



NOV. – DEC. 2026

Orange County Cemetery District

TRUSTEES

Noel Hatch, Chair
Ray Schnell, Vice Chair
Donna Marsh Peery
Kelly Rivers

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

Tim Deutsch, General Manager

Don't Miss Our Dia de los Muertos Festivities on Monday Nov. 2nd!



Please join us at Anaheim Cemetery on Monday, November 2nd from 5 to 7 pm, for our annual Dia de los Muertos celebration!

Rev. Cao from St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church will provide a short blessing. Then the talented dancers and musicians from **Ballet Folklorico Donaji** and **R.H.Y.T.H.M.O. Mariachi Academy** will take turns sharing the stage and entertaining the audience with a variety of traditional dances and mariachi performances.

While supplies last, staff will provide free small bouquets of marigolds and free coffee, hot chocolate and pan de Muertos.

Children will enjoy free face painting throughout the evening and stopping by the craft tent where we will have an assortment of fun Day of the Dead arts and crafts projects available.

OFRENDAS WELCOME!

An important tradition of Dia de los Muertos for many families is the creation of a gravesite Ofrenda that honors their loved one. In order to accommodate this tradition, the District will relax its flower regulations. to allow multiple items to be placed in the Ofrenda. All Ofrendas must comply with the following restrictions.

To allow for mowing and proper maintenance of the grounds, these personal altars must not overflow onto neighboring gravesites. Decorations should not extend more than 1 foot below the marker. Decorations should not exceed 21" in height. Real flame candles are prohibited. Glass containers are not allowed.

All items must be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 17th before the full-park clean up on Wednesday, Nov. 18th.

We appreciate your cooperation.



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS "TO GO"

**Santa Ana Cemetery &
El Toro Memorial Park**

Monday, Nov. 2nd

**Starting at 1 pm
until supplies run out.**

If you can't attend Anaheim Cemetery's event on Monday night, Santa Ana Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park will be holding Dia de los Muertos "To Go" that same afternoon.

Starting at 1 pm, while supplies last, you can pick up a free small bouquet of marigolds, craft kits for the kids, and individual bags of pan de Muertos. Please be advised, parking in the cemeteries is challenging on Dia de los Muertos, so plan to arrive early if possible.

Honor Our Veterans on Wednesday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at El Toro Memorial Park's 37th Annual Veterans Day Program!

If you have a heart filled with gratitude for the men and women of our Armed Services, then please don't miss this opportunity to tell our Veterans that their service is remembered and appreciated.

On Wednesday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. we will gather to do just that at El Toro Memorial Park's 37th annual Veterans day program. The event is free to attend and will take place rain or shine.

We are excited to announce that our Keynote speaker is U.S. Army and Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Mark Furlan. Mark brings a unique perspective on his deployment in Vietnam as he experienced that war through the eyes of Chaplain's Assistant.

The program will also include a combined Color Guard; special music by vocalist John Huntington, bagpiper Richard Cook and bugler Alfred Lang; a wreath ceremony by councilmembers from the surrounding cities; and an honor guard firing salute conducted by



Members of the VFW Post 6024 Rifle Team

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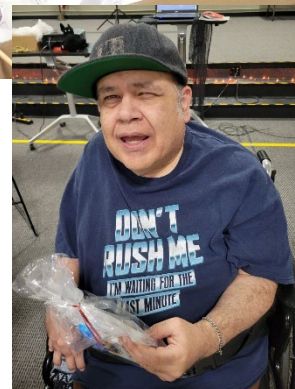
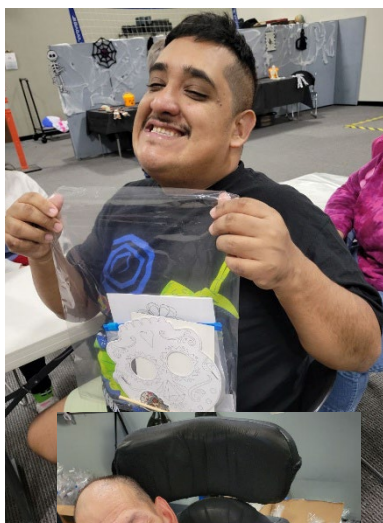
To all our Veterans – This program is for you!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!

Thank You Volunteers from My Day Counts for Craft Kit Assembly!

My Day Counts is a 501(c)(3) organization that has been serving Orange County for 75 years. Their mission is to train people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities for success in life and work.

The District was blessed to partner with this amazing group of individuals who carefully sorted supplies and packed 225 craft kits for our Dia de los Muertos events. In total, there were over 130 participants who took part in assembling the to-go kits. Some did the pre-assembly of the bookmarks, masks, and wreath kits. Most of the participant took part in the packing party where they worked in an assembly line to pack 20 kits at a time, each participant adding an item to the bag before passing the bag to the next packer. They finished each bag with a My Day Counts 75 years of service logo sticker. Program Coordinator Heather Grow even taught the volunteers all about Dia de Los Muertos with an incredibly informative PowerPoint presentation so they could learn about the meaning, traditions and significance of the holiday.



Thank you My Day Counts Volunteers!

The kits you packed will be enjoyed by children across our communities! We can't wait to partner with you again!

Angel of Hope Candlelight Service, Sunday – December 6th at 7 PM

Please join us as we come together to remember our children at the annual Angel of Hope Candlelight Service at El Toro Memorial Park on Wednesday, Dec. 6th at 7:00 p.m.

For many, this is the most important aspect of the evening. The program also includes guest speakers, inspirational readings, and special music.

The Angel of Hope monument, located in the children's section of El Toro Memorial Park, is a place for grieving parents to gather who have lost a child of any age, for any reason. At the candlelight vigil, parents, relatives, and friends gather around the base of the Angel of Hope monument, lay white flowers and mementos at her feet and, most importantly, speak their child's name.

Please bring a flashlight and a chair for use at the ceremony. Candles and flowers are provided free of charge. Please dress appropriately for the weather. The vigil will take place rain or shine.

For more information on the Angel of Hope Monument and the annual memorial service, please visit:

www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope



Wreaths Across America Wreath Ceremonies – Saturday Dec. 19th, 9 AM

Santa Ana Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park will both be hosting Wreaths Across America ceremonies on Saturday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m.

The District thanks the Santa Ana Elks Lodge for coordinating Santa Ana's program, and American Heritage Girls Troop #0356 for leading the program at El Toro Memorial Park.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching the next generation to remember and honor our nation's brave service men and women. Holiday wreaths are sponsored throughout the year with the goal of getting enough wreaths sponsored so that every Veteran's gravesite is covered.

Santa Ana's goal is to get 1,200 wreaths sponsored. They currently have 565 sponsorships and need 635 more to make sure every Veteran's grave receives a wreath.

El Toro's goal is 1,400 wreaths and they only need 346 more!

SPONSOR A WREATH

To sponsor a wreath for Santa Ana Cemetery, please visit:

www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/casacc

To sponsor a wreath for El Toro Memorial Park, please visit:

www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/caetmp

Wreaths cost \$17.00 each. Wreath placements cannot be assigned to specific gravesites and are placed randomly. Sponsoring a wreath does not guarantee that all Veteran gravesites will receive a wreath.

We hope you can attend one of these inspirational wreath ceremonies!

Designating a Successor Owner for Your Cemetery Plots

The District has adopted a new policy that enables plot owners to designate one successor owner who will take control over the space after all the original owners have passed.

This can be a tremendous help for families as it leaves a clear line of succession and reduces confusion and discord over who has control of

a plot when the original owner or owners have passed.

Moving forward, the District will require this designation to be completed by lot owners at the time a plot is purchased. However, all current lot owners are encouraged to reach out to the District to complete a designation for each

interment space owned. At the time the designated successor assumes ownership of a plot, they will then be required to designate a new successor owner. If the last owner of an interment plot passes, and no designated successor owner form has ever been filed, relatives will have to prove their claim to the space through rights of succession.

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

November/December 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. In November and December, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, November 10th at 10:00 a.m.***
*Nov. Meeting postponed one week from Nov. 3rd.
- **Tuesday, December 1st 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.

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.

*Beginning on Sunday, November 1st,
El Toro Memorial Park will be open for visitation
from 8 am to 5 pm. Extended visitation at El Toro
will resume on March 14, 2027

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

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 at any time. 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.



Decorations for Halloween, Dia de los Muertos and Veterans Day may be placed on Thursday, October 22nd and must be removed by Tuesday, November 17th. Decorations for Thanksgiving may be placed on Thursday, Nov. 19th and must be removed by Tuesday, Dec. 1st. Christmas and holiday decorations may be placed on Thursday, Dec. 10th and must be removed by Tuesday, Jan. 5th.

During light clean-ups 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. Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

