



**JAN. – FEB. 2024**

# Orange County Cemetery District

## TRUSTEES

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

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

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

Thanks to the hard work of the Santa Ana Elks Lodge and American Heritage Girls Troop 0356 both El Toro Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery held beautiful wreath ceremonies to honor Veterans during the holidays.

For the first time, both cemeteries met their wreath sponsorship goals with 850 wreaths sponsored at Santa Ana and 1,200 wreaths sponsored at El Toro Memorial Park. This could not have happened without the dedication of both

groups working throughout the year, numerous private sponsorships, and additional wreath sponsorships from Disney, Mission Viejo NSDAR, the City of Lake Forest, and many, many others.

Wreaths Across America's mission is to remember our Veterans, to honor their service and to teach our children about the price of freedom and the sacrifices our Veterans have made. Thank you all for making this event possible! But most importantly – Thank You Veterans!



**Volunteers John and Brian Torres drive wreaths to El Toro Memorial Park.**



**(Left) Lake Forest Mayor Doug Cirbo, was the keynote speaker at El Toro Memorial Park's ceremony. (Bottom Right) Over fifty Disney volunteers place wreaths at Santa Ana Cemetery.**



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Angel of Hope Candlelight Service – A Time of Remembrance, Encouragement and Support

On Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> approximately 250 people gathered together at El Toro Memorial Park’s Angel of Hope statue for the annual candlelight service honoring the memory of children they have lost.

This year’s program included poetic readings by Mike Heddlesten and Krist Biakanja. Evelyn and Madeline Nguyen provided beautiful vocal performances and Pastor Tim McCalmont gave the invocation and benediction. The evening’s

guest speaker was Rick Johnston who shared an inspiring message that even in the midst of grief, there is hope.

Parents, relatives, and friends then came forward to speak their child’s name and lay white flowers and other tokens at the Angel’s feet. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this beautiful service possible. To learn more about the Angel of Hope, please visit:

[www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope](http://www.careandkindness.org/angelofhope) or call (714)-973-8417.



## El Toro Memorial Park’s 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program

About 200 community members gathered together on a beautiful Saturday morning to celebrate and honor our Veterans. Our thanks to keynote speaker, Laguna Woods Mayor Cynthia Conners, Assembly-member Diane Dixon, the VFW Post

6024 Rifle Team, the South Coast Chapter SAR, Honorary Regent Maryann Herrera and the Mission Viejo NSDAR, Rev. Frank Cook with American Legion Post 862, vocalist John Huntington, vocalist and guitarist Gene Smith, Bagpiper

Richard Cook and bugler Alfred Lang. We would also like to thank our neighboring City Councils for providing the beautiful floral wreaths and for attending the program to present those wreaths during our ceremony. Here is a look back.



World War II Veteran, Cpt. Leland Spencer was a B-24 Heavy Bomber Pilot.



## Anaheim Cemetery Welcomes Back Dia de los Muertos Celebration!

Over 350 people gathered at Anaheim Cemetery on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> for the return of our Dia de los Muertos celebration. Rev. Bill Cao of St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church opened the event with a

blessing. Then the wonderful dancers from Ballet Folklorico Donaji and the talented students from R.H.Y.T.H.M.O. Mariachi Academy provided the evening's entertainment. Attendees also

enjoyed free pan de muerto and refreshments, free small bouquets of marigolds and free crafts and facepainting for the children. Thank you to all those who made this great community event possible!



## Board of Trustees Elects New Officers for 2024

Every December, the Board of Trustees elects new officers to serve for the upcoming calendar year. Congratulations to Trustee Cynthia Ward who will be our Board Chair in 2024 and to Trustee Maribel Marroquin-Waldram, who will serve as next year's Vice Chair.

Trustee Ward has been on the Board of the Orange County Cemetery District for over 13 years. She brings valuable experience in public policy and historic preservation. She has been instrumental in guiding the policies of the board and directing the restoration of our historic cemetery

structures. As Chair of the Communications and Public Relations Committee, Chair Ward has played an integral role in developing many of the District's outreach programs including the Dia de los Muertos celebrations, Veterans programs, and our cemetery historical tours. This will be Trustee Ward's third term as Board Chair.

Trustee Marroquin-Waldram was first appointed to the Board on Dec. 5, 2017. She is an experienced political strategist and campaign manager and is currently the Executive Director of the Orange

County Sheriff's Advisory Council. Her background and knowledge have been a tremendous asset for the board, particularly as we work to develop a fourth public cemetery. Trustee Marroquin-Waldram served as Board Chair in 2021. This will be her second term as Vice Chair.

The District wishes to thank outgoing Chair, Trustee Kelly Rivers for her dedication and service in 2023. We also wish to congratulate Trustee Noel Hatch, who was just reappointed to our Board for a new 4-year term by Supervisor Foley. Trustee Hatch has been our board since 2017. Thank you Trustees!

**ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT**

**January/February 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. Meetings are now being held in person and are open to the public. Members of the public may also attend 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 November and December, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, February 6<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.

**CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS**

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

**Starting on Sunday, March. 10<sup>th</sup>, El Toro  
Memorial Park will begin extended visitation  
hours with the park closing at 7:00 p.m.**

**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

**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 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, flowers may be placed on Thursday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>. In honor of Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day, decorations may be placed Thursday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and must be removed by Tuesday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. During these periods, light clean-up will still occur each Wednesday and only flowers that are obviously wilted will be removed.**

**Please be advised, 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](http://www.occemeterydistrict.com). Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

