



Orange County Cemetery District

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JULY – AUGUST 2018

Our Heroes Honored & Remembered – Memorial Day 2018

The refrains of a grateful nation echoed across Orange County as the District hosted Memorial Day Observances at each of our three cemeteries.

Santa Ana Cemetery

Approximately 350 people gathered at Santa Ana Cemetery where Decoration Day/Memorial Day observances have been held since 1881. Organized by The Tri-City Memorial Day Committee, the two-hour program featured remarks by George Dore from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Mayor Al Murray from the City of Tustin, Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas, Master of Ceremonies Scott McKee, and Congressman Lou Correa. (Pictured upper right).



The program also featured a Parade of Flags, special music by the Orange High School Chamber Singers, wreath presentations, and both Canon Salutes and an Honor Rifle Salute. The keynote speaker was Mr. Dan Shippey (pictured right center) with the Sons of the American Revolution, Orange County Chapter. Mr. Shippey gave a wonderful performance portraying President and General George Washington and his address was titled, "The Forgotten Veterans of the American Revolution." (Santa Ana Photography by Charles Beal.)



Anaheim Cemetery

The Memorial Day Observance at Anaheim Cemetery was organized by The American Legion Post 72 and The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3173 and always takes place on the steps of the Community Mausoleum. Approximately 150 people gathered to hear Memorial Day remarks by Paul Dies, the Commander of American Legion Post 72, Marilyn Peck, Treasurer for the VFW Auxiliary, Elizabeth Perez with the CA Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Congressman Lou Correa, and Anaheim Mayor, Tom Tait. The program also included the presentation of wreaths and a reading of "In Flanders Fields" by Arlene Hernandez, President of the American Legion Auxiliary. After the program concluded, attendees were invited to enjoy lunch hosted by the American Legion at their Post located on Lemon Street. (Continued on page 2.)



Memorial Day Programs - Continued from page 1

El Toro Memorial Park

About 350 to 400 people gathered at El Toro Memorial Park to remember and honor our Veterans. Featured program participants included Chaplain Maryann Herrera of the Mission Viejo Chapter NSDAR and Mistress of Ceremonies Penny Sander who is the current Regent for the Mission Viejo Chapter NSDAR. The keynote speaker was Ret. Army Colonel and City of Lake Forest Council Member Thomas Cagley who spoke about his experiences as a military intelligence officer during the Cold War. Darrell Rivers with the Huntington Beach Historical Society presented General Logan's Order and U.S. Rep. Mimi Walters led the Pledge of Allegiance (pictured right – El Toro Photography by Jared Funk).



The program also included combined color guards (pictured right center is Melvin Engleman with the Jewish War Veterans Post 680). Elected officials from the cities of Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills, Mission Viejo and Lake Forest and representatives from VFW Post 6024, The Freedom Committee, Jewish War Veterans Post 680, Mission Viejo DAR, and the Saddleback Area Historical Society presented beautiful wreaths (pictured bottom right). Special music was provided by the Master Chorale of Saddleback Valley. Bagpiper Tucker Fleming performed the touching melody of "Amazing Grace" and bugler, Noah Boihem sounded "Taps". Special thanks to June McLaughlin, Planning Committee Chair, for all her work behind the scenes to make this program happen.



The District would also like to note the sad passing of long-time program participant, Rev. Christopher McCullough, of the VFW Post 6024. Rev. McCullough always asked those gathered at our programs to join hands during the benediction. In his honor, that tradition was continued by Chaplain Herrera. Chris's warmth, humor, dedication to service, and beautiful smile will be deeply missed by all. Our thoughts are with his wife, former Lake Forest Mayor, Kathryn McCullough, and his entire family.



Pardon Our Dust – Construction Update on New El Toro Niches

As construction continues on the new El Toro Memorial Park niche feature and public restroom, we would again like to apologize for any inconvenience or disturbances you may experience while visiting the park. The contractor is estimating that this project will be completed in late September or early October. Until the new public restroom is complete, a portable toilet is available for use and on

weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. restrooms are available in the cemetery office.

The Santa Ana restroom remodel is estimated to begin in October and the Anaheim restroom remodel is currently underway. Thank you for your patience while this work is being completed.

2018-19 Orange County Cemetery District Budget Highlights

The 2018-19 budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the July 3rd Board Meeting. Currently, the District is in the fourth year of the five-year strategic plan which includes goals and objectives that are incorporated into the proposed budget. Some of the key objectives include:

- ✓ Maintaining staffing levels which provide quality service to the community;
- ✓ Increasing community awareness and education;
- ✓ Increasing the District's financial stability by reducing liabilities and increasing investment earnings;
- ✓ Completing the El Toro Niche project and District-wide restroom renovations;
- ✓ Ensuring the stability of the Endowment Fund for the perpetual care of all District cemeteries; and
- ✓ Building funding for future capital improvement projects and the acquisition of land for the development of a new, fourth public cemetery.

The budget serves many purposes. It is the District's annual financing and spending plan, and provides a means for allocating resources to meet the needs and desires of the residents of Orange County. The total proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is \$3,928,324 and it includes 25 full-time and two part-time positions. It also includes equipment purchases of \$186,000 for a new backhoe, a mower, a dirt trailer, a utility vehicle and a tractor.

Changes to Master Fee Schedule

As part of the annual budget process, staff reviews all of the fees which are charged for interment sales and all services provided by staff. In determining fees, staff consider such factors as comparable interment space fees in other Orange County cemeteries, the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index percentages, current staff labor rates, the District Overhead Rate, and benefit percentages.

For the 2018-19 fiscal year, staff will recommend to the Board that the District increase the cost of all interment spaces by four percent, with the exception of infant spaces which will have no increase. The Endowment Care Fee, which is set aside for the perpetual maintenance of the cemeteries, will see an increase of \$25. There are only minor changes recommended for Interment Service Fees for casket and cremation services with increases of no more than \$10 for opening/closing of graves and niches. The District is recommending the addition of a new fee for families who would like to be present at the time a gravestone is being installed. The fee to witness a marker installation will be \$75.

If the Board approves these recommended changes to the Master Fee Schedule at the July 3, 2018 Board Meeting, there will be a thirty-day posting period, with the new fees going into effect on Monday, August 6, 2018.

Meet One of Our Most Experienced Groundskeepers - Sergio Ayala



Sergio Ayala at Santa Ana Cemetery

If you've spent any amount of time in the past at either Santa Ana Cemetery or Anaheim Cemetery, chances are you have seen or been helped by Sergio Ayala. Sergio is one of Orange County Cemetery District's most experienced groundskeepers, having served with the District for over 29 years! He began with the District at El Toro Memorial Park in Lake Forest, but spent most of his career working at both Santa Ana Cemetery and Anaheim Cemetery. Prior to his District employment, he worked for Ascension Cemetery in Lake Forest for 11 years, giving him almost 40 years of cemetery industry experience!

Sergio was born in Mexico and grew up in Texas. When asked about his hobbies and interests Sergio said that, besides sleeping and eating, he enjoys traveling back to his home town and he loves baseball – especially the Angels.

Even after all these years Sergio said that he still loves his job. To all of you who have chosen one of the District properties as the final resting place for your loved ones, Sergio has a message, "Thank you! Thank you for choosing us!" Sergio is currently working at Santa Ana Cemetery, so if you see him be sure to say, "Hello!"

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

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

- ❖ **Tuesday, July 3rd at 10:00 a.m.**
- ❖ **Tuesday, August 7th 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

All District cemeteries are open for visitation seven days a week, year-round.

Anaheim & Santa Ana Cemeteries are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

El Toro Memorial Park in Lake Forest is open during the Fall and Winter months from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

El Toro Memorial Park – Extended Hours

When Daylight Saving Time begins on March 11th El Toro Memorial Park will remain open until 7:00 p.m.

When Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 4th the park will close at 5:00 p.m.

Offices are closed on the weekends and will also be closed on Wed., July 4th for Independence Day.

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 Independence Day, flowers may be placed on gravesites beginning on Thursday, June 28th until Tuesday, July 10th.



A complete listing of the District's extended holiday flower schedule for 2018 is available on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

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 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

