

MINUTES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)  
HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

November 7, 2018

**1. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS:** Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), initiated the meeting noting that present in person were Major Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner and Mr. Timothy Keating, Alternate Designated Federal Officer, ACANC. Ms. Yates stated for the record that the subcommittee meeting is pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, codified in 10 U.S.C. § 4723. The subcommittee operates under authority and provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and 41 Code of Federal Regulation 102-3.50(d). The DFO, nominated by ANC Executive Director and appointed by the Secretary of the Army, is provided by ANC. Additionally, ANC provides administrative support to the subcommittee.

Ms. Yates reminded subcommittee members not to conduct any formal business by deliberating on any substantive matters which are before the Committee as a whole for vote. Additionally, the subcommittee will report to the Committee any recommendations or information relevant as a result of the day's work. She also noted that the meeting was open to the public and reminded the attending public that they were not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the subcommittee without permission of the Chair. She noted that any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement with the subcommittee in accordance with the published Federal Register notice provided in the binder at the entrance of the meeting room. Ms. Yates also noted that the proceedings were being recorded in written form, and that minutes of the meeting will be prepared.

The meeting was called to order at 0930

**2. ROLL CALL:** Ms. Yates noted a quorum for the record, with the following members in attendance:

Secretary of the Army Nominees: Mr. James Peake (Chair), Mr. Thomas Kelley, Mr. Gene Castagnetti, Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Mark Farley, and Mr. Robert Hess

Secretary of the American Battle Monuments nominee: Mr. Chet Edwards

The following members were not in present: Ms. Ann Rondeau, and Ms. Ryan Manion

**3. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The DFO announced that the minutes from the September 5, 2018 meetings were available for review in the strategic documents binders on the meeting tables.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. James Peake opened by welcoming all members noting the importance of the days' work which was focused on deliberating a resolution for the full committee to consider in a possible recommendation to the Secretary of the Army as articulated in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

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**5. ANC CAPACITY AND VETERAN POPULATION:** MAJ Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner refreshed the subcommittee with highlights of the subcommittee meeting on September 5, 2018 as well as points from subsequent analysis:

- With assistance from outreach to the community of Veteran and Military Service Organizations, two public surveys, crafted to gauge public opinion regarding expansion and burial eligibility for ANC, generated nearly a quarter of a million public responses regarding possible options for the future of ANC.
- Public survey results show near unanimous support for maintaining ANC an active burial ground until well in to the future (150 years).
- Congress passed H.R. 5515 and the President signed into law the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, requiring the Secretary of the Army by September 30, 2019 to revise criteria to keep ANC an active burial ground.
- The number of eligible retirees has significantly increased from approximately 3,000 in 1901 to approximately 500,000 in 1969. Today there are approximately two million retirees eligible for burial at ANC.
- On average over the past 5 years, ANC has conducted nearly 4,000 new grave and 2500 subsequent burials, trending to 100% utilization of existing capacity in approximately 23 years. Of these, there have been services for approximately:
  - 52 Killed in Action (including re-patriotization)
  - One Medal of Honor recipient
  - 30 Distinguished service Medal recipients
  - 156 Silver Star or Service Cross recipients
  - 384 Purple Heart recipients
  - 41 former Prisoners of War (by legislation)
  - 585 WWII veterans
  - 909 traditional veterans, and
  - 1,959 retirees (not otherwise eligible)
- In total there exists nearly 22 million traditional veterans, Active Duty members, and retirees with approximately 100,000 new grave spaces available at ANC.

Discussion. In shaping a recommendation for the full committee, members of the Honor subcommittee agreed that ANC be maintained as an active cemetery, an iconic and living symbol preserved to honor the service and sacrifices made to maintain a free nation.

Considering extensive study for over two years; collaboration with major stakeholders; opinions of a quarter million public survey participants; an expansive (and expanding) network of distinguished national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries; and the efforts undertaken thus far to expand the footprint of ANC given the limited opportunities within the proximity of the nation's capital; the following be considered:

- Eligibility for interment at ANC be changed to more specifically identify with and honor the level of service and sacrifice for the following:
  - Killed in Action

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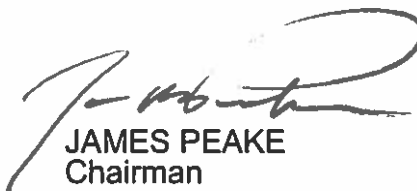
- Medal of Honor recipients
  - Purple Heart, Silver Star, and above recipients
  - Active Duty deaths
  - Former Prisoners of War
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- Further, that above ground inurnment remain available to a rapidly declining population of WWII and Korean War veterans, absent one of the qualifiers above.
  - The subcommittee appreciates that qualifying awards, as described, include the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM). While it may be argued that this award is normally reserved for only the most senior military members, therefore is a predisposed basis for eligibility at ANC, the subcommittee agrees this award is presented for a unique level of service consistent with the service and sacrifice represented by ANC. We recognize and acknowledge that there are objections in that this decoration is not awarded for valor.
  - While significant expansion, other than the Southern Expansion project, is limited, the committee encourages exploring options for contiguous expansion on the cemetery periphery. This does not alter our eligibility recommendation.
  - There exists an increasing trend to relocate to ANC the remains of those who have been previously interred or inurned. In support of extending the life of the cemetery and the recommendations above, we recommend that eligibility for ANC be limited to first disposition of remains. This recommendation does not preclude the burial of any previously unidentified remains.

Following deliberation, a motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the above considerations be made to the full committee. A vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously in favor.

Before proceeding to adjournment, the subcommittee requested an analysis by Public Affairs be provided during the next meeting concerning media coverage of ANC eligibility and capacity, a presentation of Army decisions and implementation timeline, and an engineering update on Southern expansion design and funding.

5. **MEETING ADJOURNED.** The Chair then called for any other business. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. All members voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 1200

  
JAMES PEAKE  
Chairman