



NOV. – DEC. 2024

Orange County Cemetery District

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

Celebrate Dia de los Muertos at Anaheim Cemetery with Free Family Fun on Saturday, Nov. 2nd from 5-7 p.m.

If you are looking for an evening of free, fun, family entertainment, join us on Saturday, November 2nd at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Dia de los Muertos celebration at Anaheim Cemetery!

Rev. Bill Cao of Saint Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church will begin the program with a short service honoring deceased family members. Then the talented dancers of Ballet Folklorico Donaji will take the stage as the featured entertainers.

While supplies last, attendees can enjoy free refreshments and Pan de Muertos. Children will enjoy the free craft table and face painting.

We will also be giving away small bouquets of marigolds that can be used to decorate a loved one's grave or for an ofrenda in your home. When decorating gravesites please do not leave anything of great monetary or sentimental value, as staff cannot secure these items. Candles with real flame are prohibited.



Come and enjoy Ballet Folklorico Donaji!

There will be no parking inside the cemetery during the event. Please plan to park on the street and walk in. We hope to see you there for this wonderful community event!

El Toro Memorial Park Hosts 35th Annual Veterans Day Program



Keynote Speaker
Captain Tim L. Daniels
United States Navy (Ret.)

Please help us show our Veterans that their service and sacrifice is remembered, appreciated and honored! Make plans now to attend El Toro Memorial Park's 35th Annual Veterans Day program. **The program is on Monday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m., rain or shine.**

We are excited to welcome Retired U.S. Navy Captain, Tim L. Daniels, as our keynote speaker. Captain Daniels served on active duty for over thirty years in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps., with tours in San Diego, Pearl Harbor, Norfolk, Italy, and Afghanistan.

The program will also feature a combined color guard with members of South Coast Chapter SAR and Mission Viejo Chapter DAR; a beautiful wreath presentation; and an Honor Guard Firing Salute commanded by Bob Franzwa of VFW Post 6024. Vocalist John Huntington, bagpiper Richard Cook, bugler Alfred Lang, and guitarist and vocalist Gene Smith will perform special music.

Thank you volunteers for making this program possible, and to Scout Troops 727 and 604 for placing U.S. flags at every Veteran's grave.

Dia de los Muertos “To Go” on Friday, Nov. 1st Starting at 3:00 p.m. at Santa Ana Cemetery and El Toro Memorial Park While Supplies Last



If you can't attend our Dia de los Muertos celebration at Anaheim Cemetery on Saturday, you can still enjoy some free Dia de los Muertos treats “To Go” the day before, on Friday, November 1st.

Just swing by Santa Ana Cemetery or El Toro Memorial Park at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, November 1st. Staff will have tables set up outside near each cemetery office building.

While supplies last, staff will be handing out free small bouquets of marigolds, little bags of Pan de Muertos, and craft kits for children to enjoy that include a color your own skull mask, a coloring book, crayons, stickers, a scratch art kit, and a foam skeleton craft kit.

In past years, these items are distributed quickly, so be sure to arrive by 3 p.m. as supplies are limited.

Help Us Ensure Every Veteran is Remembered this Holiday Season! Sponsor a Wreath Today through Wreaths Across America!

Wreath ceremonies honoring our Veterans will be held on Saturday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m. at both El Toro Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery. Volunteers hope to place a beautiful, fresh wreath on the grave of every Veteran in both cemeteries. But that can only happen if enough wreaths are sponsored.

El Toro's goal is to sponsor 1,200 wreaths. At last count, 893 wreaths have been secured and 307 wreaths still to be sponsored.

Santa Ana's goal is 850 wreaths. So far, 376 wreaths have been sponsored. Santa Ana Cemetery still needs 474 more wreaths to be sponsored.

Sponsoring a wreath costs \$17.00. **The last day to sponsor wreaths is Friday, November 29th.** To sponsor wreaths, please follow these links:

For El Toro Memorial Park

www.wreathseltoromemorialpark.org

For Santa Ana Cemetery:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/casacc

From this page you can sponsor wreaths or volunteer to help place wreaths. If you would like a portion of the proceeds to benefit one of our fundraising groups, scroll down to the bottom of the page to see “Local Groups Supporting Us” and select the group you want to sponsor through.

Wreath placements cannot be assigned to specific gravesites and are placed randomly. Sponsoring a wreath does not guarantee that all Veteran gravesites will receive a wreath.

Please come on Saturday, Dec. 14th at 9 a.m. to honor our Veterans and teach the next generation about the price of freedom.



Extended Visitation Hours at El Toro Memorial Park End November 3rd

The end of Daylight Saving Time takes place on Sunday, Nov. 3rd. With the end of that additional daylight, also comes the end of extended visitation hours at El Toro Memorial Park. Beginning on Sunday, November 3rd, El Toro Memorial Park will close its gates at 5:00 p.m.

Please plan your visits accordingly so that you are leaving the park before 5:00 p.m. Please do not attempt to enter the park minutes before closing. This makes it very difficult for our security staff to efficiently clear the park of visitors in a timely manner. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.



Santa Ana Cemetery to Open 540 New Casket Interment Spaces in 2025

Santa Ana Cemetery staff has been busy removing asphalt and base from three cemetery roads to create new interment spaces.

Currently, only about 500 casket spaces remain at El Toro Memorial Park. These could be sold out in April of 2026. The Santa Ana project will produce 540 casket interment spaces and 220 cremation spaces. Like El Toro, these double-depth casket spaces will only be sold to families in immediate need of burial, and only one space will be

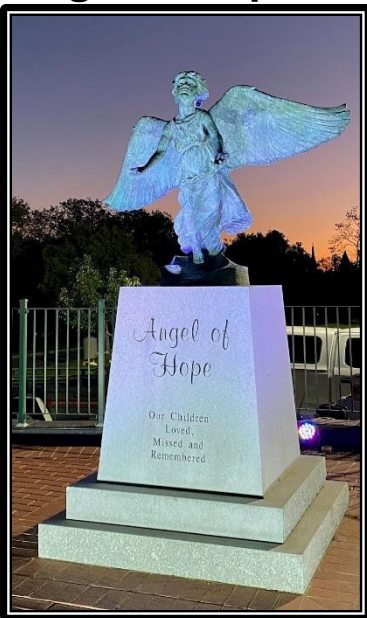
sold to each family in need. These spaces should be available for sale in January 2025. As part of the remaining development, staff will remove the remaining asphalt, import topsoil, grade and level each section, install new concrete curbs and lot pins, develop new mapping, and modify existing irrigation.

Since there is an urgent need for these spaces, no grass will be placed prior to sale and use. The area will be nicely graded and prepped for grass. Staff will open a

few sections at a time. When a majority of the spaces have been used for interments, staff will lay fresh sod over the entire section. When sod is placed, please do not leave flowers or gather in the area for at least two weeks so the sod can properly attach to the soil.

Marker installations will occur no sooner than three months after the date of interment. We greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation in our preparation of your loved one's grave.

Angel of Hope Candlelight Service, Friday December 6th at 7:00 p.m.



There may be no worse trauma that a human being can experience, than the loss of a child. When the Angel of Hope monument was dedicated at El Toro Memorial Park in 2002, it was established with the hope that those struggling with such grief could find comfort in the angel's presence.

Since then, every year on Dec. 6th, families gather at the Angel of Hope at 7 p.m. to come together as a community, to share their grief, to encourage each other, and to express their love for these little lives lost too soon.

The program includes music, poetic readings, and special guest speakers. For many, the most profound moments of the service come when attendees are invited to come forward, speak their child's name, and place a white flower at the Angel's feet.

Flowers and candles are provided. Please bring your own lawn chairs and a flashlight, as not all areas of the park are well lit. The event will take place rain or shine, so please dress for the weather. For more information on the Angel of Hope, please visit:

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

Boy Scout Charley Beeny Provides 30 New Flag Placement Tools with Eagle Scout Project for El Toro Memorial Park

With over 1,200 Veterans interred at El Toro Memorial Park, placing a U.S. Flag at each gravesite for Veterans Day and Memorial Day, takes a lot of volunteer help! To make the job easier, Boy Scout Charley Beeny of Troop 727 in Rancho Santa Margarita, resupplied the cemetery with 30 new flag placement tools.

Without these tools, it can be very difficult trying to force each flag's stick into the

hard ground without breaking the sticks. These tools are lightweight, easy to carry, and make the perfect hole for placing flags. Charley led a group of five scouts in sourcing the materials, preparing the pieces and assembling them. The project cost \$300 which he earned through fundraising. The tools arrived just in time for Veterans Day.

Thank you Scout Beeny for all your hard work! It is greatly appreciated!



**ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT
November/December 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. In November and December, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, November 5th at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, December 3rd 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
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 April 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

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 Halloween and Dia de los Muertos, flowers may be placed on Thursday, October 17th and must be removed by Tuesday, Nov. 12th. Flowers may be placed for Thanksgiving and the December holiday season, beginning on Thursday, Nov. 21st and must be removed by Tuesday, January 7th. 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 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. The 2025 Cemetery Clean-up Calendar is coming soon.

