

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
REMEMBER AND EXPLORE 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 meeting by 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 0800.

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

Secretary of the Army Nominees: Mr. Mark Farley (Chair), Ms. Rose Duval, Ms. Debra Fix, Mr. Robert Hess, and Mr. Nick Miller

Secretary of the VA Nominee: Mr. John Kelly

The following members were not present: Mr. Ronald Fetherson, Ms. Ryan Manion and Ms. Ann Harrell.

3. **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The DFO announced that the minutes from the September 6, 2018 Remember and Explore Subcommittee meeting were available for review in the strategic documents binders on the meeting tables.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. Mark Farley opened by welcoming all members and thanking them for their service. He emphasized the main point of the

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
REMEMBER AND EXPLORE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

November 7, 2018

days meeting was to reach a decision whether to recommend approval or disapproval for the full committee to consider regarding a proposal for a commemorative monument for the USS Thresher to be placed within ANC.

5. COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT UPDATE: MAJ Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner refreshed the subcommittee with background information provided during the subcommittee meeting on September 5, 2018. He briefed that except for a monument containing or marking remains, no monument may be placed unless the following criteria are met:

- The monument commemorates an individual, or individuals, whose memory is to be honored or a particular military event that occurred more than 25 years in the past
- The monument can be placed in an area not suitable for burial and the Commission of Fine Arts must be consulted regarding the design.
- A non-governmental entity pays for 100% of costs and provides rationale for placement at ANC
- SecArmy must notify Congressional Oversight Committees (if approved) and must allow 60 days (for Congressional disapproval) before placement

Additionally, requests to place a commemorative monument within ANC must contain:

- A clear articulation of the purpose of the monument
- A copy of the independent study required by law
- A copy of the architectural drawings
- Verification that the placement date is no less than 25 years following the last day of the service commemorated, and
- Indication that the construction, placement, and all supporting activities for the installation of the monument will be paid for and sustained in perpetuity from the sponsoring organization's privately-sourced funds. Certification of funds must be included.

Mr. Robert Quackenbush, ANC Deputy Chief of Staff, then presented information to the subcommittee regarding the parallel effort by the ANC Monuments Working Group to study the suitability and feasibility of the commemorative monument for the USS Thresher. He informed the subcommittee that:

- 8 USC 2409 (b)(1) states that "a monument may be placed in Arlington National Cemetery if the monument commemorates - the service in the Armed Forces of the individual, or group of individuals, whose memory is to be honored by the monument." The proposed monument is in memory of the crew - and therefore suitable for placement at ANC.

- The monument working group expects that the cemetery can place this monument on land not suitable for burial. By law, the cemetery must only place monuments on land not suitable for burial. The size of this proposed monument is similar in size to the previously installed commemorative tree monument honoring the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots and Crewmembers and can therefore be placed and maintained with minimal impact to operations.

MINUTES
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REMEMBER AND EXPLORE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

November 7, 2018

- The U.S. Navy validated the sponsor's assertion that the loss of the USS Thresher led to the currently in use SUBSAFE program - which has made valuable contributions to the Armed Forces and has had lasting legacy and positive impact on the safety of submarine and human spaceflight. This meets the intent of 38 USC 2409.
- The costs for construction, emplacement, and sustainment of the monument are adequately funded.

Following the presentation by Mr. Quackenbush, the Chair recognized a member from the USS Thresher memorial foundation, Mr. Kevin Galeaz who addressed the subcommittee with supporting information for the monument proposal. (TAB A)

Discussion. Members discussed at length how funds would be made available for maintenance and upkeep of a commemorative monument with ANC. It was noted that while commemorative monuments on the grounds of the National Park Service are maintained by funds provided to the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense has no authority to generate revenue for a reimbursable entity. The DFO noted that if a commemorative monument should require upkeep or maintenance and sponsorship points of contacts were no longer available to provide funds, the monument would be removed. The subcommittee agreed that ANC consider developing a more definitive process to ensure funds are available in perpetuity, perhaps in some form of Trust account.

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 follow up information be provided during the next meeting regarding educational outreach programs and an update on the status of efforts to clean bio-film contamination from ANC structures.

6. **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 0900.


MARK FARLEY
Chairman