



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

FEB 28 2014

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

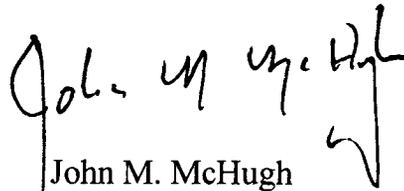
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the 2013 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery provided to me on January 20, 2014, as specified in the Public Law and Committee Charter. I have reviewed the report and considered the recommendations provided.

I endorse the recommendation to establish a specified end date to the collection of mementos in Section 60 which capture the unique sacrifice of our families and service members in the Global War on Terrorism. I have directed the implementation of a policy to ensure continued preservation of the uniqueness of Section 60, a first interment section where the majority of service members killed in current contingencies are interred, while also ensuring the dignity and decorum which is worthy of our Nation's most treasured shrine. Specifically, I concur with the Committee's recommendations for the Army to end the current Section 60 Mementos collection program no later than December 31, 2014 or upon withdrawal of combat troops from Afghanistan and to designate all items previously collected and retained as a historical memorial collection.

The recommendations and advice provided to the United States Army by the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery are extremely valuable. I look forward to the continued strategic advice and recommendations your esteemed body continues to provide.

Sincerely,

  
John M. McHugh



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

December 17, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

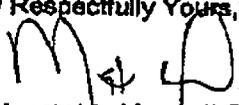
The Arlington National Cemetery Advisory Committee (ANCAC), now a congressionally mandated non-discretionary advisory committee established under Title 10 United States Code § 4723, met on November 19, 2013 at the Women in Military Service to America.

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 Executive Director, Army National Military Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery serve as the Principal Executive and a nonvoting member of the Committee. 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 encouraged by the significant progress made in the past two years by the current leadership. The agenda, attendees and Committee recommendations are included in the attached December 2013 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

## December 2013 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, August 2012.

### 2. Background.

a. The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (Committee) met a total of two open sessions and rendered recommendations at its Fall 2013 Meeting at the Women in Service to America Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery on 19 November 2013.

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.** All seven re-nominated and re-appointed Committee members, a quorum, were present for the majority of meeting, including:

Honorable Maxwell Cleland, Chairperson  
Mr. Russell Davis, Lieutenant General (USAR retired)  
Mr. Thomas Chet Edwards, American Battle Monuments Commission nominee  
Mrs. Debra Lopez Fix, Colonel (USA retired)  
Mr. Thomas G. Kelley, Captain (USN retired), Veterans Affairs nominee  
Mr. James V. Kimsey  
Mr. James Peake, Lieutenant General (USA retired)

Preparation of this report/study cost the Department of Defense a total of approximately \$1046 for the 2013 Fiscal Year.

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## December 2013 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery

a. The Chairman, the Honorable Max Cleland, presided over the Fall meeting and called for a moment of reflection on the significance of the week as the nation began commemoration for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination and burial at ANC.

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

(1) Highlights for the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the interment of JFK and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arlington National Cemetery.

(2) An update by the ANC Engineer regarding the status of the multiple expansion projects.

(3) The Mementoes Pilot Program for Section 60

**4. Recommendations.** By unanimous vote, the Committee rendered two recommendations to the Secretary of the Army during the November 2013 meeting:

a. Over the past two years, the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery has reviewed and assessed the 2009 Secretary of the Army mandated Pilot Mementoes Program which was directed to collect and retain items determined to have unusual, artistic or historical value to capture the sacrifice of our nation's veterans in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Secretary of the Army to end the Section 60 Mementos Pilot Program no later than December 31, 2014 or upon the withdrawal of combat troops from Afghanistan.

b. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the items collected and retained as part of the Section 60 Mementos Pilot Program be declared and treated as a historical memorial collection.

**5. Requested Actions.** The Committee takes seriously its mandate to advise the Secretary of the Army on Arlington National Cemetery. As such, the Committee requested to receive the following brief: A briefing from the ANC staff on the way ahead leveraging technology to further memorialize all those buried in ANC.

**6. Actions Pending Further Review.** To help the Committee make more informed recommendations, they also asked to receive the following information:

a. Identify requirements for a public-private partnership or foundation opportunity;

b. Develop a courses of action regarding recommendations for disposition of the proffered large marble slab in Colorado:

(1) Determine what is the exact nature of the proffer; and

## **December 2013 Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery**

(2) Provide details on the cost and logistics associated with moving and storing the large marble slab, currently in Colorado, if the Army would want to pursue this course of action.

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 March 2014.