



**JAN. – FEB. 2025**

# Orange County Cemetery District

## TRUSTEES

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

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

## Wreaths Across America Honors Veterans at Santa Ana Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park

On December 14<sup>th</sup> hundreds of volunteers gathered on a beautiful, clear morning to remember and honor Veterans interred at both Santa Ana Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park. We are excited to report that both cemeteries met their wreath sponsorship goals for 2024 with 850 wreaths being placed at Santa Ana Cemetery and 1,200 wreaths being placed at El Toro Memorial Park. The District would like to thank The Santa Ana Elks Lodge for coordinating the wreath ceremony at Santa Ana Cemetery and American Heritage Girls Troop 0356 for coordinating El Toro Memorial Park's wreath ceremony.

However, none of this would be possible without the generous sponsorship of wreaths by countless organizations and individuals. Please help us ensure that this tradition continues by sponsoring wreaths for 2025! Each wreath costs \$17.00 to sponsor and can be done throughout the year. To sponsor wreaths, please follow these links:

### For El Toro Memorial Park

[www.wreathseltoromemorialpark.org](http://www.wreathseltoromemorialpark.org)

### For Santa Ana Cemetery:

[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/casacc](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/casacc)



Wreath Ceremonies held at El Toro Memorial Park (left) and Santa Ana Cemetery (above).

## El Toro Memorial Park Hosts 35th Annual Veterans Day Program

About 150 to 200 people gathered at El Toro Memorial Park on November 11<sup>th</sup> to honor and thank our Veterans and all those who are currently serving in our Armed Forces.

Special thanks to our keynote speaker, Captain Timothy Daniels who shared his experiences serving in the U.S. Navy for over thirty years!

We would also like to thank the many volunteers who make this event possible from the Scout Troops who make sure every Veteran's grave receives a flag, to the wonderful musicians, the SAR and DAR Color Guards, the VFW Honor Guard Rifle Team, and all the beautiful floral wreaths that are presented by our elected officials! The program would not be possible without you!!



Laguna Woods Mayor, Noel Hatch and City Manager, Chris Macon at the wreath presentation.

## New Officers Elected for OCCD Board of Trustees for 2025

Every December the Board of Trustees elects the Chair and Vice Chair who will serve for the upcoming calendar year. The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting policy, defining goals and objectives, and adopting rules and regulations for the District.

Congratulations to Trustee Maribel Marroquin-Waldram who will serve as our Board Chair during 2025. Trustee Marroquin-Waldram was first appointed to our Board on December 5, 2017. This will be her second term as Board Chair,

having served previously in 2021. Chair Marroquin-Waldram brings a wealth of experience in public service and is currently the Executive Director for the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council.

Trustee Noel Hatch was elected to serve as the Vice Chair for 2025. He has been a Trustee with the Orange County Cemetery District since November 14, 2017. He previously served as Board Chair in 2020. Vice Chair Hatch practiced corporate and business law for over thirty



**Chair, Maribel Marroquin-Waldram**



**Vice Chair, Noel Hatch**

years and most recently served as the Mayor of Laguna Woods in 2024.

Thank you to outgoing Board Chair, Cynthia Ward for her dedicated service in 2024!

## Anaheim Cemetery Hosts Vibrant Dia de los Muertos Celebration

Despite the pouring rain, about 150 to 200 hearty souls gathered to enjoy Anaheim Cemetery's Dia de los Muertos celebration on Saturday evening November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Father Bill Cao of Saint Mary Claret Catholic Church opened the program with a short blessing. Those who attended received free small bouquets of marigolds that

could be used to adorn the gravesites of loved ones or to decorate an at-home ofrenda.

Then the stage was turned over to the wonderfully talented performers of Ballet Folklorico Donaj. These young entertainers dazzled the spectators in their beautiful costumes and performed an array of traditional dances.

Throughout the chilly evening guests warmed up with free coffee, cocoa, and pan de Muerto. Children did their best to stay dry under the canopies while enjoying the free assorted Dia de los Muertos crafts and face painting.

Thank you to all those who participated and worked so hard to make this celebration possible!

## Angel of Hope Candlelight Service Offers a Time of Remembrance



On September 28, 2002 the Angel of Hope statue was dedicated at El Toro Memorial Park. Ever since, it has been a place where grieving parents gather who have lost a child of any age, for any reason.

A beautiful candlelight service is held each year on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Angel of Hope statue. This year's featured speaker was Basia Mosinski and poetic readings were provided by Victoria Castle and Karen Badal

Hacker. Madeline Nguyen provided beautiful special music and concluded the evening by leading the audience in singing "Amazing Grace."

As always, the Angel was lovingly adorned with a tribute of white flowers placed by those who spoke their loved one's name before placing their flower at the Angel's feet. For more information on the Angel of Hope and this annual service, please visit:

<https://careandkindness.org/angelofhope/>

## Well Inspection and Repair Scheduled at Anaheim Cemetery

In late November, staff at Anaheim Cemetery noticed issues with the groundwater well pump operation. It appeared that the pump motor had seized up and there were minor leaks around the pumphouse. Our well service technician came to investigate and determined that the pump and potentially the well shaft were damaged.

Unfortunately, a well and pump contractor would be required to provide further analysis. Staff met at the site with Fain Drilling and Pump Company who determined that they will need to bring in a large crane to lift the pump/well head out of the pumphouse through the hatch located on the roof. More than likely, 300 plus feet of the shaft will also have to be removed, which will come out in 20-foot sections.

The contractor was planning to begin during the week of December 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, however there were concerns about the proximity of the Anaheim Public Utilities (APU) electrical service lines to the pumphouse hatch. The electrical lines and poles are located in the

backyard of the residences next to the pump house. The contractor and staff have been in contact with APU to coordinate a more extensive action plan to ensure everything is safe throughout the removal and replacement of the pump and shaft.

We anticipate that the removal and repair work will begin during the week of January 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Once the pump and the sections of shaft are removed, the contractor can determine how to make repairs. We anticipate that the well will be back in service by March 1, 2025.

Since the groundwater well was down, the automated irrigation system, along with the hose bibs were not active, thus no water was available to irrigate the lawns and for families to fill up their flower vases. Initially, the Cemetery Manager and staff placed buckets filled with water (from the hose bib located by the office), around the grounds so that families could get water for their flower vases. In addition, several sections of hose were laid out to set up some temporary sprinklers to irrigate

areas that were getting dry. We were fortunate that it is winter and temperatures are cooler, even though we have not had any rain.

Shortly after this, our irrigation team worked with a water line contractor to set up a temporary connection to the City water, through a temporary meter located on the fire hydrant in front of the cemetery. Once the temporary connection was made to the irrigation system, our Irrigation Technician was able to turn on the automated irrigation system and began to irrigate the lawns, trees, bushes and rose gardens.

We appreciated your understanding while the water was off. The groundskeepers will make every effort to get the grounds back in shape. When Fain begins the removal and repairs, there will certainly be some inconveniences while you are visiting, such as limited access to certain areas and equipment noise. We appreciate your patience during this time and apologize in advance for any inconveniences the repair work may cause. Thank you!

## El Toro Repaints Red Curbs and Section and Block Indicators



In early November, a contractor was hired at El Toro Memorial Park to repaint the red curbs and stencil new section and block markings throughout the grounds.

With multiple services taking place each day coupled with a high volume of visitation, it is essential that everyone abide by the red curb parking restrictions. This will help to prevent roads from becoming

blocked due to people parking on both sides of the street and it will also ensure that emergency vehicles will be able to quickly access all areas of the park if needed.

You will also notice the newly repainted section and block markers on the streets. This will make it easier for visitors to identify what lawn they are at and where the block breaks are occurring.

**ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT**

**January/February 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](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com). In January and February, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, February 4<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 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 Chinese New Year, flowers may be placed on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. Flowers may be placed for Valentine’s Day beginning on Thursday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. During this time, light clean-ups will still occur each Wednesday and only flowers that are obviously wilted will be removed.**

**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 2025 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  
Santa Ana Cemetery, and  
El Toro Memorial Park  
are open for visitation, seven days a week,  
from 8 am to 5 pm.**

**Cemetery Offices are open M-F, 8 am to 5 pm.**

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

**El Toro Memorial Park’s Extended Visitation  
Hours will resume on March 9, 2025.**

*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

