

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
Remember and Explore SUB 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 0830, noting that this is a virtual meeting. Present in support were LTC Petra Papavasileiou of OAC G5, MAJ Tommy Galloway of OAC Information Technology, and Mr. Matthew Davis, Program Analyst and Alternate Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery, Rabbi Harold Robinson (RADM, USN Ret) of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF), Bishop Derek Jones of NCMAF, Mr. Justin Buller, Army General Counsel.

Member of the public attending virtually included: Robert Hess, Kirk D. Lyons, David McCallister, Alison Katzman, Lunelle Siegel, Ken Kraetzer, Jack Lea, Mary Stevens, Brett Reistad, William Collins, Bonnie Bruce, Jenifer Van Vleck, John Goddard, Greg Tardieu, Wayde Alford, Ken Greenberg and John Taylor.

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. Mark Farley. 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 0832.

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. Mark Farley, Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Nick Miller, Ms. Ann Harrell

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

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

3. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR OPENING REMARKS. Mr. Farley welcomed members and noted that there were 2 topics to discuss. The 1st Topic was a follow up from regarding the Chaplains Monuments on Chaplains Hill. The 2nd Topic was an update brief on Jackson Circle renaming as a result of the Congressionally mandated implementation of the DoD Naming Commission recommendations.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFS:

A. **Chaplains Hill Monuments.** . The first brief received by the subcommittee was a topic that was previously considered by the ACANC, Proposed Changes and Revisions to the Monuments located on Chaplains Hill by The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF). LTC Papavasileiou co-presented this topic along with the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces speaker RADM (ret) Rabbi Harold Robinson. Rabbi Robinson started the conversation by thanking the subcommittee for their work and offering a story of how a Greek Orthodox Chaplain, who died in service, will now be listed on the Roman Catholic monument, which will make it the only monument in the world that mends the Great Schism of 1054. LTC Papavasileiou began with a quick overview of the monuments located on Chaplains Hill and then proceeded to the RFI's previously discussed at the March Subcommittee meeting, which were:

1. Where across DoD are fallen and deceased Chaplains already commemorated either as a whole or by name?

2. Provide a complete list of those Chaplains who die while on Active Duty since 1948. And a new RFI resulting from the March Subcommittee meeting "Which individuals listed are buried at Arlington National Cemetery?"

LTC Papavasileiou readdressed the previous RFIs, and showed a series of slides, by service breakdown, that outlined in Red the names of individuals buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The number of Chaplains buried at Arlington National Cemetery, and listed on the proposal from NCMAF, totaled 19.

Mr. Farley reiterated that those 19 names are already inscribed on a headstone at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Miller asked if the National Cemetery Administration was contacted to determine where the other chaplains were buried. It was noted that the ANC staff did find several of the names in the Veterans Affairs database, however it was beyond the capacity of the

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staff to determine exact location of each deceased chaplain outside of Arlington National Cemetery.

LTC Papavasileiou displayed a slide that defined the Purpose and Scope of the NCMAF request, which was to:

- 1) Replace the current cement and sand backing of the Protestant Chaplains Memorial with granite and
- 2) Place a new plaque containing 81 additional chaplain names on the back of the monument. Additionally, NCMAF requests to add a bronze plaque with 31 additional chaplain names below the existing plaque on the Catholic Chaplains Memorial.

Ms. Yates stated that the question before the subcommittee is updating the 2 monuments that currently exist (Protestant and Catholic Monuments) with the additional names. Ms. Williams commented that she understands that some of the names listed on the proposal are recent deaths (within the last 25 years), and that she would like to be afforded the opportunity to comment on any waiver submitted to the Secretary of the Army about adding those names. Additionally, Mr. Farley commented that there was discussion in March about possibly having an alternative monument, to Chaplains in general, without regard to denomination, that would potentially alleviate the concern that names would be added to the existing monuments every 25 years.

The Chair recognized Rabbi Robinson who stated that NCMAF is willing to sign a memorandum of agreement that would state that there is no intent to further update any monuments (after the current proposal is approved), and to work instead on a general Chaplain Corps monument to memorialize future Chaplains (of all denominations) that die while serving on active duty. Rabbi Robinson also stated that all denominational groups, to include Hindus, Buddhists, etc... are included within NCMAF, and that NCMAF is the sponsoring agent according to Congress.

Ms Yates clarified that the law does not state the NCMAF is the “sponsor”; the law states that the Secretary of the Army “may permit” NCMAF to update the Protestant Chaplains Memorial, the Catholic Chaplains Memorial and the Jewish Chaplains Memorial.

Chair Farley adjusted the conversation to the subcommittee business, and steered the conversation back to adding names to the monument and not to the potential future of an all-encompassing chaplains monument.

Conversation turned to potentially commemorating Chaplains twice, on the memorial itself, and on individual graves. Ms Yates clarified instances in which veterans may be commemorated twice (grave marker with comingled remains and individual grave markers if remains are found and identified); and also stated that the Chaplains memorials are the only instance in which individual names are listed on the memorial.

Mrs. Williams then stated her concern for adding names to the memorials that have deceased within the last 25 years and citing that the rule is there for a reason. Mr. Torrence seconded this concern.

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The Chair recognized Rabbi Robinson who argued that the 25 year rule is arbitrary, and that the names on the proposal have all been deceased for at least 10 years, and that all names have been vetted three ways; first at the denominational level, second at the Chief of Chaplain level, and by the personnel department at each Service. Bishop Jones of NCMAF added that of the 6 congressionally recognized Veterans Groups, and the nearly 100 other groups that have legal standing for Veterans, NCMAF is nearing 100% support for the proposal.

The subcommittee members were then shown 38 USC 2409 that defines criteria for Memorial Areas in Arlington National Cemetery including the 25 year requirement and the Secretary's ability to waive this requirement. It was noted that there has never been an exception or waiver submitted to the Secretary of the Army for this requirement.

Again the Chair recognized Rabbi Robinson who then stated that in the NDAA from 2021, Congress wrote that the Secretary of the Army may waive the 25 year rule in relation to updating the Chaplains Monuments. He also noted that in the meeting, one of NCMAF's Attorneys (William Collins) was on the counsel for the Veterans Affairs Committee that drafted 38 USC 2409, and the intent for the 25 year waiting period requirement was for new monuments only.

There was considerable discussion amongst the subcommittee about the 19 names to be added that are already buried in Arlington National Cemetery, as well as those to be added that do not fall into the 25 year waiting period requirement.

At this point, the Chair recommended that this topic be tabled until subcommittee discussion at the end of the meeting and to move on to the next topic.

B. Jackson Circle Road Renaming. Dr. Allison Finkelstein (ANC Historian) was introduced and began the briefing outlining the Department of Defense directive, and Congressional mandate that the Confederate States of America and/or no individual that served in the Confederate States of America is commemorated on Department of Defense properties.

Dr. Finkelstein stated that the current Jackson Circle, which is the circular road that surrounds the Confederate Memorial in Section 16, is required to be renamed by the congressionally mandated Naming Commission Recommendation. Dr. Finkelstein discussed the overarching interpretive plan for Arlington National Cemetery and how that should be used in the future (southern expansion road names) as well as Section 16 road naming (Jackson Circle).

Dr. Finkelstein discussed the potential stakeholders that should be included in recommending a name change, which includes visitors to the cemetery and descendants of those who lived or worked on the property. Dr. Finkelstein noted that the History office of Arlington National Cemetery has been for years, an institutional partner of a descendant community group formed by the National Park Service, which includes Arlington House, and therefore, Arlington National Cemetery. Other stakeholders would include museum professionals, scholars, professors,

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students, surrounding community members, military families, Gold Star families, and families of those who are connected here.

Dr. Finkelstein then provided a brief overview of Section 16 and how it became the section in which the Confederate Soldiers were reinterred. Following this, Dr. Finkelstein then provided an overview of four recommendations for the renaming of Jackson Circle, with James Parks as the recommendation of the History Office of ANC. Dr. Finkelstein supported this recommendation as Mr. Parks was enslaved at Arlington National Cemetery, and after receiving his freedom, started working for the US Army as a civilian employee at Arlington National Cemetery until his 80s, and upon his death was the Secretary of War approved for him to be buried at ANC with military honors.

Concerns were submitted by the Subcommittee as Mr. Parks did not have military service. Process for memorialization at ANC was discussed by Ms Yates, with her stating that the Secretary of the Army has the ultimate decision.

Further discussion about renaming Jackson Circle centered on potential names that are not of a former enslaved individual, or potential thematic name such as Liberty, Reconciliation or Freedom.

At this time, Chair Farley decided to suspend this topic and wanted to have it on the agenda for the next meeting. Chairman Farley formalized this by making a motion to table this topic for the next meeting. All present were in favor.

C. **Subcommittee Discussion.** Chairman Farley opened up the discussion and asked if the Subcommittee was prepared to make a recommendation to the Full Advisory Committee on the Chaplains Hill Monument. He opened up the discussion that said that changing the stone and adding the 81 names brings the monument up to date, which is the known. The unknown is that we don't know what will happen with the other denominations, future requests to change, etc..

Further discussion revolved around names that are not within the 25 year time frame requirement in 38 USC 2409, double commemoration, and the fact that not all of the names being added to the list were Chaplains who died in conflict. Ms. Yates clarified that each monument, as they stand now, represent a moment in time and memorialized certain periods of time. These were the WWI Chaplains Memorial, the WWI and WWII Protestant Chaplains Monument that commemorates Protestant chaplains that died in WWI and WWII, the Catholic Chaplains Monument that commemorates chaplains who died in WWII, Korean Conflict and Vietnam War, and the Jewish Chaplain's Monument that commemorates Jewish Chaplains that died on active duty.

Mr. Farley at this time made a motion recommend changing the Monument from cement to granite. All subcommittees members voted in favor.

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Chairman Farley then made a motion to recommend adding all 81 names to the monument. Mr. Farley, Ms Duval and Ms Harrell voted in favor. Mr. Torrence, Mr. Miller and Mrs Williams voted not in favor.

Chairman Farley then made a motion to recommend adding all names that meet the 25-year requirement. Mr. Farley, Ms Duval and Ms Harrell voted in favor. Mr. Torrence, Mr. Miller and Mrs. Williams voted not in favor.

Chairman Farley then made a motion to recommend adding all names that would not be “double commemorated”. Mr. Fairly, Ms. Duval and Ms.Harrell voted in favor. Mr. Torrence, Mr. Miller and Mrs Williams voted not in favor.

Mr Farley then made a recommendation that this topic be tabled for a future meeting that Mr. Hess can attend as a member.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED

Mr. Farley 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. Farley thanked all members for all of their hard work.

The meeting adjourned at 1058.