



**SEPT. – OCT. 2021**

# Orange County Cemetery District

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

## Join Us As We Honor Our Veterans at El Toro Memorial Park – Veterans Day Observance, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

At this time, we are hopefully optimistic, that El Toro Memorial Park will be able to host an in-person Veterans Day Observance to honor and celebrate all members of the Armed Forces. The program will take place in the Old Section of the cemetery at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Of course, we will be monitoring developments concerning the COVID pandemic. Please keep in mind that if the case rates continue to escalate, we may need to cancel the program on short notice. Should this occur, a notice will be posted on the home page of our

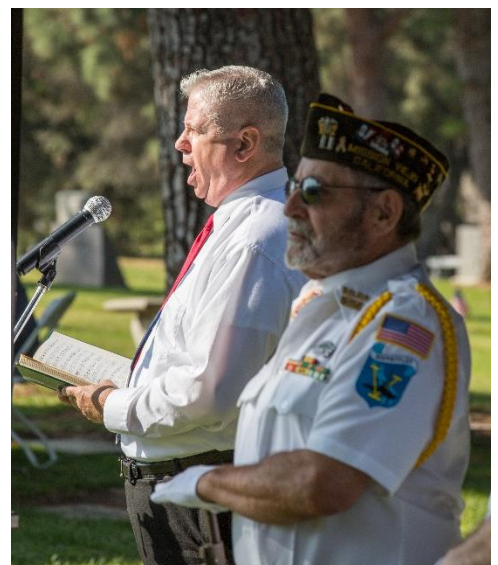
website at: [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com) and we will also report any changes to the program in our next Nov/Dec Newsletter.

We are excited to announce that Orange County Sheriff-Coroner, Don Barnes will serve as the program's keynote speaker. Sheriff Barnes was elected to this position in November 2018 and began his law enforcement career with the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1989. He serves as an executive officer with the California State Sheriffs' Association and on a national level, chairs the Major County Sheriffs of America's Intelligence Commander Committee. In that capacity, Sheriff Barnes is working to ensure open communication amongst local, state and federal law enforcement to combat threats like terrorism, drug trafficking and cyberattacks.

The program will also feature the beautiful vocals of singer John Huntington, a wreath presentation by local city representatives, and an Honor Guard Firing Salute conducted by the Rifle Team of VFW Edward J. Kearns Post 6024. The program will close with the playing of Amazing Grace on the bagpipes by Jim Clements of VFW Post 6024 and the playing of Taps on the bugle. Special thanks also to Boy Scout Troop 727 who will be placing flags on Veteran graves for the holiday.



**OC Sheriff Don Barnes (above) will be the keynote speaker. Musician, John Huntington (below) with a member of the VFW Post 6024 Rifle Team.**



## Dia De Los Muertos “To Go” on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> At All Three District Cemeteries from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Prior to the pandemic, our Dia de los Muertos celebrations have been some of our most popular events. The evening programs at Anaheim Cemetery usually draw up to 500 attendees. Unfortunately, because the attendance levels could be so high and with COVID transmission still being a serious threat, we will not be holding an actual program with dancers and musicians as we have in the past.

Instead, we will be recognizing the holiday with free Dia de los Muertos “To Go” goody bags. **While supplies last**, the District will pass out craft kits for the kids, small bouquets of marigolds to leave at gravesites or to decorate at home ofrendas, and of course some tasty Pan de Muerto to enjoy with family and friends.

On Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Santa Ana Cemetery, Anaheim Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park will set up tables outside of the cemetery office buildings. Beginning at 3:30 p.m., visitors can drive up or walk-up and receive these Dia de los Muertos treats to go. Please keep in mind that these “To Go” bags will only be available as long as supplies last. We do ask that you please take only enough for your family, so that we might serve as many people as possible.



### Flower Decorations During Dia de los Muertos

Families at all three District Cemeteries are invited to build ofrendas or personal altars at the gravesites of loved ones. To accommodate this tradition, the District is relaxing its policy of only leaving two items on a gravesite. Ofrendas may be constructed beginning on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. **Any items remaining on gravesites on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> will be discarded.** Families are cautioned not to leave items of sentimental or monetary value unattended at any gravesite as these items cannot be secured. Battery operated candles are recommended as real flame is prohibited in the parks.

## Office Building Repairs and Improvements at All District Cemeteries

With much of the District’s energies and resources going toward the development of a new fourth public cemetery, it is important to properly maintain the cemeteries and facilities currently in operation. That is why the 2021-22 Fiscal Year Budget includes necessary improvement projects at all three of the District cemeteries.

### Anaheim Cemetery

The District anticipates spending approximately \$40,000 at Anaheim Cemetery. Work will include refurbishing the weathered woodwork around the windows in the cemetery office building as well as making improvements to the small staff break room and lunch area that has not had any updates in many years.

### Santa Ana Cemetery

Similar work will be done at Santa Ana Cemetery to repair wood trim and complete upgrades to the staff breakroom and locker room areas. The Cemetery Office building will also get a fresh coat of paint inside and out. In addition, the worn carpet throughout the office building will be replaced. The District expects to spend approximately \$50,000 for upgrades at Santa Ana Cemetery.

### El Toro Memorial Park

In the last fiscal year, we had hoped to make landscaping improvements to the front slope of the cemetery property facing Trabuco Road directly behind the green wrought iron fence. However, we are waiting for a

telecommunications company to relocate lines before the work can begin. In addition to beautifying the front slope, the District will also repair the weathered trim around the windows in the cemetery office. The grounds will have new markers to better identify the various lawn sections and new benches and trash cans will be installed throughout the park. The District has allocated \$280,000 for the upgrades to El Toro Memorial Park.

With the exception of the slope improvement, these projects are expected to go out for bid within a month and work should be completed within three to four months. This work should not create much of a disturbance to guests visiting the park, but we offer apologies in advance for any disruptions that may occur.

## Progress Report on a State Veterans Cemetery & New Public Cemetery

The Orange County Cemetery District is working in collaboration with the County of Orange and City of Anaheim on the planning and development of Orange County's State Veterans Cemetery, which will be located on the same property as the District's fourth public cemetery in Anaheim Hills. The District's Cemetery Development Team has prepared a detailed breakdown of the costs for the first two phases of the cemetery development.

The first phase will include the development of the shared entrance, access roads into the property, bridges across the Gypsum Canyon creek, and preliminary grading and earthwork. The construction will also include bringing utilities from within the public right-of-way on to the property to serve both cemeteries, including electrical, telecommunications, water, sewer, storm drain, etc.

The second phase includes earthwork on the full acreage along with the final grading for the first phase of the public cemetery development. The public cemetery development will have in-ground casket and cremation spaces, niches, a rose garden for the placement of remains, a maintenance facility,

administration building, landscaping, trees, and additional road construction.

The County of Orange recently allocated \$20 million dollars which will be used to help prepare the State Veterans Cemetery site. The Cemetery Development Team has met with City of Anaheim to discuss the next steps towards the development of the property. This includes the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The purpose of the EIR is to assess the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed cemeteries on the environment. Potential environmental effects that will be evaluated in the EIR include traffic, biological and cultural resources, air quality/greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, and visual resources.

As a disclosure document, the EIR informs the public and public agency decision-makers of any potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed project, identifies possible ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate

those effects, and describes reasonable alternatives that address remaining significant effects, if any. Public input regarding potential environmental effects and measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate identified impacts is solicited at several points in the process, including: issuance of the Notice of Preparation of the EIR, circulation of the Draft EIR and certification of the Final EIR. The EIR is considered by decision-makers as part of approval of the construction of the proposed cemeteries.

The District is hoping to authorize a consultant to begin the EIR process as early as November 2021. This process can take between 12-18 months to complete. The development team will also be working on the completion of the construction documents for review by the City of Anaheim Planning staff at the same time the EIR documents are being reviewed and certified.

Once all of the approvals are granted, permits are in place and a contractor has been selected, construction of the first phases will begin. The District hopes to have the Public Cemetery operations up and running sometime in early 2025.

## Please Help Us Maintain Peaceful Grounds by Following These Rules

As the three existing cemeteries fill with interments, visitation at all the parks will naturally increase. When you visit, we ask that you please abide by the following rules to ensure that everyone's time on the grounds is as peaceful as possible.

- Smoking and the consumption of any alcoholic beverages on cemetery grounds is prohibited.
- While candles are beautiful, the presence of any open flame is extremely dangerous, particularly in Southern California's dry and windy climate. The use of battery or solar

powered candles as a substitute is encouraged.

- Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash **at all times**. Even when on a leash, if your pet is barking loudly or acting aggressively, you should remove the animal from cemetery grounds. Please clean up after your pet and do not allow your dog to relieve itself on burial lawns. Please use flower beds where gravesites are not located.

- Limit decorations to no more than two items on a gravesite. Do not allow your decorations to spill over on to

neighboring gravesites. Do not line gravesites with fences or dig trenches around gravesites as this impedes mowing and is a tripping hazard. Do not place small stones or mulch around markers, as these can become dangerous projectiles when mowing.

- Please supervise young children and do not allow any horseplay, tree climbing, or sports activities.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this regard and encourage patience and empathy with one another as almost everyone you encounter on the grounds is grieving.

**ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT**

**September/October 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 September and October, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</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, please 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.

**Flowers for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur may be placed at El Toro Memorial Park on Thursday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. Flowers for Halloween, Dia de los Muertos and Veterans Day may be placed at all District cemeteries on Thursday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.**

A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2021 is available on our website at <https://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 seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**When Daylight Saving Time ends on November 7, 2021, the park will close for visitation at 5:00 p.m.**

Offices are open M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
All offices are closed on the weekends and on holidays.

**In Observance of Labor Day All Cemetery Offices will be closed on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Cemetery grounds will be open for visitation with normal operating hours.**

**Our Mission Statement & 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

