



# HUGH NGUYEN

**ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**

Hall of Records - 12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 101, Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 834-2500



[Visit my website](#)

**Summer 2014 Edition**

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### Our Websites:

[www.ocrecorder.com](http://www.ocrecorder.com)

## Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the newsletter for the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department. We'll be bringing you periodic updates on the latest news and information in the world of public records, vital records and personal privacy, as well as more about Orange County history.

Sincerely,

Hugh Nguyen  
Orange County Clerk-Recorder

## Passport Services coming to the South County Branch Office



The Clerk-Recorder Department is in the beginning stages of bringing passport services to the department's South County Branch Office in Laguna Hills. Currently, the department offers passport services at the Old County Courthouse. Demand for passport services has been increasing specially from customers who have visited the office during our Saturday office openings.

In FY 2013-2014, the department processed 10% more passports than the previous fiscal year. "This service will be of great benefit to South County residents," said Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen. "We are all excited to be able to offer South County residents another option for this service." Please visit our web page at [www.ocrecorder.com](http://www.ocrecorder.com) for updates regarding passport services at the department's South County Branch Office.

## Saturday Hours Planned for September 20th and October 18th

Plan now to take advantage of Saturday hours available at the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department on Saturday, September 20th and October 18th from 10 am to 3 pm at the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana and at the Department's Branch Offices in Laguna Hills and Fullerton. The Old County Courthouse will be offering marriage licenses, civil wedding ceremonies and passport services only. The Archives will also be open to the public. Copies of property records and birth, death and marriage certificates will be available at the Laguna Hills and Fullerton branch offices as well as obtaining marriage licenses and ceremonies.

For more detailed information visit us at [www.ocrecorder.com](http://www.ocrecorder.com).

## Department Welcomes New Chief Deputy Clerk



This past April, the department welcomed Najeeb Siddiqui as the department's new Chief Deputy Clerk. Najeeb joined the County of Orange in 1990 and has 23 years of County experience. He worked 16 of those 23 years at the Clerk-Recorder Department and has spent the last seven years with the Clerk of the Board. Najeeb brings extensive knowledge and experience regarding Clerk-Recorder operations and the County as a whole. Please join us in welcoming Najeeb to the Clerk-Recorder Department and in wishing him the best of luck.

## Thousand's Visit Department's Offices During April 12th Saturday Opening

More than 1,248 guests were present at the Orange County Clerk-Recorder's offices to witness family members or friends "tie the knot" during Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen's special Saturday hours last April 12th.

Department staff issued 159 marriage licenses and performed 109 civil marriage ceremonies in a five hour period. These numbers exceed regular work week averages for a typical day. The more that 1,248 guest is also atypical for regular work week averages.

**"This is what Saturday hours are all about," Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen said. "Couples can now better plan to have their friends and families present at their civil marriage ceremonies. It has also made it easier for families to obtain important documents such as passports."**

The department has received hundreds of comment cards praising the department for their great customer service and for making the office more accessible. One of the most common comments received stated that "...this made it possible for my whole family to attend the ceremony..." which was very apparent due to the large crowds that gathered at the department's offices during their April 12th Saturday opening.

## Clerk-Recorder Celebrates First Year of Saturday Service to the Public



Last May represented the 12th consecutive month in which Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen has opened his offices to the public one Saturday per month. The pilot program was implemented shortly after Nguyen was appointed as Clerk-Recorder by the Orange County Board of Supervisors in April 2013. The Saturday openings have turned out to be very popular with wedding parties and other customers.

After its 12th Saturday opening, the department had issued 1,707 marriage licenses, performed 1,027 marriage ceremonies and issued 675 vital records. The department also processed 185 passports. In addition, more than 5,000 customers have been served and more than 5,300 guests have witnessed their family members or friends tie the knot at the department's marriage facilities.

**"I'm extremely proud of our Saturday office openings, and I want to recognize my staff for volunteering to work on Saturdays and working hard to serve the and meet our customers' needs," Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen said. "I love to see whole families come and take advantage of our marriage and passport services - this is what serving the public is all about."**

For more detailed information about our Saturday hours, appointments and about the services available at the Clerk-Recorder Department visit us at: [www.ocrecorder.com](http://www.ocrecorder.com).

## Happy 125th Birthday Orange County!!



*From left to right: Treasure-Tax Collector Shari Freidenrich, Supervisor John Moorlach, OC Fair Foodie" Olivia Orange, Supervisor Pat Bates and Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen*



*It wouldn't be a party without the birthday cake!!*



*Clerk-Recorder staff member Veronica Moreno wows the crowd with her rendition of the National Anthem.*

The County turned 125 years old on Friday, Aug. 1, which was celebrated at the OC Fair with a musical presentation, and a history lesson from Board Supervisor John Moorlach and remarks from special guests Board Supervisor Pat Bates, Treasurer-Tax Collector Shari Freidenrich and our very own Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen.

The birthday ceremony was the official opening of "Orange County Day" at the Fair. On hand to kick off the celebration was Clerk-Recorder staffer Veronica Moreno with a heart-felt rendition of the National Anthem, followed by a slide show of historical photos from the Orange County Archives.

The presentation began at 12:30 p.m., just after the Fair opened, and was broadcast on jumbo screens to crowds gathering in the Main Mall to enjoy traditional and out-of-the-ordinary Fair treats.

About 250 cupcakes decorated with the official OC 125th Year County seal were available for fairgoers who mingled with participants and watched the historical slide show playing on a jumbo screen at the hanger.

For more on the County's 125th birthday visit: <http://ocgov.com/about/infooc/oc125>

## August 30th Saturday Office Opening Another Great Success!

Even the long Labor Day holiday weekend couldn't stop customers from flocking to the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department's August 30<sup>th</sup> Saturday opening to obtain services usually rendered to the public during normal business hours.

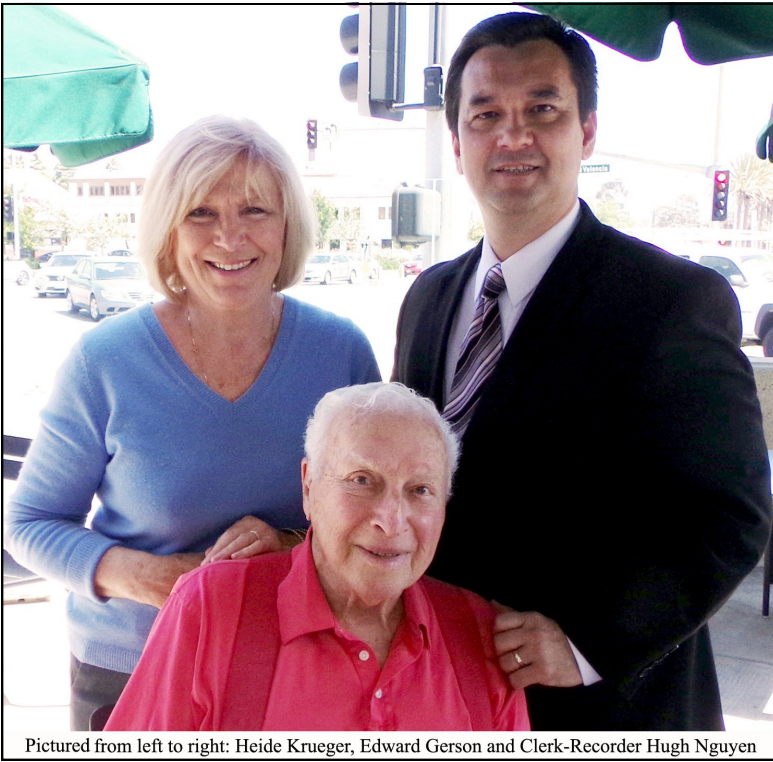
During the departments August 30<sup>th</sup> opening, the department issued 169 marriage licenses and performed 87 civil marriages. These numbers exceed regular work week averages for a typical business day. In addition, the department also issued 62 vital records and processed 15 passport applications.

**"These numbers show that these services are truly needed." Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen said. "Despite the long holiday weekend, customers still showed up to get our services. I would also like to thank my staff for providing great service to the public during the holiday weekend."**

Increasingly, the department's Saturday openings are attracting customers from all over the state and several out-of-state customers. During the department's August 30<sup>th</sup> opening, ceremonies and licenses were issued to customers visiting from cities such as Alameda, Bakersfield, Davis, Eastvale, Sacramento, San Jose and Shafter. Couples also came from Alabama, Arizona, Georgia and Texas to obtain marriage services.

For more detailed information about the department's Saturday hours, appointments and about the services available at the Clerk-Recorder Department, please visit us at: [www.ocrecorder.com](http://www.ocrecorder.com)

## “Have Hope and New Beginnings”



Pictured from left to right: Heide Krueger, Edward Gerson and Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen

Last April 8th, the Clerk-Recorder Department received a special visit from Mr. Edward Gerson and his future wife Ms. Heide Krueger at the South County Branch Office in Laguna Hills. The couple visited the office to obtain a marriage license. However Mr. Gerson isn't your typical groom. This groom was about to get married in April and then turn 100 in July. Mr. Gerson was about to experience two milestones in his life and months apart from each other. Department staff was intrigued so we decided to reach out to the couple and get a little insight about who they are and their decision to get married.

### Who is Edward Gerson?

Mr. Gerson was born in New York in 1914. His parents were also New York natives. Gerson fathered one son and one daughter. His son died in WWII and his daughter is doing well. He has six great grandchildren all 7th generation Americans.

### Q: Is there anything unique about you that you would like to share?

*I graduated from Dartmouth College in 1935 and I write a column for the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine every month. I'm also a pioneer in the plastic business creating molds and castings. The buttons on your shirts ... I created that. That is my invention.*

### Q: How long have you lived in Orange County?

*I have lived in Orange County for about 7 years. I have always traveled between New York and Orange County my whole life. In 1932, I drove from New York to Orange County to watch the Los Angeles Olympics.*

### Q: How is Orange County different from when you first visited?

*The Orange groves and the highways are the biggest differences. When I first visited Orange County in the 1930s, it was full of orange groves and there was just one highway - Pacific Coast Highway. If you were on the highway, there was no passing of cars so if you got stuck behind a truck, you stayed stuck all the way.*

### Q: How did you meet your wife and what qualities do you like about her?

*We met at the pool in Laguna Woods, pool #4 to be precise. I love that Heide is a "doer" and not just a talker. Some people will talk about what should be done and never take action. Heide puts her words into action. She is intelligent, warm and a loving person. We have lots in common and we enjoy each other's company. Heide is also a very elegant lady.*

### Q: Did you know right away that Heide was the one for you?

*I am going to let Heide answer that.*

### Q: Is there any advice you would like to pass onto other newlyweds couples?

*I came up with a saying that will be on our wedding cake. It says "Have Hope and New Beginnings" - that is the advice we can pass on to newlywed couples. Learn to disagree but still respect your partner.*

continued next page

## “Have Hope and New Beginnings”

(Continued from page 3)

**Q: How are you planning to celebrate your 100th birthday?**

*There are five parties being planned on my behalf by family, friends, the bridge club, Dartmouth and others. I plan on partying for the rest of the year (smiling and laughing).*

**Who is Heide Krueger?**

Heide Krueger was born in Germany in September of 1944. Both her parents are from Germany and her mother has been living in Orange County for 40 years. Heide came to Orange County to help take care of her mother.

**Q: How long have you lived in Orange County?**

*I have lived in Orange County for about nine years now. I moved here from New York to be with my mother.*

**Q: What qualities do you like about Edward?**

*Well, he is so darn sweet. I love that he handles me and that he gives me positive criticism. He is patient and will sit there and listen to me, but then he will point me in the right direction. He has a great sense of humor and is easy going. We have a lot in common and we really enjoy each other's company*

**Q: Did you know right away that Edward was the one for you?**

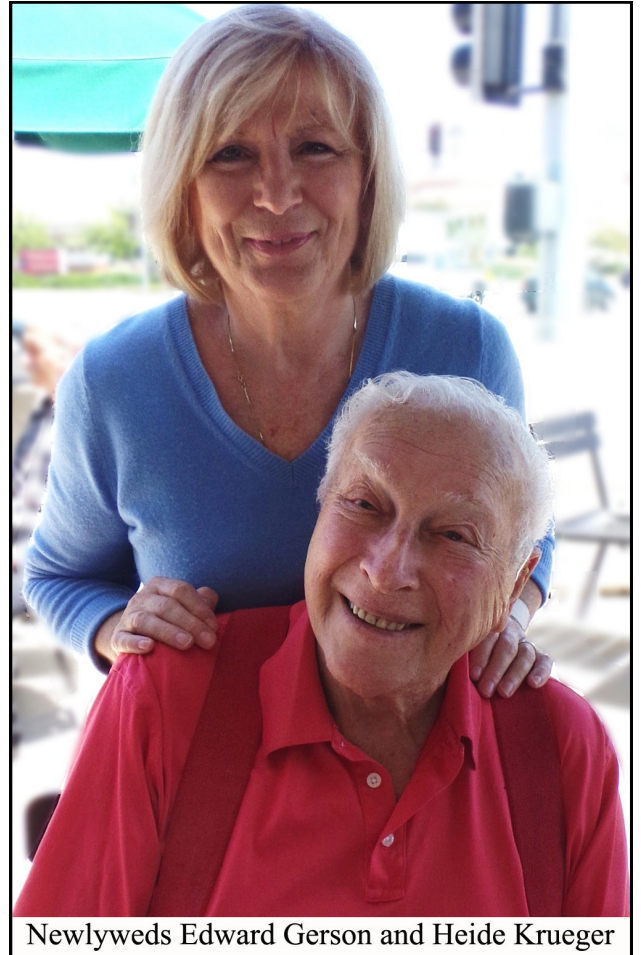
*No, not right away. Actually we started to like each other's company and that is the most important thing to have with someone - to be together and have a lot in common. I knew that I really liked his company.*

**Q: Is there any advice you would like to pass onto other newlywed couples?**

*Have respect for one another and be with someone that has a lot in common with you. Be with someone that you enjoy each other's company.*

At the time of the interview, the marriage ceremony was set for April 19, 2014. The couple planned for the wedding to be a small family affair at Heide's mother's house in Laguna Woods. It was very important to the couple that Heide's mother be part of the wedding. We would like to congratulate the couple on their marriage and wish them the best.

Interview conducted by: Jenni Cañedo



Newlyweds Edward Gerson and Heide Krueger

## Sisters Make Marriage a Family Affair



We all know that family bonds are important and that brothers and sisters form special bonds between them. If one sister does one thing the other sister(s) will follow suit. The department met one such family this past April.

Meet the Estrella sisters: Marcia, Reina and Berly. Once one of the sisters started planning her marriage, they all decided to get married. They just didn't want to get married, they were to get married on the same day, same place and same time. The sisters visited the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana with hopes of all making their wish come true.


Their wish became a reality on April 25, 2014. Deputy Commissioner of Marriages Daniel Gutierrez officiated the ceremony during which the three sisters exchanged vows and rings with their respective grooms. We were honored to be part of their ceremony and happy to make their wish come true. Congratulations to all involved and a special congratulations to the newlywed couples:

**Reina Estrella and Jose Ramirez**

**Marcia Estrella and Salvador Ramirez**

**Berly Estrella and Salvador Sanchez**

# Employees of the Month

ORANGE COUNTY  CLERK-RECORDER

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**


Is hereby awarded to:  
**DIANA SALDANA**

For your dedication to providing exceptional customer service and your willingness to go above and beyond during the month of:

**APRIL 2014**

Hugh Nguyen  
County Clerk-Recorder



ORANGE COUNTY  CLERK-RECORDER

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Is hereby awarded to:  
**PING HO**

For your dedication to providing exceptional customer service and your willingness to go above and beyond during the month of:

**MAY 2014**

Hugh Nguyen  
County Clerk-Recorder



ORANGE COUNTY  CLERK-RECORDER

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**


Is hereby awarded to:  
**STEVE OFTELIE**

For your dedication to providing exceptional customer service and your willingness to go above and beyond during the month of:

**JUNE 2014**

Hugh Nguyen  
County Clerk-Recorder



ORANGE COUNTY  CLERK-RECORDER

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Is hereby awarded to:  
**TIFFANY NGUYEN**

For your dedication to providing exceptional customer service and your willingness to go above and beyond during the month of:

**JULY 2014**

Hugh Nguyen  
County Clerk-Recorder



ORANGE COUNTY  CLERK-RECORDER

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Is hereby awarded to:  
**GLORIA CASTRUITA**

For your dedication to providing exceptional customer service and your willingness to go above and beyond during the month of:

**AUGUST 2014**

Hugh Nguyen  
County Clerk-Recorder

