

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
Honor SUB COMMITTEE MEETING March 2023
22 March 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 1330, noting that this is a virtual meeting. Present in support were MAJ Petra Papavasileiou of OAC G5, and Mr. Matthew Davis, Program Analyst and Alternate Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery.

Member of the public attending virtually included: Patricia Kline; Walter Kroptavich

Ms. Yates stated for the record that this virtual subcommittee 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 subcommittee, without prior approval of the subcommittee chairperson, Mr. Gene Castagnetti. 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 Subcommittee 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 Subcommittee may result in removal.

The Subcommittee was called to order at 1330.

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

Secretary of the Army nominees: Mr. Gene Castagnetti, Mr. James Peake, Mr. Mark Farley, Mr. Thomas Kelley, Mr. Chet Edwards, Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Robert Hess

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

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3. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR OPENING REMARKS. Mr. Castagnetti welcomed members and reminded the Subcommittee of Congress' direction on how extend the life of the cemetery.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFS:

A. **Capacity Challenge at ANC.** Ms. Yates began this update with a brief overview of the Capacity Challenge problem at ANC and the work done in the last 5 years at ANC, to include Millenium and Southern Expansion efforts, various congressional reports, national dialogue efforts and finally the 2019 NDAA congressional mandate that directed the Secretary of the Army to revise eligibility to extend the life of the cemetery for the "next 150 years".

Ms Yates displayed a chart that estimated the capacity of ANC with current eligibility that highlighted the cessation of 1st interments estimated at 2062. This led to another chart that displayed eligibility criteria and the changes from current eligibility and the Secretary of the Army recommendations from September 2019. Ms Yates completed her presentation stating that the Department of the Army is currently in Step 7 of the Federal Rulemaking process.

Discussion amongst the subcommittee members focused on the changes between the Advisory Committee recommendations to the Secretary of the Army concerning eligibility and the Secretary of the Army's final recommendation.

Mr. Castagnetti thanked Ms Yates for the update.

B. **Memorial Avenue Area Development Plan.** Ms Agnes Sullivan (Deputy Chief of Engineers) began this presentation by describing Area Development Plans in relation to the Real Property Master Plan. Ms Sullivan explained that the Real Property Master Plan was recently finalized by the National Capitol Planning Commission, and how it was initially delayed for the completion of a land transfer from the National Park Service (NPS) to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) of the Memorial Avenue Entry Corridor. Ms Sullivan also explained that Master Plans looked entire installations, and that Area Development Plans examined pieces within the Real Property Master Plan.

This area (Area Development Plan 1) covered roughly 16 acres, and she explained how the 2020 NDAA completed that land transfer from NPS to ANC. Analysis of this area consisted of how ANC could develop this area to fit ANC's needs.

Ms Sullivan highlighted specific areas of Area Development Plan 1 that required improvements. Areas addressed included a new vehicle entrance and screening, a separate pedestrian screening facility, potential new Columbarium courts, and improving the aging Tram circle. She noted that these improvements would allow the renovation of the Welcome Center to allow for a better visitor experience.

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Ms Sullivan ended her presentation by stating that ANC is attempting to request funding to allow for design phase to occur in 2025, and construction to begin in 2028, which would fall immediately after Southern Expansion is complete.

The subcommittee thanked Ms Sullivan and were excited about the forthcoming progress, especially with the potential opportunity for additional above ground burial space with the proposed new Columbarium courts.

C. **Public Comments.** Ms Yates began this section with administrative comments by opening the floor for 30 minutes, and stated that she would call on members of the public in the order that the requests were received. The following member of the public were called upon and made comments.

Walter Kroptavich – made comments regarding eligibility for the level of honors at ANC.

Upon the completion of the comments from the public, Mr. Castagnetti thanked Mr. Kroptavich.

Discussion amongst the subcommittee members centered on previous recommendations regarding eligibility of level of honors, wait times, and extending the life of the cemetery. Additionally, the subcommittee members requested additional updates on the Real Property Master Plan and feedback on the Visitor Experience.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED

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

The meeting adjourned at 1450.



Gene Castagnetti
Subcommittee Chairman