



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

JUL 20 2015

The Honorable Max Cleland
Chairman
Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211

Dear Mr. Chairman:

MAX,

Thank you for the 2015 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) provided to me, as specified in the Public Law and Committee Charter.

The insight and advice provided to the United States Army by the Advisory Committee on ANC is extremely valuable. I have reviewed the report and packet submitted by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and disapproved the request to erect a commemorative monument in ANC to those who served aboard helicopters in Vietnam.

Instead, I have approved the placement of a commemorative plaque at the base of a living tree in ANC. The placement of a plaque is commensurate with how we have handled similar requests in the past, and balances both the need to conserve the finite amount of space available at ANC for our eligible fallen heroes, and the desire of the VHPA to recognize those who served on helicopters and Vietnam. In addition to approving the commemorative plaque, I have directed the Executive Director of Army National Cemeteries to create a virtual tour on the ANC Explorer app that focuses on the locations of Vietnam helicopter pilots within the cemetery.

As stewards of ANC, we take these requests for monuments very seriously as we work to conserve available space. Accordingly, we are diligent and thorough in our evaluation of the numerous requests for monuments, mindful both of the importance of the monument requested and our responsibility to our fallen heroes who are eligible to be laid to rest in ANC. It is a delicate balance that requires meticulous planning and thoughtful analysis.

I greatly appreciate the strategic advice your esteemed body continues to provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", is written over the typed name.

John M. McHugh



Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211

May 6, 2015

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
100 Army Pentagon, Room 3E700
Washington DC, 20310

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Arlington National Cemetery Advisory Committee (ANCAC), now a congressionally mandated non-discretionary advisory committee established under Title 10 United States Code § 4723, met on March 26, 2015 at the Women in Military Service to America.

The ANCAC is a vehicle through which the Army receives advice and recommendations which is a complement to command and staff actions, not a substitute. The Department of the Army provides support through the Army National Military Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery. The committee, with DoD approval, operates through 3 authorized subcommittees:

- (a) Honor Subcommittee – to review and provide recommendations to the parent Committee on extending the future of active burial gravesites, veteran eligibility criteria and master planning.
- (b) Remember Subcommittee – to review and provide recommendations to the parent Committee on efforts to preserve and care for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- (c) Explore Subcommittee – to review and provide recommendations to the parent Committee on efforts to preserve the historic essence of Arlington National Cemetery and development of an interactive means to share this unique history with the nation and the world.

The Committee takes seriously its mandate to provide independent advice and is excited and pleased with the significant progress that continues at Arlington National Cemetery. The agenda, attendees and Committee recommendations are included in the attached March 2015 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery at Tab A. We look forward to working further with your staff to continue to enhance the service and experience provided to veterans and their loved ones as well as our nation at Arlington National Cemetery.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Honorable Maxwell Cleland
Co-Chairperson, Advisory Committee on
Arlington National Cemetery

March 2015 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery

1. References.

- a. Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, Title 5, United States Code, Appendix 2.
- b. The Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. § 552b)
- c. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012, Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (10 U.S.C. § 4723)
- d. Department of Defense Instruction 5105.04.
- e. Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery Charter, July 2014.

2. Background.

a. The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (Committee) met and renewed their annual ethics training and re-affirmed their oaths of office at the Spring 2015 Meeting at the Women in Service to America Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery on 26 March 2015.

b. Established by the Secretary of the Army as the "Army National Cemeteries Advisory Commission," Congress mandated within the NDAA 2012 that "the Secretary of the Army shall advise and consult with the advisory committee with respect to the administration of Arlington National Cemetery, the erection of memorials at the cemetery, and master planning for the cemetery."

c. The 10 U.S.C. § 4723 also stipulates that "not later than 90 days after receiving a report or recommendations from the advisory committee, the Secretary of the Army shall submit the report or recommendations to the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and include such comments and recommendations of the Secretary as the Secretary considers appropriate."

3. **Report.** Six of eight appointed Committee members, a quorum, were present for the meeting, including:

Honorable Maxwell Cleland, Chairperson
Mr. Russell Davis, Lieutenant General (USAR retired)
Mr. James Peake, Lieutenant General (USA retired)
Mrs. Debra Fix
Mr. Thomas Kelley
Mr. Chet Edwards

a. The Chairman, the Honorable Max Cleland, presided over the meeting

March 2015 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery

b. Committee members discussed required actions to address the subcommittee focus areas studied throughout the year, and they also received briefs on:

- (1) Construction and expansion update
- (2) Arlington National Cemetery Arboretum designation, March 2015
- (3) Visitor experience enhancements and ANC Explorer update
- (4) Burial demand and Center for Army Analysis study
- (5) American Battle Monuments Commission and ANC synergy
- (6) Cultural resource preservation highlighting 13 of the 232 in most need
- (7) Five open/pending Commemorative monument requests
- (8) Commemorative monument proposal presented by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA)

4. Recommendations. The committee deliberated the proposed commemorative monument as requested by the VHPA. The monument request was the first the committee has had to consider since the public law change requiring the SecArmy to consult with the committee prior to approving or disapproving. Unfortunately the committee vote was split, 3 In Favor Of and 3 Against recommending approval for placement of this monument in Arlington National Cemetery. As a result, no definitive recommendation can be made for this monument.

- a. Those voting for a favorable recommendation to place the monument included the Committee Chair, Honorable Max Cleland, Mr. Thomas Kelley and Mr. Chet Edwards. The arguments for the placement of the monument included:
 - (1) Monument should be given serious consideration due to the disproportionate loss of life compared to the number of lives these pilots saved in the Vietnam conflict.
 - (2) The number of Vietnam pilots interred at ANC.
 - (3) The 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War makes this monument appropriate.

March 2015 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery

b. Those voting against recommending placement of the monument included Mr. James Peake, Mr. Russell Davis, and Mrs. Debra Fix. Mr. Ronald Fetherson was not present. The arguments against placement of the monument included:

- (1) ANCs fundamental mission and purpose is for internment, ANC is not a monument park. Other more commemorative efforts could be used to pay tribute to those who were lost by creation of a tour so that the sacrifices of individuals who are interred here can be remembered.
- (2) Recommending one monument over others is a deliberate decision and makes it difficult to deny others with equally compelling commemorations. Over time future burial space will be exhausted.
- (3) Approval will negatively impact space in the cemetery over time.

5. Requested Actions. The Committee takes seriously its mandate to advise the Secretary of the Army on Arlington National Cemetery. The various subcommittees will continue their individual committee work to develop recommendations for the full committee.

6. Actions Pending Further Review. To help the Committee make more informed recommendations, the committee requests more information on:

a. An expanded budget briefing, including the various sources of funding for sustainment and construction.

b. A full briefing on the American Disabilities Act compliance review and plan for the John F. Kennedy grave location.

c. A briefing and formal request regarding consideration of addition or use of a quote like Pershing's quote of: "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds." At the exit to the Welcome Center.

d. A review of the cemetery's plan to place trees in the first internment areas, specifically the former LD90 area which is now Sections 56-62 and 71-76, in order to keep the iconic nature of ANC alive.

e. A status of consideration for naming new roadways in honor of enlisted personnel as requested by the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman and all other senior enlisted advisors to the service chiefs and combatant commanders.

March 2015 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery

7. The Designated Federal Officer, Ms. Renea Yates, was present. The meeting was video recorded. Minutes and a formal Congressional report are being developed as required.

8. The Committee meeting minutes will be reviewed and approved as required by the business rules. The next full committee meeting will be at a date and time to be determined in June 2015.