



***JAN. – FEB. 2026***

# Orange County Cemetery District

## TRUSTEES

Noel Hatch, Chair  
Ray Schnell, Vice Chair  
Maribel Marroquin-Waldram  
Kelly Rivers

25751 Trabuco Road  
Lake Forest, CA 92630  
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(949) 951-0236 - Fax  
[www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com)

Tim Deutsch, General Manager

## Thank You Volunteers for Making these Programs Possible!

Every Fall, the District hosts several community events that could not take place without a small army of volunteers who are passionate about service.

### **EL TORO MEMORIAL PARK VETERANS DAY PROGRAM**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, about 175 people gathered for our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program. Volunteers from the South Coast Chapter SAR, Mission Viejo DAR, several Scout Troops, talented musicians, the VFW Post 6024 Rifle Team, and Councilmembers from the five surrounding cities, as well as our keynote speaker, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Gerald Freibrun, all gave of their time to ensure that our Veterans were honored and remembered.

### **ANGEL OF HOPE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

On December 6<sup>th</sup> about 125 people gathered on a beautiful clear night to support and comfort one another as they remembered and honored the lives of children they have lost. This beautiful candlelight service takes place in front of the Angel of Hope statue at El Toro Memorial Park. We are so grateful to Lisa Popper and her dedicated group of volunteers for organizing and coordinating this program every year!



**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA at  
SANTA ANA CEMETERY &  
EL TORO MEMORIAL PARK**

From the truck drivers who deliver the wreaths to cemeteries across the nation, to the thousands of individuals and fundraising groups who ensure that wreaths get sponsored during the year, to the many program participants who plan and organize the ceremonies, to the volunteers who come out to actually place the wreaths on our Veterans' graves – Wreaths Across America literally requires thousands of volunteers to make these events a reality. If you took part in any way – Thank you!

Special thanks to the American Heritage Girls Troop 0356 for coordinating El Toro Memorial Park's wreath ceremony; and to the Santa Ana Elks Lodge for coordinating Santa Ana Cemetery's wreath ceremony.

Both Santa Ana Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park will need to increase the wreath sponsorship goals for 2026 as more Veteran graves have been identified. If you would like to help ensure that all Veterans receive a wreath next year, you can sponsor a wreath at any time by following these links:

**Santa Ana Cemetery Opens New RM Section**

Santa Ana Cemetery's latest road closure was completed in late October and generated 168 new full casket spaces. This new section is now available for sale.

If you have lost a loved one and are interested in interring at Santa Ana Cemetery, please keep in mind that due to the limited availability,

gravesites are assigned, not selected by the families. In addition, no grass will be planted until the entire lot has the first interments completed. In addition, no permanent gravestones will be installed until the grass in those lots is firmly established.

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

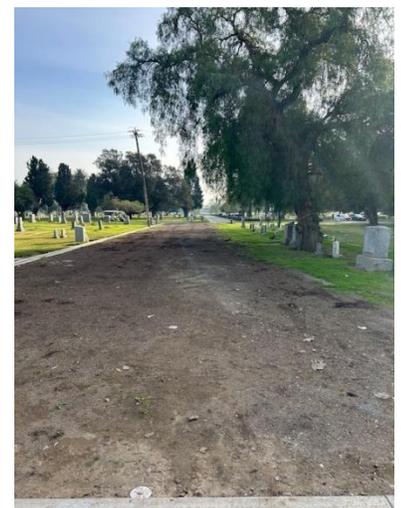


**Pictured top and right: Volunteers present the colors at Santa Ana's wreath ceremony. Scouts lay wreaths on Veteran Graves at Santa Ana Cemetery.**

**El Toro Memorial Park's wreath ceremony participants pose for a picture. Scouts lay wreaths at El Toro. The SAR Color guard leads a processional.**

**To sponsor a wreath for Santa Ana Cemetery, please visit:**  
[www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/casacc](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/casacc)

**To sponsor a wreath for El Toro Memorial Park, please visit:**  
[www.wreathseltoromemorialpark.org](http://www.wreathseltoromemorialpark.org)



## Board Elects New Officers for 2026

Every December the Board of Trustees elects the Chair and Vice Chair who will serve for the upcoming calendar year. The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting policy, defining goals and objectives, and adopting rules and regulations for the District.

Congratulations to Trustee Noel Hatch who will serve as our Board Chair in 2026. Chair Hatch has been a Trustee with the Orange County Cemetery District since November 14, 2017. This will be his second term as Board chair, having previously served in 2020. Before retiring, Chair Hatch practiced corporate and business law for over thirty years and was also a Councilmember for the City of Laguna Woods and served as Mayor in 2024.

Our most recently appointed Trustee, Ray Schnell, who joined the Board on April 8, 2025, was elected to serve as Vice Chair in 2026. Vice Chair Schnell is a Principal with Epic Brokers, focusing on M&A transactional risk insurance services for PE Firms,



**Board Chair  
Noel Hatch**



**Board Vice Chair  
Ray Schnell**

Hedge Funds, and Venture Capital. He is a Councilmember for the City of Tustin and also serves on the TCA Board of Directors, SARFA, the OC Library Advisory Board, and the El Dorado HOA.

The District wishes to thank outgoing Board Chair, Maribel Marroquin-Waldram for her dedicated service during 2025.

## Changes to District Master Fee Schedule Take Effect January 1st

The Orange County Cemetery District purchases taxable items for resale, such as casket vaults, urn vaults, and infant liners from various vendors. Due to announced increases in prices from some of these vendors, the District is making small adjustments on our Master Fee Schedule that will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

**The cost for interment spaces, interment services, and endowment care fees will NOT be changing.**

Here is a list of the most common fees that will be impacted:

- Open Bottom Full Casket Vaults will go from \$630 to \$645.

- #7 Oversized Full Casket Vaults will go from \$1,020 to \$1,050.
- Infant Vaults will go from \$310 to \$320
- Infant Liners will go from \$265 to \$285
- Bronze Marker Bases will go from \$125 to \$130.

We appreciate your understanding.

## Please Follow the New 2026 Cemetery Clean-Up Calendar

Every Wednesday, staff conduct either a light cemetery clean-up where only wilted flowers are discarded, or a full-park clean-up where everything on the gravesite is discarded. To ensure that you do not lose any cherished decorations, it is important for you to understand when full-park clean-ups are occurring.

The District has a 2026 Cemetery Clean-Up calendar that is available in each cemetery office and online at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com).

When you remove decorations for a full-park clean-up, we ask that you not return them to the gravesite until Thursday. This will give staff a full afternoon to mow as much as

possible when there are fewer decorations on the grounds.

Gravesites should have no more than three items, which should be placed on or next to the gravestone. Items should not exceed 21" in height. The three item limit is still in force during holiday periods. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT**

**January/February Board Meetings**

The Board of Trustees for the Orange County Cemetery District typically 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. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may also join Board Meetings remotely. Instructions to join remotely are posted on the agendas.

Agendas are available at least 72 hours prior to each meeting and are also posted on our District website at: [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com). In January and February, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</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 Thursday morning. Please remember that the District policy only allows for three items to be placed on gravesites. This includes the use of in-ground flower vases. If gravesites exceed the number of allowed items, staff may remove and discard the excess items. Items should not exceed 21" in height. Items should be placed within 12" of the bottom of the marker. 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 full park clean-ups. During these times, we ask that you place fresh water in the vase every four to five days to eliminate mosquito breeding sources, which can cause serious health issues. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



In honor of Valentines Day, flowers may be placed on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

During this time, light clean-ups will still occur each Wednesday and only flowers that are obviously wilted will be removed. During full park clean-ups everything on gravesites is discarded. Please be sure to remove items you do not want discarded before the cemetery closes on Tuesdays.

The 2026 Cemetery Grounds Wednesday Clean-up Calendar 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**

**Anaheim Cemetery,  
Santa Ana Cemetery and  
El Toro Memorial Park  
are open for visitation, seven days a week,  
from 8 am to 5 pm.**

**El Toro Memorial Park's Extended Visitation  
will begin again on Sunday, March 8, 2026.**

**Cemetery Offices are open M-F, 8 am to 5 pm.**

**All offices are closed on the  
weekends and on holidays.**

*The Orange County Cemetery District provides affordable interment services for County residents and taxpayers. We strive to maintain the beauty and dignity of the grounds while preserving their historical and cultural value for the benefit of all.*

The Trustees and staff of the Orange County Cemetery District are committed to the following values:

- Integrity ■ Respect ■ Responsiveness
- Empathy ■ Transparency

