted by Girls in the troop, began with a moment of silence to remember the fallen, prisoners of war, and those missing in action. The Troop presented the Colors, and Miss Abby Danielsen sang the National Anthem. Then seven wreaths were presented honoring each branch of the United States Military including one for Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. As each wreath was presented, a member of the Troop accompanied a veteran who had served in that branch of the Armed Services. The first wreath, however, was placed by Mr. and Mrs. Brent and Julie Monte, whose son, Private First Class Kyle Monte is serving his first deployment overseas in the U.S. Army.

After the ceremony concluded, those in attendance were invited to randomly place 150 beautiful wreaths at the gravesites of veterans. As each wreath was placed, volunteers were encouraged to speak the veterans name out loud, take a moment to thank them for their service to our country, and to pray for that veteran’s family. The wreaths are a gift of appreciation from grateful Americans who came not to “decorate graves” and remember their deaths, but to honor and celebrate their lives.

The Troop acquired the wreaths through a fundraising program with the non-profit organization Wreaths Across America that is dedicated to teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms, and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. For more information visit: www.wreathscrossamerica.org. The Troop hopes to expand this event each year with the goal of one day having enough wreaths to honor every veteran that is interred at the park. Wreath sponsorships begin each October. Watch for announcements next fall to participate.



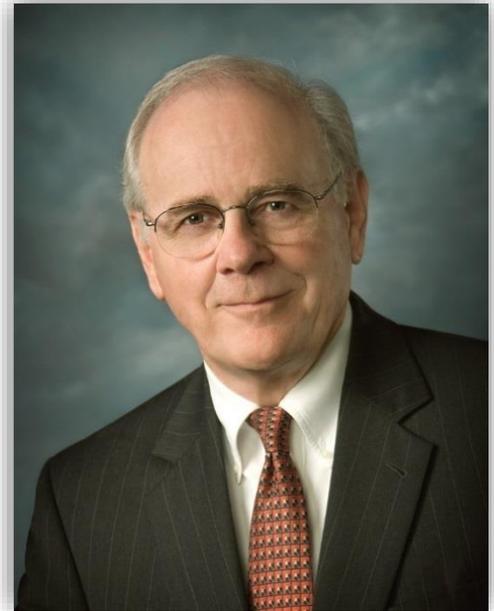
The District Welcomes New Trustees Hatch and Marroquin

The Orange County Cemetery District is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees. A Trustee is appointed to a four-year term by the Orange County Supervisor of his/her district and may serve multiple terms. Orange County Cemetery District Trustees each represent the entire County. The major functions of the Board of Trustees are to set policy, define strategic goals and objectives, adopt rules and regulations, and act as the legal custodian for District property.

Trustee Noel Hatch – District 5

Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, representing the 5th District, appointed Noel Hatch of Laguna Woods as a Trustee to complete the term for the seat vacated by former Trustee Leslie Keane which will end on January 6, 2020. Trustee Hatch brings a wealth of legal expertise and government experience to the Board.

Trustee Hatch received a Bachelor's Degree from UCLA and a law degree from Stanford. He practiced corporate and business law from 1960 to 1994 in a downtown Los Angeles law firm in a general civil practice, representing national and local corporations, partnerships and individuals. His practice included transactional work in mergers and acquisitions, general corporate, media, entertainment, and construction and banking litigation in areas of employment discrimination, labor and general business and contract matters. Mr. Hatch left the practice of law in 1994 for three years and then continued as a solo practitioner in Laguna Hills from 1998 to 2010.



Trustee Hatch is also extremely involved in community affairs having served as the Vice President/Director of the Los Angeles Jr. Chamber of Commerce; a member and President of the Board of Education Pasadena, CA Unified School District; President of the Los Angeles Rotary Club; as well as many other organizations. Currently, Trustee Hatch is a Council Member for the City of Laguna Woods where he also served as Mayor in 2016, and he is a Director and member of the Executive Committee and current Chair for the Human Relations Committee for the Orange County Fire Authority.



Trustee Maribel Marroquin – District 1

Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do, representing the 1st District, appointed Maribel F. Marroquin of Santa Ana to serve as a Trustee on the Board of the Orange County Cemetery District. Trustee Marroquin takes over the seat previously held by Trustee Vivien Owen. Her four-year term will expire on January 3, 2022.

Trustee Marroquin graduated from Santa Ana College with an AA Degree in Biology and is currently pursuing additional coursework from Santiago Community College. She has served as a volunteer for Assemblyman Allan Mansoor of the 74th District, Congressman John Campbell, Assembly Woman Diane Harkey of the 73rd District, former Orange County 5th District Supervisor Pat Bates, and State Senator Mimi Walters of the 37th District.

Trustee Marroquin currently serves as a Community Ambassador for State Senator Mimi Walters, had previously worked as an intern for the Lincoln Club of Orange County, and is also managing UNIDOS, a project of the Lincoln Club that is involved in Latino outreach for the City of Santa Ana. We look forward to Trustee Marroquin's participation at her first Board Meeting on January 9th.

New Niche Space Available at Anaheim & Santa Ana Cemeteries



The Orange County Cemetery District is pleased to announce that the new niche features at Santa Ana Cemetery and Anaheim Cemetery are complete and available for sale. The project provides 420 new niches at Santa Ana Cemetery (pictured upper left) and 240 new niches at Anaheim Cemetery (pictured lower left) that range in price from \$1,050 to \$1,430. The interior dimensions of each niche measure 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and are designed to accommodate two of the standard rectangular urns you typically receive from most funeral homes.

The project was built by Fast-Track Construction for a total contract amount of \$752,420.68. This included the use of only \$16,690.68 of contingency funds for change orders at the Santa Ana project. Changes included the installation of a concrete mow curb around the side and back of the niches to protect the granite from damage by mowers, and the installation of rain gutters on the covered structure to protect the floor and niches from drip line staining.

Staff from the District took great care in creating a new Rose Garden for direct cremation interments at the Santa Ana project. The first interment has already taken place in that Rose Garden for long-time Trustee Vivien Owen who passed away on Nov. 4, 2017. The Rose Garden was created in her memory. When you visit, look carefully at the paver stones between the rose gardens and you will see one stone stand out from the others in the shape of a "V" for Vivien. Eventually a bench will be placed at the end of the pavers and a memorial plaque for name strips will be installed bearing the title "Vivien Owen Memorial Garden".

Arborists to Assess all District Trees

In order to preserve and maintain the health and beauty of the many diverse variety of trees located among the three District cemeteries, arborists will be hired to conduct comprehensive assessments at each site.

The assessment at Anaheim Cemetery was just completed by Greg Applegate of Arborgate Consulting in early December. In all he inspected 128 trees at Anaheim Cemetery, gave each tree an identification number, documented its location and type of tree, and did a 360 degree health assessment of each tree from the roots to the crown, giving each tree a health rating. Along with these assessments, the arborists will provide recommendations

for schedules on pruning and trimming and determine when and if trees need to be removed due to disease or safety concerns.

After assessments at all three parks are complete, District staff will create a comprehensive database including digital mapping that catalogs the location, health status, and maintenance schedule for each tree. This database will be updated each time a tree is cared for or serviced and will be used for estimating upcoming costs during annual budget preparation. The district hopes to complete the assessments before the end of the fiscal year in June.

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 Valentine's Day, flowers may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, February, 8th until Tuesday, February 20th.



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 Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

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



ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

January and February 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 9th at 11:00 a.m.**
(Postponed to this date to better accommodate the New Year's Day Holiday)
- ❖ **Tuesday, February 6th 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:**

January 1st
New Year's Day

January 15th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 12th
Lincoln's Birthday

February 19th
Presidents' Day

All offices are also closed on the weekends.