

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
Remember and Explore SUB COMMITTEE MEETING March 2023
15 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 1200, 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, 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: Al Arnold, Spencer Harris, Volpe Boykin, Ed Kennedy, Philip Leigh, Terry Klima, Kirk Lyons, HK Edgerton, Garrick Sapp, L Siegel, John Goddard, Walter Kryptovich, Richard Dixon, Bert Clements, Allen, Tharin Walker, Liz, Mary Stevens, Martin O'Toole, Ross Miracle, Mary Green, Gene Kizer Jr, H. Edward Phillips, Kenm Erika Wettergreen, Bert Jones, Robert Floyd, Wayde Alford, Jessica Aiello, Robert Lee Hodge, The Honorable Rev. Dr. Stan Latta, Stuart Schimler, Jason, J David Bennet, John Coffindaffer, John Goddard, Kirk Lyons, Lunelle Siegel, Marshall Hester, Mike Hill, Philip Leigh

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 1202.

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

Secretary of the Army nominees: Mr. Mark Farley, Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Nick Miller, Mr. Robert Hess, Ms. Ann Harrell

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

Not in attendance were Mr. Gerald Torrence (Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission).

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 the Full Committee meeting concerning Requests for Information (RFI) from the ANC team regarding the Chaplains Monuments. The 2nd Topic was an update brief on the Section 106 Process that Arlington National Cemetery will follow to implement the Congressionally mandated removal of the Confederate Memorial at ANC. Mr. Farley also noted that the Subcommittee would hear public comments.

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). MAJ Papavasileiou co-presented this topic along with the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces speaker RADM (ret) Rabbi Harold Robinson. MAJ Papavasileiou began with a quick overview of the monuments located on Chaplains Hill and then proceeded to the RFI's, which were 1. Where across DoD are fallen and deceased Chaplains already commemorated either as a whole or by name? and 2. Provide a complete list of those Chaplains who die while on Active Duty since 1948.

In answering the first RFI, MAJ Papvasileiou stated that research indicated that the only Department that has a memorial dedicated to Chaplains who have died in service is the Department of the Army, located at Fort Jackson, SC at the U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership. This Memorial recognizes each Chaplain by name.

MAJ Papavasileiou answered the second RFI by displaying slides by Department, which listed 23 US Army Chaplains names not currently listed on the Monuments (21 Protestant, 2 Catholic); 60 US Navy Chaplains names not currently listed on the Monuments (42 Protestant, 18 Catholic); and 29 US Air Force Chaplains names not currently listed on the Monuments (17 Protestant, 12 Catholic)

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Upon concluding answering the RFIs, MAJ Papavasileiou turned the brief to Rabbi Robinson to explain NCMAF's request.

Rabbi Robinson explained the request for revisions to the Protestant Chaplains Memorial, which was to 1. Replace the current cement structure with granite; and 2. Place a new plaque on the monument with the additional 80 Chaplains names.

Rabbi Robinson continued with requests for revisions to the Catholic Chaplains Memorial, which included adding a new plaque with 32 additional Chaplains names.

Upon completion of the presentation, Mr. Farley began subcommittee discussion on his concerns that because Chaplains will unfortunately die while on active duty in the future, this project may never be complete. Discussion amongst the subcommittee continued with these same concerns, and Rabbi Robinson responded that with the addition of these names, NCMAF would consider the monument complete, but hoped that eventually, an all-chaplain corps monument would be erected that would take into account all future losses, to include denominations not represented currently. Bishop Jones of NCMAF echoed these same sentiments by Rabbi Robinson.

Ms Williams then asked for clarification on a NCMAF request for a waiver on the 25 year requirement listed in the legislation for commemorative works. Ms. Yates responded that the language authorizes the Secretary of the Army to approve any waiver, and it is a known fact that some of the names requested to be added would require that approval.

After continued discussion, Mr. Farley asked Ms. Yates if there was a place on or near Arlington National Cemetery that might be appropriate for an all-chaplaincy, all-denomination memorial. Ms Yates stated that ANC has very limited locations throughout the cemetery where a request such as this could be made and described some potential locations such as along Memorial Avenue near the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, but there would be challenges with this and it still must meet Title 38 of the US Code of Regulations.

Mr. Farley then asked Ms Yates to research, of the additional names that are requested to be added, how many are buried at ANC. Ms Yates stated that this request would be provided at the next Subcommittee meeting before going to the Full Committee.

Additionally, Rabbi Robinson stated that NCMAF would be willing to sign a "memorandum of agreement", that if the additional names were added to the current chaplains monuments, NCMAF would consider the monuments as complete.

The Subcommittee then took an 8 minute break prior to the next topic.

B. Confederate Memorial and Section 106 Process. COL Thomas Austin (Chief of Engineers) provided a quick briefing explaining the administrative process required to comply with congressional mandate to remove the Confederate Memorial from ANC. COL Austin

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stated that ANC is working in close coordination with the Virginia State Historical and Preservation Office (SHPO) and meeting all requirement outlined in the Section 106 process. COL Austin stated that ANC was in the initial phases on the consultation process and collaborating with the SHPO prior to the public phase of consultation. COL Austin stated that the public will be notified via Federal Register Notice when the public phase of consultation will begin. He also stated that the public, at that time, will have the opportunity to provide mitigation recommendations and potential alternate locations for the memorial. He closed his statement by offering to answer any process questions from the subcommittee.

Ms Harrell asked if ANC was aware of the written correspondence from members of the public that the Advisory Committee was receiving regarding the Confederate Memorial. Ms Yates assured Ms Harrell that all of the comments received were to be included as part of the consultation process.

Mr Farley informed those in attendance that Subcommittee members have received the public written comments and they have reviewed them. He also stated that there is a process that must be followed, and at the end of the process is where the public deliberation will occur.

Ms Yates informed the subcommittee that there were 2 litigation actions currently underway against the removal of the Confederate Memorial. She also stated that no action will occur until after the Section 106 process is complete.

C. Public Comments. Ms Yates began this section with administrative comments by opening the floor for 60 minutes, and stated that she would call on members of the public in the order that the requests were received. The following members of the public were called upon and made comments against the removal of the Confederate Memorial.

Mr. Volpe Boykin; Stuart Schimler; Philip Leigh; David McAllister; Mary Stevens; HK Edgerton; Lunelle Siegel; Jack Schewel; Kirk Lyons; John Coffindaffer; Garrick Sapp; Ed Kennedy; Martin O'Toole; Tharin Walker; Terry Klima; Bert Jones; J David Bennett; The Honorable Rev. Dr. Stan Latta; Robert Lee Hodge; Dr. John Goddard; Gene Kizer Jr.; Al Arnold; Wayde Alford; John Kaufman; Bert Clements; Spencer Harris; Walter Kryptovich; H Edward Phillips

Upon the completion of the comments from the public, Mr. Farley thanked all of those that provided public comments and noted that they were full of passion and were heartwarming. Mr. Farley further stated that the Subcommittee does not have the authority to "not execute the section 106 process". He reiterated that this was the beginning of the process, and there would be opportunity for the public to provide additional comments throughout.

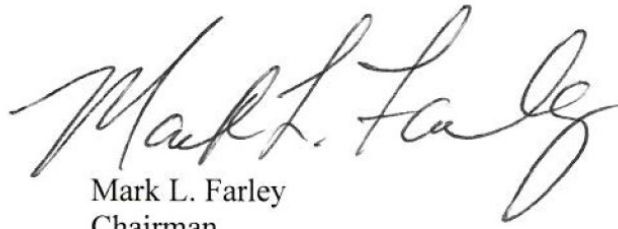
Discussion amongst the subcommittee members centered on thanking the members of the public, and reiterating that the process must be followed and all of comments will be considered.

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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 1534.


Mark L. Farley
Chairman