



JULY – AUGUST 2024

Orange County Cemetery District

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

Anaheim Planning Commission Gives Unanimous Support for the Gypsum Canyon Cemetery Development Project!

On June 17th, Orange County Cemetery District General Manager Tim Deutsch and the District's Development Team appeared before the Anaheim Planning Commission to request the approval of a tentative parcel map and conditional use permit to construct and operate two cemeteries on the site. The request also included amendments to the General Plan Land Use Element, Mountain Park Specific Plan No. 90-4 and the Zoning Code.

The site will be divided into two parcels. Parcel 1 will be owned by the Orange County Cemetery District. It is approximately 126 acres, of which about 80 acres will be developed over time in phases as the Gypsum Canyon Memorial Park for Orange County residents and taxpayers. Parcel 2 is approximately 157 acres and would be owned by the California Department of Veterans Affairs for the development of the long-awaited Southern California State Veterans Cemetery.

Staff from the City of Anaheim Planning Department gave a

thorough and thoughtful presentation on the impacts of the project including such topics as traffic, parking, air quality, noise, wildlife and overall suitability of the project. They also summarized the District's efforts to engage and inform the community about the project. The presentation concluded with an animated video representation of how the public memorial park would appear when developed.

Following the presentation, members of the public were allowed to speak either for or against the development.

Only two individuals attended to voice any concerns. Seven people came forward to show their full support for the project. All of them had military or police backgrounds. Perhaps the most moving words came from U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and President of the Veterans Alliance of Orange County, Nick Berardino.

Mr. Berardino recounted the decade long struggle that Orange County Veterans have waged to establish a

proper resting place for Veterans within Orange County, noting that Riverside has a cemetery, Los Angeles has one, San Diego has two, but Orange County – nothing. He also expressed his deep gratitude for the way the City of Anaheim and its residents have embraced the project after all the failures trying to find a final home for Veterans in Irvine, adding that, "I won't die without getting this through." Planning Commission Chair, Lucille Kring thanked all the Veterans who spoke for their service.

When the motion was made to approve the recommendation, it passed unanimously! This was an important step forward in making Gypsum Canyon Memorial Park and the Southern California State Veterans Cemetery a reality. The next important date will be on July 23rd, when the Anaheim City Council will consider the project for approval.

To learn more about this project and the latest developments, the District has launched a new website. Please visit:

<https://gypsumcanyon.occemeterydistrict.com/>

Thank You to All the Volunteers Who Worked So Hard to Ensure that Our Veterans Were Remembered and Honored on Memorial Day!

El Toro's Keynote Speaker, William Cook (right) is a U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran and Chair of the Orange County Veterans Memorial Park Foundation.



Anaheim's program featured Councilmember Carlos Leon, Congressman Lou Correa, and Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva. (right) Gene Smith, guitarist and Richard Cook, bagpiper perform at El Toro. (below)



Aliso Viejo Councilmember Ross Chun and Mayor Mike Munzing present a beautiful wreath at El Toro. (above)



SAR Orange County Chapter (right) and SAR South Coast (below) present the colors at Santa Ana and El Toro.



This poignant display of Fallen Soldier Crosses at Santa Ana (above) was provided by MSgt. A.A. Jaenichen in memory of his daughter, Army Spc. Mary J. Jaenichen, died 2008 - Iraq



The Santa Ana High School Choir performs (above). Cooper's Battery provides Cannon Salutes at Santa Ana (right). VFW Post 6024 Commander John Carson at El Toro.



Garden of Innocence Service on June 1st Welcomes Six New Babies

El Toro Memorial Park is home to Orange County's Garden of Innocence. The garden provides a dignified final resting place for children whose remains are unidentified or abandoned.

Services are coordinated through the non-profit agency, Garden of Innocence. When hospitals or the coroner inform the Garden of Innocence that a child has been found, the infant is given a name and a network of volunteers make sure these little lives are not forgotten. The District would also like to thank McCormick and Son Mortuary for all their volunteer efforts to prepare these little ones for interment in the garden.

The Garden at El Toro Memorial Park first opened in January 2016 with the interment of two children. On Saturday, June 1st, the Garden received Mary, Ellen, Jackie, William, Tyler, and Katherine.

Saturday's service began with a large contingent from the Knights of Columbus and representatives from the Orange County Sheriff's Department, who led a processional escorting the children's urns to the gravesites. As attendees watched, the poignant refrains of a bagpiper played. The service also included special music, poetic readings, a white dove release, and a message provided by Bishop Joseph Jorgensen.



El Toro Memorial Park's Garden of Innocence is now home to 32 babies. The Garden is located in the infant section. As you face the Angel of Hope Statue, the garden is to the right. The public is encouraged to leave flowers for these babies at any time so that they continue to be remembered.

The Garden of Innocence is always looking for and appreciative of its volunteers. If you are interested about learning more, please visit: <https://www.gardenofinnocence.org/>

New Master Fee Schedule to take effect Monday, July 8, 2024

On June 5th, the Board of Trustees approved the 2024-25 Orange County Cemetery District fiscal year budget. As a part of the annual budget process, staff reviews all of the fees which are charged for interment services and space sales. In evaluating the fees, various factors are considered including: comparable interment space fees at other public cemeteries, Consumer Price Index

percentages, current staff labor rates, the District overhead rate, and benefit percentages.

Effective July 8, 2024 prices for interment spaces will increase by 4%. All Endowment Care Fees will also increase by \$25.00. The most significant increases will be seen in fees for casket and cremation

Interment Service Fees as well as the fee to disinter a casket.

The District makes every effort to keep fees as affordable as possible. However, based on current staffing requirements and increased time spent on services, these changes are necessary. To view the new price list please visit: www.occemeterydistrict.com.

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

July/August 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 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 July and August, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, July 9th at 10:00 a.m.**
(Please note: this meeting has been rescheduled from the regular date of July 2, 2024)
- **Tuesday, August 6th 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 Thursday morning. 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 full park clean-ups. During these times, we 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 27th and must be removed by Tuesday, July 16th. During this time, light clean-ups will still occur each Wednesday and only flowers that are obviously wilted will be removed.

Please be advised, from Wednesday, July 17th through Wednesday, August 28th full park clean-ups will occur EVERY WEDNESDAY. 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 2024 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.

CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS

**Anaheim Cemetery
and
Santa Ana Cemetery**
are open for visitation, seven days a week,
from 8 am to 5 pm.

**El Toro Memorial Park is open seven days a
week from 8 am to 7 pm.**

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 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

