Testimony to the Members of the National Capitol Planning Commission

November 5th, 2026

My name is Donna Shaunesey and I'm the proud daughter of Colonel Charles Alexander Shaunesey, Jr. He came of age in the Depression in Maine and joined the Army as a private when that was the only way to help support his brothers and sister. College was out of the question financially, but he was able to attend Officers Candidate School and then West Point, graduating in 1940. His service in World War II and Korea was recognized with the Legion of Merit and a Bronze Star, among other honors. His last assignment included supervision of Arlington National Cemetery, where he and my mother are interred after living well into their nineties. I visited their grave last week and was surprised to see that it was undisturbed – I was expecting the earth to have heaved up in light of the news about the Vainglorious Arch whose shadow would sully the final resting place of so many of our nation's heroes. My father would have been appalled.

The Arch is meant to glorify just one man at the expense of the thousands of the best that America has to offer. Construction and massive lighting will mean that military funerals and visits will no longer be the peaceful and reverent events that families deserve.

Please do not approve this un-American proposal.