

# **Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery**

Arlington National Cemetery  
Arlington, VA 22211

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Christine Wormuth  
Secretary of the Army  
100 Army Pentagon, Room 3E700  
Washington DC, 20310

Dear Madame Secretary,

The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC) is a congressionally mandated non-discretionary advisory committee established under Title 10 United States Code § 7723. The ACANC is chartered to make periodic reports and recommendations with respect to the administration of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), the erection of memorials at the cemetery, and master planning for the cemetery. These recommendations compliment, not supplant, Army command and staff actions with respect to ANC. The Department of the Army provides support through Arlington National Cemetery.

The DoD, consistent with the Committee's mission and DoD policies and procedures, has authorized two subcommittees:

The Honor Subcommittee. The primary mission of this Subcommittee is to accomplish an independent assessment of methods to address the long-term future of the Army national cemeteries, including how best to extend the active burials and what ANC should focus on once all available space is used. Specifically, to assess current eligibility requirements for interment and inurnment at ANC as they affect the available space and life of active burials and ensure that recommendations serve and protect the interests of all Servicemembers and Veterans, surviving family members, and the American public. The Subcommittee's review focuses on the qualitative and quantitative benefits of the options to best honor our veterans, their families, and the Nation while maintaining the iconic nature of ANC.

The Remember and Explore Subcommittee. The primary focus of this Subcommittee is to review issues and provide recommendations to the Committee to best maintain the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Monument, judiciously monitor and advise on all requests for the placement of commemorative monuments in accordance with Public Law, identify means to capture and convey the history of Arlington National Cemetery, and to improve the quality of visitors' experiences now and for generations to come.

The Committee takes seriously its mandate to provide independent advice and is excited and pleased with the significant progress that continues at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery meeting held on  
December 7, 2023**

The Committee, after thorough review and deliberation, voted unanimously on December 7, 2023 to:

- Recommend to the Secretary of the Army that the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) be authorized to replace the concrete marker of the Protestant Chaplains Memorial with a granite marker; and add 61 names that are in compliance with Title 38 United States Code §2409, specifically paragraph 2409(b)(2)(C), specifically those whose date of death is more than 25 years ago (before January 1999). to the Protestant Chaplains Memorial and add 24 names to the Catholic Chaplains Memorial that are in compliance with Title 38 United States Code §2409, specifically paragraph 2409(b)(2)(C), specifically those whose date of death is more than 25 years ago (before January 1999) .

The Committee, after thorough review and deliberation, voted 6 votes in favor of, and 2 abstentions, on December 7, 2023 to:

- Recommend to the Secretary of the Army that the circular drive (formerly Jackson Circle) surrounding the location of the Confederate Memorial on Arlington National Cemetery be named in honor of a unifying term, such as Liberty Circle or Freedom Circle.

Very Respectfully Yours,



Thomas "Chet" Edwards  
Co-Chair  
Advisory Committee on  
Arlington National Cemetery



James Peake  
Co-Chair  
Advisory Committee on  
Arlington National Cemetery

Enclosure

Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery meeting held on December 7 , 2023.

## References

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$1,930 for the 2024 Fiscal Year. This includes \$0 in expenses and \$1,930 in DoD labor.  
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**Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery meeting held on  
December 7, 2023**

(a) Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery Charter, July 31, 2022.

(b) The National Conference on the Ministry of the Armed Forces proposal packet for the revision of the Protestant Chaplains Memorial and the Catholic Chaplains Memorial

## **Background**

Title 10 U.S.C. § 7723 stipulates that “not later than 90 days after receiving a report or recommendations from the advisory committee, the Secretary of the Army shall submit the report or recommendations to the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and include such comments and recommendations of the Secretary as the Secretary considers appropriate.”

## **Report**

On December 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery held a meeting at Arlington National Cemetery. The Designated Federal Official, Ms. Renea Yates, was present for this meeting which was open to the public. Formal minutes will be produced and will be available to the public on the Arlington National Cemetery public website within 60 days.

- The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery convened to receive an update on the Fiscal year 2023 Year in Review; consider a report from the Remember and Explore Subcommittee; and receive commemorative works proposals and deliberate recommendations for the Secretary of the Army to consider for placement within ANC.

All eight appointed ACANC members were present for the full committee meeting on 07 December 2023:

- Dr. James Peake (LTG USA, Retired), Co-Chair
- Mr. Thomas “Chet” Edwards, Co-Chair
- Mr. Gene Castagnetti (COL USMC, Retired)
- Ms. Ann Harrell, (Maj Gen USAF, Retired)
- Mr. Thomas Kelly, (CAPT USN Retired), Medal of Honor Recipient
- Mr. Mark Farley, (CSM USA, Retired)
- Ms. Rosemary Williams, (VA Appointment)
- Mr. Gerald Torrence, (LTC, USA Retired) (ABMC Appointment)

The Chair of the Remember and Explore Subcommittee reported that, after thorough consideration, the subcommittee recommends approval to the ACANC for the updating of the Protestant Chaplains Memorial, by replacing the concrete marker with granite, and the addition of names of Protestant Chaplains who have died while

## **Report of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery meeting held on December 7, 2023**

on active duty, provided these additional names meet the requirements outlined in Title 38, United States Code, §2409, including paragraph (b)(2)(C).

Additionally, the Chair of the Remember and Explore Subcommittee reported that, after thorough consideration, the subcommittee recommends approval to the ACANC for the updating of the Catholic Chaplains Memorial with the addition of names of Catholic Chaplains who have died while on active duty, provided these additional names meet the requirements outlined in Title 38, United States Code, §2409, including paragraph (b)(2)(C).

Finally, the Chair of the Remember and Explore Subcommittee reported that, after thorough consideration, the subcommittee recommends the naming of the circular road surrounding the location of the Confederate Memorial in Section 16 of ANC, be renamed to “Jackson Circle”; a unifying term such as Freedom or Liberty Circle; or a name respective to the horticulture prevalent in the area, such as “Red Cedar Circle”.

### **Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Specific Committee recommendations regarding the Commemorative Monument proposals were reviewed:

1. The Committee reviewed and recommends to the Secretary of the Army approval to replace the concrete marker of the Protestant Chaplains Memorial with a granite marker; and add 61 names of Protestant Chaplains that have died on active duty, provided they are in compliance with Title 38 United States Code §2409, to the Protestant Chaplains Memorial.
2. The Committee reviewed and recommends to the Secretary of the Army approval to add 24 names of Catholic Chaplains that have died on active duty, provided they are in compliance with Title 38 United States Code §2409, to the Catholic Chaplains Memorial.
3. The Committee reviewed and recommends to the Secretary of the Army approval to rename the circular drive that surrounds the previous location of the Confederate Memorial in Section 16 of Arlington National Cemetery to a unifying term, such as Freedom Circle or Liberty Circle.

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## REFERENCE A

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## REFERENCE B

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