

## Public Information

*From: The Board of Trustees of the Porterville Public Cemetery District.*

*To: All taxpayers and Residents of the Porterville Public Cemetery District.*

*Dear Friends,*

*The placement of flowers on the graves of our loved one is a time-honored tradition. It is an expression of love and remembrance to those who passed from this life, and is a beautiful and effective memorialization. Until recent years, fresh cut flowers were used exclusively. Today, however, we note a trend towards the use of artificial flowers. As these become dirty and unsightly, they create an impression of neglect rather than remembrance. If left on the lawn for long periods of time they create problems of care and maintenance. For this reason, the following regulations were passed by the Board of Trustees.*

- 1. Artificial flowers shall be treated the same as fresh flowers provided, they are placed in the vases cemented in the headstones. Wreaths will not be allowed in any District Cemetery, with the exception that wreaths may be put on graves for one week during the Christmas Holiday. If said flowers start to fade or deteriorate, cemetery employees will remove and dispose of them.*
- 2. No person or persons shall place or pour any sand, gravel, rocks, cement, casting plaster, wax, or any metal of any type in vases, jars, cans or flower containers because of the hazards to expensive mowing equipment. Fences, metal hooks, umbrellas or canopies of any kind are not allowed. No arrangements or items larger than 18" allowed.*
- 3. **At no time** will flowers or other items be allowed on the length of any grave. Every reasonable effort will be made to care for the flowers and containers placed on headstones, all other flowers or items that are placed or stuck in the ground around headstones will be picked up and discarded according to schedule. Neither the Cemetery District nor any of its employees will be responsible for anything that may be lost, stolen, vandalized, or misplaced.*
- 4. All flowers and other items not in vases cemented within the headstone will be picked up and disposed of as follows: Home of Peace and Porterville Cemetery every Monday, Hillcrest Cemetery every Tuesday, Vandalia Cemetery every Wednesday, and St. Anne's Cemetery every Thursday. **Flowers and all other items will not be held after they are picked up.** Flowers at the Springville, Duncan-McDonald, and Crabtree Cemeteries will be picked up the first working Friday of January, April, July, and October. Flowers and other items in the baby section will be picked up the first Tuesday of every month in Hillcrest and every first Thursday of the month in St. Anne's.  
*For those graves without a stone, you are allowed to place two non-glass arrangements where your stone is going to be, however, you must come every week on or prior to your mow day to avoid your items being picked up and disposed of.**
- 5. Holiday decorations not exceeding 18" in height will be allowed on headstones for the week of the holiday for the following: Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day Halloween, Day of the Dead and Veteran's Day. Decorations will be removed and discarded the week after the holiday. **Christmas items will be picked up the second week of January.***

*The full policy on decorating of graves can be obtained at the district office.*

*We respectfully insist that these regulations be observed. Additional questions regarding them will be answered at the District Office on the Cemetery grounds.*

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**PORTERVILLE CEMETERY  
VANDALIA CEMETERY  
ST. ANNE'S CEMETERY  
HILLCREST CEMETERY  
SPRINGVILLE CEMETERY  
DUNCAN-MC-DONALD CEMETERY  
HOME OF PEACE CEMETERY  
CRABTREE CEMETERY**

**Porterville, California**

## **Rules and Regulations of the Porterville Public Cemetery District**

*Adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of said District held on the first day of July 1929, and in force after said date. Re-evaluated, amended and re-adopted August 1987, April 2000, June 2005, August 2008, July 2010, December 2010, April 2012, October 2013, January 2017, May 2020 and June 2023.*

1. *Lots in the cemetery are conveyed for burial purposes only, subject to rules and regulations as are now in force, or as the Board of Trustees may from time to time adopt.*
2. *No burial will be permitted in the cemetery without a permit from the proper authorities.*
3. *No disinterment will be allowed without the consent of the cemetery authority and a written consent from the person or persons authorizing the disinterment or by order of the court when proper receipt of the remains must be given.*
4. *The Board of Trustees reserves the right given to them by law to exclude from any lot any headstone, monument, or other structure, tree, plant or other object which may conflict with the regulations or which it shall consider injurious to the general appearance of the ground.*
5. *No person or persons not employed by the cemetery authorities shall excavate any earth, lay or remove any sod or alter any grade of wall or lot within the cemetery, either on or about his own or another's lot, or plant, remove, or trim any tree or shrub without the consent of the Manager of the cemetery or the Board of Trustees.*
6. *Trees and shrubs may only be planted by permission of the Manager, where the location is appropriate. If any trees or shrubs, standing on any lot, shall by means of its roots, branches, or otherwise becomes detrimental to adjacent lots or avenues, or interfere with the general design, the Board of Trustees shall have the right to have such trees or shrubs, or any part thereof, as in their judgment removed. No heavy trucking will be allowed in the cemetery in wet weather.*
7. *No wooden or wired religious symbols, trellises, headstones, fences, borders, rocks, or arch of any type shall be placed in any part of the cemeteries.*
8. *The usual area of adult graves are "44 x 9'. No headstone will be allowed to be placed on any plot except by authority of the owner to said ground or by order of the court, when proper receipt is given.*
9. *Foundations for all raised headstones must be of such dimensions as the headstone may require at the discretion of the Manager or the Board of Trustee's. A concrete border must be poured around all upright and flat headstones.*
10. *Only one headstone will be permitted on a family burial plot. Any structure extending above ground level shall be considered a raised headstone that is only allowed in designated areas. The base of all raised headstones must be of solid granite or marble.*
11. *No raised headstones will be permitted in sections, which are designed for baby plots. Children's graves less than 4 feet in length will be permitted one flat headstone, the surface of which shall be 8" x 12" inches with a 4" inch cement border. No vases.*
12. *All flat headstones must be set even with the ground and must be of solid granite, marble or bronze. All raised headstones must be of the same material.*
13. *Plots will be sold in certain portions of the cemetery on which no raised headstones will be permitted. Monument dealers must notify District office for headstone specifications and provide certificate of liability before being set.*
14. *Plots will be sold in certain portions of the cemetery, which will be designed for cremation burials only. Each cremation plot will not exceed more than two burials. The size of the headstone for a cremation plot shall be a flat 12" x 24" inch only. Only one headstone per cremation plot allowed.*
15. *All stone, granite, or marble work must be accepted by the Manager as being in conformity with the following rules before being placed in the cemetery. All old markers removed from other cemeteries must be approved by the district manager before being placed.*
16. *All engraving on plaques for cremation niches will consist of the name of deceased, birth year and death year only. No month or day will be engraved; no military insignia or club emblems of any type, metal or other engravings will be permitted.*
17. *No out of country headstones permitted.*
18. *The Trustee's reserve the right to make exceptions from foregoing rules in favor of designs, which they consider exceptionally artistic and ornamental. Such exceptions, shall not be construed as a rescission of any rule.*
19. *The Board of Trustee's reserves the right of passing new rules and regulations or amending these rules and regulations at any time they may deem fit and proper.*
20. *The Board of Trustee's shall fix the price of plots and the cost of opening graves including dis-interments. Information will be given upon request.*

SIGNED

**PHILIP LARSON**

**STEVE CHAMBERLAIN**

**DOLORES GARCIA**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATED: October 29, 2024

**DEFINITIONS** - As used in these Rules and Regulations the following terms shall have the following meanings.

- A. "Board" shall mean the Board of Trustees of the Porterville Public Cemetery District.
- B. "District" shall mean the Porterville Public Cemetery District.
- C. "Manager" shall mean the Manager of the Porterville Public Cemetery District.
- D. "Owner" shall mean anyone who has purchased burial rights.

#### **SECTION ONE**

1. These Rules and Regulations for conduct of the cemeteries, within the Porterville Public Cemetery District, as established by the Board may from time to time be amended, as the Board shall determine.
2. The absolute control of the cemeteries in every particular is vested in the Board. Lot owners and others are entitled only to such privileges within the cemeteries as they are provided by these Rules and Regulations. Subject to this control, the following shall be the Rules regulating the general care of the graves and cemetery grounds.
  - A. Regular office hours shall be 7 a.m. to 12 noon, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
  - B. Prices for burial rights and services shall be set by the Board.
  - C. Lots, i.e., Grave spaces are conveyed for burial of human dead only, subject to Rules and Regulations of the District.
  - D. In all cases a body and/or remains must be accompanied by a burial permit issued by the local Registrar of the District in which death occurred. Permits shall be delivered to the Manager or a cemetery employee before interment is made.
  - E. An interment order must be signed by the person or persons responsible for the interment of the deceased. Interment will not be permitted in any grave or lot for which payment or guarantee of payment has not been made.
  - F. Evidence of ownership must be furnished upon request of the manager.
  - G. All arrangements for interment must be made 24 hours in advance. In case of an interment in the St. Anne's, Vandalia, or in the mountain cemeteries a 36-hour advanced notice is required. Cost to the District for opening plots in the mountain cemeteries by an outside contractor will be an additional amount added to the cemetery charges.
  - H. Caskets in all earth interments must be enclosed in a concrete vault, steel vault, or polypropylene plastic vault.
  - I. No open caskets will be allowed in the cemeteries of the district.
  - J. Two interments may be permitted in a single grave if authorized by the lot owner or other person entitled by law. Details can be obtained from the Manager at the District office.
  - K. Eligible non-residents will be charged a Non-Resident Fee in addition to all other charges. Eligible non-residents shall be determined by the sections pertaining to the Health and Safety Code, also by option of Board of Trustee's.
  - L. No interments will be made on Sundays or holidays unless by court or by County Health Officer.
  - M. All disinterment's and removals shall be according to the sections in the Health and Safety Code pertaining to disinterment and removal and such rules as the Board may adopt from time to time.
  - N. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in District cemeteries. No open flames or barbeque allowed.
  - O. All District cemeteries are closed daily at dusk.

#### **SECTION TWO**

1. Rules and Regulations pertaining to raised or flat headstones such as to type, size and method of installation shall be the same as the Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board July 1, 1929, March 1976, April 2000, June 2005, June 2008, July 2010, December 2010, April 2012, October 2013, January 2017, May 2020 and June 2023 incorporated into this set of Rules and Regulations by reference.
2. Only insured monument dealers will be allowed to do any monument or marker work in the cemetery.
3. All headstones raised or flat must be of granite, marble or bronze. No other kind of any description shall be placed in any part of the cemeteries. The District shall not be responsible for damages to pictures that are part of the marker. The District shall not be responsible for damage to raised letters or decorations on bronze markers. The District shall not be responsible for scrapes, nicks, abrasions, or marks of any kind on markers. Ownership of markers belongs to family.
4. The District reserves and shall have the right to correct any error that may be made by its employees or by any other persons in the location or placing of a monument or memorial bench in the District cemeteries.
5. To the fullest extent of the law, the District reserves and shall have the right to correct any errors that may be made by it in either making interments, disinterment's or removals, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any interment property, either by cancelling such conveyance in lieu therefore other interment property of equal value and similar location as far as is possible, or as may be selected by the District, or in the sole discretion of the District, by refunding the amount of money paid for said purchase, in the event the error shall involve the interment of remains of any person in such property. The District reserves and shall have the right to remove and reinter the remains to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof. The District shall, also have the right to correct any errors made by placing improper inscription including an incorrect name, or date, either on a crypt, niche, or grave memorial.