



OFFICE of
ARMY CEMETERIES



ARLINGTON
NATIONAL CEMETERY
HONOR • REMEMBER • EXPLORE

Programmatic Agreement for the
Operation, Maintenance, and Repair
Activities at Arlington National
Cemetery

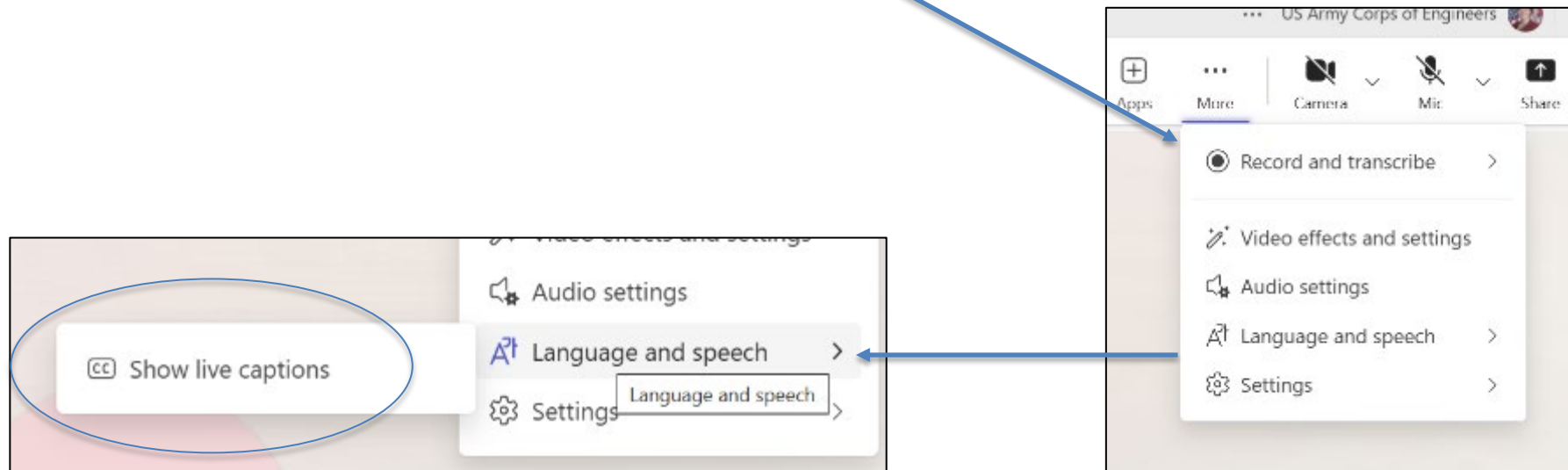
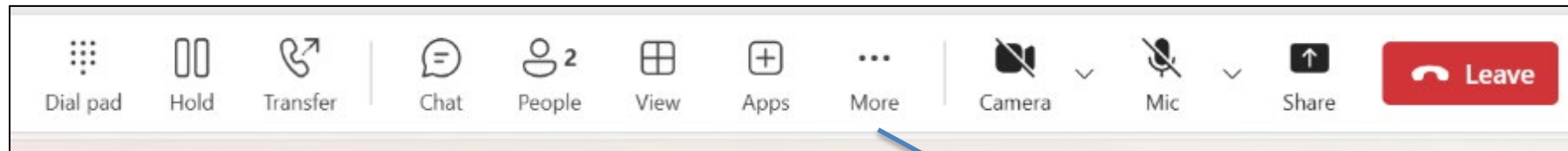
Consulting Parties
Virtual Meeting

7 July 2026
11:00 AM

<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Public-Notices>

Turning on Closed Captioning

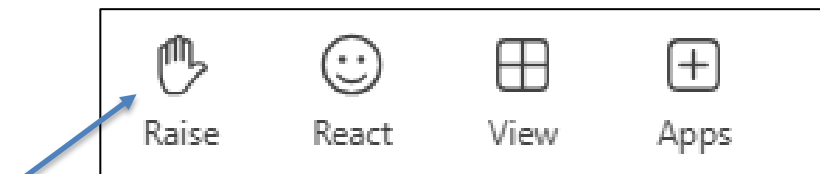
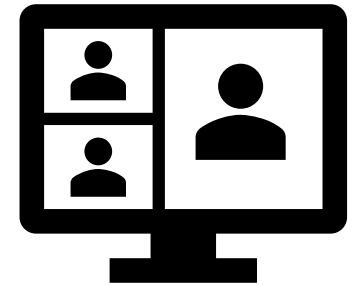
- Click the "Show live Captions" button on top of screen.
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Virtual Meeting Rules

- Please disable cameras and mute microphones until called on to speak.
- Be respectful of people's opinions and time.
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- This meeting is being recorded (video, audio, and chat).
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- Introductions
 - Rights of Consulting Parties
 - Overview of the Undertaking
 - Section 106 Process to Date
- Comment & Discussion of the Draft Programmatic Agreement (PA)
 - Next Steps





Invited Consulting Parties

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
- Air Force District of Washington (AFDW)
- Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
- Air Force Sergeants Association: Division 2
- American Legion: Dorie Miller VA Post 194
- American Legion: General Billy Mitchell VA Post 85
- American Legion: VA Post 46
- American Legion: VA Post 139
- Arlington County, Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development
- Arlington County, Department of Environmental Services
- Arlington Historical Society
- Arlington House Descendants Family Circle
- Arlington Ridge Civic Association
- Aurora Highlands Civic Association
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division
- Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)
- DC Office of Planning, Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO)
- Delaware Nation
- Dominion Energy
- Federal Highway Administration
- Foxcroft Heights Civic Association
- Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
- Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Invited Consulting Parties

- Monacan Indian Nation
- Nansemond Indian Nation
- National Association of American Veterans, Inc.
- National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
- National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway
- National Park Service, National Capital Region
- National Park Service, National Historic Landmark Program
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Pentagon Memorial Fund, Inc.
- Preservation Virginia
- Rappahannock Tribe
- Shared Mobility Arlington
- Society for History in the Federal Government
- The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington
- The Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, DC
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3150
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR / VA SHPO)
- Virginia Department of Transportation, Northern Virginia District
- Washington Headquarters Services (WHS)
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)



RIGHTS OF CONSULTING PARTIES:

- Share their views
- Receive and review pertinent information/documentation to support consultation
- Offer ideas
- Consider possible solutions together with ANMC and other consulting parties

The agency is not obligated to carry out the preferences and recommendations of invited consulting parties.



Overview of the Undertaking

- First military burial: May 13, 1864
- A national cemetery: June 15, 1864
- NRHP Historic District: April 11, 2014
- ~ 639 total acres
- +400,000 veterans & eligible dependents buried at ANC
- 24-27 funerals each workday
- +5,200 funerals in FY25
- ~ 3,000 ceremonies per year
- More than three million annual visitors
- Level III Arboretum

Correction: As of the date of this meeting, nearly 430,000 active duty service members, veterans, and their families are buried at ANC.

Correction: ANC conducts between 24 to 27 funeral services each weekday, except on federal holidays. Funeral services are held Monday through Friday.

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Learn more: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/History-of-Arlington-National-Cemetery>



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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Overview of the Undertaking

- Millennium Expansion:
27 acres,
completed 2018
- Southern Expansion:
50 acres,
in progress



Map courtesy of The Military Coalition



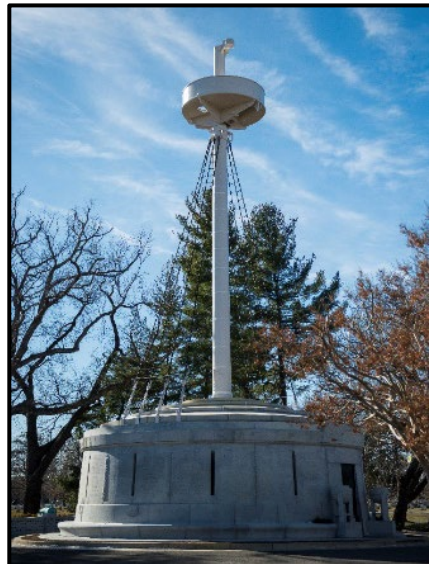
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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Overview of the Undertaking

ANMC cares for many nationally significant historic properties, including:

- 3 National Register historic districts within ANC;
- 261 individual and contributing historic assets listed in the National Register of Historic Places;
- 7 recorded archaeological sites on ANC property and 1 on NPS property.





Overview of the Undertaking

- **ANC's historic properties include:**

- Sculpture
- Monuments
- Memorials
- Grave Markers
- Buildings
- Structures
- Circulation Systems
- Archaeological Sites
- Vegetation / Landscapes
- Viewsheds

- **PA Attachment C** contains the full list of identified historic properties.





Section 106 Process: Current Step

Arlington National Cemetery must maintain constant operations to execute its mission:

Arlington National Cemetery represents the American people for past, present, and future generations by laying to rest those few who have served our nation with dignity and honor, while immersing guests in the cemetery's living history.



- 1) Facilities Maintenance employees conduct repairs on the border wall at Arlington National Cemetery, 2019.
- 2) Interment Operations & Interment Services employees perform quality check at a new gravesite.
- 3) Cultural Resources staff perform conservation work at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, 2019.



Current Step in the Section 106 Process: Finalize the Programmatic Agreement

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108), provides federal agencies with a variety of ways to comply with the law when undertaking covered activities.
- Why is a Programmatic Agreement (IAW 36 CFR §800.14(b)) appropriate?

Program Alternatives (36 CFR 800.14)



	ALTERNATE PROCEDURES	PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENTS	EXEMPTED CATEGORIES	STANDARD TREATMENTS	PROGRAM COMMENTS
Objective	Tailor Section 106 process to fit agency mission/programs through agency-wide restructuring of the review procedure	Govern implementation of a program or resolve adverse effects when: effects are repetitive or are regional or national in scope; effects cannot be fully determined prior to approval; nonfederal parties are delegated decision-making responsibilities; involve routine management at federally managed properties; other circumstances warrant a departure from standard process	The ACHP can exempt a program or category of undertakings from further review if potential effects are foreseeable and likely to be minimal or not adverse and exemption is consistent with purposes of NHPA	Establish standard methods for treatment of a category of effects, undertakings, or historic properties according to best practices; does not replace the normal Section 106 process but can expedite reviews	Alternate method for agency to meet Section 106 responsibilities; allows the ACHP to issue comments on a program or class of undertakings in lieu of commenting on a case-by-case basis



Current Step in the Section 106 Process: Finalize the Programmatic Agreement

- Why is a Programmatic Agreement (IAW 36 CFR §800.14(b)) appropriate?
 - PAs are appropriate for multiple or complex federal undertakings where 1) effects to historic properties cannot be fully determined in advance, 2) for federal agency programs, 3) for routine management activities by an agency, or 4) to tailor the standard Section 106 process to better fit in with agency management or decision making.
 - The “program PA” sets out the measures the federal agency will implement to resolve potential adverse effects through avoidance, minimization, or mitigation.
 - The “program PA” (36 CFR § 800.14(b)(2)) creates a Section 106 process that differs from the standard review process and that will apply to all undertakings under a particular program. Reasons justifying program PAs include having a program that has undertakings with similar or repetitive effects on historic properties to avoid the need for a separate Section 106 review for each project (e.g., operations, maintenance, & repair activities).



National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Process: Completed Steps to Date

Previous Agreements:

- 2014 APRIL 11: ANC placed on the National Register
- 2014 JULY 18: Executed 10-Year PA for Operation, Maintenance, & Repair Activities at ANC
- 2025 FEB 6: 1-Year Bridge PA Executed
- 2026 FEB 6: Bridge PA Amended & Extended 1-Year
- 2027 FEB 6: Bridge PA Expires





National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Process Steps:

- ANMC initiated consultations on the proposed PA with:
 - Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) – **November 25, 2025**
 - The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) – **December 4, 2025**
- ANMC hosted entitled party meetings with DHR & the ACHP:
 - Meeting 1: **December 16, 2025**
 - Meeting 2: **January 22, 2026**
 - Meeting 3: **February 26, 2026**
- Identified Consulting Parties and Initiated Consultation – **May 29, 2026**
 - A draft PA was sent to all identified consulting parties and a notice announcing the development of the PA was posted on ANMC's Public Notices website
- Consulting Party Meeting – **July 7, 2026**



The current comment period closes on July 13, 2026.



NHPA Section 106 Review Process Options

The Proposed PA offers a Streamlined review process for covered activities. Activities not covered by the PA undergo the more Standard Section 106 Review Process

The **Streamlined Review** process is a pre-approved, abbreviated pathway for routine activities with little or no potential to affect historic properties.

The **standard Section 106 review** process involves the full sequence of steps—defining the APE, identifying historic properties, assessing effects, and consulting with SHPO, consulting parties, and the public.



NHPA Section 106 Review Process Options

Proposed PA: Example Undertakings

Streamlined Review:

- Routine Grounds and Cemetery Maintenance
- Previously Disturbed Groundwork
- Roads, Sidewalks, and Utilities (In-Kind)
- Minor Landscape and Vegetation work
- Temporary or Reversible Installations
- In-Kind Building and Structure Maintenance
- Minor Visitor/Site Features and Signage

Standard Section 106 Review :

- New Construction and Expansion
- Ground Disturbance in Sensitive/Undisturbed areas
- Changes to Historic Fabric (Not In-Kind)
- Visual or Setting Impacts
- Projects with Potential Adverse Effects
- Examples:
 - Southern Expansion
 - Entry Corridor Redevelopment
 - Full-Depth Road Reconstruction & Realignment
 - Demolition & Reconstruction of Drainageways



The Programmatic Agreement includes:

- Preamble - Whereas Clauses
- Stipulations (on following slide)
- Signature Page
- Stipulations
 - Roles & Responsibilities of the Agency Official, the Cultural Resources Manager, and the Horticultural Division
 - Review Process for Undertakings
 - Annual Inspection
 - Confidentiality
 - Curation
 - Post-Review Discovery
 - Emergency Actions
 - Professional Qualifications
 - Preparation and Review of Documents
 - Dispute Resolution
 - Efficient Communications
 - Annual Reporting and Monitoring
 - Amendment
 - Termination
 - Anti-Deficiency Act
 - Duration of Agreement
 - Execution of this Programmatic Agreement in Counterparts



Updates from 2014 PA to 2026 PA:

- Agencies and Titles Updated
- Program Comments
- Updated Laws, Regulations, Instructions, etc.
- Types of Undertakings
- Training Requirements
- Treatment of Discarded/Unused Grave Markers
- Clarify Ground Disturbing Activities / Incorporate Burials
- Update Types of Regular Maintenance & Repair
- New Technology (e.g., Wi-Fi, IT) & Programs: Safety, Security, Environment
- Updated Historic Building & Structures Inventory, Viewsheds
- Incorporate New Structures to be completed with the Southern Expansion
- Incorporate New Archaeological Potential Survey & Recommendations



Agency Identity Changed

2014-2024 PA:

The agreement is between **Arlington National Cemetery (ANC)**, SHPO, and ACHP.

Proposed PA:

The agreement is now between **Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC)**, SHPO, and ACHP.

Impact:

Reflects current organizational structure and authority.

Updated Legal Citations

2014-2024 PA:

References former NHPA citation: 16 U.S.C. § 470f.

Proposed PA:

Uses recodified citation: 54 U.S.C. § 306108 (appears as § 4306108 in OCR text).

Impact:

Brings the agreement into alignment with current federal law.



Emergency Actions Section

2014-2024 PA:

None.

Proposed PA:

Stipulation VII provides procedures for use during emergencies, which includes emergency consultation procedures and emergency review timelines.

Emergency actions are deemed necessary by ANMC as an immediate and direct response to an emergency situation (including immediate threats to life, public health, safety, property, or creates a hazardous condition) implemented within thirty (30) calendar days.

Example: Discovery and remediation of hazardous materials.





Historic Resources Inventory Updated

2014-2024 PA:

References: "Historic Resources Inventory for Arlington National Cemetery" (May 2012).

Proposed PA:

References: "Historic Resources Inventory for Arlington National Cemetery" (2025).

PA Attachment C contains the full list of identified historic properties.

Identified Resources in Proposed PA:

- The individually listed resources remain largely the same.
- Individually eligible (NRHP) resources are the Air Force Memorial Complex, President Kennedy Gravesite, and the Memorial Amphitheater.
- Southern Expansion Project Area: newly surveyed and evaluated
- At least one archaeological resource identified as eligible for NRHP.
- Expands list of viewsheds.



Inventory of Resources Exempt from Review Updated

What are they:

Resources (i.e., objects, structures, landscape features, site furniture, etc.) that contribute to the historic district because they are within it, but contribute due solely to criteria in “National Register Eligibility of National Cemeteries – A Clarification of Policy – A Clarification of Policy” (NRHP 2011).

Concept carried over from the 2014 PA.

Lists non-historic, modern, and/or incompatible features that do not meet current cemetery design standards.

PA Attachment E contains the updated list.

Examples of Identified Resources:

- Security gates (post 1960s)



- Utility bunkers





Updated Archaeological Discovery Procedures

- **Introduces a screening threshold**
 - Not all discoveries trigger full Section 106 review
 - Only confirmed archaeological sites/deposits proceed through the full process
- **Reduces unnecessary consultation**
 - SHPO and consulting party notification is conditional, rather than automatic
- **Improves operational clarity and implementation**
 - Provides more detailed field guidance (e.g., protection measures, evaluation steps)
 - Requires integration into contracts and project operations
 - Addresses common non-historic discoveries (e.g., grave markers) explicitly
- **Establishes a formal screening step** (site vs. non-site) that changes how discoveries are evaluated and managed in practice



Human Remains Provisions

2014-2024 PA:

References: the ACHP "Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains and Funerary Objects" (2007)

Proposed PA:

Army regulations (AR 290-5) added

References: the ACHP "Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains and Funerary Objects" (2023)

Curation Requirements

2014-2024 PA:

- requires formal, repository-based curation, including
 - transfer to an approved institution
 - formal agreements
 - deadlines
 - research access

Proposed PA:

- shifts to a flexible compliance model
 - ANMC must meet 36 CFR Part 79 standards
 - not required to deposit collections in a specific repository or formalize access



Section 27 at Arlington National Cemetery.
(U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser / Arlington National Cemetery / released)

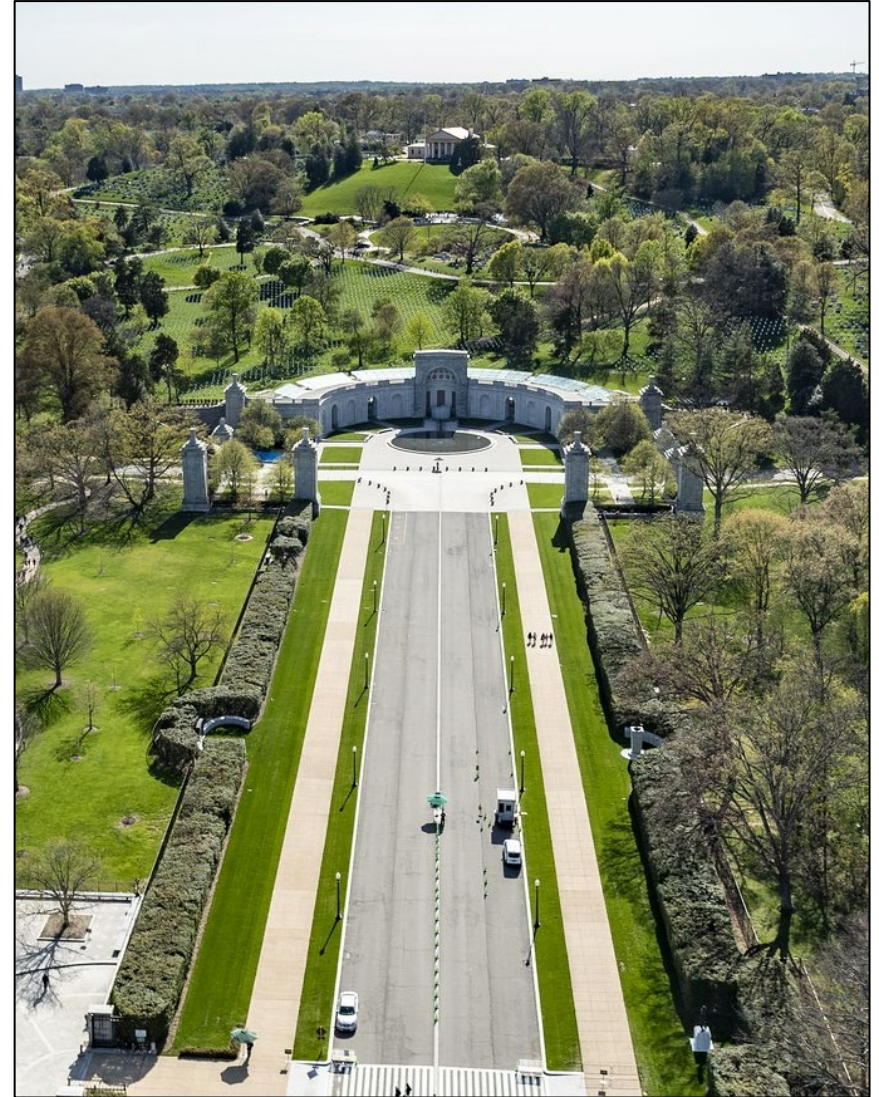
OPEN DISCUSSION

Please raise your hand in Teams or type in the chat to ask questions and provide comments/feedback on the drafting of the PA or the Section 106 process to date



Next steps in the Section 106 Process:

- Receive and Resolve comments on the Draft PA from Consulting Parties
 - *Current comment window remains open until **13 July***
- Circulate the PA for signatures (entitled and concurring parties)
- ANMC must replace or extend the amended bridge PA by 2027 FEB 6





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Thank You for Your Time

For more information and project updates:

<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Public-Notices>

Questions?

Contact: Caitlin Smith, ANMC Cultural Resources Program Manager

Email: usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.cultural-resources@army.mil

Submit PA Comments by 13 July 2026