Celebrate Orange County’s 125th Birthday at the OC Fair!

(Santa Ana, CA) — Come celebrate Orange County’s Quasquicentennial on Friday, August 1, when the OC Fair hosts “Orange County Day” with a special ceremony honoring the county’s birth on August 1, 1889.

The celebration begins at 12:30 p.m. at the fairground’s Hangar building. The program includes a live performance of period music from the 1880s and a slide show of historic photos from the Orange County Archives.

A further celebration will take place at the Hall of Administration on Tuesday, August 5, at 8:30 a.m. The public is invited to a reception commemorating the very first Board of Supervisors meeting 125 years before, though it was held several blocks away above the Beatty Bros store on Fourth Street.

Prior to 1889, the region was part of Los Angeles County. The county seat at that time was seven hours distant by horse buggy on rutted dirt roads, and local residents felt overtaxed and unrepresented. Attempts to form a separate county began in 1870. The Legislature finally approved a county formation vote, which was held on June 4, 1889. Support for the new county was overwhelming—2,505 to 499. The county officially formed on August 1 of that year, and the rest is history.

The Orange County Fair & Events Center is located at 88 Fair Drive in Costa Mesa. Standard fair admission fees apply. Special thanks are extended to the Orange County Business Council for their support of the Quasquicentennial ceremony and to Supervisor John M.W. Moorlach for his support of the Board of Supervisors reception.

The Orange County Hall of Administration is at 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd. in Santa Ana.

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