

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)

March 14, 2019

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 by noting that present in person were Major Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner and. Ms. Yates stated for the record that the Committee operates under authority of 5 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 is a Direct Reporting Unit to the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA), which 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 stated 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 Chairperson. 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 a summarized transcript of the meeting will be prepared.

The meeting was called to order at 0900.

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 (Co-Chair), Mr. Gene Castagnetti, Mr. Ronald Fetherson, Ms. Debra Fix, Mr. Thomas Kelley, Ms. Elizabeth Harrell and Ms. Ann Rondeau.

Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission nominee: Mr. Chet Edwards (Co-Chair)

Members not present:

Secretary of Veterans Affairs nominee: Mr. Jack Kelly

3. **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The DFO announced that the minutes from the November 7, 2018 meeting were available for review in the strategic documents binders on the meeting tables throughout the room.

4. **CHAIRMEN OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. James Peake, Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee opened the meeting by welcoming all members, acknowledging VADM Rondeau as the committee's newest member and requested the first

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)

March 14, 2019

presentation.

5. SOUTHERN EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE: COL Peloquin, ANC Engineering presented the subcommittee an update of the current status of the design (15%). Discussion focused on ensuring the minimum ground burial goal of 32,000 to meet life expectancy of 150 years. Currently the goal is ~50,000 total interment opportunities which also ensure the iconic character of ANC is maintained. Discussion regarding incorporation of the USAF Memorial incorporated into ANC in an esthetically pleasing manner and the possible traffic impacts which could result for the Foxcroft Heights community. Members encouraged thorough analysis for the new Operations Complex that is well planned and sufficient size to ensure future use.

6. ANC FUTURE ELIGIBILITY AND CAPACITY UPDATE: MAJ Way, ANC Strategic Planner presented the subcommittee a
Communicate NCA options in an honest and polite / helpful manner
ANC should be the Nation's Cemetery – change in eligibility will help that – National Memorial to service and sacrifice
ANC is unique for the nation and must be more selective. Honors convey that – intensive resources used for significant service / sacrifice

7. MOH RECIPIENT SCHEDULING: An engaging discussion was held regarding a recommendation by a member of the public during the previous meeting regarding prioritizing the scheduling decedents who were recipients of the Medal of Honor (MoH). Discussion centered on the reality that they are a humble group of Americans and that MoH recipients are special and if a MoH recipient's family requests burial at ANC then they should not be discouraged by the wait times. Of the current living MoH recipients – 13 are younger than 42, the remainder are over 70; 20% (15) are not interested in burial at ANC. Several members expressed opinion that MoH recipients should be prioritized; Mr. Thomas Kelley (member and MoH recipient) felt only those KIA should have priority scheduling at ANC. The Committee Chairs both agreed that placing priority for MoH recipients could signal the importance of ANC but no recommendation was made.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. The Remember and Explore Subcommittee Chair, Mr. Farley, reported that the Remember and Explore Subcommittee discussed:

- Private monument and commemorative monument funding discussion of roles and responsibilities and requested further analysis of the costs for long term care/maintenance or replacement of small commemorative works in order to establish a formula for private sponsor organizations to meet
- Extensive Interpretive efforts and Education/Outreach; program goals tied to State Standards of Learning Objectives; ANC is an extraordinary education platform
- A review of the Biofilm challenge and global collaboration to combat the problem

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)

March 14, 2019

b. The Honor Subcommittee Chair, Mr. Castagnetti, reported that the Honor Subcommittee:

- Reviewed Education and outreach; importance of communication and making the connection with visitors – 1% of families that have service members who are serving
- Reviewed the Southern Exception project status
- Discussed the Eligibility and Capacity imperatives

9. **DUE OUT:**

- a. The Committee members encouraged ANC to review the opportunity to coordinate messaging across media platforms–
- i. Assess the use of the app; review how we can encourage visitors to download and use it.
 - ii. Website – move advertisement to top of the screen; way to use Army Advertising?
 - iii. Planned use of metro for public messaging about the Cemetery

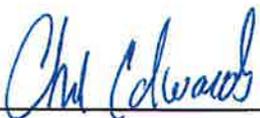
b. A consolidated presentation on the larger Education, Outreach, and Communications strategy:

Recommend – OCIO, PAO, Historians brief entire committee on

- 1) Public information training
- 2) Encouraged use of App
- 3) Advertising
- 4) Educational Efforts

10. **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 1400.



CHET EDWARDS
Co-Chairman

(Date) 5-21-19



JAMES PEAKE
Co-Chairman

(Date) 5/20/2019