



**JULY – AUGUST 2022**

# Orange County Cemetery District

## TRUSTEES

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## Communities Gather to Honor and Remember Our Veterans

Patriotism is alive and well in our communities, as Veterans were honored and remembered at Memorial Day Programs hosted at all three District cemeteries.

### Santa Ana Cemetery

Organized by the Tri-City Memorial Day Committee (Orange, Santa Ana and Tustin), the program recognized the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Battle of Midway and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of troop withdrawal in Vietnam.

Santa Ana's program featured special music by the Orange High School Chamber Singers, a parade of flags, a P.O.W. and M.I.A. Vacant Chair Dedication, beautiful wreath presentations, a poetic reading of "In Flanders Fields" by Lynn Johsz, booming cannon salutes to honor the fallen by Cooper's Battery, and "Taps" was performed by bugler Evan Abounasser. Special appearances were even made by General Ulysses S. Grant and President Abraham Lincoln, with the reenactors reading General Logan's Order and The Gettysburg Address. The Fallen Soldier Crosses (pictured right) were provided by MSgt. A.A. Jaenichen in memory of his daughter, Army Spc. Mary J. Jaenichen, died 2008-Iraq.

**Continued on page 2**



General Ulysses S. Grant (portrayed by Jaxson Brashier) and President Abraham Lincoln (portrayed by Robert Broski) pictured above. Santa Ana's flag ceremony and Canon Salute pictured left. P.O.W./M.I.A. Service and Wreath Ceremony below



## Memorial Day Observances – Continued from page 1

### Anaheim Cemetery

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3173 and American Legion Post 72 coordinated Anaheim’s Memorial Day Program. The event included a flag ceremony conducted by Boy Scouts of America Troop #733 and a wreath presentation ceremony. The Special Guest Speaker was Lt.j.g. Dustin Smith, Commander of the United States Coast Guard Cutter, Narwhal. Lou Correa, U.S. Representative for California’s 46<sup>th</sup> District, was also in attendance and gave a special presentation.

### El Toro Memorial Park

El Toro’s program was organized by the Mission Viejo Chapter DAR, American Legion Post 862 and VFW Post 6024.

The Keynote speaker was Vietnam Veteran William B. Ring. Mr. Ring piloted helicopters on over 520 combat missions. Among his many awards, he received the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross. After his address, Supervisor Donald Wagner presented Mr. Ring with a special certificate of recognition.

The program also featured a combined color guard, prelude and postlude music by guitarist Gene Smith, special music by the Master Chorale of Saddleback Valley, the reading of General Logan’s Order by Orange County Cemetery District Board Chair Kelly Rivers, a beautiful wreath ceremony, an Honor Guard Firing Salute, the playing of “Amazing Grace” on bagpipes and “Taps” on the bugle.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who made these programs possible!



Spectators gathered in front of the Community Mausoleum for Anaheim Cemetery’s Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony.



Supervisor Wagner presents Vietnam Veteran William B. Ring with a Certificate of Recognition.



SAR South Coast Chapter & DAR Mission Viejo Chapter provided El Toro’s combined Color Guard.

VFW Post 6024 Rifle Team led by Commander Bob Franzwa, with Clark Courtney, A.J. Summa, Chuck Wright and Rene Macare pictured right. Bagpiper, Richard Cook and Bugler Michael McPhie of Boy Scout Troop 2020 pictured below.



## Board Approves 2022-23 Fiscal Year Budget and Revised Fee Schedule

At the June 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, the Trustees approved the 2022-23 Fiscal Year Budget.

### Expenditures

The total proposed General Fund Expenditure Budget which includes: salaries, benefits, services, supplies, equipment purchases, and a provision for economic uncertainty is \$5,015,695. This includes 26 full-time and 2 part-time positions. When compared to the previous fiscal year, this represents an increase of \$300,434.

### Revenues

Overall, the 2022-23 projected total revenue is \$6,849,310. When compared to last year's fiscal budget, total revenues for 2022-23 are expected to be approximately \$1.2 million less than FY 2021-22.

The primary reason for this decrease in revenue is the dwindling casket interment space available for sale. Currently, only cremation space is available at Santa Ana and Anaheim Cemeteries. El Toro Memorial Park estimates that it will be sold out for full casket space within two years.

Due to the limited number of casket spaces remaining, the Board has taken action to limit the amount of

casket spaces that can be sold for advanced planning to no more than one double-depth casket space per physical address in Orange County. This will help to extend the availability of spaces for families who have actually had a death occur.

### Equipment Purchases

Each year staff reviews the equipment list to see if anything needs to be replaced. A review of the current equipment was made and \$140,000 will be allocated for the purchase of a backhoe, mower, utility vehicle and a golf cart.

### Capital Improvements

In preparing for the construction of a fourth public cemetery in Gypsum Canyon, the District has been diligently striving to complete all necessary improvement projects at the three existing cemeteries, so that in the coming years, full resources can be directed toward new cemetery development.

The 2022-23 budget has allocated \$100,000 to include continued beautification at El Toro Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery with improved signage on roadways and curbs to assist families in finding their loved one's interment location.

### New Cemetery Development

Also included in the Capital Improvement Budget is \$600,000 for continued site assessments on the land at Gypsum Canyon where the new 4<sup>th</sup> public cemetery will be developed.

The District continues to save as much as possible for the development of this cemetery and as of June 30, 2022, staff estimates that the Cemetery Development Reserve Fund will be at approximately \$15,155,000. The new cemetery design team hopes to submit the District's development application to the City of Anaheim in August.

### Master Fee Schedule

In determining fees, the District considers several factors including CPI percentages, staff labor rates, the District Overhead rate, and a review of other local cemetery fees. As a result of this study, many of the District's fees will be seeing increases. The new prices will go into effect on July 7, 2022. New price lists for all three cemeteries are available on the District website at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com).

The 2022-23 budget will also be posted on the website in July after numbers are finalized at the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2022.

## Board Approves 5-Year Proposal from Auditing Firm Eide Bailly

The Orange County Cemetery District issued a request from independent auditing firms to submit proposals to audit the District's financial statements and to assess the District's internal controls, accounting systems, and procedures and processes. The District requested a proposal for a

three-year engagement with the option to extend the agreement for two additional one-year terms.

At the June Board Meeting, the Trustees accepted the proposal from Eide Bailly, LLP. The cost for Year One of the audit is \$25,000, with incremental increases for the

remaining four years. While the District has worked with Eide Bailly in past audits, they will be providing a brand new auditing team overseen by a new Partner. This ensures that the audit is conducted by staff with a fresh perspective. Annual audits are required and helpful in ensuring best practices are maintained.

**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 video conferenced, 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 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</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 is greatly appreciated.



In honor of Independence Day, flowers may be placed on Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please be advised that full park clean-ups are scheduled to occur EVERY Wednesday beginning on July 20<sup>th</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. During full park clean-ups everything on gravesites are discarded. Please be sure to remove items you do not want discarded before the cemetery closes on Tuesdays.

The 2022 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 and Santa Ana Cemetery are open year-round for visitation, seven days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**El Toro Memorial Park is open year-round for visitation, seven days a week with extended hours which began on March 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Offices are open M-F - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All offices are closed on the weekends. Offices will be closed on Monday July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Independence Day.**

*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

