



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **TREE PLANTING CEREMONY IN PEARSON PARK REMEMBERS THREE**

ANAHEIM, CA – On a beautiful summer Sunday in August, dozens of family members from several generations, some from miles away, gathered to plant a tree in memory of Eileen Ruth Nelson. Eileen had passed away at the age of 96 in November 2020. The family planned a picnic around the occasion to plant a young Coast Live Oak at Pearson Park. The celebration of Eileen’s life included a brief ceremony and the opportunity for all in attendance to help plant the tree by shoveling soil around the tree’s base.

What made this particular tree planting even more special was that the tree was placed just yards away from trees previously planted in honor of two other beloved family members, Eileen’s husband Allen and their daughter Signe. All three trees have been planted within 100 feet of one another. Allen and Eileen had five children, 16 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Almost all, along with their spouses, were in attendance at the planting.

The first tree was planted in memory of Eileen’s husband Allen C. Nelson who passed away in January 2010, the second in memory of Signe Mary Jo Ferguson who passed away in March 2014. Also Coast Live Oaks, these trees have grown strong and full over the years. At the planting of Eileen’s tree, the family also honored Allen and Signe with a table full of photos of all three family members and spread red rose petals at the base of all three trees.

“Every time we experience a tree planting made possible by the Margie Hilgenfeld Tree Memorial Program, it gives me pause as to the beauty of this program and all it brings to those who call on us to plant a tree in memory of a loved one,” said Sandra Lozeau, Vice President of Anaheim Beautiful. “The love we witness is a testimony to the importance of this program. We are grateful to the City of Anaheim Parks Division for helping us provide this service for our community.”

Lozeau also spoke briefly at the gathering and explained how funds from each of the three plantings have gone to support the Thelma Jordan Scholarship program. This annual scholarship benefits an Anaheim resident working toward a degree in Urban Environmental Studies or related fields. She mentioned that funds from Allen’s and Signe’s trees had helped two students, one in marine biology and the other in landscape architecture. The recipient of scholarship funds from Eileen’s tree will be announced in spring of 2022.

To learn more about the Margie Hilgenfeld Tree Memorial Program, visit:

<http://anaheimbeautiful.org/margie-hilgenfeld-tree-memorial/>

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Anaheim Beautiful is a 501 c3 non-profit organization dedicated to encourage recycling, prevent litter and graffiti and to preserve and enhance the beauty of The City of Anaheim. To find out how you can be involved and/or donate visit [www.anaheimbeautiful.org](http://www.anaheimbeautiful.org).

**Photo Caption 1** - Several generations of Eileen Nelson's family gathered at Pearson Park in August to plant a tree in her memory. The young Coastal Live Oak was planted just yards away from two trees planted over the past years in honor of her husband Allen and daughter Signe.

**Photo Caption 2** - Family members were given the opportunity to shovel soil on the newly planted tree. They followed this with a short opportunity for everyone to spread red rose petals on the two other trees planted for loved ones located nearby.