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CA Department of Developmental Services
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The California
Memorial Project

SEPTEMBER 2009

THE CALIFORNIA MEMORIAL PROJECT REMEMBRANCE DAY 2009

History

From the mid 1880s to the 1960s, more than 45,000 people passed away while living in a state institution. Their remains are for the most part unmarked, in mass gravesites, where numbered markers long ago disappeared.

In 2001 and 2006, then Senator Wesley Chesbro introduced legislation (SB 1448; SB 258) to establish the California Memorial Project (CMP) and expand its purpose. The combined intent of the two pieces of legislation was to:

- Identify the location of all gravesites at existing state hospitals and developmental centers;
- Identify the names of the patients whose remains were donated for medical research, and the entity which the remains were donated;
- Work with the Department of Mental Health and other state agencies to research the records of deaths and burials at cemeteries located on state hospital and developmental center grounds; and
- Develop a plan for the restoration of such cemeteries and gravesites at the locations identified.

About The California Memorial Project

The mission of CMP is to honor and restore dignity to those individuals who lived and died in state hospitals and institutions. Its goals include:

- Restore cemeteries or graves where individuals from state institutions are buried;
- Preserve the histories of individuals who lived in state institutions; and
- Document the history of the client and consumer movement in California

CMP receives funding from the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Developmental Services; however, most of the work of the project is funded through participating agencies and private donations.

Interesting Facts

- At Park View in Manteca, there are 2,284 cremated remains of people who died at Modesto State Institution and Stockton Developmental Center.
- Metropolitan State Hospital interred many individuals who had received treatment within the facility. Their remains were relocated to nearby area cemeteries in the early 1980s.
- Approximately 4,368 people were buried from 1875-1924 at Napa State Hospital.
- An estimated 2,024 people were buried from 1893-1934 at Patton State Hospital.
- 1,418 people are buried in a cemetery located in a field on the campus of Sonoma Developmental Center.

2009 Remembrance Day Locations

The 2009 Remembrance Day celebrations will take place September 21, 2009. Below is a listing of Remembrance Day locations:

Agnews Historic Cemetery

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

1250 Hope Drive
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Hillcrest Cemetery

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Noon)

1013 East Olive Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

Metropolitan State Hospital

11:30AM – 12:30 PM

11401 South Bloomfield Avenue
Norwalk, CA 90650

Napa State Hospital Burial Grounds

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

2100 Napa–Vallejo Highway
Napa, CA 94558

Parkview Cemetery

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Noon)

3661 French Camp Road
Manteca, CA 95336

Patton State Hospital

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

3102 East Highland Avenue
Patton, CA 92369

Sonoma Developmental Center

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

15000 Arnold Drive
Eldridge, CA 95442

Stockton Rural Cemetery

10:30 AM – 11:30 PM

2350 Cemetery Lane
Stockton, CA 95204

Ukiah Cemetery

Russian River Cemetery District

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

940 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

'Remember' with a Moment of Silence

If you, or someone you know, are unable to attend one of the Remembrance Day celebrations, please take five minutes of your time – from 1:55 PM to 2:00 PM – and join others from across California in remembering those whose lives were lost while living in a state institution.



California Memorial Project Partner Information

- [CA Network of Mental Health Clients](#)
(916) 443-3232
- [Disability Rights California](#)
(916) 488-7787
- [People First California](#)
(760) 945-7663

For more information about Remembrance Day activities, or how to make a donation to the California Memorial Project, please contact one of the following:

- [Alicia Mendoza](#), California Memorial Project, at (916) 488-7787
- [Debi Nishimoto](#), Department of Mental Health, at (916) 654-0990
- [Julia Lowe](#), Department of Developmental Services, at (916) 654-1963