



**MARCH – APRIL 2018**

# Orange County Cemetery District

## TRUSTEES

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

## El Toro Memorial Park Brings History to Life with Special Tours Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If you have ever been curious about the history of El Toro Memorial Park or would just like to learn more about local history and the lives of some notable figures interred on the grounds, you won't want to miss this free special event. Guided tours will be running at El Toro Memorial Park every twenty minutes on Saturday, April 21st with the first tour departing at 10:00 a.m. and the last tour leaving at 1:40 p.m. Tours will feature several stops in the cemetery where attendees will see and hear docents and actors in period costumes portray interesting and colorful stories about the people and families interred in the cemetery who contributed to the history of South Orange County and the nation.

The tours will give a wonderful glimpse into the array of history represented in the park. Included will be snapshots from the lives of early community leaders, a Civil War veteran, a Brigadier General who served in three wars, common laborers, pioneer entrepreneurs, a Major League Baseball player, an Olympic athlete, and more.

Tours will depart from the Los Alisos lawn just past the main office on the right as you drive into the park. Each tour will last about 45 minutes. At the end of the tour handouts will be available recapping the historical facts mentioned on the tour. The Saddleback Area Historical Society will also be manning a booth for those who want to learn even more!

This is a walking tour, and while most of the walk will be on paved surfaces, the beginning of the tour will require attendees to walk over the lawn and travel up one section of stairs. Those who have difficulty walking or who require the assistance of a wheelchair or scooter, may elect to bypass the first two stops on the tour and join tours starting at the Gazebo near the niche wall located just beyond the flag pole. Tours will take place rain or shine so please dress appropriately for the weather. The Orange County Cemetery District wishes to thank local historians Melanie Goss and Ann Nepsa for their help



**On the tour you will meet Christian Kent Nelson, pictured above, who in 1920 conceived the wonderful idea of a chocolate coated ice cream bar. The frozen treat would become known as the "Eskimo Pie".**

researching and preparing scripts for our actors. We also wish to thank the Orange County School of the Arts for providing student actors who are generously donating their time and talent to perform scenes during the tour. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> for a fun and informative look into the past. If you have any questions, please call El Toro Memorial Park at (949) 951-8244.

## District-wide Restroom Renovations and a New Niche Feature at El Toro Memorial Park Coming Soon!

Families at Santa Ana Cemetery and Anaheim Cemetery who have had to rely on “porto-potties” on the weekends when the office restrooms are locked, will be happy to hear that renovations will soon be underway to make our indoor bathrooms accessible even when the offices are closed. In addition, the existing public restroom building at El Toro Memorial Park will be demolished and a new restroom will be constructed. At the old restroom site, the District will create a new covered niche feature. (Pictured right.)

At the February 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, the Trustees of the Orange County Cemetery District awarded the contract for this construction to Horizons Construction Company for \$1,412,000. Work on this multi-site project should begin sometime in March.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

At both Anaheim and Santa Ana Cemeteries the public restrooms will be renovated so that visitors will be able to enter from the outside of the office building. This will not only allow for use of the restrooms on the weekends when the offices are closed, but will also allow visitors to use those restrooms during office hours without having to disturb families who are in the office meeting with staff to make interment arrangements. Staff restrooms at both locations will also be renovated and new fixtures will be installed in all restrooms.

At Santa Ana Cemetery a new 2,000 gallon sewage holding tank will be installed which will require far less pumping than the current tank. New handicap parking stalls will be re-striped to meet ADA compliance.



**The new niche feature at El Toro Memorial Park will include a covered structure where families can gather for nicheside services. A cascading water feature will flow down between the two columns on the far niche wall.**

The largest portion of the project will be at El Toro Memorial Park, where a beautiful niche feature will be installed. The project will add 795 new niche spaces, with room to add up to another 420 more at a future date. The covered structure will provide a comfortable space for families to gather for nicheside services, as well as providing protection from sun and rain for those visiting. In addition, an existing sewer line which currently runs from the old restroom location to the main office will be rerouted. The current sewer line runs across the lawn of Los Alisos making some casket spaces unusable. With the redirection of the line, El Toro Memorial Park will gain approximately 40 to 50 additional casket spaces for sale.

The District hopes that all work will be completed by early August. We apologize for any disruption or inconvenience this may cause. Watch our newsletters for more updates.

## Santa Ana Cemetery to Begin New Road Closures

In the District’s ongoing efforts to create additional interment spaces at Santa Ana Cemetery, staff are now in the process of closing two more roads to create approximately 240 new available casket spaces. As you enter the cemetery from the main gate off Santa Clara Avenue and take the road that brings you to the Garden of the Pines and Santa Ana’s new covered niche feature, the roads impacted are the cross streets to the left and right between Sections N and X and between Sections O and I.

Staff will be demolishing and hauling away the existing asphalt and curbing, reconditioning the soil, placing new irrigation lines, and planting lawn. It is estimated that the

new casket spaces will be available for sale some time this summer after the new grass becomes established. We apologize for any inconvenience this construction may cause for families visiting the grounds, particularly for those families who have loved ones interred nearby.

Staff is currently assessing the remaining roads on the grounds to determine if it is possible to close any other streets without impacting traffic flow and adequate access to the different sections of the park. With the small inventory of casket spaces available, purchases of these spaces will be limited to only those families who have had a death occur. No pre-need sales will be allowed.

## Trustees Attend California Association of Public Cemeteries 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in San Luis Obispo

The California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) exists to promote cooperation among those interested in the operation of public cemeteries; to stimulate the development of improved methods and procedures through education and legislative advocacy; and to provide training opportunities for the governing boards and administrative personnel of public cemeteries so they can better serve their communities.

Each year the association holds a three-day annual conference that brings together Trustees, Managers, and staff as well as a variety of industry vendor exhibitors to share and discuss common issues and concerns and to network and brainstorm ways to improve service and operations.

This year's conference was held in San Luis Obispo on Feb. 22 – 24<sup>th</sup> and was attended by Orange County Cemetery District Board Chair, Kelly Rivers and Trustee William Nelson. At the Annual Meeting, Kelly Rivers was elected to serve a two year term on CAPC's Board of Directors.

During the conference attendees received training on several timely topics including:

- A presentation on CAL OSHA Safety and Health Requirements as it pertains to cemeteries
- A legislative update from the California Special Districts Association
- Required Ethics Training that must be renewed every two years by all Trustees and designated staff members;
- A presentation on the risks of Embezzlement/Bond Loss with tips to help staff identify "red flag warnings" and tools to lower the threat of these risks to cemetery districts
- A seminar on recognizing liability for dangerous conditions of public cemetery property, and
- Break-out sessions for Trustees and Managers/Staff where attendees shared information and asked questions about problems common to other districts.

## The District Welcomes Two New Staff Members: Kim Eazell and Iris Tatro

If you've visited the District Office in the last few months you have probably noticed some new faces. The District wishes to welcome Kim Eazell, El Toro Memorial Park's new Cemetery Assistant, and Iris Tatro, our new District Secretary.

**Kim Eazell** came to the District with over 14 years of experience in the funeral industry, serving as both a Funeral Arranger and Office Manager. She started with the District last April as a part-time receptionist, and by the Fall, was promoted to her new position. If you are purchasing interment space at El Toro for advanced planning, you will probably meet with Kim Eazell. Kim is also a great help to the Cemetery Manager, Bud Bales, by assisting families and visitors coming in with questions, monitoring all marker installations, answering phone calls, scheduling appointments, and making sure communication is accurate to groundskeeping staff regarding upcoming interments.

**Iris Tatro** also brings a wealth of customer service and administrative support experience to the District. For the last five years Iris worked as an Arrangement Counselor for two local mortuaries. Prior to that she served for twenty years as an Executive Assistant and Office Manager. Iris started with the District in October and provides administrative support to the General Manager, the Communications Manager and the Administrative/Human Resources Manager, as well as answering phones, setting appointments, and helping families with questions and maintenance requests.



Pictured above are Kim Eazell, El Toro Memorial Park's new Cemetery Assistant, and Iris Tatro the new District Secretary for the Orange County Cemetery District.

We are so glad to have these talented ladies on board and look forward to many years of service with the District.

**ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT**

**March/April 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 March and April, meetings will be held as follows:

- ❖ **Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.**
- ❖ **Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</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.

**CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS**

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

**Anaheim & Santa Ana Cemeteries** are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**El Toro Memorial Park in Lake Forest** is open during the Fall and Winter months from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

**El Toro Memorial Park – Extended Hours**  
 When Daylight Saving Time begins on March 11<sup>th</sup> El Toro Memorial Park will remain open until 7:00 p.m.  
 When Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> the park will close at 5:00 p.m.

**Offices are closed on the weekends.**

**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 or 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 Persian New Year on March 21<sup>st</sup> and Easter Sunday on April 1<sup>st</sup>, flowers may be placed on graves beginning Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.**



A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2018 can be viewed on our District website at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com), Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules, and then click

**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

