



MAY – JUNE 2018

Orange County Cemetery District

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

Remember our Veterans this Memorial Day – Monday, May 28th

The Orange County Cemetery District will be hosting free Memorial Day Programs at each of our three cemeteries on Monday, May 28th. Please join us as we gather to remember and honor our brave service men and women of the Armed Forces. Many veterans attend these programs. It is a wonderful opportunity to personally express your appreciation for the sacrifices these veterans and their families have made in order to serve our nation and protect the freedoms that we enjoy.

Memorial Day Programs:

Santa Ana Cemetery - Program begins at 10:00 a.m.
1919 E. Santa Clara Ave., Santa Ana

El Toro Memorial Park – Program begins at 11:00 a.m.
25751 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest

Anaheim Cemetery – Program begins at 11:00 a.m.
1400 E. Sycamore St., Anaheim

The observances at each cemetery will feature a range of guest speakers, performances of patriotic music, color guards, honor guard firing salutes, and beautiful wreath presentations.

The program at Santa Ana Cemetery is organized by the Tri-City Memorial Day Committee and features a Parade of Flags as well as several Cannon Salutes that take place throughout the program. The event is staged at the Soldiers' Monument near the entrance of Santa Clara Avenue where Decoration Day/Memorial Day has been honored every year since 1881.

Anaheim Cemetery's Memorial Day program is coordinated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3173 and American Legion Post 72. The event takes place on the steps of the community mausoleum.

El Toro Memorial Park's program is organized by the Daughters of the American Revolution - Mission Viejo Chapter, American Legion Post 862, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6024, and the Freedom Committee. This year's program will feature several musical selections performed by the



Ret. Army Colonel and Lake Forest Council Member, Thomas Cagley will be the keynote speaker for El Toro Memorial Park.

Master Chorale of Saddleback Valley and guitarist and vocalist Gene Smith. Tucker Fleming will play the poignant strains of Amazing Grace on the bagpipes and bugler Noah Boihem will perform Taps.

Newly elected Lake Forest Council Member, Thomas Cagley, will be El Toro's keynote speaker. He is a retired U.S. Army Colonel and served as an intelligence specialist and expert on the Soviet Union military forces. He retired from active duty in 2000 after serving for 37 years. His Memorial Day address will be titled "Reflections on the Cold War."

Programs at all three cemeteries will take place rain or shine, so please dress for the weather and arrive early for good seating.

El Toro Memorial Park Presents “The History of Us” – A Tour Recap

On Saturday, April 21st, El Toro Memorial Park provided free, guided historical walking tours to approximately 150 people. The tours highlighted the cemetery’s history, the early development of El Toro, and provided an interesting glimpse in to the lives of just a few of the fascinating people who have been interred at the park.

Tours started at 10 a.m. and departed every twenty minutes from the Los Alisos Lawn just past the Cemetery’s office. Tours took visitors back and forth in time as costumed actors from the Orange County School of the arts played out scenes to educate and entertain tour attendees. Free Souvenir programs were provided at the end of the tour. If you missed the event, pdf copies of the Souvenir Program are available on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. Here’s a look at the stops on the tour: (All tour photographs provided by Jared Funk.)



Twenty students and a host of parent volunteers from the Orange County School of the Arts donated their time and acting skills to bring history to life. The Troupe director is Don Amerson. The Student Director for the production was Bella Arnold. Assistant Student Directors were Mili Duffell and Rachel Presby. Our thanks also to parent coordinator, Kim Napoleone and to Helen Kim, Lisa Inserra and Armie Manapat for costumes, hair and makeup.

Pictured right: Ariyah Brown as Florence Griffith Joyner. Flo-Jo was one of America’s most renowned track and field athletes.

Bottom right: El Toro’s own groundskeeper, Luis Mejia, as 1917 gravedigger Cleofas Romero. Cleofas was reported to be the first person to have ever seen the “Blue Lady,” a ghost said to wander the cemetery grounds at night.

Below: Kole Kistler as 1949 movie Director Allan Dwan, Elias Napoleone as actor John Wayne and Jordan Maldanno as USMC Brigadier General Leonard Fribourg, The scene was on the set of *The Sands of Iwo Jima*, where Fribourg was a technical advisor.



El Toro Historical Tours – Continued from page 2.

Our thanks to the dedicated tour guides: Melanie Goss from Orange County Parks, local historian Ann Nepesa, Anaheim Toastmasters member, David Flores, El Toro staff, Kim Eazell and Mary Funk, and pictured to the right, Darrell Rivers from the Huntington Beach Historical Society, who also provided the Civil War tent, uniform and many other costume pieces, and to District Board Vice Chair, Cynthia Ward, for providing almost all of the ladies' costumes. Our thanks to all the District staff and cemetery personnel for their behind the scenes hard work!!



Pictured above and clockwise, Kyle Stafford as MLB player George "Catfish" Metkovich and 1946 World Series Teammate, Dom DiMaggio played by Atticus Korman. Grace Wilcox, Caroline Kennedy, and Sophie Uoo played the 1890's Emily Whiting, Eliza Keating, and Charlotte Prothero. (Although it is doubtful if Mrs. Prothero actually knew the Keatings.) The 1930's Stevens family was played by Makena Margolin, Emily Ricketts, Jake Kim, and Shane Smith. El Toro's only Civil War veteran was played by Julia Jachetta. Just below is James Slaybaugh who played Carl Juul, "The Hermit of the Tin Mine."

Mili Duffell and Soren Jakhotia are Clara and Russell Stover, with Hayden Ward as Christian Kent Nelson - excited to share his new idea, The Eskimo Pie.



Pictured right is El Toro's first railroad station agent, Olif Fairchild. He also built El Toro's first general store. Played by Jack Matthews.



Pictured left is El Toro's first railroad section foreman, James DeLong, played by Lydia Napoleone. His wife, Louisa was one of El Toro's first burials.

Garden of Innocence Invites You to Attend Memorial Services For Araya, Jasmine and Asher on Saturday, April 28th at 10 AM



***"If No One Grieves,
No One Will Remember!"***

Garden of Innocence is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing dignified burials for abandoned and unidentified deceased children.

The beautiful and loving services last just under an hour and take place in the Infant Section of the park near the Angel of Hope Statue. A processional is led by the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus with members of the Orange County Sheriff's Department carrying the urns of the little ones to be interred. Those attending the service form a

circle and each urn is passed from person to person as a way to say goodbye and to express love for these precious members of our community. These services also typically include a guest speaker, poetic readings and,

at this program, Robin Harper will provide special music. Garden of Innocence would also like to thank McCormick & Son Mortuary for their assistance.

Because the children are unidentified, Garden of Innocence provides each one with a first name. As Garden of Innocence states, "Our children are abandoned by their families for reasons we don't know. We can't change what happened yesterday, but we can change what is happening today. They are loved and cared for and we focus on today and doing what we feel is right and good. These children now belong to all the citizens of Orange County. We will be their family."

Staff Attends California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) Local Area Meeting at North County Cemetery District

Twice a year the California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) holds local area meetings at different public cemetery districts across the region. The purpose of these meetings is to share information, discuss common issues and solutions, and gain training and knowledge on a variety of topics impacting the operations of public cemeteries.

The most recent gathering was held on April 12th at Oak Hill Memorial Park in Escondido which is one of two cemeteries operated by North County Cemetery District. Those attending from the Orange County Cemetery District included: General Manager, Tim Deutsch; El Toro Memorial Park Cemetery Manager, Bud Bales; Anaheim Cemetery Lead Worker, Andrew Trejo; and the District's Board Chair, Kelly Rivers – who is also a CAPC's Board Director.

The program featured a tour of Oak Hill Memorial Park by General Manager, Dennis Shepard who also gave a brief history of the grounds. Jasmine Ball and Elias Saade of Foresters Financial gave a presentation on retirement planning and financial management for

public employees. Shawn Robinson of Lounsbery, Ferguson, Altona & Peak spoke on liability concerns for cemetery districts. Other topics discussed at the meeting included: alternative sources for District revenue generation; a recap of the recent CACP Annual Conference, and a time for networking.



North County Cemetery Dist. GM – Dennis Shepard

Orange County Cemetery District Prepares 2018-19 Budget

Each spring District staff prepares a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year that the Board of Trustees reviews. The budget presents projections for revenues and expenses and provides a spending plan which is a key accountability tool for management. The budget also considers upcoming capital improvements, staffing levels, equipment purchases, and special events such as Memorial Day Programs, Historical Tours, and Dia de los Muertos.

At this time, the Board will also consider any adjustments to the District's Master Fee Schedule. Any recommended changes to our prices and fees will be posted at all locations for thirty days before the new rates go in to effect.

Staff will present the full budget to the Board for its review at either the June or July Board meeting. Once approved, a copy of the full budget will be posted on the District website.

Santa Ana Closes More Roads to Create New Interment Space



The staff at Santa Ana Cemetery is now in the process of converting two cemetery roads into additional interment space. As you enter the main entrance of the cemetery from Santa Clara Ave., the roads being closed are located between Sections N and X and between Sections O and I, to the left and right as you approach the Garden of the Pines and the new niche feature.

Demolition and disposal of the asphalt has been completed. Over the next few weeks, staff will reroute sprinkler lines, prepare the soil, and plant new grass seed. The District estimates that approximately 378 additional full casket spaces will be created through the closure of these roads. It will take some time for the newly planted lawn to be mature enough for pedestrian traffic. Staff estimates that these spaces will be available for sale sometime in July.

Please remember, due to the limited amount of available interment space at Santa Ana Cemetery, full casket spaces are only being sold to families who have an immediate need for burial. Pre-need sales for full casket interment spaces are only available at El Toro Memorial Park.

El Toro Memorial Park Eliminates Flower Storage Area

Effective with the May 23rd full-park clean-up, which marks the end of the Mothers' Day holiday schedule, staff at El Toro Memorial Park will no longer save items left on gravesites and store them at the flower pick-up location. Beginning on this date, all items left on gravesites will be discarded at every full-park clean-up. During the week of May 14th the flower removal area by the maintenance yard will be permanently removed.

This change in policy is taking place primarily for two reasons. As the park fills with interments, there is an increasing number of items left on the grounds. Physically, there is not enough room to store all viable items left on gravesites. Nor is it fair to ask staff to attempt to pick and choose which items to keep and which items to discard. Furthermore, despite signs urging people not to steal, the flower pick-up location has become a hub for thieves who

feel that all items left there are fair game. Unfortunately, theft from gravesites is also an increasing problem and cannot be effectively policed by staff. We urge families not to leave anything of great monetary or sentimental value unattended in the park. The District cannot maintain the security of these items.

We also ask visitors to please respect our policy of only decorating gravesites with two items. This includes the use of the in-ground flower vase and one other item. When gravesites are overloaded with decorations it makes mowing and trimming extremely difficult. The only exception to this is for new burials with casket sprays and other flower arrangements that have been transported here for Memorial Services. These items will be left until the fresh flowers wilt. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in these matters.

Update on El Toro Niche Project and Restroom Remodels

In the last newsletter, the District announced the award of contract for the construction of a beautiful, new niche feature at El Toro Memorial Park, as well as District-wide renovations to improve the office restrooms and provide easier public access to them at Santa Ana Cemetery and Anaheim Cemetery. At the time, we thought the project would be well underway by May. However, there were delays with the City of Lake Forest requesting additional parking studies, getting grading approval, and submitting a water quality plan.

During that time, El Toro Memorial Park staff removed some of the landscaping that would impede the

construction of the niches and the new public restroom. Welding repair work has been completed on the wrought iron fencing that sits above the project site and around the perimeter of the flag pole area.

We now expect work to begin on all projects sometime during the month of May. We anticipate that the work will run throughout the summer with final completion in the early fall. There is a possibility that the current public restroom at El Toro Memorial Park will be demolished prior to the Memorial Day Program. Should that occur, portable toilets will be made available for visitors. We appreciate your patience during this construction project. Thank you!

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 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.

The District permits the allowed two items of flowers and/or decorations to be left on gravesites during holidays 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 Mothers' Day, flowers may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, May, 3rd until Tuesday, May 22nd. For Memorial Day, flowers may be placed on Thursday, May 24th until Tuesday, June 5th. For Fathers' Day, flowers may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, June, 7th until Tuesday, June 26th.

A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2018 is available on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

May and June 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.occemeterydistrict.com. In May and June, meetings will be held as follows:

- ❖ **Tuesday, May 1st at 10:00 a.m.**
- ❖ **Tuesday, June 5th 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 for:



On Monday, May 28th

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

