



**FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER**  
**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
20540 FALCONS LANDING CIRCLE, #P1  
POTOMAC FALLS, VIRGINIA 20165



## **FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE REPORT AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION/ U.S.**

**On November 5<sup>th</sup> the National Planning Commission approved a years old plan to expand the Arlington National Cemetery 70 acres to the south, an addition that will make room for more than 60,000 new burial spaces. The 639-acre cemetery will remain one contiguous piece of land, and the expansion will integrate the U.S. Air Force Memorial on Columbia Pike into the property.**

**Without the expansion, the cemetery estimates that it will run out of room for burials by 2043. About 400,000 American troops and veterans are currently buried on its grounds.**

**The cemetery is considering other ways to make sure it doesn't run out of burial space, including a measure that would change the eligibility rules for which service members can be buried there.**

**Many proposals are being considered, one would eliminate burial and internment for service members who die while on active duty but not in combat. If implemented, this would change a custom that dates back to the cemetery's founding during the Civil War.**

**Another proposal would change in-ground burial eligibility for military retirees, requiring them to meet several other specific criteria. The cemetery says these proposals will allow it to remain “an active burial ground well into the future, defined as 150 years.**

**The project is very logistically complicated and will necessitate the realignment of Columbia Pike, South Joyce Street, and Southgate Road, all of which are owned by Arlington County. In June, the Federal Government filed a civil suit to claim those nine acres of land from the County through eminent domain.**

**Last year, a spokesperson for the Department of Defense told the House Appropriations subcommittee on military construction that the road construction should be completed by 2022, with the entire expansion finished by 2025 (edited version of this story by [deist.com](http://deist.com)).**

**MOAA will continue to follow the story and report to our members.**

**WE REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Jim Hardy  
Legislative Liaison**

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