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Good afternoon, Commissioners,

My name is Susan Boot Caolo, and I'm speaking as a private citizen.

My father, a World War II veteran who served 28 years in the U.S. Navy, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery with my mother. I go there at least twice a year. I visit my parents, and veterans I've interviewed for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project have asked me to pay respects on their behalf to comrades buried there. Every time, I go to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. That place belongs to everyone, and it means a great deal to people here and from around the world.

That's why I oppose the proposed arch. It would block the view of Arlington from across the Potomac. That approach matters. It tells every visitor they're coming to hallowed ground.

I'm not speaking only for my family. I'm speaking for every family with a loved one laid to rest at Arlington, and for every person buried there. Their service gives that ground its meaning, and its dignity and integrity deserve protection.

An arch in that line of sight would be a disservice to the solemn beauty and history of Arlington, and to the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. They deserve that honor. I urge you to protect the view and reject this proposal.

Thank you for giving me this chance to speak up for myself and others.