



# Orange County Cemetery District

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**NOV. – DEC. 2019**

## Double the Fun with Free Dia de los Muertos Festivities - Nov. 2nd Now Hosted at both Anaheim Cemetery and Santa Ana Cemetery

On Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Orange County Cemetery District will hold free Dia de los Muertos celebrations at both Santa Ana Cemetery and Anaheim Cemetery.



**Santa Ana Cemetery**  
1919 E. Santa Clara Ave.

### Inaugural Celebration

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Co-Sponsored by Supervisor Do  
and the City of Santa Ana**

The free activities begin at Santa Ana Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. with a welcome address from the office of Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do. Pastor Ruben Esponda of United Methodist Church of Santa Ana will follow with a Dia de los Muertos blessing. There will be musical performances by the students of Santa Ana High School and Godinez Mariachi. At noon Grandeza Mexicana will perform a death waltz.

### Anaheim Cemetery

1400 E. Sycamore St.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dia de los Muertos Celebration

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Anaheim's evening program will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a blessing by Father Bill Ciao of Saint Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church. Dancers from Ballet Folklorico Donaji and five gifted musicians from Mariachi Tierra Mia are the featured entertainers. Ballet Folklorico Donaji is a local, Anaheim youth dance group that will perform a variety of



Dancers from Ballet Folklorico Donaji entertain the audience with traditional dances at Anaheim Cemetery's 2018 celebration.

traditional dances with talented performers ranging in age from elementary to high school students.

### FREE FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT!

While supplies last, programs at both Santa Ana Cemetery and Anaheim Cemetery will feature fun Dia de los Muertos children's crafts, face painting, refreshments including Pan de Muerto, and small bouquets of marigolds for gravesite decoration.

### OFRENDAS WELCOME

All families are invited to build ofrendas or personal altars at the gravesites of loved ones interred at both cemeteries. Families are cautioned not to leave items of value unattended at any gravesite as these items cannot be secured. Battery operated candles are recommended as real flame is prohibited in the parks. **A full park clean-up will occur on Wednesday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Items left on gravesites will be discarded on that day.**

## El Toro Memorial Park to Host 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program



Please join us on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at El Toro Memorial Park as we observe our 31<sup>st</sup> annual Veterans Day Program.

Dr. Linda Fontanilla, the Vice President for Student Services at Irvine Valley College will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Fontanilla is a veteran of the Vietnam Era, and served in the United States Air Force under the 1901<sup>st</sup> Communication Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. During her tour of duty, she worked as an Air Traffic Controller, and after her honorable discharge, worked in that same capacity for the FAA for ten years.

Also speaking at the program will be Charlotte Van Steenberg, who is a survivor of a World War II Japanese Concentration Camp. She is also the author of the book "Meisje: I met God in Hell". During the program she will read her poem, "America's Gift" and will speak about her gratitude to the soldiers who gave her the gift of liberty.

The ceremony will also include a wreath presentation by representatives from local cities and an honor guard firing salute provided by VFW Edward J. Kearns Post 6024. Local vocalist, John Huntington, will sing several selections. The poignant refrains "Amazing Grace" will be played on the bagpipes by Jim Clements and bugler Jeremy Mamaril, a Star Scout from Boy Scout Troop 1776 will conclude the program with "Taps."

The program is free and will be held outdoors, rain or shine. We encourage the public to attend and to show their appreciation to all the veterans for their sacrifice and service.



Dr. Linda Fontanilla

## Don't Forget to Fall Back on Saturday Night, November 2nd El Toro Gates Will Close at 5 p.m. Beginning Sunday, November 3rd

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the end of Daylight Saving Time and also signals the end of extended visitation hours at El Toro Memorial Park.

We ask that all visitors please be mindful of the gate closing time and be sure to exit the park BEFORE 5:00 p.m. Security makes every effort to make sure the park is clear before locking the gates, but the grounds are large and it is possible for visitors to get locked in the park.



All three District Cemeteries will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. El Toro Memorial Park will resume extended visitation hours on Sunday March 8, 2020 with the start of Daylight Saving Time.

## American Express Now Accepted with GovPayNet



The Orange County Cemetery District is now partnering with GovPayNet for improved credit card processing. This means that you will now have more options and improved convenience for payment. All three cemeteries can now accept American Express and debit cards, where before the District was limited to Visa, MasterCard and Discover. In addition, all cemeteries also have the ability to take credit card transactions over the phone. With the older system,

we had to have the actual card in hand in order to accept payment with a credit card. We also have the option of automatically emailing credit card receipts to the customer upon their request.

While it is not available yet, in the future we are planning to add on-line bill paying for those customers who have 12-month contracts. We will let you know in an upcoming newsletter when on-line service becomes available. We hope you like these new enhancements!



## Angel of Hope Candlelight Service at El Toro Memorial Park – Dec. 6th

If you are grieving the loss of a child of any age, please join us on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at El Toro Memorial Park. We will be gathering in the Infant Section at the Angel of Hope Statue for a Candlelight Service.

“hope.” The sculpture was brought to El Toro Memorial Park to support parents who have lost a child of any age, for any reason. It was dedicated on September 28, 2002. While there are many Angel of Hope statues throughout the world, El Toro’s monument is the only one in Southern California.

The Angel of Hope was inspired by Richard Paul Evans’ national bestseller, *The Christmas Box*. It is a story of a woman who mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. The original Angel of Hope Statue resides in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. The sculpture is the creation of father and son, Ortho and Jared Fairbanks. It was modeled according to the description in Evans’ book. If you look closely, you can find in the angel’s right wing the word

The service includes special music, poetic readings, and a special speaker. The program always ends with a touching and personal time when families are invited to come forward, speak their child’s name, and place white flowers of remembrance at the monument.

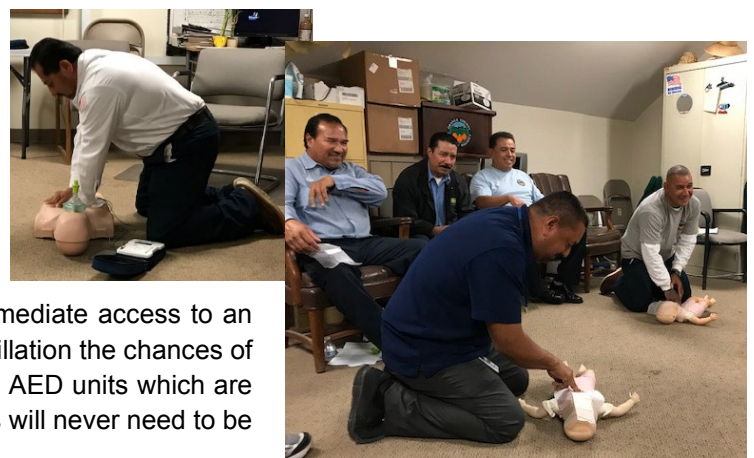


**El Toro’s Angel of Hope Statue, adorned with flowers from the 2018 service**

Please bring a flashlight and chair. Dress for the weather as the event will take place rain or shine. For more information on the Angel of Hope please visit [www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope/](http://www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope/).

## District Staff Receive Training in CPR/AED and First Aid

The Orange County Cemetery District cares about the safety of our visitors. That is why training in CPR, how to properly use an automated external defibrillator (AED), and basic First Aid is offered to all employees every two years. According to the American Heart Association, survival from cardiac arrest doubles if bystanders have immediate access to an AED. For every minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation the chances of survival decrease by 7 to 10%. The District maintains three AED units which are located at each cemetery office. Our hope is that these units will never need to be used, but we are prepared should the need arise.



## Maureen Rivers Memorial Niche Garden Dedicated at Local Area Meeting of the California Association of Public Cemeteries



On September 19<sup>th</sup>, about 40 members of the California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) gathered at the new Maureen Rivers Memorial Niche Garden at El Toro Memorial Park for its dedication and to participate in a Local Area Meeting.

Maureen Rivers served faithfully as a Trustee for the District for over 22 years. The dedication plaque bears the phrase she was always fond of saying when referring to her service on the board. "You're on it, til you're in it!" The garden was also dedicated in honor of Kirk Hendricks of Christy Vault Company who was working on our Garden at the time of his passing.

CAPC conducts Local Area Meetings twice a year. They give public cemetery staff an opportunity to visit member cemeteries and learn about their operations. Attendees can also network with each other, and discuss topics of

interest and concern for the benefit of all members. Speakers at this event included: Darrell Rivers, who presented an historical look at the development of public cemetery districts, Sandra Wheeler from Wells Fargo Advisors, and Mark Marshall, a Safety Officer with Golden State Risk Management Authority.



Above, Darrell Rivers, grandson of Maureen Rivers, poses next to the Maureen Rivers Memorial Niche Garden dedication plaque after its unveiling. Below left is granddaughter Zoe Rivers, and to the right is Kelly Rivers, Maureen's daughter. Kelly Rivers became a Trustee for the District shortly after Maureen's passing on December 30, 2015. Pictured right, District staff, led by Irrigation Specialist Martin Galvez, provided a personal touch by cooking an authentic Mexican lunch.

## Trustees Noel Hatch and Maribel Marroquin Receive Awards at California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Annual Conference

At the 2019 CSDA Annual Conference that was just held in Anaheim in September, two of the District's trustees, Noel Hatch and Maribel Marroquin, were honored for completing the Special District Leadership Academy. This four-module academy provides training in governance foundations, setting direction and community leadership, the Board's role in human resources, and the Board's role in finance and fiscal accountability.

The CSDA conference was also attended by Trustee Nelson, Trustee Rivers and Board Chair Ward, as well as the District's General Manager, Tim Deutsch. The District's three Cemetery Managers, Bill Stelter, Julio Amarillas and Bud Bales also attended for various trainings on one day of the conference.

Seminars and workshops covered a host of topics some of which included:

leadership succession planning, policies and procedures, public records laws, ethics training, capital improvement financing, Brown Act updates, vesting rights and public pensions, dealing with difficult people, drugs and alcohol in the workplace, and harassment prevention training.

CSDA also celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to California's Special Districts.

## Honor A Veteran this Holiday Season with Wreaths Across America

**PLEASE JOIN US ON SATURDAY, DEC. 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**  
**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**  
**WREATH CEREMONY & WREATH PLACEMENT**

Wreaths Across America started when a wreath company had a surplus of wreaths and donated them to Arlington Cemetery. After donating to Arlington for several years, their efforts took off and Wreaths Across America was born. Today over 1.5 million wreaths are placed on veteran graves worldwide. Local groups can register with Wreaths Across America to sell the wreaths as a fundraiser.

In 2017 a dedicated group of American Heritage Girls from Troop 356 became the first group to sell wreaths for El Toro Memorial Park. Each year the Troop conducts a beautiful wreath presentation ceremony at El Toro's flag pole, and everyone attending the ceremony is encouraged to place the wreaths that have been sponsored. Since then, four other local groups have joined their efforts. They include: Mission Viejo Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution; The Well Armed Woman; El Toro High School Cheer & Dance Teams; and Girl Scout Troop 3673.

To support one of these groups and to have a wreath placed on the grave of a veteran at El Toro Memorial Park, please follow these instructions.

1. Visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)
2. You will need to select El Toro Memorial Park, so please do not just click on the red "sponsor" box. Instead, scroll down the home page until you see a red box that says, "**Find a Specific Location**"
3. Type "El Toro Memorial Park" in the search field and then click on El Toro Memorial Park (CAETMP) when the option appears.
4. Click on the red "View" Tab.



From this page, you can either sponsor wreaths for placement at El Toro, or you can volunteer to attend the wreath laying ceremony and help place wreaths. If you would like a portion of the proceeds to benefit one of the five fundraising groups that are selling wreaths for El Toro Memorial Park, scroll down to the bottom of the page to see "Local Groups Supporting Us." Just click on the "sponsor" box for the group you would like to support.

Wreaths cost \$15.00 each. Please be advised that wreath placements cannot be assigned to specific gravesites and are placed randomly on veteran graves. Wreaths ordered are delivered directly to El Toro Memorial Park prior to the wreath placement ceremony in December.

## Remember the Homeless at Anaheim Cemetery "Longest Night" Memorial Service – Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>

According to an April 24, 2019 article by Alicia Robinson with The Orange County Register, nearly 7,000 people are homeless in Orange County with Santa Ana and Anaheim having the highest populations of residents who are unsheltered. Sadly, every year some of those people die on the streets. In 2018 that number was 244 and every name was read during the annual "Longest Night" Candlelight Memorial Service at Anaheim Cemetery.

Since 2014, Tim Houchen, founder of the nonprofit organization Hope 4 Restoration, has organized this candlelight service honoring those who have passed away while homeless in Orange County. The

program is always held on Winter Solstice, December 21<sup>st</sup> – the longest night of the year. It features special guest speakers who have experienced homelessness, an interfaith service, and a beautiful memorial wall that lists all the names of those who died in the past year.

Plans for the 2019 memorial service are currently underway. For updates, please visit the Orange County Cemetery District website at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com).

To learn more about Hope 4 Restoration and their advocacy efforts to end homelessness, please visit their website at [www.hope4restoration.org](http://www.hope4restoration.org).



**Pictured above is the memorial wall marking the 244 lives lost in Orange County in 2018. Since the event's inception in 2014, that number has steadily increased.**

## 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 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.

The District permits the allowed two items of flowers and/or decorations to be left on gravesites during holidays or for special occasions, such as anniversaries, birthdays and for new interments. Please come to the cemetery office and let us know that you have a special occasion and request that the flowers and decorations be left on the space. 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 in this regard is greatly appreciated.

**In honor of Veterans Day, flowers may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. For Thanksgiving, flowers may be placed on Thursday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> until Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. For Christmas, flowers may be placed on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**



A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2019 is available on our website at [www.occemeterydistrict.com](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com). Just click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules.

## Our Mission Statement and Core 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 Orange 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



## ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT November and December 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. The public is welcome to attend.

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 November and December, meetings will be held as follows:

1. **Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
2. **Tuesday, December 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.

**The offices at  
Anaheim Cemetery,  
Santa Ana Cemetery, and  
El Toro Memorial Park  
will be closed on:**

**Veterans Day**  
Monday – November 11<sup>th</sup>

**Thanksgiving & the Friday After**  
Thursday & Friday – November 28-29<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Day**  
Wednesday – December 25<sup>th</sup>

**New Year's Day**  
Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

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

**Cemetery grounds are open for visitation  
seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**