

MINUTES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY  
SPRING 2015 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

March 26, 2015

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, ARLINGTON, VA

**1. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS.** Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (Committee) opened the Spring 2015 Organizational Meeting. Ms. Yates stated for the record that the Committee operates under authority of 5 US Code (U.S.C.) Appendix 2 and 41 Code of Federal Regulation 102-3.50(d), and is an Advisory Committee subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Ms. Yates explained that Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), on behalf of the Department of the Army, is the sponsor of the Committee established by the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) in compliance with 10 U.S.C. § 4723 and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012. ANC, a Direct Reporting Unit to the Headquarters, Department of the Army, is the agency that receives the benefit of the Committee's advice and recommendations, as well as provides the DFO, who is nominated by the Executive Director and appointed by the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Additionally, ANC provides administrative support to the Committee.

Ms. Yates noted that the meeting was open to the public. She also reminded the public attending this open meeting and briefings that the public was not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the Committee without permission of the chair person. She noted that any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement with the Committee in accordance with the published Federal Register notice as posted in the binder at the entrance of the meeting room. Ms. Yates also noted that the proceedings were being recorded, and a summarized transcript of the meeting will be prepared.

**2. CHAIRMAN OPENING REMARKS.** Honorable Cleland opened with remarks then called the meeting to order at 0940 and asked Ms. Yates to take roll. Honorable Cleland asked Ms. Yates to update the committee on the committee reports.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS.** Before taking roll, the DFO provided administrative announcements. The DFO reminded the Committee members and other federal officials present of their official oath of office. The SecArmy and SecDef established the "Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery" pursuant to the NDAA of 2012, codified in 10 U.S. C. § 4723, and effective 1 August 2012.

The DFO noted that the SecDef had re-approved the three subcommittees and existing focuses:

a. "Honor" Subcommittee: provide recommendations of methods to address the long-term future of ANC, including how best to extend the active burials and on what ANC should focus once all available space has been used.

b. "Remember" Subcommittee: provide recommendations on preserving the marble components of the Tomb of the Unknowns, including the cracks in the large marble memorial, the adjacent marble slabs, and the potential replacement of the marble stone for the memorial already gifted to the Army.

c. "Explore" Subcommittee: provide recommendations on the Section 60 Mementos study and improving the quality of visitors' experiences, now and for generations to come.

Additionally, three new subcommittee members were appointed on 25 March 2015, Mr. Robert Hess, Honor and Explore subcommittees; Mrs. Rose Duval, Remember and Explore subcommittees; and Mr. Mark Farley, Honor and Remember subcommittees. The DFO noted the binders in front of each member as well as the letter received from the Senior Enlisted Advisors of all the uniformed services as well as the combatant commands requesting consideration of a road to be named after an enlisted member of the armed forces. A formal letter of response will be drafted for the Chairman and the letter will be forwarded to the Remember subcommittee for action and consideration.

**4. ROLL CALL.** Ms. Yates took roll call and stated the following as present: Honorable Max Cleland, Mr. Thomas Kelley, Mr. Russell Davis, Mr. Chet Edwards, Mr. James Peake, and Mrs. Debra Fix. Not present was Mr. Ronald Fetherson. Additionally, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Johnson was present and provided administrative support. All ANC personnel and guests were asked to sign in. For the record, a quorum of the Committee was present. A list of attendees is appended to these minutes.

**5. AGENDA INTRODUCTION AND REPORT REQUIREMENTS.** The DFO stated by the Committee's Charter that the Committee shall visit ANC at least once annually. Within 60 days after this annual visit, the Committee shall submit a written report of its actions, views and recommendations to the SecArmy. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 4723, as codified with the NDAA of 2012, and not later than 90 days after receiving a report or recommendations from the Committee, the SecArmy shall submit the report of 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 SecArmy as he considers appropriate. The DFO added that any report of a visit, other than the annual visit, shall be submitted to the SecArmy within 60 days after the Committee's visit.

**6. CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION UPDATE.** Colonel Doug Guttormsen, ANC Engineer presented an overview of the work done this past winter to update the Real Property Master Plan and complete the Capital Investment Strategy. The ANC restoration, modernization and revitalization, and sustainment plan were outlined and major construction projects were highlighted. It was noted that a major point of new discussion will include a recommendation on the incorporation of the Ord and Weitzel Gates to link the new millennium area to the old portion of the ANC near Section 28. These gates were removed in the late 1970's and left in

disrepair. Current restoration is underway and the committee will be invited to see the work as it is being completed. An update was provided regarding the phased approach to the placement of queuing lanes to further assist families attending funerals as well as an overview of the American Disabilities Act assessment completed in September. The committee was extremely interested in the proposed work to improve the JFK gravesite to make it much more accessible to the public. Honorable Cleland commended the briefing as brilliant and thanked the Engineering staff, recognizing COL Guttormsen with a coin and challenging him to find a way to incorporate General Pershing's quote ("Time will not dim the glory of their deeds") in a significant location of the cemetery, specifically the Welcome Center.

**7. ANC ARBORETUM DESIGNATION.** Steven VanHoven presented the status of establishment of an Arboretum at ANC in accordance with 2012 Committee Recommendation. He informed the committee that the application for Arboretum designation was submitted on 28 Feb 2015. ANC was formally accredited a Level II Arboretum in early March. The Chairperson and all members extended appreciation and commendation to the entire team who worked to complete this task and bring the status of the horticulture and grounds at ANC to a significant level. Questions were presented regarding where an Arboretum should acquire plant life, if ANC contains any state trees and the plan for replanting trees to ensure the balance of burial space and tree life. Mr. VanHoven provided the committee information on where ANC acquires trees and that annually, ANC loses approximately 200 trees (mostly small ones) and plants approximately 240 trees a year. Additionally, it was noted that ANC has 36 Medal of Honor trees and is working to add these to the ANC Explorer Application.

**8. VISITOR ENHANCEMENTS AND ANC EXPLORER UPDATE.** Mr. Dave Kammen presented an update on the new Visitor Concessions contract which provides tour services to guests and visitors. On 1 January 2015, Arlington National Cemetery Tours Inc. began providing tour services and handicapped transportation services at ANC. The company is a subsidiary of Historic Tours of America. Honorable Cleland asked about the status of security and was informed that Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall provides law enforcement support and security oversight for ANC. Currently Department of the Army Security Guards are being hired to replace current contractors at all ANC access points.

Jill Gaspar, ANC Geospatial Information Chief, provided an exciting presentation of the updates to the ANC website and ANC Explorer application which now includes a detailed search feature of all 406 Medal of Honor gravesites at ANC. Ms. Gaspar demonstrated the application's features by showing the search feature and the ability to link into the actual Medal of Honor Society's website to gain more information about the citation and individual recipients of the Medal of Honor.

**9. BURIAL DEMAND AND CENTER FOR ARMY ANALYSIS STUDY.** Ms Yates presented an in-progress review of on-going Center for Army Analysis study to assist and inform ANC of burial trends and demand to inform the master planning and design for Southern Expansion. Interesting data points include the population growth in eligible veterans until 2024. NCA interred approximately 10% of the veteran decedent population in 2002 as compared to ANC

which interred .07%. By 2042, ANC is anticipated to inter 1% of veteran decedents and NCA will grow to 28%.

**10. AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION AND ANC SYNERGY.** Mr. Walter Frankland provided information on the current status of cooperation between ABMC and ANC. He has worked to bring ABMC leaders and superintendents to ANC for shared training and is assisting in arranging the first ever Roundtable for senior leaders of all four agencies who have the mission to inter or maintain gravesites of veterans, ANC, ABMC, NCA and USPS. This roundtable will occur on 15 April 2015 and be hosted by ANC.

**11. CULTURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION.** Ms. Rebecca Stevens provided an update on the ANC Cultural Resource preservation of 232 historic structures which contribute to ANC's National Treasure registration. She explained 39 of 170 are historical monuments and the remaining 147 are tree memorials or plaques. She highlighted work on the 13 most significant of the structures are being addressed in 2014-2015. Additionally, she informed the committee that the repair to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier appears to be the right mixture and formula. The next area of work is to lighten the staining on the Plaza and the work to change the ANC culture to ensure the Section 106 review process be followed for each project.

**12. COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT REQUESTS.** Lieutenant Colonel Sam Chisolm presented the committee an update on the current commemorative monument request processing flow along with the status of the current requests. He highlighted the current flow in accordance with Title 38 Part 2409 that the ACANC must provide the SecArmy consultation on all proposals. Mr. Davis highlighted the need to have all proffers include money in a Trust to ensure availability of funds into the future for care and maintenance. Honorable Cleland mentioned that ABMC requires 30 years of maintenance funding be secured prior to accepting the proffer for a new monument.

**13. COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT PROPOSAL (VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION).** Mr. Bob Hesselbein presented a proposed commemorative monument to commemorate all helicopter pilots and crews who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation in Vietnam. He stated that since ANC is the heart of the military soul and where all those Missing In Action are returned for group burial, there is no other place appropriate for this commemorative monument. The fundamental argument for the monument and its design is that the UH-1 "Huey" helicopter is seen as the iconic symbol of the Vietnam War. He stated it was the only helicopter flown by members of all five services. The Association recommends one of two locations for the monument, which is similar in visual appearance to a government group burial stone. One is in the northeast corner of Section 66 overlooking Section 60. The second option is Section 35 near the living tree memorial the Association intends on placing as part of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in August 2015. Mr. Hesselbein requested the committee consider it quickly as they would like to announce the decision during their event in Aug. Honorable Cleland stated he was touched by the passion and commitment the presentation exhibits. He stated as a veteran lucky to survive that war, the notion echoes deeply with him. He asked if the Association had the financial ability to maintain a Trust for its care in perpetuity. Mr. Hesselbein stated they do. Mr. Davis commented that he is a member

of five different associations which could request a similar monument be placed, he asked where do they stop, who is left out and how do we assess the monument's place in history. He stated the Committee must balance the important mission to inter our nation's active duty, veterans and their loved ones with these types of requests. Mr. Edwards asked about the percentages of KIA and of the total force. Mr. Hesselbein claimed that one in five died and that they were the smallest % of forces who served but had the highest % of losses.

#### **14. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

a. Honor Sub-committee: Mr. Peake stated the subcommittee had discussed the current sustainment activity and expansion and had no particular items to bring to the committee at this time.

b. Explore Sub Committee: Mr. Edwards deferred to the DFO to discuss recent Gold Star Family meeting on 22 March 2015 and the efforts underway to survey the public regarding the effectiveness of the website as well as gain valued feedback from families interring a loved one at ANC.

c. Remember Sub Committee: Mr. Davis discussed the cultural engineer brief and the continued monitoring of the TUS crack. He noted that his subcommittee had received the VHPA Commemorative Monument briefing and recommended the full committee consider this request. The subcommittee plans to visit the TUS at one of their upcoming meetings and assess the possibility of a study to determine if nondestructive testing is appropriate.

#### **15. COMMITTEE REQUESTED INFORMATION AND BRIEFINGS.**

a. An expanded budget briefing, including the various sources of funding for sustainment and construction, is requested at the next open meeting.

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

c. Formal request for a briefing regarding consideration of addition or use of a quote like Pershing's quote of "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds." The area for consideration of this quote is the end wall above the exit doors in the Welcome Center so it would be seen as visitors enter the cemetery grounds.

d. A review of the cemetery's plan to replace trees in the first interment 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 a 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.

**16. FORMAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.** The Committee discussed the VHPA proposed commemorative monument. The Committee vote was split, 3 In Favor Of and 3

Against recommending approval for placement of this monument in Arlington National Cemetery. Those voting for a favorable recommendation to place of the monument included the Committee Chair, Honorable Max Cleland, Mr. Thomas Kelly and Mr. Chet Edwards. 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 the monument included

The arguments for the placement of the monument included:

- Monument should be given serious consideration due to the disproportionate loss of life and the number of lives these pilots saved.
- The number of Vietnam pilots interred at ANC already is justification.
- The 50<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Vietnam War makes this monument appropriate.

The arguments against placement of the monument included:

- ANC 's fundamental purpose is for interment, it 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 individuals can be remembered.
- Recommending one over others is a deliberate decision and makes it difficult to deny others with equally compelling commemorations.
- Approval will negatively impact space in the cemetery over time

**17. NEXT MEETING.** Proposed timeline from Ms. Yates is early June. The DFO stated she would coordinate upcoming subcommittee and full committee meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 1545.



MAX CLELAND  
Chairman