NCPC Testimony: New Monumental Arch (File No.: 8778)

Good afternoon. My name is Marguerite Schellentrager. I live in Lincoln, California. Both of my parents are interred at Arlington National Cemetery so this issue is very personal to me and to my family. My father was a WWII Army veteran serving as a young commander in the North African and Italian campaigns of the war. My mother fought in the French Resistance in the south of France. My parents were 25 years old when WWII ended.

Three undisputable facts you must consider:

1. Congress must authorize this monument. The Administration has not sought this authorization.
2. Donald Trump has publicly stated that he has the complete authority to undertake any projects he chooses concerning Washington DC monuments and sites.
3. The Administration has an established pattern of constructing projects without proper approval and without legal compliance, even in defiance of court ordered desist mandates.

For the above reasons alone, this project must be denied at this juncture.

In addition, the proposed Arch will irrevocably and totally destroy the sanctity and solemnity of Arlington National Cemetery. That Sacred Place and the entirety of the monuments to which it is connected, belong to the citizens of the United States and not to the Ego of one man.

Thank you.