

Arlington National Cemetery's Pilot Program Section 60 Mementos

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) is conducting a pilot program for service members killed in action in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and interred in Section 60 to address families' desires to leave mementos at their loved one's gravesite. The cemetery continues to ask visitors not to leave items that present a safety or health concern. Additionally, visitors are not allowed to affix items to government furnished markers. These items will be collected and discarded.

The ANC History office is responsible for conducting the collection effort and they execute it under the following guidelines and procedures:

ANC History office representatives photograph and collect objects determined to have unusual, artistic, or historical value to the service member during their bi-monthly collection. During the pilot program, objects collected under the program guidelines are stored at Fort Belvoir, Va.

ANC personnel will collect and dispose of items not collected by ANC History representatives to facilitate normal cemetery maintenance procedures. During the turf growing season (15 April-9 October), the cemetery will remove items which impede frequent mowing and trimming to maintain a neat and orderly appearance and prevent damage to maintenance equipment and adjacent markers. During the non-growing season (10 October-14 April), the cemetery will follow the grounds maintenance practice of immediately removing only items that are affixed to headstones or pose a safety hazard to visitors and staff but will allow small photographs and small handcrafted items to remain until they become unsightly.

The ANC History office conducts bi-monthly collections in the early morning hours on the second and fourth Friday to ensure the safeguarding of items of historical significance. ANC personnel will follow behind the ANC History collection. If family members or visitors wish to keep specific items please collect these items prior to the second and fourth Friday of each month.

It is important for family members and visitors to understand that the government does not assume any responsibility for damaged or missing items left in the cemetery.

If you questions concerning this information please contact the ANC Operations Officer or the ANC Chief of Staff, at (877) 907-8585.