



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON
JUL 22 2016

Lieutenant General James Peake, USA Retired
Co-Chairperson
Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211

Dear General Peake:

Thank you for the May 19, 2016 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC) that you provided to me as specified in the Public Law 112-81 and the Committee Charter.

The insight and advice provided to the United States Army by the ACANC is extremely valuable. I have reviewed the report and the supporting documents and accept your recommendations to disapprove the requests to erect commemorative monuments in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) for those who served in the 8th and 12th Armored Divisions. As the steward of ANC charged with conserving available space for future interments, the Army takes these requests for monuments very seriously.

I have reviewed the recommended names for the street and loop that will be added to the cemetery as part of the Millennium expansion this fall. I am pleased to approve the recommendation to honor Gunnery Sergeant Jonathan Gifford (United States Marine Corps) and Ms. Ida Lewis (United States Lighthouse Service, which is now part of the United States Coast Guard) in this manner. These honors will achieve a more diverse representation of those who have served our Nation in the Armed Forces.

I sincerely appreciate your diligent and thorough evaluation of the numerous requests for commemorative monuments and nominations to perpetually memorialize fallen heroes of our Nation deserving of individual recognition. This delicate balance – between the importance of commemorating Veterans and groups and our critical responsibility to ensure burial space – requires meticulous planning and thoughtful analysis.

I look forward to your continued strategic advice and recommendations as we address the greater challenge of eligibility and the further expansion of ANC well into the future.

Sincerely,


Eric K. Fanning



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON
JUL 22 2016

Mr. Thomas "Chet" Edwards
Co-Chairperson
Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211

Dear Mr. Edwards:

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Sincerely,


Eric K. Fanning



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

May 19, 2016

The Honorable Eric K. Fanning
Secretary of the Army
100 Army Pentagon, Room 3E700
Washington DC, 20310

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), now a congressionally mandated non-discretionary advisory committee established under Title 10 United States Code § 4723, held three open committee meetings since the last formal report.

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 memorialize groups and individuals and to 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 2016 Committee Report and recommendations are included in the attached May 2016 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.

Chet Edwards
Co-Chairperson
Advisory Committee on Arlington
National Cemetery

Very Respectfully Yours,

James Peake
Co-Chairperson
Advisory Committee on Arlington
National Cemetery

May 2016 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 at Arlington the Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center on 15 March 2016 for the annual Spring meeting. Prior to the Spring 2016 meeting, the committee also met on 25 June 2015 and 15 October 2015. All meetings were open to the public and held at Arlington National Cemetery.

b. Established by the Secretary of the Army as Congress mandated within the NDAA 2012, 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.** Over the past year, the committee held six subcommittee meetings and three full committee meetings focused on topics with respect to the administration, erection of commemorative monuments and master planning.

a. A quorum of appointed Committee members were present for each meeting, and a formal vote was only rendered during the 15 March 2016 full committee meeting. The Designated Federal Officer, Ms. Renea Yates, was present for all meetings and committee work. The meeting 15 March 2016 was video recorded. Formal meeting Minutes were developed as required and approved as required by the business rules. The next full committee meeting will be at a date and time to be determined in July 2016.

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b. During the course of the three meetings held since the 2015 report, Committee members discussed required actions to address subcommittee focus areas studied throughout the year, and they also received briefs on:

- (1) Historical Overview of Eligibility for interment at Arlington National Cemetery
- (2) Construction and expansion updates
- (3) Visitor experience enhancements, social media outreach, family satisfaction surveys, and ANC Explorer and website updates
- (4) Proposals for street naming in the Millennium Project
- (5) Burial demand and Center for Army Analysis study
- (6) Status updates on previous commemorative monuments requests
- (7) Commemorative monument proposals presented by both the 8th and 12th Armor Division Associations
- (8) Proposed revisions to the Committee Charter to reinstate Co-Chairpersons and combining the Remember and Explore Subcommittees into a single subcommittee.

4. Recommendations.

a. The Committee discussed and approved revisions to the charter in preparation for the 2016 renewal and concurred with the following changes:

- (1) Reinstate Co-Chairs for the Full Committee.
- (2) Combine the Remember and Explore Subcommittees, resulting in two standing subcommittees.
- (3) Appoint Mr. Russell Davis as Chairman of the combined Remember and Explore Subcommittee.

b. The committee deliberated the two proposed commemorative monuments as requested by both the 8th and 12th Armor Division Associations (Annex A). A formal vote was rendered and the Committee unanimously to recommend disproving both requests. Primary reasons for recommending disapproval were consistent for both organizations.

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(1) Both divisions are already memorialized on the Armor Division Memorial located near the Arlington National Cemetery Visitor's Center, as well as other locations in the United States.

(2) Both organizations are experiencing a decline in membership and indications they may not have the personnel or financial resources to maintain the monuments well into the future.

(3) The purpose of Arlington National Cemetery is to memorialize individual veterans. Commemorative monuments take away space that could be otherwise used for interment and memorialization of a veteran.

c. The Committee considered and deliberated nominations proved by each of the Services' for possible naming of new streets in the Millennium Project in honor of an enlisted member of our armed forces. The former Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff previously requested the Committee and ANC consider an enlisted member for this honor. The Committee voted unanimously and formally recommend approving naming a new street and loop in the Millennium Project separately in honor of GySgt Jonathan Gifford (U.S.M.C.) and Ms. Ida Lewis (U.S. Lighthouse Service which would later be absorbed into the U.S. Coast Guard).

(1) The primary goal in recommending the two nominees was to achieve more representation of the diversity in the Armed Forces. The Committee debated whether being a Medal of Honor Recipient should be a primary qualification, but also recognized that Medal of Honor Recipients as a group are well represented with street names in the cemetery, and most, if not all, will be memorialized at numerous other places in the United States.

(2) The two nominees represent groups that are either under-represented or not represented at all with current street names at Arlington National Cemetery (Annex B).

(a) GySgt Gifford would be only the second enlisted member and the first U.S. Marine to be honored with a street name.

(b) Ms. Ida Lewis would be the first female and the first representative of the U.S. Coast Guard to be honored with a street name.

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 Honor subcommittee and full committee continues to review data and the impacts for ensuring Arlington National Cemetery has the ability to continue first

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interments given current geographical constraints and conditions of eligibility while considering the impact of various expansion efforts and opportunities together with a comprehensive review of eligibility criteria.