



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY NEWS RELEASE

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Arlington Leadership Moving Forward In Fixing Problems At Arlington National Cemetery

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Army Cemeteries Program and Arlington National Cemetery leadership testified today before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (HASC O&I) regarding the progress made to address past issues and establish better accountability at Arlington National Cemetery.

Ms. Kathryn A. Condon, executive director, Army National Cemeteries Program and Mr. Patrick K. Hallinan, cemetery superintendent, both testified before the HASC O&I about the steps they have taken since taking over managing Arlington National Cemetery on June 10, 2010.

“I am here today to personally tell you that Arlington National Cemetery, with the full support of the Army, is moving forward to fix the problems found by the Army Inspector General and to comply with the legislative requirements that will continue to correct the mistakes of the past, while ensuring a future of strong oversight, management, and accountability,” Condon said.

In less than a year, the new leadership has taken several steps to address past issues, including: rebuilding the workforce, overhauling the automated interment scheduling system, establishing a consolidated call center, implementing a financial management system and contracting process, and employing new chain of custody procedures for remains.

“We have implemented industry-standard procedures with training and equipment that equal the best national cemeteries. I’m out daily among the workforce, providing direction and guidance while holding supervisors, team leaders and the workforce accountable for operations,” Hallinan said.

Since the leadership transition, the cemetery has performed over 5,700 interments and inurnments. This is the only cemetery in the nation that performs gravesite services and renders full military honors. In addition, Arlington National Cemetery hosts over 3,000 special ceremonies and wreath ceremonies per year. Visiting dignitaries often come to Arlington to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns before meeting with the President or cabinet officials. Arlington also hosts more than 4 million visitors each year who come to pay their respects and explore the cemetery’s rich history.

“Arlington National Cemetery is truly about those who have served. It provides a means for families, friends and the country to honor fallen veterans,” Condon said.

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