

# ARLINGTON National Cemetery

HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ EXPLORE



## Private Markers Policy Update

May 2018

Overall Classification  
UNCLASSIFIED

# Private Markers

- **Policy Changed December 2017**
  - No New Private Markers to be Erected at ANC
  - Began Denying Requests to Replace Gov't Markers with Private Markers
- **No space available in the 13 authorized sections** (currently 18,266 Private Markers)
- **Perpetual Care of Existing Private Markers**
  - Updated Private Marker Fact Sheet to Highlight Perpetual Care Responsibilities
  - When Damaged PMs are Identified, Attempting to Reach NOKs to Provide Permanent Fixes
- **Secondary Private Marker Template Review**
  - All PM Requests are Reviewed by the QA Team and the DSCA to Prevent Future Accountability Issues
  - Enforcing Policy of No Inscriptions for Surviving Spouses, Ensuring All Dates and Spellings Match the ISS Record and Death Certificate
- **Errors of Fact**
  - 57 Private Markers with Errors of Fact were Identified During the Baseline Accountability Effort
  - New PM Review Processes will Prevent Further Errors of Fact from Occurring



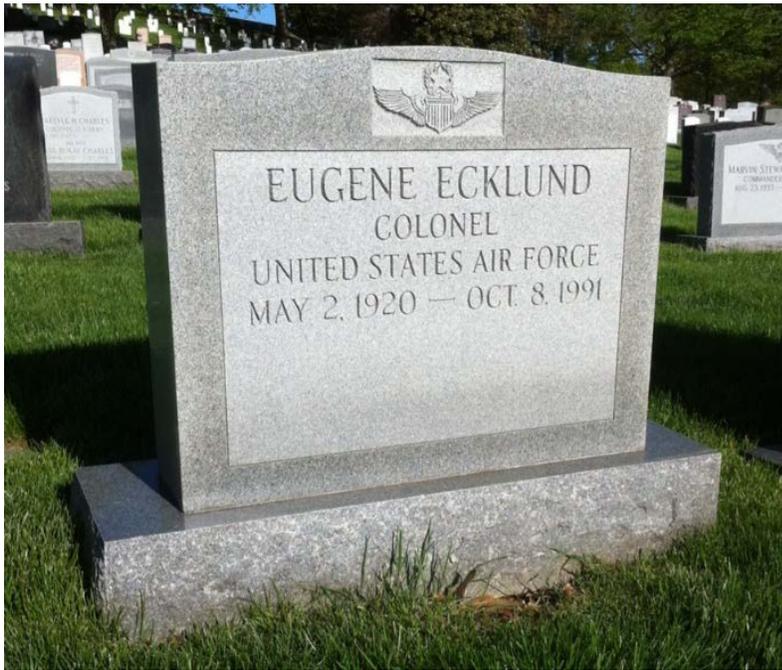
Full Inscription Missing 07:10256-LH  
Christina McClain DOI: SEP 30 1988



**Per ANC Policy**, private markers are to be maintained by the family into perpetuity, to include updating inscription for subsequent interments and replacing the private marker should it become unsightly or unsafe. **The Accountability Effort revealed** that these responsibilities are not consistently acted upon by the families, and that contacting the NOK to make updates and repairs becomes impractical after a certain amount of time has elapsed.

### Uncommemorated Decedents

There are currently **874** private markers at ANC that do not fully commemorate all decedents interred in that location.



Example:

The widow of COL. Ecklund was interred in 2005, but her commemoration was never added to the marker and attempts to contact the NOK have been unsuccessful.

### Damaged/Failing Private Markers

Older private markers are also prone to tilting, falling over, or sustaining damage from weather or cemetery equipment.



Example:

This marker was found fallen over and the Cemetery was unsuccessful in contacting the NOK. Cemetery resources had to be used to repair the marker.

