Mark Paoletta, chair

National Capital Planning Commission

401 9th Street, NW

Suite 500N

Washington DC 20004

Dear Chairman Paoletta and commission members,

Good afternoon. My name is Oona Schmid. My brother was Jonathan Kai Schmid and he was a veteran, injured in duty, and he is interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

Family members who have loved ones buried at Arlington National Cemetery expect their loved ones to be buried in a respectful and serene environment. Bright lights that burn at all hours, snipers, and ostentatious displays are not befitting of the sacrifices made. The cemetery should remain a solemn place of rest.

Second, the cemetery has a longstanding tradition of being nonpartisan. It is not appropriate for the grounds of the Arlington National Cemetery to house a partisan monument of any dimension.

I urge the Commission members to give respectful consideration to the veterans buried in the cemetery and the families of these service members.

Thank you for your time,

Oona Schmid