



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Jennifer Lynch
(877) 907-8585

jennifer.lynch1@conus.army.mil
www.arlingtoncemetery.mil

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Leadership Presents FY 2012 Budget for Army National Cemeteries Program

ARLINGTON, Va., -- Ms. Kathryn A. Condon, executive director, Army National Cemeteries Program testified today before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies (HAC-M) regarding the President's Budget for the Department of the Army Cemeterial Expenses for Fiscal Year 2012, which includes at Arlington and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemeteries.

The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012 is \$45.8 million, which is an increase of \$0.7 million from the previous budget. The FY 12 budget provides funding continuing operations as well as for the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery.

"Our goal is to continue to the progress that we have made at Arlington National Cemetery over the last 11 months. We have implemented standard-industry procedures with training and equipment that equal the best national cemeteries," said Condon.

"The funds requested are adequate to support the work force, acquire the necessary supplies and equipment, and provide standards of service expected at Arlington and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemeteries," she said.

"Under current estimates, ANC expects to exhaust its availability for inurnments in niche spaces in FY 2016. To prevent this from happening, I've accelerated investment in developing and constructing Columbarium Court 9 during FY 2011 that will add approximately 20,300 niches to the inventory," Condon said.

Columbarium Court 9 is expected to extend the available niche space out to FY 2024 and is estimated to be operational by November 2012.

Arlington National Cemetery staff perform over to 5,700 interments and inurnments a year. This is the only cemetery in the nation that performs gravesite burials 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 is also the host to over 4 million visitors who come each year to pay their respects and explore its rich history.

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