**Arlington National Cemetery Fact Sheet**

**Overview:**

* Founded in 1864 during the American Civil War, Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) is the final resting place for American veterans who have fought in every war since the nation’s inception. Their headstones tell the story of our nation and symbolize love of country, service and sacrifice.
* There are more than 400,000 eligible military members, veterans and their family members interred or inurned within these hallowed grounds. We continue to serve this population by conducting more than 3,000 funerals every year.

**Capacity:**

* Recognizing ANC was at a crossroads, Congress passed Public Law 114-158, requiring the Secretary of the Army to submit a report on the interment and inurnment capacity of the cemetery. The law required the estimated date of maximum capacity and recommended options – to include eligibility and expansion – to extend the life of the cemetery “well into the future.”
* In Feb. 2017, the Secretary of the Army provided a report outlining potential actions to preserve ANC as an active burial ground well into the future, defined as the next 150 years. The report also specified that without these changes in current eligibility and physical boundaries, ANC will run out of space for first interments by the early 2040s.
* It’s very important to us that the public understands and is aware of the cemetery’s needs tied to capability and capacity and what the challenges are for the future of the cemetery. We are fully prepared to execute whatever the Secretary of the Army decides is the best course of action.

**Expansion**:

* The cemetery recently dedicated the Millennium site – a 27-acre expansion providing 27,282 interment spaces that are located either above or below ground. Columbarium courts will offer 16,400 above-ground niche spaces for cremated remains, while the 10,882 in-ground burials will be split between traditional and over-size burials (1,422), in-ground cremated remains (3,189), and pre-placed concrete grave-liners (6,271). ANC hopes to be able to schedule up to three funeral services each day in this new area of the cemetery.
* The Millennium site supports the cemetery’s long term goal of optimizing interment space that is contiguous with the existing cemetery in order to maintain future active operations and preserve the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) experience.
* Future expansion options are receiving thoughtful consideration and analysis. Planning is underway to expand the cemetery to include land around the Air Force Memorial. Referred to as Southern Expansion, with no change in current eligibility, this expansion will only add 15-20 active years to the cemetery or until the mid-to-late 2050s.

**Horticulture:**

* Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) was awarded Level III Arboretum accreditation in June 2018. ANC was previously designated as a Level II Arboretum in March 2015.
* The cemetery's 624 acres are a unique blend of formal and informal landscapes, dotted with more than 9,800 native and exotic trees. Intimate gardens enhance the beauty and sense of peace.
* There are only 24 renowned institutions worldwide who maintain this prestigious accreditation and only two cemeteries – Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum in Cincinnati, Ohio.

For more information on Arlington National Cemetery and its mission, visit [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil).