

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
Full COMMITTEE MEETING August 2023
11 August 2023

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 at 1300, noting that this is a virtual meeting. Present in support were MAJ Petra Papavasileiou of OAC G5, MAJ Tommy Galloway, of OAC G6, and Mr. Matthew Davis, Program Analyst and Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery,

Member of the public attending virtually included: Mr. John Scales; Ms. Bonnie Bruce; Mr. John Zebelean; Mr. Stuart Schimler; Ms. Mary Stevens; Mr. William Gantt; Mr. David McAllister; Mr. David West; Ms. Lunelle Siegel; Mr. John Coffindaffer; Mr. Kirk D. Lyons; Mr. Ed Kennedy; Mr. Terry Klima; Mr. Gene Kizer Jr.; Mr. Wade Alford; Ms. Alison Katzman; Mr. Barney Bishop III, Mr. Harold Robinson, Mr. William Cullin

Ms. Yates stated for the record that this committee meeting is pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012, codified in 10 U.S.C. § 7723. The Committee operates under the 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). Arlington National Cemetery is the agency that receives the benefit of the Committee's advice and recommendations. ANC provides the Designated Federal Officer, nominated by the Executive Director and appointed by the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. ANC also provides all administrative support to the committee.

The DFO stated that the meeting was open to the public, and that attending members of the public were not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the committee, without prior approval of the committee co-chairperson, Mr. James Peake. It was noted that any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement or request to make a verbal presentation in accordance with the published Federal Register notice, a copy of which can be found on the ANC website at www.arlingtoncemetery.mil. Ms. Yates highlighted that Committee members were provided the public comments received as a result of the Federal Register Notice and also announced that the proceedings were being digitally recorded, and that a written summary of the meeting will be prepared and made available to the public on the ANC website.

All guests were asked to ensure that their cameras were inactive, and their microphones muted. The proceedings were being digitally recorded, and a summary in written form will be available to the public on the ANC website. Any disruption or disturbance to the Committee may result in removal.

The Committee was called to order at 1304.

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

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Secretary of the Army nominees: Mr. James Peake, Mr. Chet Edwards, Mr. Gene Castagnetti, Mr. Thomas Kelley, Ms. Ann Harrell, Mr. Mark Farley

Secretary of Veterans Affairs nominee: Mrs. Rosemary Freitas Williams.

Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission nominee: Mr. Gerald Torrence

3. COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR OPENING REMARKS. Mr. Peake thanked the members for attending and noted that there was a very busy schedule, highlighting the master planning and education updates, the southern expansion update, and time for public comments. Mr. Edwards noted that it was nice to have the Committee and Subcommittee back together doing work. Ms. Yates at this time mentioned that there are several members of the public that wish to make comments, all of which have to do with the removal of the Confederate Memorial. She mentioned that ANC recently published the Notice of Intent. The notice of intent is the initiation of the public engagement scoping period for section 106, of the National Historic Preservation Act, and for the environmental impact statement as part of the National Environmental Protection Act. She mentioned that the notice was published on 4 August and the information is all available on the ANC website. Mr. Peake at this time wanted to make it clear that the process that Ms. Yates just spoke of, the Section 106 of the NHPA and the NEPA is separate and distinct and is not a part of this advisory committee. Ms. Yates then explained more of what will happen at the next public meeting for the Section 106 process, and a brief demonstration of information available and how to submit a public comment regarding the section 106 process on the ANC website was conducted. After this demonstration was complete, Mr. Peake thanked Ms. Yates and asked for the Subcommittee Chairs to provide any updates.

4. COMMITTEE BRIEFS:

A. **Remember and Explore Subcommittee report:** . Mr. Farley began and stated that they had 2 updates for the full committee. The first update was regarding the Chaplains Hill monuments. Mr. Farley stated that the subcommittee received updates regarding previous requests for information from the subcommittee, namely that 19 of the 112 servicemembers who are listed on the proposal from the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) to be added to the monuments are buried within Arlington National Cemetery already. Mr. Farley continued to say that the Subcommittee is ready to bring to the Full committee a recommendation to approve one part of NCMAF's proposal, which is to replace the concrete backing of the Protestant Chaplains Memorial with granite. Mr. Farley also noted that the subcommittee is not prepared to come to the full committee regarding the addition of 81 names on the existing Protestant Chaplains Memorial and 31 names to the Catholic Chaplains Memorial. Mr. Farley stated that the subcommittee voted on the addition of 81 names during the subcommittee meeting earlier, which resulted in a 3-3 tie. Based on this and additional discussion of waivers required, Mr. Farley stated that the subcommittee wanted to meet again before submitting a recommendation to the full committee. Mr. Peake thanked Mr. Farley and relayed that there is some sense that Congress had spoken on this subject, albeit not very clearly, but that there is some interest there. Mr. Peake then asked if the Chaplains Hill monuments were

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the only memorials within ANC that had perpetual commemoration. Ms Yates clarified that it was the only set of memorials that had lists of names and does not commemorate an event. Mr. Peake then continued by remarking that the real question for the committee is do we recommend to the Secretary to continue with perpetually renewing a memorial, or do we recommend that this is a bad precedence, and we recommend disapproval? Mr. Peake asked Mr. Farley to take this question to the subcommittee. Mr. Farley acknowledged this request. At this time ADM Robinson was acknowledged and stated that in the matter of the memorial being perpetual, that NCMAF has acknowledged to provide a memorandum of understanding to the Secretary of the Army withdrawing any future modification requests regarding the monuments on Chaplains Hill, if the current request was approved.

Mr. Farley continued with the subcommittee update, and stated that the Subcommittee is considering names to be considered as a substitute, to rename Jackson Circle as part of the DOD Naming Commission recommendation and Congressional Mandate. He acknowledged that the subcommittee does not have a recommendation at the current time, but has asked to be briefed again with nominations.

B. Honor Subcommittee Report: Mr. Castagnetti provided the full committee a report on the Status of the Caisson, stating that the suspension of the Caisson had virtually no impact on the services being conducted at ANC. Mr Castagnetti stated that the Army's plan is to have the Caisson back on status No later than June 2024. Additionally Mr. Castagnetti stated that his brief from the ANC Public Affairs office provided a wealth of information and that it seemed that the ANC Public Affairs section is providing the public with information that is timely, informative and is keeping in the style of maintaining Arlington National Cemetery as an iconic national shrine.

C. Education Module Update: Following the subcommittee updates, Ms Yates introduced Dr. Allison Finkelstein to provide an update regarding the Education Modules that the ANC History office has produced. Dr. Finkelstein began with providing a status of the Education Program Module status and website updates. This included a brief history of the Education Module development and stated that 12 thematic modules are complete and on the micro website. Since the last update, she stated that the Medal of Honor, and the Military Intelligence (STEM Focused) modules have been finalized. Dr. Finkelstein noted that the team has worked with the National Cryptological museum to incorporate Math into the Military Intelligence module. She additionally stated that modules focused on the Cold War, Civil War, and Military Medicine (STEM Focused) are all in the final stages of development. Dr. Finkelstein noted that these materials are developed for use by students and/or teachers and can be used from home, which increases access to the cemetery.

Dr. Finkelstein then proceeded to demonstrate the use of the ANC education microsite at <https://education.arlingtoncemetery.mil>, noting the additional user interface and improved design changes to the website.

Following the education module update, Dr. Finkelstein discussed the Education Outreach program, noting that since the COVID pandemic has completed, the staff is able to participate in outreach events, including the Juneteenth program at NARA Museum, the George Washington University Educator Workshop, the National WWII Memorial Teacher workshop, hosting an

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ANC Teacher workshop, and the Ford's Theater educator workshop. Highlights from the ANC teacher workshop included 12 attendees from the states of Virginia, Washington D.C, Maryland, Jew Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska. Dr. Finkelstein noted that this workshop was based on ANC's African American history Module's Segregation and Civil Rights Tour. Additionally, she stated that the teachers present were awarded 5 hours of professional development time. Dr. Finkelstein then discussed the way ahead for the Outreach program, with objective to include reduced development time of modules (from 6 yrs development to 2 years), converting existing materials into popular education platforms such as Blackboard, Canvas and Schoology, converting all existing education walking tours to GPS enables Apps, facilitation of 2 in-person workshops per year, ANC staff participation in virtual teacher professional development events, and updating existing materials to be compatible with mobile friendly browsers. Members of the committee thanked Dr. Finkelstein for the information and applauded the history office efforts to bring ANC history to all parts of the country.

D. Master area plan / Southern Expansion Update. Ms Yates introduced the Deputy Director of Engineering, Ms Agnes Sullivan to discuss the Master Area Plan for ANC. Ms Sullivan began by stating that the Real Property Master Plan was finalized in October 2022 and was available for review on the ANC website. She also noted that this plan was approved in the summer of 2023 by the National Capitol Planning Commission. Ms Sullivan stated that this plan had 4 goals, with were to 1. Maximize available space to extend the life of the cemetery, 2. Modernize and expand existing facilities and infrastructure to enhance cemetery operations, 3. Enhance the visitor experience while maintaining the iconic image of the cemetery, 4. Maintain a safe and secure operating environment.

Ms Sullivan explained that within the Master Area Plan, there was a set of Area Development Plans. She displayed a map of ANC with 5 areas outlined that included 1. The entry corridor area development plan, 2. The amphitheater area development plan, 3. The Service complex area development plan, 4. The Meigs-Tanner area development plan, and 5. Soldiers and Airmens Home National Cemetery area development plan.

Ms Sullivan further explained each Area Development plan in detail. Citing area development plan 1, Ms Sullivan noted that issues concerning ANC were crowding in the Welcome Center which reduced the visitor experience, and vehicle and pedestrian conflicts along Memorial Avenue. Ms Sullivan detailed plans to correct these issues, including adding new columbarium courts along Memorial Avenue, a separate pedestrian screening area, a new vehicle entrance and screening area, and an improved Tram circle. Discussion from committee members focused on timelines for approval, and Ms Sullivan stated that they were approximately 2 years from receiving final approval.

Ms. Sullivan began discussing ADP 2, noting that concerns were age of some to of the internal areas of the Memorial Amphitheater and Tomb Guard quarters. She noted that these were under renovation currently, to include adding sprinkler heads. Additional items completed were the addition of the handicap ramp.

Ms Sullivan discussed ADP 3, noting that the only work to be done here was to be demolishing the current service complex and creating additional interment spaces, and this is included within the Southern Expansion planning effort.

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Ms. Sullivan continued to ADP 4, noting areas of concern that were minor. These included improved connecting of the Millennium area with the rest of ANC. Additional efficiencies included the conversion of Lodge 1 into office space, in accordance with the current space utilization plan.

Upon completion of the Master Area Plan, Ms Sullivan gave the Committee an update on the Southern Expansion project. She stated that currently Federal Highways was currently conducting the Defense Access Road realignment phase. She stated that Phase 1 was estimated to be completed by Spring 2026, but that enough was completed for ANC to begin Phase II which is the Service Complex. Ms Sullivan then showed some updated photos of the construction site, to include the tunnel construction. Finally, Ms. Sullivan notes activities and milestones of the Southern Expansion project, which included the Phase II operations complex contract award on 17 APR 23 and notice to proceed on 26 JUN 2023. It was noted that the design burial capacity included and estimated 88,184 additional spaces, which included 36,360 (est) above ground cremation spaces, 37,459 (est) below ground cremation spaces, 12,738 (est) pre-set crypts, and 69(est) Oversized pre-set crypts.

The Committee thanked Ms Sullivan for the information and noted that this was quite the undertaking.

E. **Public Comments.** At this time, Mr. Peake opened the floor to the members of the public for comment. The first speaker was Mr. Ken Greenberg. Mr Greenberg introduced himself and stated that he was representing the Retired Affairs Committee of the Military Coalition and stated that 28 organizations were supporting the Expanding National Cemeteries Act (H.R. 1413). Mr. Greenberg stated that they were concerned that many female veterans and Vietnam War Veterans would lose their place at Arlington if the proposed revised eligibility rule were enacted at ANC and believed that it would be important to support another option and asked the Committee to support H.R. 1413.

The following members of the public were called upon and made comments against the removal of the Confederate Memorial.

Mr. John Scales; Ms. Bonnie Bruce; Mr. John Zebelean; Mr. Stuart Schimler; Ms. Mary Stevens; Mr. William Gantt; Mr. David McAllister; Mr. David West; Ms. Lunelle Siegel; Mr. John Coffindaffer; Mr. Kirk D. Lyons; Mr. Ed Kennedy; Mr. Terry Klima; Mr. Gene Kizer Jr.; Mr. Wade Alford; Ms. Alison Katzman; Mr. Barney Bishop III;

F. **Committee Discussion.** Upon completion of the public comments, Mr. Peake thanked the members of the public and began a dialogue with the Committee members on the development of a report to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Army regarding the comments received about the removal of the Confederate Memorial. Mr. Peake began a draft report and asked that it be shown to the other members, regarding Committee insights on the process of the removal of the Confederate Memorial to date that the Committee has been informed. The remaining time during the committee meeting revolved around editing the report for content to be placed into the proper format by the ANC staff for submission to the Secretary of the Army.

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It was noted that upon submission to the Secretary of the Army, the report would be placed on the ANC website for public viewing.

At this time, discussion centered on scheduling of the next meeting.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Peake asked if any members had other business for the Committee, or any final comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Multiple members moved to adjourn; multiple members also seconded the motion. Mr. Peake thanked all members for all their hard work.

The meeting adjourned at 1605.

Thomas “Chet” Edwards
Co- Chair

James Peake
Co- Chair