

# **ARLINGTON** **National Cemetery**

**HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ EXPLORE**



**Advisory Committee on  
Arlington National Cemetery  
Honor Subcommittee  
August 23, 2016**



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY  
HONOR - REMEMBER - EXPLORE



# Arlington National Cemetery

## SecArmy Report to Congress PL 114-158

Summer 2016



## A Unique, Iconic National Shrine

Arlington National Cemetery was born of war. The first interments were combatants of our Nation's Civil War. Service members from each subsequent war, along with the property's earliest inhabitants, rest at ANC.

Originally owned by George Washington Parke Custis, the property became a military and national cemetery in 1864. Over time, the importance of Arlington National Cemetery to our national landscape has grown. Key to that has been several important factors:

- Its connection to our first President, George Washington (the adopted grandfather of Custis, whose daughter married Robert E. Lee)
- Its symbolic representation of national issues including being the location of the Freedmen's Village, ownership by the Lee family, its use during the Civil War, and the repatriation of our Soldiers from multiple wars – becoming the final resting place today of Servicemembers from every conflict
- Being the solemn location of our Tomb of the Unknown Soldier – the first interred in 1921 in a caisson-led funeral procession through Washington D.C. to Arlington
- John F. Kennedy's burial at ANC – widely televised resulting in massive increase in burial requests

ON FAMES ETERNAL CAMPING GROUND THEIR SILENT TENTS ARE SPREAD  
AND GLORY GUARDS WITH SOLEMN ROUND THE BIVOUAC OF THE DEAD



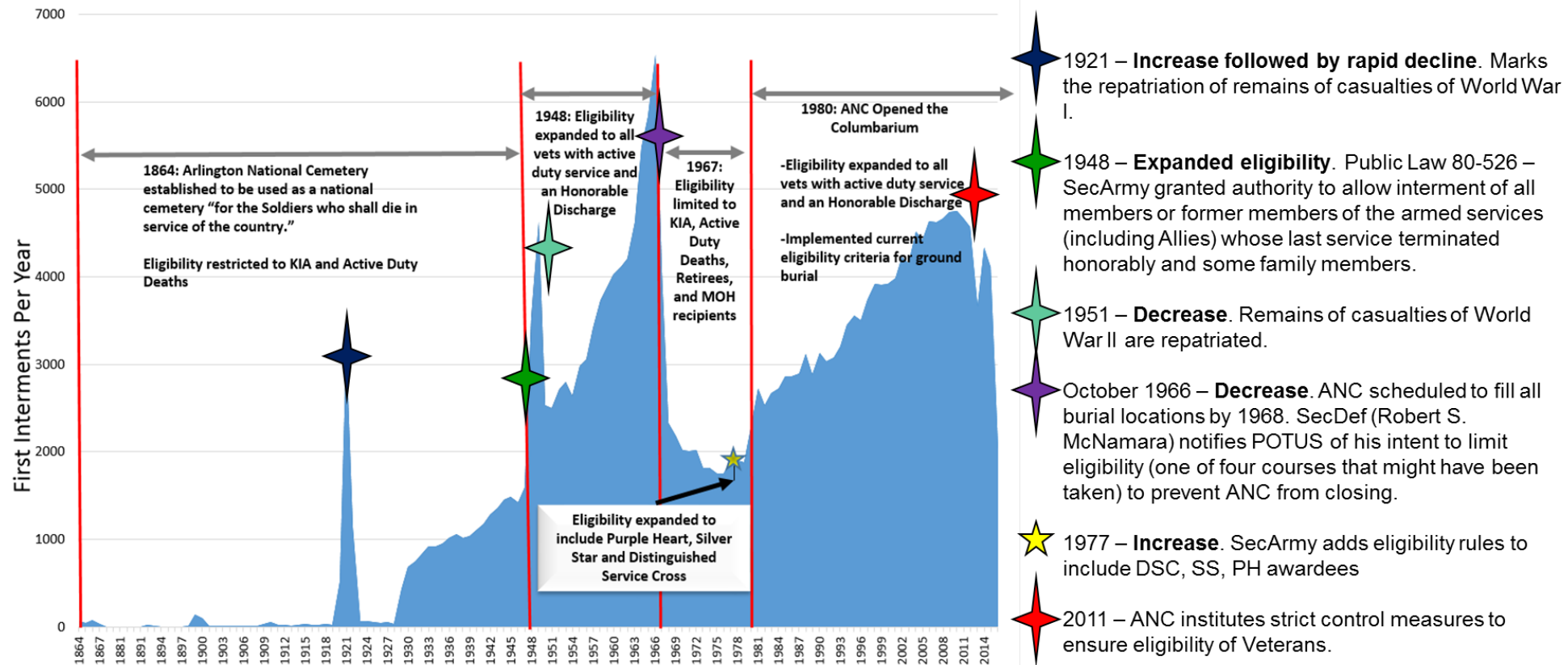
# ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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## In the past...

...rates of burials and Honors have changed...



## Today...

Eligibility for Arlington National Cemetery includes Veterans who meet the following criteria:

At least one day of active duty (not for training)

An Honorable Discharge

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE



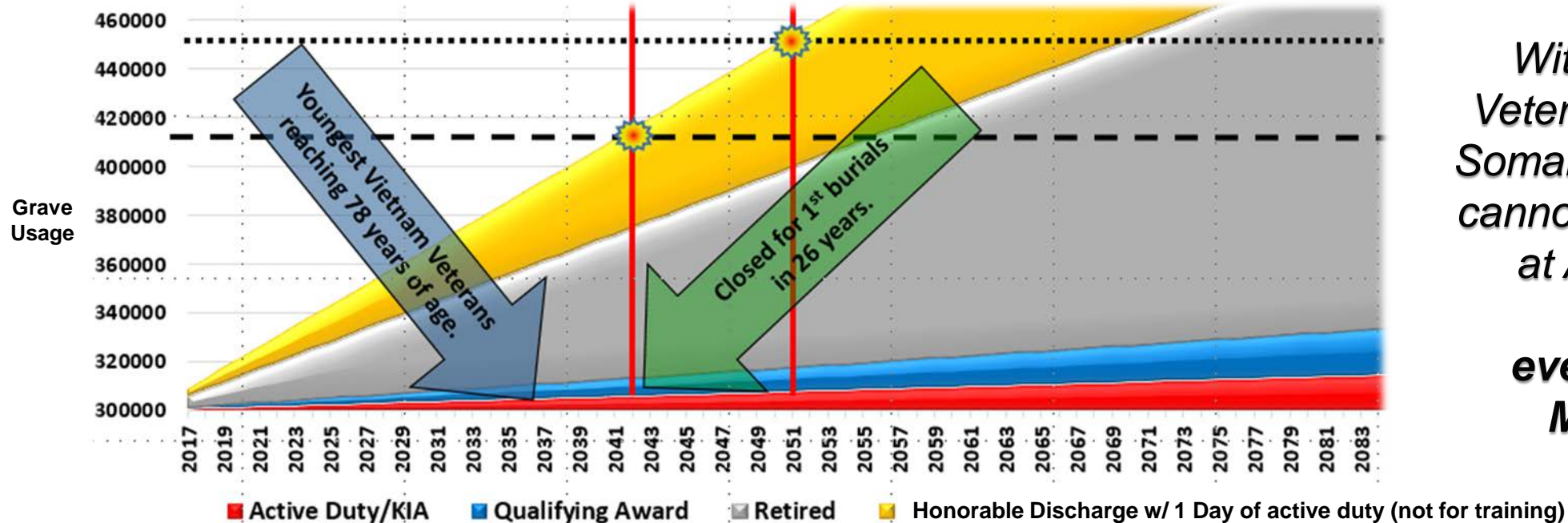


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## Outlook



According to the Veterans Administration, there are **over 21,000,000 Veterans alive today**. ANC can only provide services for 1% of eligible Veterans or their families at their time of need.

1% = **210,000** Veterans...Arlington National Cemetery has **72,414 (99,696 w/ Millennium Expansion)** remaining burial spaces – which means ANC can provide services **for only ½ of those Veterans before space runs out...**

At the current rate of interments/inurnments, children being born today will see Arlington National Cemetery closed to first burials *before they purchase their first home*.

Arlington National Cemetery will close for 1<sup>st</sup> burials – **including those Killed in Action (KIA) or died on Active Duty** - within the lifetime of those reading this slide.



## What is Arlington meant to be?

An iconic shrine meant to be open for interments for eternity?  
If so, who gets buried at Arlington?

## Challenges

If Arlington National Cemetery is to *continue to operate under current policies*, it must be expanded geographically and/or alter the iconic look and feel of the cemetery.

If Arlington National Cemetery is to *continue to operate without expansion, eligibility must change* or it will close for first interments by mid-century.



## Moving forward

Given that Public Law 114-158 requires that the Secretary of the Army provide options so that Arlington National Cemetery remains open “well into the future” we believe that the Nation – our fellow citizens – desire for the cemetery to remain open beyond the middle of this century.

### Expansion

Millennium Project ongoing  
Southern Expansion is still pending land agreements & funding needed  
Open to other options

### Eligibility

Who remains eligible? Which Veterans are not?  
Should Arlington National Cemetery always be available to active duty/KIA?  
Which awards warrant burial at Arlington?

### Hybrid

Ensure Arlington has the opportunity to expand geographically  
Move towards a more traditional eligibility policy  
Be certain that the cemetery remains available for those who give their life...



## The cost of delaying a decision

If the decision were made today to limit eligibility to these populations...

	KIA or Active Duty	+ Qualifying award	+ Retiree	+ Honorable Discharge w/ 1 day AD (not for training)
Remaining Interment Opportunities	154,000	154,000	154,000	154,000
Interments per Year	205	480	2,757	4,260
Remaining Years	751	321	56	36
Reach Current Projected Capacity - Decision made immediately	2767	2337	2072	2052
Decision made in 1 year	2747	2329	mid-2071	
Decision made in 5 years	2667	2297	mid-2069	
Decision made in 10 years	2567	2250	2067	

Assumes  
Southern  
Expansion

ANC would remain open until  
these dates





# ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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## Arlington is...

"Our Nation's unique and iconic resting place devoted to those who have made a significant sacrifice and commitment to the defense of our country in the Armed Services."

– Honor Subcommittee,  
Advisory Committee on Arlington  
National Cemetery

*The Eternal Bivouac of  
our Nation's Honored dead...  
A place of Remembrance...for hundreds  
of thousands of families...  
A connection to our rich National  
history...*

*Part of the fabric of our Nation...*

*A holy place (President Obama)...*

*A National Shrine...*



# **Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery Honor Subcommittee**

## **Eligibility and expansion option discussion**

### **August 23, 2016**





Consider how important it is for a given option to...

...create new capacity for 1 <sup>st</sup> interments/ inurnments	...ensure access for certain groups for as long as possible (i.e. KIA/CMH)	...avoid disenfranchising certain veteran groups (i.e. WWII, Vietnam)	...maintain iconic look of the cemetery
Creates additional space for 1 <sup>st</sup> interments, including in-ground burials and/or inurnments, and/or above ground inurnments	Eligibility prioritizes access to ANC for certain groups (i.e. Killed in Action, Medal of Honor Recipient) well into the future, i.e. 150 years	Eligibility does not prioritize any one group of Veterans over another	Preserves the serene and ordered look of ANC, with its rows of white headstones, trees, and tasteful historical and ceremonial spaces
1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5
...maintain ANC within its current physical space	...expand with contiguous land	...reduce time from decision to implementation	...other?
Does not change the physical footprint/size of the cemetery (i.e. acreage)	Expands the physical footprint of the cemetery (i.e. acreage)	Estimated length of time to implement the option is short (0-18 months)	(as desired)
1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5

NOTES:

# Potential Options for Extending ANC as an Active Burial Ground

Key

- ✓ Meets criteria
- ✗ Does not meet criteria

## Criteria

Options\*

2052

Option 1:  
Eligibility

2337

2767

2072

Option 2:  
Expansion

Option 3:  
Other  
Alternatives

		Creates new capacity for first interments/ inurnments	Ensures access for certain groups for as long as possible (i.e. KIA, MOH)	Avoids disenfranchising certain veterans' groups	Maintains iconic look	Maintains ANC within its current physical space	Expansion with contiguous land	Minimal time to implement
	Maintain Current eligibility	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Adopt VA's requirement for 24 month active duty service minimum	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Retirees at or above certain grade levels (E8, O-6 and above, CW-4)	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Killed in Action, active duty & qualifying awards	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Killed in Action, active duty, & Medal of Honor only	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Killed in Action & Medal of Honor only	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Change eligibility for in-ground burials only	✓	✓	✓	varies	✓	✓	✓
	Southern Expansion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
	Adjacent Federal Lands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
	Establish new ANC Battlefield Cemetery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	New ways to use existing space	✓	✓	✓	varies	✓	✓	varies
	"Preserve" set number of spaces for Killed in Action, active duty and Medal of Honor	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Enhance VA services to mirror ANC's	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

\*Many of these options are not mutually exclusive and the best course of action may be a combination of options

DRAFT- v3 Pre-Decisional





# Eligibility Options

Eligibility option	Meets endstate
Maintain current eligibility	No
Adopt VA eligibility requirement	No, but may assist other options
Limit to retirees at E8, CW4, O6 and above	Yes
Limit to KIA/AD/MOH	Yes
Limit to KIA/AD/Qualifying awards	Yes
Limit to KIA/MOH	Yes
Change eligibility for in-ground only	Partially, preserves ground, not niche
- Preserve KIA and MOH spaces	Partially