



**MARCH – APRIL 2022**

# Orange County Cemetery District

## TRUSTEES

Kelly Rivers, Chair  
Cynthia Ward, Vice Chair  
Noel Hatch  
Maribel Marroquin-Waldram

25751 Trabuco Road  
Lake Forest, CA 92630  
(949) 951-9102 – Phone  
(949) 951-0236 - Fax  
[www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com)

Tim Deutsch, General Manager

## In Memory of Board Patriarch - Trustee William E. Nelson

It is with great sadness we report that our Board Chair, Trustee William E. Nelson, passed away on January 14, 2022 at the age of 83.

Bill Nelson was born on June 22, 1938 in Pulaski, Tennessee. His passion for public service began when he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1955-1960. Upon his honorable discharge, Bill pursued his education completing a B.A. in Economics from Cal State University Dominguez Hills. He continued his education at USC, earning an MBA.

Prior to his life in public service, Bill worked for more than 25 years as a finance professional with Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) and Southern California Gas Company.

Bill was a Trustee on the Orange County Cemetery District Board of Directors for 18 years where he was selected by his peers to serve as Chair of the Board five times. He had just been elected to his fifth term in December 2021.

Throughout his tenure on the Board, Bill sat as Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee, serving as a shrewd and thoughtful steward of the District's resources. His outstanding business acumen and finance knowledge were always relied upon heavily in the review of budgets, audits, labor negotiations, capital projects, and

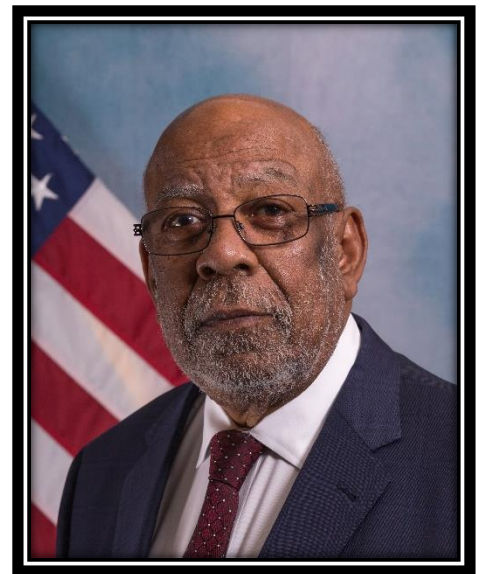
the policies and procedures that have shaped the District.

He was also instrumental in the District earning and being recognized for the District of Distinction Accreditation and District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation.

Bill gave so much to his community. He was well respected by colleagues and staff and was known to take time to listen and understand different perspectives.

Bill Nelson was dedicated to serving the public in many elected and appointed positions throughout the years. His positions include:

- Villa Park City Councilman from 2016-2022, Villa Park Mayor (2017);
- California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Board Member from 2011 to 2020;
- Orange County Mosquito & Vector Control District Trustee;
- CA Association of Public Cemeteries Board Member;
- Villa Park Community Services Foundation Treasurer;
- California Association of Realtors Board Member;
- Orange County Grand Jurors Association Board Member; in addition to many other community service and leadership positions.



**Trustee William E. Nelson**

Bill dedicated his life to his loving wife of nearly 50 years, Eula Mae Nelson, who sadly followed him in death six days later. Bill and Eula are survived by their four children, Kim, Tony, Phyllis, and Brandon; five grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. He is also survived by four siblings.

Bill took great pride in representing his district and never hesitated to ask the tough questions to ensure that the interests of his constituents and peers were well represented. We will cherish and remember his good character, leadership, and dedication to public service. His legacy of wisdom and business sense will be sorely missed.

## Improvement Projects at Santa Ana and Anaheim Completed

Since November, Horizons Construction Company has been working on several projects at Anaheim Cemetery and Santa Ana Cemetery to improve staff breakroom and locker room areas.

made to the stairs leading to the second-floor breakroom and meeting room area. The air ducts in this loft space were also wrapped in new insulation. At Anaheim Cemetery, staff will finally enjoy having air conditioning in their new breakroom.

The improvements at both cemeteries include enlarging the existing staff areas by closing off some of the adjacent garage space and installing new flooring, paint, and cabinets. The expanded locker room area at Santa Ana Cemetery also received new lighting, and safety improvements were

Horizons Construction is set to begin work soon around the exterior of the office building at El Toro Memorial Park. This will improve drainage around the building and eliminate water seepage into the staff kitchen area that has been occurring during heavy rains.

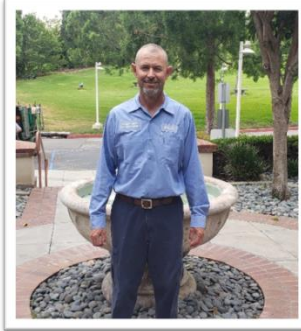


## Staff Recognized for Reaching Milestones in Years of Service

Every January, the District recognizes employees who have reached career milestones. Because we could not celebrate together due to COVID, we would like to honor these Groundskeepers now and thank them for all their hard work and dedication! Congratulations also to our General Manager, Tim Deutsch who has been with the District for 15 years!



Adan Reyes - 25 Years



Martin Patino - 25 Years



Luis Mejia - 5 Years

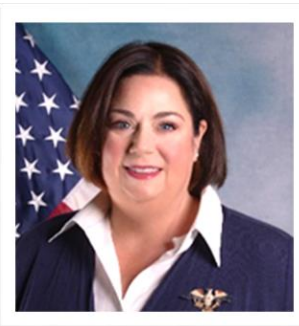


Francisco Cortez, Jr. - 5 Years

## Board Chair and Vice Chair Elected for 2022

With the passing of our Board Chair, William E. Nelson, the Trustees selected a new Board Chair and Vice Chair to serve for the 2022 calendar year at the February Board Meeting.

Trustee Kelly Rivers will serve as Board Chair. Trustee Rivers has been on the Board since 2016 and previously served as Board Chair in 2018. She also chairs the Personnel Committee for the District and serves as a Director on the Board of the California Association of Public Cemeteries. Chair Rivers has been a life-long community volunteer and is also the President of the Huntington Beach Historical Society.



Kelly Rivers  
2022 Board Chair



Cynthia Ward  
2022 Board Vice Chair

Trustee Cynthia Ward will serve as Vice Chair. Trustee Ward has been on the Board since 2010 and was just reappointed in January to serve another four-year term. She was the Board Chair in 2013 and 2019. She also chairs the Communications and Public Relations Committee. In her professional career, Trustee Ward is an independent consultant providing research and documentation specializing in public policy and historic preservation.

Both Trustees bring a wealth of resources, experience and historical knowledge to the District. Many of the District's special events including Dia de los Muertos celebrations and educational historical tours are due to the efforts of these Trustees. As we move forward with the construction of a new fourth public cemetery, the Board's leadership will be even more vital.

## Santa Ana Cemetery Receives New Backhoe & Gator and El Toro Memorial Park Enjoys New Toro Proline Riding Mower

As a government entity, the District is able to participate in cooperative purchasing programs which provide the lowest competitive bid on equipment purchases. Most recently, the District purchased a New Holland Backhoe and Gator for Santa Ana Cemetery and a new Toro Proline Riding Mower for El Toro Memorial Park.

Under the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA), the original cost for the backhoe was \$132,044, but through this program, the District received a 42% discount, lowering the cost to \$76,586. This represents a savings of \$55,458.

Under the California Department of General Services purchasing program, the District saved about 27% on the purchase of the Toro Proline Mower. The original cost for the mower with the arm rest kit was \$42,248, but with the discount, the District only paid \$30,700. This represents a savings of \$11,548.

Finally, with the NPP Landscape Equipment Contract Pricing Discount, the District saved \$2,238 on the new John Deere Gator for Santa Ana Cemetery.

Also approved in the 2021-22 fiscal year budget is the purchase of a new District truck, and a utility vehicle and a sweeper for El Toro Memorial Park which have yet to be ordered.



As the District prepares for the development of a fourth public cemetery, it is important to ensure that the three existing cemeteries have up-to-date equipment and facilities, as the bulk of the District's resources will go toward new cemetery construction.

## District Receives \$40,155 In COVID Expense Reimbursements

In the initial Federal COVID-19 funding allocation, Special Districts were not included among county agencies throughout the state to receive assistance to offset losses and expenses arising from the pandemic. However, through the advocacy efforts of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), approximately \$100 million in COVID funding was approved for Special Districts.

After calculating all of the District's expenses that were specifically related to the pandemic including: safety supplies and PPE, signage, legal counsel guidance, zoom meeting expenses, office cleaning supplies, heaters for conducting meetings outdoors, and electronic document processing, the District was awarded \$40,155 in relief funding.

The Orange County Cemetery district is one of only seven cemetery districts in the state to apply for and receive reimbursement. We are continuing to monitor expenses should additional funding become available in the future. Many thanks to Finance and Accounting Manager, Brenda Manriquez for keeping track of all the District's expenses and submitting the application for funding.

## Daylight Savings Brings Extended Hours at El Toro Memorial Park



Sunday, March 13, 2022 marks the beginning of Daylight Savings Time and also the beginning of extended visitation hours at El Toro Memorial Park. Starting that Sunday, El Toro Memorial Park will be open for visitation from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. These extended hours will remain in effect until the end of Daylight Savings Time on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Anaheim Cemetery and Santa Ana Cemetery are open daily, year-round from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**When visiting the cemeteries, please plan your trips to allow enough time so you are leaving the park at the posted closing time, rather than trying to enter as the gates are being closed.**

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

- **Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, April 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, 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 Persian New Year, flowers may be placed at on Thursday, March 10th and must be removed by Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. In honor of Easter, flowers may be place on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

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 beginning 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 and on holidays.**

*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

