Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments:40

October 21, 2026 8:10 am

Name: Liz Roll
Date: October 16, 2026 5:14:44 pm

What part of WE DON'T WANT AN ARCH is it that you don't understand?
It's a horrible monument to a horrible man, expensive, ugly, will snarl traffic while being built and after, will create hazards for planes... need I go on, you've already heard it all. Make it stop please. Thank you for reading

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Name: Jane Allison
Date: October 16, 2026 7:44:25 pm

Please do not build this arch. The Memorial Bridge across the Potomac was built as a tribute to U.S. veterans of the Civil War. The view from the Lincoln Memorial toward Arlington Cemetery was intentionally meant to be unobstructed, so as to symbolize Lincoln honoring the fallen soldiers buried in Arlington Cemetery. Building a monstrously large and gaudy tribute to a living president is obscene in many ways, but most especially that it will obstruct the view of Arlington Cemetery, thus defiling that sacred ground. And this living president notably dodged the draft in the Vietnam war five times. He has nothing but disdain for veterans. He deserves no monument at all, and definitely not this one. Don't build it.

Name: Dianne Bell
Date: October 17, 2026 2:41:38 pm

Please do not approve this project. My mother, father, brother-in-law, and many friends from my husband's Naval career are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The magnificent view of both Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial will be destroyed by this huge and inappropriate arch. The idea of tourists on the proposed observation deck observing and filming private military funerals is abhorrent.

Please respect the sanctity of Arlington National Cemetery by disapproving this unnecessary arch.

Name: George Wellock
Date: October 19, 2026 1:21:07 pm

A Monument That Extends America's Historical Legacy

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle, near the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. I offer these comments from two perspectives: as a Vietnam War veteran who served in the United States Army Military Police, and as a public historian who has devoted considerable attention to understanding and communicating our nation's history.

I recognize that the proposed arch has generated debate concerning its size, location, historical appropriateness, and potential impact on the ceremonial approach to Arlington National Cemetery. These concerns deserve careful consideration. However, I believe the proposed monument offers an important opportunity to strengthen, rather than diminish, the historical meaning of this remarkable location.

Preserving History While Adding to Its Meaning

The Arlington Memorial Bridge was conceived as a symbol of national reconciliation following the Civil War. Its alignment between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington reflects the profound historical significance of a nation divided

by war and ultimately preserved as one Union.

That historical connection must be respected. However, I do not believe preserving history requires that we refrain from adding new expressions of national remembrance.

The Civil War preserved the Union, but America's history did not end with that achievement. Subsequent generations of Americans have served, defended, and sacrificed for the nation that emerged from that conflict. From the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific to Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, and countless other places, military service has remained an essential part of America's continuing story.

The proposed arch can recognize that broader history.

Rather than interrupting the symbolic connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington, I see the arch as an opportunity to extend that connection. It can provide an additional expression of the nation's gratitude to those who defended the Union and to those who subsequently served the country it became.

Honoring Veterans and Celebrating the American Experience

I see no contradiction between honoring America's military veterans and celebrating America's larger national achievements. Indeed, these objectives are deeply connected.

Our nation's accomplishments have depended upon generations of Americans who built its institutions, advanced its industries, educated its citizens, protected its freedoms, and answered the call to military service when necessary.

As a Vietnam veteran, I view the proposed arch as a potentially powerful recognition of that shared national experience.

For those who approach Arlington from the Lincoln Memorial, the arch could serve as a visible reminder that American independence, national unity, and the preservation of our constitutional republic have required dedication and sacrifice across many generations.

The arch need not be understood exclusively as a military memorial. Its broader purpose can be to celebrate the American experience while recognizing military service as one of the essential contributions to that experience.

The Importance of the Visitor Experience

Arlington National Cemetery is a place of extraordinary dignity, peace, and remembrance. Its character must be preserved.

I do not believe the proposed arch necessarily threatens that character. Properly designed and integrated into Memorial Circle, it could strengthen the ceremonial experience of approaching the cemetery while leaving the solemnity of the burial grounds undisturbed.

I would also encourage the Commission to consider the arch's potential educational value.

A striking national monument can inspire visitors to explore the history it represents. The arch could encourage Americans, particularly younger generations, to reflect more deeply upon our country's development and the role of military service in sustaining the nation.

However, attracting additional visitors should not be the only measure of success. The monument should encourage understanding, historical curiosity, gratitude, and respect.

I therefore encourage consideration of appropriate historical interpretation, visitor information, and educational features that communicate both the nation's broader accomplishments and the contributions of its military veterans.

Responsible Design, Access, and Federal Review

My support for the proposed arch does not diminish the importance of responsible planning.

The Commission should carefully evaluate pedestrian safety, traffic circulation, accessibility for elderly and disabled veterans, surrounding sightlines, aviation safety, and the preservation of existing historical features.

These considerations are particularly important at a location visited by veterans, military families, individuals with disabilities, and Americans of all ages.

I also believe the monument's ultimate purpose should be clearly established in the public record. If its function or proposed use has changed substantially during the review process, those changes should be identified and evaluated under the applicable legal and planning requirements.

The public deserves clarity regarding the monument's intended use, including any proposed security or military functions that could affect its design, accessibility, or ceremonial purpose.

Historical significance and appropriate government oversight are not opposing objectives. Both contribute to the credibility and enduring value of a national monument.

Conclusion: Connecting Generations of American Service

When I consider the proposed arch at Memorial Circle, I see more than an architectural structure.

I see an opportunity to connect the generation that preserved the Union with the many generations that followed, each contributing to the nation's continuing history.

I understand that some fellow Vietnam veterans have expressed opposition to this project. I respect their service and their personal perspectives regarding Arlington National Cemetery. My own experience leads me to a different conclusion.

I would be honored to approach Arlington beneath a monument that celebrates America's achievements and recognizes the service and sacrifices of those who helped preserve them.

I encourage the Commission to give favorable consideration to the proposed Monumental Arch, subject to appropriate safety, preservation, accessibility, and legal requirements.

The historical symbolism of Arlington Memorial Bridge is not diminished simply because another chapter is added to the American story. With thoughtful execution, that symbolism can be extended and strengthened for generations yet to come.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Wellock
Vietnam Veteran, United States Army Military Police
Public Historian and Historical Storyteller
North Oaks, Minnesota

Name: Linda Blais
Date: October 19, 2026 6:34:05 pm

It CAN’T be allowed!

Name: Josh Shevlin
Date: October 19, 2026 6:34:22 pm

As a Virginia resident, we do not want the arch. It is a stain on our city and country and only validates Nazis.

Name: Stephan Donovan
Date: October 19, 2026 6:35:31 pm

Trump must be impeached, convicted, and jailed in Guantanamo.

Name: Ani Kameenui
Date: October 19, 2026 6:37:36 pm

As a long time resident of DC and lover of public spaces and the celebration of our national history - I urge the commission to reject the Triumphal Arch. It violates the sanctity of that space and does not honor a person, place, or thing in a way that is deserving of such an extreme use of taxpayer dollars.

Thank you!

Name: Dennis Harkins
Date: October 19, 2026 6:38:37 pm

This is hallowed ground. In our experience, (my wife, and my WWll veteran father,) holy ground. Please do the right thing for America. Do not cheapen this ground with a meaningless set of stones and gold.
Dennis Harkins
Wisconsin

Name: Joe Costello
Date: October 19, 2026 6:40:29 pm

Not one person in the entire world wants this arch except the president. He’s gone soon, but if you build this arch it’ll be around for ages. It makes no sense, costs too much, it’s visually unappealing, and this president quite frankly does not deserve anything nearly this elaborate. Make him a little one he can take with him when he goes back to Florida when all this is over. He has to pay for it, though. Please for the love of all that’s good and decent, do not build this arch.

Name: Suzanne Crockett
Date: October 19, 2026 6:40:38 pm

Please do not allow this evil construction. It is only to glorify one man and will denigrate the memories of millions, including Abraham Lincoln. It most certainly violates the building height restrictions that have always been observed in the District of Columbia. I join thousands in a sincere request that you disallow this request.

Name: David Reichert
Date: October 19, 2026 6:41:20 pm

The scope and proposed location of the Triumphal Arch are not in keeping with the splendor of Washington D.C. The location would mar views of and from Arlington National Cemetery and dishonor our veterans who are buried there. This poorly thought out arch should unanimously be rejected for both its size and proposed location.

Name: Linda Smithe
Date: October 19, 2026 6:45:20 pm

Reject the Arch de Trump!!

It is a ridiculous waste of my tax payer money!

The view between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery honors generations of veterans - including my

family members buried here. The proposed 260-foot Triumphal Arch will permanently destroy this landscape.

Please National Capital Planning Commission to reject this harmful project!

Name: Trevor Moore
Date: October 19, 2026 6:48:55 pm

I oppose the proposed construction of the Trump Arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. This historic corridor is one of the most significant and recognizable landscapes in our nation’s capital, connecting places of remembrance, sacrifice, and national unity. Introducing a monumental new structure would fundamentally alter its historic character, obstruct established sightlines, and diminish the architectural integrity of the surrounding memorials. These public spaces should be preserved for future generations, not reshaped to commemorate contemporary political figures. I urge the responsible agencies to reject this proposal and prioritize the preservation of Washington, DC’s historic monumental landscape.

Name: Naomi Weisman
Date: October 19, 2026 6:53:43 pm

The view between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery honors generations of veterans. The proposed 260-foot Triumphal Arch will permanently destroy this landscape.

The stakes couldn't be higher. Please reject this harmful project.

Name: Russell Piper
Date: October 19, 2026 6:54:24 pm

I object to building the new monumental arch and would urge you to block any construction

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Name: Sherry Holinaty
Date: October 19, 2026 6:56:03 pm

This cemetery is meant to honor those who served our country in the military. It is not a place to place a memorial arch to anyone. It is not a place to have weapons to deter a drone attack.

Sherry Holinaty

Name: Jeffrey Miller
Date: October 19, 2026 7:18:25 pm

Please listen to the people - stop ignoring the concerns and objections. People do not want this arch. The 250th anniversary is over. We don’t need this ugly, pompous, and unnecessary arch that will be a hazard to air traffic.

Name: Tonya Zalenski
Date: October 19, 2026 7:23:16 pm

Please stop this insanity. Nobody asked for this stupid and gaudy arch. Just say no. Trump doesn't need one more thing to mess up. Just say no to Trump and this ridiculous arch. Just. Say. NO.

Thank you.

T. Zalenski
Michigan

Name: Catherine Siegel
Date: October 19, 2026 7:24:35 pm

I am opposed to the building of this Arch on so many levels. It violates so many regulations, has NOT received Congressional approval and disturbs the magnificent sightl ines of our existing Washington, DC monuments. It is a travesty. Please do not allow this arch to be built.

Name: Jeanne Schmidt
Date: October 19, 2026 7:27:12 pm

This ridiculous project is being planned by President Trump & rushed through for no good reason.

The view between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery honors generations of veterans - including my family members buried here. The proposed 260-foot Triumphal Arch will permanently destroy this landscape.

Reject this harmful project that the public does not want.

Name: AJ cho
Date: October 19, 2026 7:33:30 pm

The Arc de Trump is completely unnecessary. It would only be built to commemorate trump, who has accomplished nothing useful in his time in office.

Name: Donna Woolet
Date: October 19, 2026 7:57:54 pm

This is wrong on every level! People who died defending our country, and their loved ones who visit their graves, should not have this monstrosity of an ego-arch distracting from the hero’s who died for our country.

Name: Lilian Burch
Date: October 19, 2026 8:04:26 pm

Please do not clutter up the view to and from Arlington National Cemetery with a gaudy arch that has no significance in the history of the United States. It is too big and ugly and will overshadow other monuments and the landscape of the National Mall.

Name: Brandy Belandres
Date: October 19, 2026 8:37:29 pm

Writing

I strongly urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the proposed 260-foot Triumphal Arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. This monumental landscape is far more than a scenic vista or a location for grand architecture. It is sacred ground that honors generations of American veterans, including members of my own family who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. It represents sacrifice, service, remembrance, and the

enduring cost of defending our nation.

Constructing a massive triumphal arch in this historic setting would permanently and irreversibly damage the solemn character, historic integrity, and powerful symbolism of this landscape. The monumental scale of this proposed structure would overwhelm the existing memorials, disrupt the carefully preserved relationship between these national landmarks, and fundamentally alter a place that belongs to all Americans. This is not an appropriate setting for a monument of such immense scale and grandeur.

We have a responsibility to preserve this hallowed ground for future generations, not sacrifice its historic significance to an imposing new structure. The landscape between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery should remain a place of reflection, dignity, and remembrance—not be permanently transformed by a project that diminishes the very values this sacred space represents.

The stakes could not be higher. Once this historic landscape is irreversibly altered, it cannot truly be restored. I respectfully call on the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the proposed Triumphal Arch and protect this irreplaceable national treasure. We owe that responsibility to the veterans who served, to the families who remember and mourn them, to my own family, and to generations of Americans who deserve to experience this landscape as it was intended: a powerful and enduring tribute to sacrifice, service, and freedom.

Name: Vickie Felts
Date: October 19, 2026 8:43:25 pm

Please, please do not allow the Triumphal Arc to be built ! It will ruin the entire area’s serene and respectful nature. Please, please NO!

Name: Fernando Gracia
Date: October 19, 2026 9:06:06 pm

Please reject the proposed 260-foot Triumphal Arch, a proposal that will permanently destroy this landscape.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject this harmful project, as it will create a serious national security issue as it will impact flight paths.

Name: DARIN BURBRINK
Date: October 19, 2026 9:13:00 pm

Please don’t ruin the existing system of monuments by building the trump arch.

Name: Cindy Haller
Date: October 19, 2026 9:22:37 pm

The proposed 260-foot Triumphal Arch will permanently destroy the landscape. This is sacred ground with many heroes buried at Arlington. Please reject this ill conceived project.

Thank you. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Name: Caroline Kenney
Date: October 19, 2026 9:40:20 pm

I still do not know the point of this project, whether it is to glorify the current president or to be a drone storage unit - and frankly I do not care. Neither project has any merit. What I do value is the unbroken line of sight from the Lincoln

Memorial to Arlington Cemetery, for it ties together a great president, Lincoln, who kept the union together during one of our darkest hours, with a reminder of the horrible cost in human lives that came from that endeavor. I am not a veteran. I freely admit that I do not know what it is like to risk my life to protect this nation and all who live in it. For that reason, it is even more important that people like me are reminded of the sacrifices our brave soldiers have made and continue to make every day. Being able to see Arlington Cemetery serves that purpose. Even from across the river, the rows upon rows of white graves marking the lives of those who served are clearly visible, a stark reminder of the cost of liberty. This proposed arch will block that view. It is a disservice both to the soldiers who served and to those of us who need to remember them to allow this monstrosity of an arch - this monument to vanity - to be built. As a citizen of this city I am adamantly opposed to its construction.

Name: Dean McDonald
Date: October 19, 2026 10:33:39 pm

Vote against this bad idea in a terrible location. It is offensive to our veterans, ugly, and a waste of money that should be spent to help people.

Name: Lauren Weis
Date: October 19, 2026 10:47:28 pm

It would be a tragedy to build this monstrosity. It would destroy the peace, serenity and beauty of the landscape. It is gaudy and has no reason for being. Please don’t fall for a monument to a tyrant. We the People do not deserve this. Thank you.

Name: Paul Baits
Date: October 20, 2026 12:51:51 am

Building the so-called Triumphal Arch would desicrate the honorable landscape that currently honors our fallen war heroes. Please don't allow one man's shallow ego destroy this sacred place n

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Name: Rousseau Nutter
Date: October 20, 2026 7:21:59 am

The naming is unprecedented. While some will point out there is some historical precedent of sitting US presidents and things being named after them, most of that is from trump himself, this is a strong push back towards the monarchy we were founded against.

The arch itself is a strong push towards Fascist iconography that our so much of our forefathers blood has been spilled to protect against.

If this is truly what the country wants and is best for the nation don’t try to rush it through. Let the future generations construct it in Trumps honor because they believe he deserves it!

Name: Rosamond mytheS
Date: October 20, 2026 7:50:22 am

The idea of erecting a monumental arch is one of the most harebrained scemes yet for the current administration.
The location is wrong and the concept is misguided.
There is no need to waste government funds on this ill conceived project.

Name: Pamela Rogers
Date: October 20, 2026 8:09:00 am

How stupid is this do not put the monumental Arch and Trump's honor how ridiculous that's for people who served our country with Glory respect and honor not him

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Name: Michele Garrigan
Date: October 20, 2026 11:38:08 am

A Trump vanity project has no place near these sacred grounds. It violates a memorial to those who gave their lives for this country. Take the money and use it to support veterans and their families.

Name: lynne Rychlik
Date: October 20, 2026 11:47:37 am

Please stop this unnecessary aesthetically inappropriate structure. It disrespects those who have given their lives in service to our country. It is money spent at a time when average Americans cannot make ends meet and it will add to the deficit which is already out of control. It is against the traditions of our country to erect monuments to a president while they are still in office. I strongly urge you to apply all standards for construction in our nation’s capitol and reject this architecturally inappropriate project.

Name: Rob Wald
Date: October 20, 2026 2:16:23 pm

I am asking the National Capital Planning Commissioners to reject the plans for and the actual construction of the new monumental arch.

I realize that you and your family may be facing threats of physical harm if you do not vote to approve the arch. But now is the time to be brave and to do what you know in your hearts is the right thing. I'm asking you to show courage, just like the soldiers who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery did when they fought to protect our country.

Imagine a future conversation with your grandchildren. When they ask what you did about the arch when you served on the National Capital Planning Commission, what will you tell them? That you were too scared to do what you knew was right, so you voted to approve construction? Or will you be able to tell your grandchildren that you were scared but you mustered the courage to do what was right, and you voted against President Trump's wishes and rejected the arch?

Name: Colonel (Ret) Ann Wright
Date: October 20, 2026 8:18:28 pm

Testimony of US Army Colonel (Retired) Ann Wright
For the National Capitol Planning Commission meeting on November 5, 2026
Testimony concerning the construction of an Arch
My name is Ann Wright. I served 29 years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves and retired as a Colonel. I was also a U.S. diplomat and served 16 years in U.S. Embassies in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. I worked in the federal government under eight Presidential administrations beginning with Lyndon Johnson.
For President Donald Trump to build a monument to himself, for that is exactly what it would be, is a sacrilege to both the history of the bridge and to the history of Arlington National Cemetery to which the Memorial Bridge leads. It would be a place, as a retired U.S. Army Colonel, I hold with special reverence for our nation’s history.
Arlington National Cemetery contains the remains of many generations of military members and their families. Trump, who got five deferments for military service, has referred to those, like myself who did serve in the military, as “losers and suckers” and was especially despairing to U.S. prisoners of war, such as Senator and Presidential candidate John

McCain.
Veterans and military families have been outspoken in their condemnation of the Ego Arch. Retired Major General Paul Eaton spoke forcefully against the Arch. Gold Star mother Karen Meredith said she was “appalled” at the idea of the Arch so near to Arlington Cemetery. Her son was killed in Iraq and is buried there.
I feel so strongly about the arch being a slap in the face, particularly of veterans, that I flew from my home in Honolulu, Hawaii to participate in twice a day protests at Memorial Circle for a week, from September 14-18, 2026. If I didn’t need to return home for obligations, I would be at the circle every day to join the daily protests at Memorial Circle which have continued. Now, on October 20, the daily protests are in their 37th day.
I strongly believe it is our responsibility as educated citizens to challenge any attempt by this administration, or any administration, to rewrite the history of the Memorial Bridge which Trump is doing with the Arch.
An arch built for the ego of Donald Trump, standing 250 feet tall, besides blocking the historic view of the Potomac and Lincoln Memorial and views of the Arlington National Cemetery, and would be a hazard to airflights into National airport, would block the true and honest history of the Memorial Bridge and what it represents in the nation’s history. Arlington Memorial Bridge is much more than a bridge. It is a Memorial to the Reunification of the United States After the Civil War and an acknowledgement of the horrors of slavery in the United States.
We have seen that Trump‘s cultural war on the history of the United States has already resulted in dramatic changes in the wording on many historical exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum, particularly those that describe the horrific effects of slavery on our nation.

In July 2025, President Trump ordered warning signs and exhibits installed outside the Smithsonian national Museum of American history to alert the public that the museum does not, in his view, accurately reflect American history. Trump called the museums portrayal of US history, too focused on “how bad slavery was.“ Trump said he would subject the museums to the “the exact same process“ his administration has conducted on universities with the goal of making the Smithsonian less “woke.“

An arch created by, and essentially for, President Trump would always carry the connotation of his racist beliefs and would be a dagger in the heart of the true history of the United States and the service of the women and men who have been in the U.S. military.
We demand that his crazy proposed project in our nation’s capital be rejected by the National Capitol Planning Commission. Our nation’s capitol area should not be used as a personal real estate toy by billionaires!

US Army Colonel (Ret) Ann Wright
Honolulu, Hawaii

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 152

October 21, 2026

Name: Caryn Bern
Date: October 21, 2026 10:50:29 am

to the planning commission:

The proposed monumental arch poses an unacceptable risk to flight safety into and out of Reagan National Airport. After the fatal crash last year, air safety for DCA needs to be thoroughly reassessed and a plan for improved safety should be designed by experts in this field. Building the monumental arch is foolhardy and will lead to predictable near misses and eventually another fatal crash.

Name: John Greene, NCARB
Date: October 21, 2026 12:19:11 pm

Hello,

Being an architect comes with responsibility. Safety, dignity, culture, and history are among the myriad responsibilities that underlie our collective duty to the public. The triumphal arch is an irresponsible vision. Stated needs address a core issue that does not necessitate architecture, but rather an inclusive conversation about why some leaders believe bellicose structures serve the common good. These structures are both physical and psychological.

Honor our history, and do not allow this proposal to move forward.

Sincerely,
John Greene, NCARB
Saint Paul, MN

Name: Diana Clark
Date: October 21, 2026 2:05:10 pm

It’s a staple. LEAVE IT ALONE!

Name: Emily Knuuti
Date: October 21, 2026 2:06:45 pm

Just no. I don't even know what to say besides why do we even need to be talking about this garbage? Why are we taking any of it seriously and wasting the time of many people when it shouldn't happen. It is disrespectful to those who sacrificed their lives and good health to this country.

Name: Lisa Lynch
Date: October 21, 2026 2:11:04 pm

Please do not build the New Monumental Arch. It will destroy one of America's sacred and symbolic landscapes that honors veterans.

Name: William Trumbull
Date: October 21, 2026 2:11:35 pm

I am a frequent visitor to our Capital. The rushed and unthoughtful changes that are being pursued at this time are deplorable and detract from the grandeur of the City. We, the people, expect thoughtful deliberation and honest justifications for new projects, including the Arch. It is too much building in the wrong place for no good reason.

Please listen to the people, not the President, and reject this project on its lack of merit.

Thank you

Name: Phillip Kopita
Date: October 21, 2026 2:12:35 pm

Please do not allow this to move forward. It is disrespectful to those buried at Arlington Cemetery. We are better than this.

Name: Christina Davis
Date: October 21, 2026 2:37:28 pm

The arch over our brave soldiers graves is and disgrace and an insult!! To be built for a 5X DRAFT DODGER--WITH FAKE BONE SPURS??!!!! WTF!!! The epitome of and definition gross!! DO NOT ALLOW THIS NARCISSISTIC A$$ TO INDULGE HIS WHIMS AT THE COST OF OUR BRAVE SOLIDIERS DIGNITY AND TO INSULT GRIEVING FAMILY MEMBERS!!!

Name: Victoria Reynolds
Date: October 21, 2026 2:40:09 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates are opposed to the arch and have raised serious concerns about the size, location, cost, and impacts it would have here. There has been a continual lack of transparency throughout this process surrounding the Triumphal Arch. I lived in Fairfax, VA for three years and was struck by the elegance and simplicity of the National Mall every time I went. I am against this administration's focus on grandeur and extravagance while the American people are suffering with affordability, including ever rising gas prices and inflation. I am firmly against the building of the Triumphal Arch and the Trump Administration's continued efforts to undermine our national parks, which belong to the American people.

Name: Tori Fitzsimmons
Date: October 21, 2026 2:50:25 pm

I am vehemently opposed to the arch! The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. This is a waste of money and a slap in the face to our veterans and their families.

Name: Renee Fitzpatrick
Date: October 21, 2026 3:17:54 pm

Please no.

Name: Jeanne Jordan
Date: October 21, 2026 3:49:02 pm

I am against building the Triumphal Arch. The proposed Triumphal Arch is huge and would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. We should not build anything that would take away from the other monuments in the Washington Mall or the Arlington Cemetery. The proposed Arch is taller than the Jefferson Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial.
I believe it is important to protect our national parks, historic places, and military memorials. I don't see how the Triumphal Arch fits with this need.
The plans for the Arch have changed to make it more costly.
• The Arch plans have gone from 250 feet to 260 feet.
• The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy. There is no reason to use marble sourced from Italy. It's too costly.
• The addition of an "eternal flame" would create a "sky glow" that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

Name: Lisa Heard
Date: October 21, 2026 5:02:44 pm

No arch!

Name: Lelia Brosky
Date: October 21, 2026 5:03:42 pm

This arch is a monumental waste of money. We have so many more important things that our taxes need to be spent on. I can't even imagine the traffic issues this would cause both during and after construction. Building monuments to oneself is something dictators do, not elected officials. Shut this project down now.

Name: Dominique Edmondson
Date: October 21, 2026 5:04:48 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an "eternal flame" would create a "sky glow" that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: David Boyer
Date: October 21, 2026 5:05:17 pm

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission in the strongest possible terms to reject final approval of the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle, NCPC File No. 8778.

This proposal represents an extraordinary and, in my view, indefensible intrusion into one of the most historically significant ceremonial landscapes in the United States.

Memorial Circle is not vacant land waiting to be improved, embellished, or filled. It is part of a deliberately designed and

nationally significant landscape linking the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle, Memorial Avenue, and Arlington National Cemetery. Its openness, axial views, visual restraint, and solemn progression toward Arlington are not incidental features. They are fundamental to what this place is.

Placing a 250-foot monumental structure in the middle of that composition would not enhance it. It would overwhelm it.

The proposal would insert an enormous new visual object into a landscape whose existing power comes from the relationships among the Lincoln Memorial, the Potomac, Memorial Bridge, Memorial Avenue, and Arlington National Cemetery. A structure of this scale would inevitably compete with those places for visual and symbolic dominance. That is precisely what responsible stewardship of the monumental core should prevent.

I am especially disturbed by the proposed transformation of the approach to Arlington National Cemetery. This is a ceremonial route to the resting place of hundreds of thousands of American service members and veterans. It deserves dignity, restraint, and reverence. It should not be converted into the setting for a colossal new attraction complete with observation spaces, intensive nighttime illumination, increased pedestrian activity, and additional transportation pressures.

There is also something profoundly misguided about describing such a project as a way to “beautify” this location. This landscape is already one of the great civic compositions of the United States. The suggestion that it needs a 250-foot arch to make it sufficiently monumental mistakes size for significance and spectacle for beauty.

Nor should a project of this consequence be rushed through simply because its proponents want it associated with the Semiquincentennial. America's 250th anniversary does not create an obligation to permanently alter an irreplaceable historic landscape. A self-imposed commemorative deadline is not a legitimate reason to lower the standards of historic preservation, urban planning, environmental review, transportation analysis, or public participation.

Indeed, the speed and evolution of this proposal make rigorous scrutiny more important, not less. Once a structure of this magnitude is constructed at Memorial Circle, the damage to the historic composition cannot simply be undone. The burden therefore belongs squarely on the project's proponents to demonstrate why such an extraordinary intervention is necessary and why no less destructive location or form would accomplish its stated purpose.

I do not believe that burden has been met.

The Commission should also recognize the precedent it would establish. If one of the nation's most significant designed landscapes can be radically altered whenever a sufficiently powerful sponsor proposes a sufficiently large new monument, then historic preservation protections mean very little. Washington's monumental core cannot remain coherent if each generation treats inherited civic spaces merely as available real estate for its own architectural statement.

There are countless places where a new monument could be created without sacrificing an existing national treasure. Memorial Circle is not one of them.

Future generations will not have the opportunity to recover the unobstructed historic composition once it has been destroyed. The Commission therefore faces a basic question of stewardship: whether to protect an exceptional national landscape entrusted to its care, or permit that landscape to be subordinated to a new structure of overwhelming scale.

The answer should be clear.

Please reject final approval of the Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle. Protect the historic relationship among the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Avenue, and Arlington National Cemetery. Some places in the nation's capital are important precisely because we have had the wisdom to preserve them rather than build upon them.

Memorial Circle should remain one of those places.

Name: James Dawson
Date: October 21, 2026 5:05:47 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of

transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: connie metcalf
Date: October 21, 2026 5:07:23 pm

I am writing to say NO to Trump's Arch in Washington, DC. Do not build it. Very few people want it.
Connie Metcalf, American citizen

Name: Mari Mennel-Bell
Date: October 21, 2026 5:08:34 pm

I am adamantly against President Trump's proposed Arch and the prohibitive cost to taxpayers for the following reasons:The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

The Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Gregry Loomis
Date: October 21, 2026 5:09:38 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

This "Arch" is contrary to the founding principles of our nation! It must be rejected.

Name: Patricia Squiqui
Date: October 21, 2026 5:09:46 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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Name: Mark Rom
Date: October 21, 2026 5:10:43 pm

The arch is a truly terrible idea. It would degrade a sacred place. It would worsen traffic, and increase risks to air traffic. And the idea that you would put munitions in it and snipers on it is, to summarize in a word, insane. Please kill it.

Name: James Smoker
Date: October 21, 2026 5:12:00 pm

Dear Sir/Madam,

President Trump has made a spectacle of monuments and historic sites in Washington, DC. Veteran associations have cited how the "Triumphal Arch" will desecrate, in part, the National Cemetery. Let's get real. This is not a Triumphal Arch. This is a monument to President Trump. It is not needed and will be yet another Trump grandiose eyesore.

Needless to say, I oppose approval of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Smoker
[redacted]
York, PA 17408
[redacted]
An American Citizen of 79 years

Name: Tracey Bonner
Date: October 21, 2026 5:12:28 pm

We ALL have a responsibility to work together in order to Protect and SAVE our Washington D.C. National Park Mall and Environment from senseless Destruction and Poisoning in the name of Ignorance and Greed.

Please stop the Monumental Arch!

Name: Janice Figman
Date: October 21, 2026 5:12:39 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. I am a park advocate and oppose the arch and I have serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. I oppose for the following reasons:

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And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

***The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes!!

Name: Susan Rippe
Date: October 21, 2026 5:12:42 pm

This arch will destroy the intended view from Arlington to the Lincoln Memorial. This needs to be stopped. D Trump shouldn’t qualify for any type of memorial/ monument/arch! Stop this. The Nation’s White House, Capital, surrounding Monuments are owned by the American people not a sitting president.

Name: Leslie Karnauskas
Date: October 21, 2026 5:12:44 pm

I am against building this Arch. It will disrupt the view between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. The size at 260 feet is ridiculous. I have also just become aware that a new eternal flame that will create a sky glow that will be illuminated 10 times the brightness of Washington Monument has been added to the plans. I am emphatically against this! Please do not move forward with the plans for this Arch!!!!

Name: Carson Morrison
Date: October 21, 2026 5:13:41 pm

This has to be the stupidest, most gaudy "monument" in recorded history. Not only will it affect people living in the area, but it will also make commuting even slower and that's not accounting for the tourists. The "eternal flame" is unnecessary as well and will negatively impact local wildlife and citizens alike.

Name: Anne Pearson
Date: October 21, 2026 5:15:42 pm

This Arch is inappropriate, it is not what the public wishes to have built. It is in the wrong place and will impeded rush hour traffic. It should not be funded with public monies since it is not something the public wishes to have. It is yet

another attempt by Donald Trump to pay himself homage and will not be a memorial the public wishes to have put in place, especially since his public approval numbers have sunk into the 30's.

Name: Cindy Grimes
Date: October 21, 2026 5:17:29 pm

The ridiculous and illegal proposal of this "arch" should be shut down immediately. It would totally destroy and desecrate this sacred and special landscape. The U.S. people do NOT want this or the cost we will have to pay for the useless piece of granite! This is ONLY the idea of the greedy, narcissistic, and uncontrolled wanna-be-dictator who unfortunately, is currently the president. There has been a total lack of transparency for anything this administration has done, and this has to STOP!!!!

Name: Anon Ymous
Date: October 21, 2026 5:17:34 pm

This place has been protected for over a century as a reflection of America's promise to her veterans for an eternity. We must keep that promise and keep the soldiers buried at Arlington centered in the design of the space as we promised or stop having any military since not doing so would show we do not deserve any military or standing army. Maintain our promises and values despite the provocation from someone with no respect for history, our values, our laws or our constitution.

Name: PETER TRAUB
Date: October 21, 2026 5:17:57 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:
• The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.
• The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.
• The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.
• And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!
We do not need a monument to a living president.

Name: Nicole Amador
Date: October 21, 2026 5:18:57 pm

Please protect Memorial Circle, the sacred landscape connecting the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, by rejecting the Triumphal Arch. Our national parks belong to all Americans, and this place honors hundreds of thousands of veterans buried at Arlington.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.

Name: Lisa Butler
Date: October 21, 2026 5:20:38 pm

he proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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Name: Carson Morrison
Date: October 21, 2026 5:20:43 pm

This is ugly, unnecessary, and an expense that we can't afford.

Name: Richard Stern
Date: October 21, 2026 5:21:32 pm

This project should be rejected completely.
It is a waste of taxpayer money.

Name: Kevin Ryle
Date: October 21, 2026 5:22:42 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

This monument to one psychotic man is a disgrace and must be stopped. If it is built it will bring shame on anyone involved. Hopefully, if it is built the next president will tear it down.

Please do not allow this monstrosity to be built

Name: Sean McAdam
Date: October 21, 2026 5:23:13 pm

The Arch would be value detractive to what is now there rather than value added. Cost aside, I feel it would be a monstrous eyesore. Please reject it outright. Thank you.

Name: Michelle Rojas
Date: October 21, 2026 5:24:20 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes, the Memorial Circle. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact, as well as the transparency (or lack therof) throughout the planning process. We do not need a huge, 260 feet arch that will just create more problems, such as light pollution from the "eternal flame" that is estimated to be 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument. Imagine trying to sleep with that light shining through your window. The Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle--not including visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which would make traffic delays even greater! This is just another Trump vanity project, and I don't want my tax dollars going to something that will just stoke his ego while making things worse for the people, animals and birds who actually live there.

Name: Nancy Brown
Date: October 21, 2026 5:24:27 pm

The arch would be a disgrace. to the veterans and all the citizens. who revere the veterans. It isn’t even tasteful; it’s a monstrosity and vulgar. Stop the movement to build the so called arch!

Name: Donna Mulvey
Date: October 21, 2026 5:24:54 pm

This project is grandiose, costly and inconsiderate of many environmental considerations including keeping the night sky dark. At a time when many parks struggle to stay open or properly staffed it seems arrogant to move forward on this unnecessary grotesque project.

Name: Thomas Knecht
Date: October 21, 2026 5:24:57 pm

This arch is yet another insane vanity project from trump to himself at OUR (US tax payers) expense. It would be very sick and wrong for this project to go through. NO tRUMP ARCH!

Name: Amy Freeman
Date: October 21, 2026 5:26:14 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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This place must remain protected! Please do the right thing!

Name: JAMES CHRISTENSON
Date: October 21, 2026 5:26:21 pm

I urge you to immediately halt any consideration of constructing the monumental arch. Pictures of it show it to be an appalling monstrosity, completely out of character with the setting. It would severely detract from the cemetery and surrounding monuments.It has no reason to exist.

Name: George Parrish
Date: October 21, 2026 5:26:48 pm

Americans DO NOT WANT OR NEED Trump's VANITY PROJECTS!
Stop the "Triumphal Arch"!

Name: John Sisson
Date: October 21, 2026 5:27:22 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. This arch has been proposed by a very divisive administration and will never be viewed or respected by most Americans as the symbol they intend.

Name: Jamie Schweer
Date: October 21, 2026 5:27:24 pm

The proposed arch in Washington D.C is a terrible idea. It will have a negative impact on other Washington monuments and the National Cemetery. It will also create more traffic in the area. Please do not build the arch in this location.

Name: Jack Ryan
Date: October 21, 2026 5:27:52 pm

This hideous monstrosity is an affront to our nations capitol. It is a waste of taxpayer's money while our national debt exceeds 40 trillion dollars.

Name: Robert Depew
Date: October 21, 2026 5:28:31 pm

Scrap the arch in its entirety. Washington DC does not need some garish monument just because Trump wants to feed his oversized ego.

Name: Helen Rutherford
Date: October 21, 2026 5:28:39 pm

I, like most people, do not agree with or want this Arch. What authority does our president have to build something just because he wants to? How does our president just decide without any study or committees or discussions with any of the public input?
This should be stopped now.

Name: Maria Gomez Murphy
Date: October 21, 2026 5:29:19 pm

I want to preserve our legacy as exemplified by the Arch which this Administration wants to replace. There’s no need and NO desire from Americans to have him destroy our past to remake it in his image. We are the government not him. We want our history preserved not create a new one that starts when he came into power. A new Arch is a waste of taxpayer money especially when he is eliminating all safety net programs we pay for. This government is for, and by the people. It is fueled by our tax dollars. Our voices must be heard. This imperiousness will end one day and we will have to go through the trouble of destroying what was imposed on us and return us to our past and our history.

Name: Tracie Story
Date: October 21, 2026 5:30:30 pm

Please do not disgrace our nation's veterans by building this hideous arch.

Please protect the integrity of our nations landscape and monuments by stopping this ridiculous project which will scar the view.

There are so very many places where our nation could spend this money. Why not protect our parks and public lands instead of building a meaningless arch for some self serving egomaniac?

Please have the heart and the courage to stop this disgrace of a project. Thank you very much

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Name: Charlie Post
Date: October 21, 2026 5:31:28 pm

It is my contention that there should NEVER be a "triumphal Trumpian" arch anywhere near Arlington National Cemetery. This is a slap in the face to any/all who have served and are interred there. This arch is a self serving, narcissistic attempt by Trump to enshrine himself in the public spaces of Washington D.C. The general way that these sort of things work is that they are earned AFTER an administration has had a positive effect on the country. I would submit that the Trump presidencies have been anything but. Do we want to recognize his negative affect on this country? I sure do not think so. History is a great sifting agent to develop what is good and bad. I am sure that time will show that Trump's effects have NOT been positive. I personally do not want a convicted felon, pedophile, grifting person memorialized.

Name: Ruth Ann Wiesenthal-Gold
Date: October 21, 2026 5:32:52 pm

You have the power to do the right thing and I am asking that is exactly what you do.

For one, there is no need for a arch of any kind. That said no one in this country has a right to build a monument to themselves that in many ways usurps the grandeur of the Arlington Cemetery where Our country's heroes are buried. It is sacred ground and should be treated as such.

The added "value" of the drones etc are specious at best. Do you think that is appropriate?

Please, again, do the right thing and stop this insanity. We count on you to stand up for the Arlington Cemetery and all the heroes buried there.

Name: Rita Glasscock
Date: October 21, 2026 5:36:46 pm

This HORRIBLE ARCH would be an INSULT and a DISGRACE to our BRAVE MILITARY VETERANS !!!! IT MUST BE STOPPED NOW !

Name: Mark Weinberger
Date: October 21, 2026 5:38:14 pm

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

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Name: Richard Jackson
Date: October 21, 2026 5:41:00 pm

This arch is an affront to the legacy of the traditions of the area
NOBODY wants a structure that does not dignify American spirit and legacy.

Name: Jennifer Nealon Garone
Date: October 21, 2026 5:41:45 pm

I oppose the proposed arch. A monumental structure in this location could disrupt the historic landscape and views around the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other nearby landmarks. These places honor the country’s shared history and sacrifice; they should not be overshadowed by a monument associated with any one political figure.

Any proposal for a major structure on public land should receive full public review and the required approvals, with careful consideration of its effects on the site’s history, views, access, and surroundings. Please reject this proposal and prioritize preserving the dignity and character of this important national landscape.

Name: Blake Puhak
Date: October 21, 2026 5:42:03 pm

For the third time, I am writing in opposition to the New Monumental Arch. Since the last time, the arch has grown from 250 feet to 260 feet. This further impacts the views of Arlington Memorial Cemetery as well as gets it closer to the airspace for National Airport. The additional of an eternal flame and it's light pollution surely will have a dangerous impact on air traffic and a negative impact on the surround park and cemetery. The Arch will increase morning traffic delays by 50%, put pedestrians and cyclists at increased risk of injury or death from automobile and bus traffic. The American people have spoken multiple times against this arch. Their voices have been heard and it's time to honor them by rejecting this arch.

Name: Claire Perricelli
Date: October 21, 2026 5:43:06 pm

This is an abomination; an unnecessary expense to please one megalomaniac who never should have been elected, especially after his attempt to overthrow our own government. It is out of place and an eyesore which will denigrate the views to the cemetery and cause more traffic congestion. There is no (sane) reason for this to be built. Instead we should be building community and serving the people, not the egos of the wealthy.

Name: N Pendic
Date: October 21, 2026 5:45:52 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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This is another vanity project that is a complete waste of money and provides no benefits.

Name: Denise Romesburg
Date: October 21, 2026 5:46:48 pm

NO

Name: Mr. and Mrs. Cregg McCullin
Date: October 21, 2026 5:48:11 pm

As a military veteran and spouse, we strongly OPPOSE the proposed "Triumphal Arch." Such a gauche and ridiculously large "monument" would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans like us and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of

transparency throughout this process:

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For all these reasons and more, we--like many very concerned and outraged Americans want this "monument" work TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY and the site restored to its original condition.

Name: Richard Udy
Date: October 21, 2026 5:48:41 pm

Why do we need this arch?
Is it to block the view from Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery?
Is it to add bright lights for aircraft landing pattern?
Why do we need a sniper tower in Washington, DC? Who will the snipers be targeting?
I just see a waste of taxpayer money and more congestion for our National Capital.
Enough is enough. Stop the madness.

Name: Steve Metzger
Date: October 21, 2026 5:49:18 pm

A monument to a convicted sex offender an a known conman and grifter is beond vile and discusting ! THIS IS NOT AMERICA !!

Name: Richard Rafoth
Date: October 21, 2026 5:51:13 pm

It would be really nice to let the people decide this one. How about a vote?? That's how democracy works. All of us are equal. BTW, I vote no.

Name: Sheryll Rockway
Date: October 21, 2026 5:52:36 pm

STOP this arch!!!! The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. VETERANS and park advocates oppose the arch The American people don't want it. The Triumphal Arch plans continues to demonstrate the LACK OF TRANSPARENCY throughout this process. STOP THIS ARCH!

Name: David Harris
Date: October 21, 2026 5:53:14 pm

The proposal is preposterous. It will distort the appearance of the region in a negative way. Honoring a sitting president this way is unhealthy

David J Harris,MD

Name: Gerald Hallead
Date: October 21, 2026 5:53:47 pm

To the National Capital Planning Commission:

I strongly oppose the proposed Triumphal Arch at Arlington National Cemetery and urge the Commission to reject it outright.

Arlington National Cemetery is already one of the most sacred and recognizable memorial landscapes in the United States. For more than a century, it has served as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by generations of Americans who gave their lives in service to this nation. It stands as a monument to duty, sacrifice, and freedom. It does not need to be enhanced, supplemented, or overshadowed by a massive triumphal arch.

The proposal is profoundly misguided because it fundamentally misunderstands what Arlington represents.

Arlington is not a place of triumph. It is a place of remembrance. It is not a stage for displays of power, grandeur, or political legacy. It is a cemetery. Every headstone marks the loss of a son, daughter, spouse, parent, friend, or patriot. The power of Arlington comes from its dignity, humility, and reverence. The proposed arch threatens to replace those values with spectacle.

Many Americans see this project as exactly what it appears to be: a monument driven not by public need or national consensus, but by the megalomaniacal belief that bigger structures somehow create greater patriotism. They do not. Patriotism is not measured in the height of monuments or the scale of construction projects. Patriotism is measured by service to one's country and commitment to the principles for which so many at Arlington sacrificed everything.

Particularly troubling is the project's resemblance to the personality-driven architecture often favored by leaders who seek to immortalize themselves through monumental displays. Arlington National Cemetery should never become a backdrop for anyone's vanity, political ambitions, or historical self-importance. Our fallen heroes deserve better than to have their resting place overshadowed by a structure that many Americans view as little more than an exercise in nationalistic pageantry and personal legacy-building.

The facts surrounding the proposal only reinforce these concerns.

The arch has grown even larger than originally proposed, increasing from 250 to 260 feet in height. Materials once described as North Carolina granite may now be replaced by imported Italian marble. Project plans now include an "eternal flame" that would create a sky glow reportedly ten times brighter than the Washington Monument. Traffic studies indicate the project would increase morning delays around Memorial Circle by 50 percent, and those figures do not account for additional visitors who would be drawn to the site. At every stage, the project seems to become more intrusive, more disruptive, and more expensive while transparency continues to diminish.

Veterans, preservation advocates, and countless citizens have repeatedly voiced concerns about the project's scale, cost, location, and impact. Rather than listening to those concerns, project proponents appear determined to push forward regardless of public opposition. This disregard for legitimate criticism raises serious questions about whose interests are actually being served.

Most offensive is the implication that Arlington somehow lacks sufficient grandeur on its own. Nothing could be further from the truth. The endless rows of white headstones stretching across Arlington's hillsides tell the story of American sacrifice more eloquently than any triumphal arch ever could. The cemetery's sacred power lies precisely in its restraint. It asks visitors to reflect, not to admire a towering monument to human ambition.

At a time when Americans are increasingly weary of political self-promotion, this proposal feels especially tone-deaf. It places spectacle above substance, ego above humility, and architectural excess above the preservation of one of our nation's most revered landscapes. Future generations should approach Arlington and be moved by the sacrifices of those buried there, not distracted by a colossal structure erected in pursuit of grandeur.

The men and women buried at Arlington earned their place in history through courage, sacrifice, and service. They require no arch to validate their legacy. Their sacrifice is the monument.

I urge the Commission to reject this unnecessary and deeply inappropriate proposal and preserve Arlington National Cemetery as it has stood for generations: a timeless, sacred monument to the Americans who gave everything for their country.

Respectfully,
Gerald Hallead
Sergeant - United States Air Force (1967-1973)
Retired Registered Nurse
Veteran for Peace

Name: Catherine Beauchamp
Date: October 21, 2026 5:54:37 pm

I strongly object to the construction of a monumental arch that is clearly being planned and designed to appeal to the fragile ego of Trump. This construction would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Not only that, but the arch would increase morning traffic delays in the area by 50% in and around Memorial Circle.

Name: Lisa Blanck
Date: October 21, 2026 5:54:47 pm

No one is asking for this.
No one.

Washington D.C.'s beauty is being deconstructed brick by brick, stone by stone by the current administration, one historical edifice at a time.

To spend millions of dollars to salute one man's ego is a travesty. To tear millions of dollars away from programs that support feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, aiding the sick, and then claiming there is no money for any of these... but there are funds for a stone cold monument??? The supreme inhumanity of that will be remembered forever, and those who stand by idly while this happens will be as complicit as those who applauded Nero while Rome burned.

Shame on you.

Shall it be built, it will be destroyed as gleefully as we tore down the Berlin wall.

I guarantee it.

Name: Liz Connolley
Date: October 21, 2026 5:56:35 pm

Someone needs to stand up and stop the utter idiocy of Donald Trump. He never thinks about the impact of anything before he destroys his trees, architecture, the quality of life of the people living around him, the environment, or anyone but himself. Trump has a long history of failed businesses, thousands of court cases where he did not pay lawyers, architects, contractors, venues, etc. He has almost 30 lawsuits filed against him for sexual assault. He is a convicted felon. He has the intellectual capacity of an infant. The cowardice of the GOP has enabled him to run amok and think he is some omnipotent creature. Even though he does not possess a moral bone in his body, nor any intelligence, diplomacy or decency, nor has he his entire life. He is destroying this country and is negatively impacting the planet on almost every level with his incompetence and cruelty. Please someone stop him now. This has got to end. He should be removed from office because he is not fit to serve.

Name: Lauren Spear
Date: October 21, 2026 5:57:28 pm

Please do not indulge the President's desire for another monument. Washington, DC does not need a ridiculously huge arch that will only create problems. It is a waste of taxpayer dollars. Thank you your consideration on this matter. Just Say NO!!!!

Name: Michael Montes
Date: October 21, 2026 5:58:33 pm

This ridiculous vanity project does not deserve any time nor money. I have been to our nation's Capital many times in the past and this monstrosity would be completely out of place. it would detract from the wonderful monuments that we already have for actual accomplishments by our forefathers and our military.
And our nation is 42 trillion dollars in debt, with homeless veterans, with our health care system among the worst in the civilized world, kids going hungry and schools needing funding. This is the last thing and lucid person would spend millions of dollars on. Just don't!

Name: Tracy Hoffman
Date: October 21, 2026 5:59:51 pm

I am asking Secretary Burgum to reject the Triumphal Arch. Our national parklands, especially at a place that honors hundreds of thousands of veterans buried at Arlington, belong to all Americans.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

- The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

- The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

- The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

- And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

I value protecting our national parks, historic places, and military memorials. This place must remain protected, as it has been for more than a century.

Name: Gayle Donohue
Date: October 21, 2026 6:01:44 pm

To whom it may concern,
The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process. The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument. And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial

Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater! This is a travesty!

Sincerely,
Gayle Donohue

Name: Liana Moran
Date: October 21, 2026 6:01:59 pm

Reject this from happening
The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

Name: Kathy Dodd
Date: October 21, 2026 6:02:33 pm

Please do not go through with this arch. There are plenty of other places within the park service that have mission critical needs that are unfunded or have been defunded. This proposed project will also negatively impact several other sites in the area. It is not a good fit or need at this time.

Name: Jeanine Mindrum
Date: October 21, 2026 6:02:56 pm

I am strongly opposed the the erection of the Arch. It would destroy one of the most sacred landscapes and is disrespectful of our Veterans the the Lincoln Memorial.

It is not longer proposed to be made of local granite from North Carolina but from imported granite from Italy. That does not support our own American materials and production.

It will increase traffic delays by 50%.

It is disrespectful to our Veterans and the Lincoln Memorial to place drones, and other "security" devices in that location.

The "eternal flame" would create a sky glow that is 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

It would be an eyesore and a shameful, disrespectful addition to our precious capital.

Name: Sarah Knutson
Date: October 21, 2026 6:05:29 pm

I find the idea of this Trump Arch abhorrent.
No flame
No arch
No shadow over sacred graves
No more tax-payer expense for DJT glory.

Name: Elizabeth Hunter
Date: October 21, 2026 6:06:33 pm

Please do not allow Trump’s arch to be constructed. The American public have not voted on its expense nor its mission as well
nor has Congress. It’s merely another egotistical abomination of Trump. Please No!!

Name: mitzi frank
Date: October 21, 2026 6:07:19 pm

Our national parklands belong to all Americans, especially the place that honors hundreds of thousands of veterans buried at Arlington.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process.

Name: B H
Date: October 21, 2026 6:07:23 pm

NO, NO, AND NO to this ridiculous waste of money, eyesore.

Name: Sandra Sobanski
Date: October 21, 2026 6:08:50 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Evelyn Bittner
Date: October 21, 2026 6:10:00 pm

I am absolutely opposed to any new “Monumental Arch” or any other structure that alters the existing area where this arch is planned. It is a vanity project and a complete waste of our taxpayer money, besides being an aesthetic abomination that ruins the beauty and dignity of the park. It must be stopped!

Name: Jim Schaberl
Date: October 21, 2026 6:10:55 pm

There is no basis or value to America for such a monument. America simply rejects it. Secondly, the proposed impact it would have on other monuments, traffic, memorials and environment in a nationally significant landscape is

unequivocally not acceptable. This is a wrongheaded idea pushed to a wrong area for a wrong purpose. You must side with America and its values by stopping it.

I am a veteran who is retired in rural Virginia and I implore you to do the right thing. Please immediately and wholly reject the proposed arch and stand up for America and against this insanity.

Name: Mary Dickson
Date: October 21, 2026 6:11:20 pm

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Name: Chloe Jerolaman
Date: October 21, 2026 6:16:12 pm

I strongly oppose the building of the new monumental arch. Not only is it unrealistic and uninspired, but the cost of this project is exhorbitant and undeserving. I strongly believe the government should be allocating the resources to better support the citizens of this country and reinforce the structural systems that have been neglected such as food distribution, climate change research, public transportation expansions, the housing crisis, and affordable health care. We the People do not support this project and you must speak up against this project as a public servant. Thank you for your time.

Name: Michelle Mondragon
Date: October 21, 2026 6:17:07 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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Name: Barb Crumpacker
Date: October 21, 2026 6:18:03 pm

These ego driven projects are an abomination & not the kinds of things this country was built on & stands for. Please don't approve it or other such autocratic imaginings that don't represent the wishes of the majority population in this

wonderful country. Thank you.

Name: Carolyn Ryan
Date: October 21, 2026 6:18:52 pm

Please stop the construction of the arch in DC. This is no place for an arch. Its hugh design is too much anyway. If the President wants it built - he can afford to build it on his own private property not ours. Thank you

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Name: Stephanie Deigan
Date: October 21, 2026 6:19:10 pm

Hello,

I am writing to express my deep concern for the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. I was at Memorial Circle while in DC last March and erecting an arch will completely obstruct the view from Arlington Cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial. There is no way to mitigate the obstruction and it shows a deep disrespect for our fallen soldiers who are buried at Arlington. An arch would destroy the solemn nature of Arlington Cemetery an the character of the landscape.
If I am not mistaken, the Section 106 Process specifically requires alternatives to avoid or minimize any adverse effects. Alternative siting must be analyzed before the Draft Programmatic Agreement is signed.

I would also like to know if the NPS has prepared a full Environmental Impact Statement. This unnecessary project cannot simply be undertaken just because President Trump says he wants an arch for himself. There is no need for such an arch and the impact on the environment and use of taxpayer dollars, especially at a time when we are struggling just to get by, is excessive.

I truly hope that this project does not move forward. We cannot allow massive vanity projects to move forward without consulting the public and seriously considering the negative impacts. Washington DC has so much history and beauty and this monstrosity has no place in the city.

Thank you for considering my comments

Name: Sandra Cobb
Date: October 21, 2026 6:20:48 pm

This arch is not compatible with the surrounding buildings, Washington is not Rome. The arch is totally inappropriate in America.

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Thanks for your attention.
Sandra Cobb, Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Name: Jim Mitchell
Date: October 21, 2026 6:22:17 pm

I strongly oppose this project.
From everything I have read and heard about it, I believe there is no benefit and huge costs (not just the construction costs) associated with it. One of the huge costs to the public is the visual impact on the other monuments and the sacred Arlington National Cemetery. It would be a monstrosity and an embarrassment to the US if this project was to proceed.

Name: James Moran
Date: October 21, 2026 6:22:20 pm

This is a bad deal, reject it
The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

Name: Deborah Zipf
Date: October 21, 2026 6:23:08 pm

My father, who served in the Navy during World War II (and was very proud of having been accepted into the Navy because he was nearly too old) was buried at Arlington. I oppose the proposed Monumental Arch with all my heart; Arlington, which to me is a peaceful and respectful place that honors the dead, does not need the Arch ... and would not be improved by its construction. I hope this letter of opposition, from a very ordinary but fiercely caring, woman, is helpful to you. Sincerely, Deborah Zipf, daughter of Lt. jg Elmer D. West.

Name: Stephen A Johnson
Date: October 21, 2026 6:23:31 pm

This monument to Trump is an attempt by the delusional sociopath entertainer “president” to cement himself in American history as a builder. He is not.

Trump is a sick & twisted disease, a loudmouth jackass celebrity, one who attempts to convince Americans that he is the country therefore Americans must love him & shower his every delusion with praise.

The arch is a gaudy abomination like everything he is.

Name: Marylyn Stroup
Date: October 21, 2026 6:25:54 pm

Please, no vanity arch! The people don’t want it! Please no arch!!! In

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Name: Bruce Hlodnicki
Date: October 21, 2026 6:27:55 pm

I absolutely must say one thing about President Trump's horrifying idea of a GIGANTIC Monumental Arch: IT'S TOO LARGE AND TOO UGLY AND IT BLOCKS IMPORTANT SIGHT-LINES THAT CONNECT DIFFERENT MONUMENTS AND TOURIST SITES!

Please, do not let Trump ruin our capital!

Name: Clayton Jones
Date: October 21, 2026 6:29:57 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.

Therefore, this proposal, and any subsequent proposals like it must be rejected.

Name: Adam Drewry
Date: October 21, 2026 6:30:06 pm

The Triumphal Arch is not needed. It is a waste of money. Please do not proceed with this project.

Name: Beverly Perry
Date: October 21, 2026 6:32:38 pm

I am opposed to the "Trump Arch" that is proposed to be built.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process

Ronnie Tiner

Name: Laura Lupovitz
Date: October 21, 2026 6:36:38 pm

This is a grotesque, narcissistic boondoggle that will cost us taxpayers millions, further destroy the beauty of the district, and "honor" the worst president in our history. Stand strong and say no to the felon in chief.

Name: Lucinda McCarthy
Date: October 21, 2026 6:38:31 pm

As a senior citizen who cares deeply about our national treasures, I ask Secretary Burgum to reject the Triumphal Arch. My father served in the US Navy and is buried at Arlington, so this is a deeply personal issue. Our national parklands belong to all Americans, especially at a place that honors hundreds of thousands of veterans buried at Arlington.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. Plus, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of careful consideration and transparency throughout this process.

The Arch plans call for a much larger size, and say it is now for it to be possibly built from marble sourced from Italy instead of the US. The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument — outshining a historic treasure.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

The Trump administration has already negatively impacted the Washington, DC historic places, like tearing down the East Wing, paving over the rose garden, and destroying hundreds of trees at the golf course. Please don't allow the disruption historic site lines intended to symbolize the nation's reconciliation after the Civil War.

Thank you.

Name: Chrissy Mason
Date: October 21, 2026 6:41:48 pm

Dictators build themselves monuments, not democratically elected officials. This is a national disgrace. My 3 relatives who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery and all our brave souls deserve better from those of us who are living and know better.

Name: Rea Ann Loomis
Date: October 21, 2026 6:46:22 pm

Dear Secretary Burgum,

Please reject plans to build the Triumphal Arch.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Many veterans, park advocates and myself oppose the arch. There are serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. There is currently an increase in the lack of transparency including:

The Arch plans are now bigger at 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

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The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated ten times the brightness of the Washington Monument. The additional brightness is also detrimental to bird migration.

The Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.

Thank you for considering my concerns and hopefully rejecting plans to build the Triumphal Arch,

Rea Ann Loomis

Name: susan smith
Date: October 21, 2026 6:47:45 pm

My parents are in Arlington ,Cemetery my dad being buried with full military honors. My family is aghast at the thought of the desecration being proposed by a unqualified non military arch that will be an eyesore, demean the dead, demean their service, as well as a traffic issue for the people of DC. The fact you are even considering the proposal speaks to a lack of integrity, valor, and moral fortitude, to name but a few adjectives, on your part. Please reject this amoral proposal and truly honor the service of the dead there. My dad would roll over in his grave, if he could, at the whole idea of it.
Dr Susan Smith and the Smith family.

Name: Terri Wright
Date: October 21, 2026 6:51:25 pm

"The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process.

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The Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!"

I oppose this arch and urge this commission to reject it.

Name: Tim Schmitt
Date: October 21, 2026 6:53:30 pm

This is a horrible idea. Stop this ridiculous arch.

Name: Lana Ambler
Date: October 21, 2026 6:54:01 pm

Do not build this arch. It will destroy a a sightline to a sacred memorial site. I come from a family of veterans. The descriptions keep getting more outlandish by the week. First granite from North Carolina, now marble from Italy. Originally 250 feet, now 260 feet. An eternal flame to outshine the light in the Washington monument. This is a vanity building project of President Trump. This is not his town to remake as he sees fit. Nobody wants this. Just because he saw arches in other countries, he wants one here. The president is supposed to be governing, not building things. This is a waste of money, as the country is in so much debt as it is. People cant afford groceries, gas or electricity, people are thrown off SNAP, Medicaid, and the cost of healthcare is skyrocketing. And we are spending money building things that no one wants.

Name: Kenneth Bierman
Date: October 21, 2026 6:55:08 pm

I urge you to not approve plans for the Triumphal Arch. It is totally inappropriate for the sacred land connecting the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. It is simply too big and totally inappropriate and unnecessary. Please reject it.

Name: Marie Borin
Date: October 21, 2026 7:01:44 pm

I am writing to vehemently oppose construction of the proposed arch which would disgrace Arlington Cemetery and the entire Washington DC area. It is an unnecessary and frivolous expense at the whim of a deranged, vain, egotistical and disrespectful individual. Taxpayer money and "bribes" from large corporations should not be used for such unnecessary construction. Individuals in this country can barely make ends meet due to higher prices and loss of government subsidies and benefits. Taxpayer dollars from individuals as well as corporations should be used for services and improvements that benefit ALL US citizens, not ONE individual who wishes to destroy America's capital.

Name: Blaise Long
Date: October 21, 2026 7:21:58 pm

Don't need another monument to Trump legacy

Name: Laura Kavanagh
Date: October 21, 2026 7:22:19 pm

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And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Reject this monstrosity and preserve our nation's capital!

Name: Jaye Trottier
Date: October 21, 2026 7:33:28 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. This landscape is a vital part of the historic and symbolic connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, a place that honors the service and sacrifice of generations of Americans.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the Triumphal Arch proposal. Memorial Circle is one of America's most significant commemorative landscapes and should not be sacrificed for a massive new structure that would fundamentally change its historic character.

The latest revisions raise even greater concerns. The project has grown in size, would introduce a bright eternal flame that

could alter the character of the memorial landscape, and is projected to worsen traffic congestion in the area. These changes only reinforce the need for greater transparency and public scrutiny.

This landscape already serves its purpose with dignity and meaning. Please protect Memorial Circle and preserve the historic connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. The National Capital Planning Commission should reject the Triumphal Arch proposal and preserve this sacred landscape for future generations.

Name: Sharon Ash
Date: October 21, 2026 7:34:48 pm

This project is not supported by a majority of US citizens nor is it supported by most Vets. It would disrupt Arlington cemetery and the entire Washington DC area. It appears it is being rushed to avoid legal challenges.
Please do NOT approve an arch in Washington DC.

Name: Wesley Andrews
Date: October 21, 2026 7:38:22 pm

This is a disparagement of the principles of liberty and justice, a mockery of our nation's Capitol, and an undisciplined, unscrupulous use of resources.

Name: Larry Denio
Date: October 21, 2026 7:39:27 pm

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Name: Carol Fletcher
Date: October 21, 2026 7:41:25 pm

My husband, Robert W Fletcher, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
He was buried there as a symbol of honor due to having been a prisoner of war in Korea for almost three years.
My family and I ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY DO NOT want our husband/father's burial place desecrated with a monument to a president who did not even serve in the armed forces. That would be a complete insult to the valor or my husband and the men who served with him.

Name: Joyce Johnson
Date: October 21, 2026 8:00:00 pm

This desecration would be a total disaster! It does not reflect the will or interest of the American people who would be paying for it. Our National Park system is meant to provide positive outdoor experiences for all, not feed the ego of a would be dictator!

Name: Diane D
Date: October 21, 2026 8:00:22 pm

Somebody please stand up and stop this egomaniac from destroying -OUR WASHINGTON- THIS IS NOT HIS PERSONAL PROPERTY.. Will somebody please tell him that. It still makes me ill seeing what he did to the East Wing AND NO ONE STOPPED IT. That's unbelievable to me,,,, that NO ONE STOPPED IT!
Trump cut down 500 trees and plans to cut down hundreds more from East Potomac Park to renovate a golf course. A FREAKING GOLF COURSE where the rich play. Total scorched earth. All that lived in those trees (birds etc.) are now homeless. US District Judge Ana Reyes ruled earlier this year that the government must give notice before any substantive construction work on the golf course could proceed, and last week issued an order HALTING THE REMOVAL OF TREES AT THE SITE, which she called "inexcusable."

The following day, regardless of the order HALTING THE REMOVAL OF TREES AT THE SITE, Trump removed about 500 TREES FROM THE PARK, Well over 700 is Trump's goal. AND AGAIN! NO ONE STOPPED IT... What the hell are you people doing back there? OBVIOUSLY NOTHING

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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https://www.ncpc.gov/participate/guidelines/

Name: Alison Stankrauff
Date: October 21, 2026 8:03:31 pm

Please *do not* let this arch project go forward! It is an abomination and a complete waste of our hard earned tax dollars.

Name: Pamela Webster
Date: October 21, 2026 8:05:21 pm

You don't build an arch to celebrate yourself--unless, you're Donald J Trump. Trump is the worst US president in history. He is a convicted felon and sociopath. He's corrupt and dishonest. The Washington Memorial area is lovely the way it is, and a Trump arch would only debase it. Deep six this project ASAP.

Name: Marsha Frederick
Date: October 21, 2026 8:10:18 pm

I am thoroughly and completely against this project in its entirety. The proposed arch does nothing to enhance either its physical surrounding or the aura of the area. The only reason for its construction is to edify President Trump's ego.

Name: Elise Margulis
Date: October 21, 2026 8:10:30 pm

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Name: Gerritt and Elizabeth Baker-Smith
Date: October 21, 2026 8:13:27 pm

We are writing to urge you to reject the Triumphal Arch that President Trump wants to erect at a place that honors hundreds of thousands of veterans buried at Arlington. It is opposed by veterans, pard advocates, and Americans of every sort.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. The plans released today are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:
The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy. (not even American materials!)The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!
We value protecting our national parks, historic places, and military memorials. This place must remain protected, as it has been for more than a century. Please reject plans for this unnecessary eyesore in our nation's capitol!

Name: Sandra Naidich
Date: October 21, 2026 8:14:32 pm

This is a disgusting piece of self-aggrandizement from a hated president. Just no. NO NO NO NO NO

Name: Peg Brownlee
Date: October 21, 2026 8:14:57 pm

Dear commission members,
I am just a member of the public, but am appalled at Trump's plan to build his self-glorifying arch. It is not only detrimental to the surrounding areas, but is a ridiculous and audacious structure. The size and lighting are going to be overpowering. How dare he?
Please reject this project.

Thank you,
Peg

Name: Maria Gritsch
Date: October 21, 2026 8:26:13 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Warren TenHouten
Date: October 21, 2026 8:26:59 pm

NO to the proposed ARCH!

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Roger du Plessis
Date: October 21, 2026 8:27:54 pm

I strongly OPPOSE the New ARCH

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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Name: Leigh Stephens
Date: October 21, 2026 8:33:41 pm

The Triumphal Arch is not necessary and would be an eyesore in Washington D.C. The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. The cost is unnecessary during this economy, as well.

Name: C. petrick
Date: October 21, 2026 8:38:17 pm

No Arch!!!!!!!

Name: Scott Wolff
Date: October 21, 2026 8:40:57 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. The traffic delays associated with the construction and operation of this joke of a monument will be atrocious, and the light pollution from the sky glow will be preposterous! The Monumental Arch is NOT needed ~ it is an absolute joke and is totally unwarranted!

Name: Mark Waltzer
Date: October 21, 2026 8:54:26 pm

This project is an absolute travesty that is not desired by the vast majority of Americans and needs to be stopped.

Arches like these are constructed by dictators as monuments to themselves. Anything like this should be approved by Congress.

It would make a mess of traffic, dominate the skyline, and adversely affect the views of Arlington National Cemetery.

Name: H Z
Date: October 21, 2026 8:57:51 pm

This is a vanity project, it is a waste of taxpayer money, and worse, it siphons money away from our national parks, our real national treasures. Please reject building this arch, and return funding to protecting our national parks.

Name: Martine Felts
Date: October 21, 2026 9:01:19 pm

This proposed arch is ridiculous. Our national capital has real issues that deserve attention, and spending taxpayer money on a massive monument to one person's ego is not what our government should be focused on. Our national monuments should represent the country and its people, not serve as a personal tribute to a president. We deserve better priorities and more respect for the public's money.

Name: Andrew Kaufman
Date: October 21, 2026 9:13:43 pm

Do not build the new Monumental Arch, instead leave the integrity of our existing monuments and park as is. Lower the national debt.

Name: Victoria Miller
Date: October 21, 2026 9:16:53 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Eileene Gillson
Date: October 21, 2026 9:22:08 pm

This project would be an insult to existing public monuments that have historical significance for our country and cannot be allowed. The destruction of important aspects of our capital must be stopped.

Name: Dorothy C Sawyer
Date: October 21, 2026 9:26:09 pm

Do not approve Trump’s Triumphal Arch. This is intended to honor one failed individual.
Please highlight the WW2 Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial instead. These were our true heroes.

Name: Katie Luo
Date: October 21, 2026 9:27:25 pm

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the New Monumental Arch.

I must echo the sentiments of other commenters in opposing the construction of this project: I am opposed to the proposed Monumental Arch for the following reasons: its size is out of proportion to the other monuments nearby; its

placement is incongruent with the flow and thoughtful placement of the other monuments; lastly, I oppose the use of taxpayer money to build this when we have a huge, and growing, deficit.

Name: Mark Giese
Date: October 21, 2026 9:55:01 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than what we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Apart from all this, this project is not even a wise use of taxpayer dollars. Please scrap it.

Thank you.

Name: Pam McAdoo
Date: October 21, 2026 10:00:34 pm

Another Trump Vanity Project, the proposed arch would interfere with historical sight lines in Washington, D.C. It would cause substantial traffic problems, and the proposed lighting would be completely inappropriate, There is no need for this structure - built of Italian marble??? - in the city that Americans consider the epicenter of our nation, rich with cultural amenities, historical buildings, and stunning (and appropriate) architecture. Please do NOT approve this abomination.

Name: Mark Levin
Date: October 21, 2026 10:22:17 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. It would block the beautiful view of the landscape between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. This is unacceptable. The arch would make traffic in the are around it a mess. The “eternal flame” would outshine anything for miles around. Washington D.C does not need this. The arch is only being proposed to show that the President can remake D. C. You must not approve this project.

Name: Amy Vassey
Date: October 21, 2026 10:22:56 pm

To Whom It May Concern,

I am deeply saddened that anyone would want to destroy the peaceful beauty of the Potomac bridge and view of Arlington to DC itself. Our country has shared many solemn moments in this area that draw us together as citizens. Our capital is different from other cities because we want it that way. We should not be copying other cities by building another structure.

And it's ludicrous to put any additional lighting!! Thats just pollution.

And to create more traffic issues around such an unnecessary item is crazy!!! Then to build it out of foreign materials when we have beautiful natural resources right here in our country.

PLEASE STOP THEIS NONSENSE. STOP SPENDING MONEY ON THINGS WE DO NOT NEED.

Name: Ronda Reynolds
Date: October 21, 2026 10:34:25 pm

The proposed arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes.

The proposed arch willincrease traffic delay by 50% in and around Memorial Circle.

No living president has ever erected a monument to themself while in office. This is an ego driven project. It should be denied.

Name: Nicholas Garcia-Belong
Date: October 21, 2026 10:44:51 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger, At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.

At a time when the administration is taking a wrecking ball to national parks/sacred lands/historic places, etc. it is imperative that we do everything we can to protect them.

This place has remained protected for over a century and I respectfully urge you to consider keeping it that way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name: Linda Carroll
Date: October 21, 2026 11:10:27 pm

As a scholar of American and European history, I oppose the proposed arch, which symbolizes an autocratic regime, not our democracy. As a frequent visitor to Washington, DC, I oppose the arch as out of proportion with the city's other, dignified public buildings and monuments.

Name: Rebecca Jacobs-Pollez
Date: October 21, 2026 11:35:24 pm

I am strongly opposed to President Trumps proposed Triumphal Arch. The proposed arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. I have been to Washington DC and am appalled by the thought of such an ugly monstrosity destroying a beautiful area. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, it seems, the Triumphal Arch plans have grown, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:
The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy. That increased cost is unnecessary.
The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument. There is no need to eclipse existing monuments. Currently there is a pleasing design and pattern to Washington DC. I would hate to see that destroyed.
And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Elizabeth Mechem
Date: October 21, 2026 11:38:42 pm

I've attached my commentary for the upcoming November 5, 2026 Commission meeting. I'll also be sending them along to my Representatives and senators in Congress. This is just so alarming. I'm trying every avenue open to me to make my concerns known. I appreciate you all taking the time to read my comments. These concerns are just a few of many. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Elizabeth Mechem

Attachment

Name: JOHN B. LIZAK
Date: October 21, 2026 11:52:04 pm

I strongly oppose and encourage you to oppose the Triumphal Arch

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process.

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 133

October 22, 2026

Name: Virginia Newman
Date: October 22, 2026 12:16:08 am

Stop turning Washington DC into Las Vegas Nev a. It's gaudy and undignified. It turns our capitol into the laughing stock of the world.

Name: Patricia Petro
Date: October 22, 2026 12:18:53 am

My father served in the Marines in the World War II Pacific war theater. He was a long time resident of Arlington and supported it's traditions. He would have vehemently opposed a Monumental Arch in the line of Memorial Bridge. I am speaking for him, as well as myself, when I say this arch project represents nothing he risked his life for those many decades ago.

Name: Elaine Becker
Date: October 22, 2026 12:21:01 am

This egomaniacal idiot's "arch" must NEVER be built and throw shadows on the ACTUAL monuments! Stop allowing this dictator wannabe to ignore laws.

Name: Hugh Friedman
Date: October 22, 2026 12:23:12 am

I am 100% opposed to this new arch project.

It defiles the final resting place for those people who served the in the United States military and gave their last full measure of devotion in the service to this nation.

It ruins the restrained beauty and proportionality of Washington D.C. It is a useless monument and a vanity project for a vapid person.

This arch should not see the light of day.

Thank you.

Name: Carol Schaffer
Date: October 22, 2026 1:24:47 am

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told.

Name: D Bello
Date: October 22, 2026 1:31:22 am

This arch would be a self serving abomination which would ruin for ever one of Washington beautiful landscape and disrespect Atlington National Cemetery and all the people burried there.

Name: Cathy Simmons
Date: October 22, 2026 1:46:45 am

This monumental arch is such a terrible idea for so many reasons, I hardly know where to begin... First of all, the expense. At a time when many Americans are struggling to pay their bills and put gas in their car, spending money on a monumental arch is a slap in the face to these hard-working folks. Secondly, the location: Memorial Circle, the sacred landscape connecting the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Erecting a monument there is opposed by veterans and national park advocates.

Please have the courage, strength, and intelligence to do the right thing and protect our national parks, historical monuments, and military memorials. Do not build this monumental mistake.

Name: Jody Smolens
Date: October 22, 2026 2:31:56 am

WE DON'T NEED AN ARCH!! ENOUGH TAX PAYER MONEY HAS ALREADY BEEN WASTED DESTROYING OUR CAPITOL!!
PLEASE FIND YOUR SPINES AND STOP GREENLIGHTING A DEMENTED OLD MAN'S EGO GRATIFICATION!!

Name: Lisa Nemeth
Date: October 22, 2026 2:46:19 am

No sane or normal person wants this monstrosity built. It is not only a complete eyesore to the view, it is disrespectful to the dead resting in Arlington cemetery, and would ruin any commutes. If this is built, the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!
Not to mention, the addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument, so more light pollution that hurts animals, and us, as we need to take more holistic approaches to our health.
Another thing now is apparently the Arch plans are even bigger, with a new projected height of 260 ft, instead of the original 250, which was already too tall and obnoxious since no one wants it.

Name: Erin Howard
Date: October 22, 2026 2:59:44 am

I am writing in opposition to the new monumental arch. The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

- The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.
- The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.
- The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.
- And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Memorial Circle must remain protected, as it has been for more than 100 years. Reject the arch plans.

Name: C Malkin
Date: October 22, 2026 4:07:59 am

I urge you not to go through with construction of the Arch. It is an illegal appropriation of government funds, will not add to the beauty of our capitol, and is an utter abandonment of our rights and duties.

Name: Milton Davis
Date: October 22, 2026 4:52:23 am

In regards to the DC arch, please consider the following:
1.The arch should not be built because it will increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.
2.If the arch must be built, please consider that the arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy. This is absurd. We have great building stone in this country. Not using Mt Airy stone is taking food out of the mouths in my area. If it must be marble go to Vermont, Georgia, Colorado, Tennessee, or Alabama.

Name: Cornelia Hoskin
Date: October 22, 2026 6:51:30 am

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

This project is wasteful, disprespects the history and natural beauty of the area and all plans to build this atrocity should be stopped.

Name: David Hricenak
Date: October 22, 2026 7:22:25 am

All this self-aggrandizing has to stop somewhere. No one needs this monstrosity. Spend the money of something that actually benefits the American people.

Name: Ken Canty
Date: October 22, 2026 7:28:17 am

We don't need a new monument celebrating the most corrupt President and Administration in our country's history. Also.. what happened to Make America Great Again when the plan is to replace North Carolina granite with Italian marble? Trump spares no expense when he's not paying for it.

Name: Elizabeth Schauer
Date: October 22, 2026 7:31:58 am

I am writing to urge you NOT to build a new monumental arch. Among other things, the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater. In addition to congestion and frustration, this will create more air pollution.

Name: Paula Morgan
Date: October 22, 2026 8:05:12 am

I do not want the arch Trump is planning to build. It is a vanity project which has no place in the area he intends to erect this arch. To me the arch takes away the beauty and honor which people planned a century ago. Arlington is the place we honor those who gave the ultimate gift for this county. It was planned to work with the Lincoln Memorial so both memorials are enhanced. To build such a huge monument as the arch is to destroy the continuity of the memorials already there. What has been built is effective and meaningful. From the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington and back again there is a circle reminding us of the greatness of a President who inspired and enlightened all of us and a reminder of those who gave their lives for this country. I am eternally grateful.

This arch has nothing to do with the encourgement or inspiration that is America. There are other places Trump can build this tribute to himself but please do not ruin the essence of the magnificence already there. Thank you.

Name: Connie Delk
Date: October 22, 2026 8:10:17 am

No arch!!

Name: Linda Skisak
Date: October 22, 2026 8:30:08 am

As a US citizen, I am opposed to the construction of an arch in the proposed location. A large structure in this area would block a beautiful and iconic view of Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, the design of the arch is gaudy and not harmonious with the surrounding structures. It is a vanity project paid for with my tax dollars and I am strongly opposed.

Name: Brenda Davenport
Date: October 22, 2026 8:42:09 am

I previously submitted written questions concerning Project 8778, the proposed Memorial Arch. I would appreciate the opportunity to add one question concerning the Height of Buildings Act.

At its July 9 meeting, the Commission acknowledged that it must determine whether the Height of Buildings Act applies to federal projects before taking final action on the Arch.

Will the Commission make an explicit, reasoned determination on the applicability of the Height of Buildings Act before voting on final approval, and will that determination, including its legal basis, be documented in the public record?

Thank you for considering this supplemental question as part of my earlier submission.

Respectfully,

Brenda Davenport
Murrells Inlet, South Carolina

Name: Lorraine Cathala
Date: October 22, 2026 9:18:15 am

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed arch.

Please do not authorize any such structure. The only person in the entire country who wants this is President Trump. He may not even live to see it completed and the country will then be stuck with the bill and the carcass which we will then need to pay more to remove. Instead, spend money where it is currently allocated, per the budget, to match the People’s will as expressed by Congress. No Kings. No crowns. No monuments!

Name: Meghan Straub
Date: October 22, 2026 9:20:10 am

Don't build the arch. It is literally bad for everyone and is a disgusting use of our resources when we are in a debt crisis. It would destroy the landscape, increase light pollution, and increase traffic delays for our regular citizens just trying to get to work. Don't do this. You can be better than this.

Name: Michelle Bard
Date: October 22, 2026 9:52:49 am

As a historic preservationist and architectural historian by profession, I am writing to give my support to the construction of the arch. Cities were not built in one day and were not meant to be one and done. There is no city on the planet that has not evolved over time. Things are constructed over long periods, not all at once. Some things are lost, and they new things that are constructed become historic in their own time (think the Empire State Building or Rockefeller Center). The structures that remain become all the more special and valued in the process. In considering changes to the viewshed. When D.C. was originally planned and constructed, that was a change to the viewshed. When Arlington House was constructed, that was a change to the then established D.C. viewshed. The Lincoln Memorial was a change, the many Smithsonian buildings were a change, and on and on and on. Cities evolve; they are not static. The arch should be allowed to be a part of new evolution in D.C. to continue the city's life story.

Name: Michael Fullmer
Date: October 22, 2026 9:53:10 am

Please stop this lunacy. DC doesn't need anything from the worst President in our 250 year history. The views will be ruined and the price of upkeep isn't worth it, just to make him feel like he's important.

Name: Pat Hansen
Date: October 22, 2026 9:53:45 am

I wish to express my complete opposition and deep horror regarding the proposed Monumental Arch. To place this monstrous, garish Arch in this location, near the entrance to Arlington Memorial Cemetery is counter to everything our national capital should be. The humble, simple, clean design of Arlington Cemetery has for all these years created a

scared atmosphere and beautiful, peaceful resting place for our nation's fallen heroes. Not only would this huge Arch obstruct the skyline and the scenic, historic views of treasured sites, it would bear down heavily on Arlington National Cemetery.

Name: Maureen Thompson
Date: October 22, 2026 9:54:06 am

I object to the building of the Monumental Arch. It is a tribute to one person - President Trump - who was a draft dodger and has commented, "Veterans are suckers and losers." To have a monument to Trump so close to Arlington National Cemetery is, in my opinion, sacrilegious.

Name: Stephen V Kobasa
Date: October 22, 2026 9:54:43 am

Simply put, it’s an outrage.
That should make for an easy decision.

Name: Mary Hockridge
Date: October 22, 2026 9:55:33 am

I strongly oppose the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle near Arlington National Cemetery.

Washington, D.C., is not a blank canvas for imposing new monuments of unprecedented scale. It is a carefully planned landscape whose monuments, open spaces, and sightlines tell the story of our nation, its sacrifices, and its ideals.

The uninterrupted vista from the Lincoln Memorial across Arlington Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery is among the most historically significant and moving landscapes in America. It deserves to be preserved, not overshadowed by a massive triumphal arch that would fundamentally alter its character and meaning.

Arlington National Cemetery is a sacred place of remembrance, humility, and sacrifice. A towering new monument at its entrance would introduce an entirely inappropriate sense of grandeur and spectacle into a setting that calls for reverence and reflection.

Not every generation needs to leave its mark by building something bigger. Sometimes the greatest act of patriotism is recognizing the wisdom of those who came before us and protecting what they created.

I urge the Department of the Interior and the responsible federal review agencies to reject this proposal. Our nation's capital belongs to all Americans, and its most treasured historic landscapes should be preserved for future generations, not sacrificed to an unnecessary and intrusive architectural statement.

Name: A.L. Steiner
Date: October 22, 2026 9:58:53 am

The sick, wasteful obnoxious and untenable arch vanity project plans of a CRIMINAL CORRUPT U.S. POTUS are FULLY and completely unacceptable. This so-called monument that literally nobody in the country wants is now planned at 260 feet, marble sourced possibly from Italy and an addition of an eternal flame that would create a sky glow of 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument. Additionally, this ridiculous, superfluous project would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include possible visitors to this horrid stupid ugly thing during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater. STOP THIS WASTEFUL TAXPAYER-FUNDED, AUTHORITARIAN-DRIVEN NEO-FASCIST MONUMENT PROPOSAL NOW!

Name: Linda Berger
Date: October 22, 2026 9:59:01 am

Please DO NOT build this monstrosity that would have such a horrible impact on our beautiful Washington, D. C. This city was laid out to reflect the beauty of our most important monuments and buildings. Anything that would impact the other monuments and why the city places such importance on how new monuments are erected is because this city belongs to all Americans. We do not want such a ridiculous arch anywhere in Washington, D. C., especially as the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

To spend millions of dollars on something so stupid makes no sense to me at all !

Please DO NOT APPROVE this extremely ugly arch.

Thank you.

Name: Robert Nimz
Date: October 22, 2026 10:07:30 am

As a combat veteran of the Vietnam war, I strongly disapprove of the location suggested for the New Monumental Arch. The close proximity of Arlington Cemetery deserves the stately quiet respect it has always had. An arch in this location would serve as a tourist destination, and I can already envision plastic tourist arches being sold within sight of the Cemetery. It would not serve the reverential function appropriate for any structure at this location.

Name: Ann Cuss
Date: October 22, 2026 10:10:34 am

RE: Opposition to the Proposed New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle – NCPC File No. 8778

To the National Capital Planning Commission:
I submit these comments in strong opposition to the proposed monumental arch at Memorial Circle. As a cultural heritage professional with approximately 20 years of experience in historic preservation, conservation, anthropology, and heritage management, I consider this proposal fundamentally incompatible with established preservation principles, international heritage doctrine, and the ethical responsibilities of stewardship.

My objection extends beyond architectural design, visual compatibility, or personal preference. The proposed arch represents a troubling departure from the philosophical foundations of historic preservation: authenticity, historical integrity, collective memory, human dignity, and the responsibility to safeguard cultural heritage for future generations. Historic landscapes are not empty spaces awaiting monumental intervention. They are inherited cultural resources whose significance deserves protection.

The Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle, Memorial Avenue, and Arlington National Cemetery form an intentionally designed commemorative landscape. Their spatial relationships, visual connections, scale, and historic associations convey meanings that extend far beyond their individual architectural features. Together, they constitute a landscape of remembrance, sacrifice, national division, reconciliation, and collective memory.

The introduction of a monumental triumphal arch would fundamentally alter that composition. Its scale and visual prominence would establish a new architectural focal point, competing with and potentially subordinating the historic resources that give the landscape its significance. The preservation of historic integrity requires more than retaining existing structures while introducing incompatible development around them. It requires protecting the relationships, settings, and experiences through which historic places communicate their meaning.

This principle is firmly established in international preservation doctrine. The Venice Charter (1964) recognizes the inseparable relationship between historic monuments and their settings, while the Nara Document on Authenticity (1994) acknowledges that authenticity encompasses setting, spirit, feeling, cultural associations, and other dimensions of heritage significance. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards likewise emphasize the protection of historic character and

significant spatial relationships.
These principles cannot be satisfied through superficial references to classical architectural traditions. Stylistic imitation is not historic compatibility, and monumental grandeur is not a substitute for cultural significance.

The proposal also raises profound questions about the ethics of commemoration.
There is a fundamental distinction between a landscape designed for remembrance and a monument designed to communicate triumph. The Memorial Avenue corridor connects places associated with the Civil War, national reconciliation, and the burial and remembrance of generations of Americans. Its significance is rooted in human experience, sacrifice, loss, and the difficult historical processes through which national identity has been shaped.

Introducing an overwhelmingly dominant triumphal structure into this setting risks replacing an experience of reflection with an expression of power. This is not simply a matter of architectural symbolism. It concerns the ethical responsibility to respect the human experiences represented by the landscape.

Heritage scholarship has long challenged the assumption that monuments and historic places derive their meaning solely from the authority of the institutions that create or manage them. Laurajane Smith's critique of authorized heritage discourse shows how official heritage narratives can privilege institutional power over the public's diverse experiences and memories. Pierre Nora's concept of lieux de mémoire, or sites of memory, similarly recognizes that places acquire significance through the accumulation of historical associations, cultural practices, and collective remembrance.

These perspectives are particularly relevant here. Memorial Circle and the surrounding commemorative landscape are not simply federal property or available sites for new architectural statements. They are places through which generations of Americans have encountered, interpreted, and participated in the nation's history. Their meaning cannot be separated from the public that inherits them.

No administration, political movement, or generation possesses cultural heritage. It is a shared human inheritance.
The ethical foundation of preservation rests upon the recognition that historic places possess values extending beyond their immediate political or functional utility. Stewardship requires humility, restraint, and an acknowledgment that the present generation does not have an unlimited moral claim to reshape inherited cultural landscapes according to contemporary ambitions.
The proposed arch appears to reverse that responsibility. Rather than allowing the existing historic landscape to communicate its established significance, it would introduce a dominant new symbolic structure that risks redefining the experience of the entire commemorative corridor.

The implications extend beyond Memorial Circle. Federal agencies are expected to demonstrate exemplary stewardship of nationally significant historic resources. Approving a major intervention that compromises the setting, visual relationships, and commemorative character of such a landscape would establish a troubling precedent for historic preservation practice throughout the United States.
The National Historic Preservation Act recognizes that adverse effects on historic properties are not limited to physical destruction. Changes to setting, feeling, association, and other characteristics contributing to historic significance may also constitute adverse effects. A procedurally completed review does not, by itself, establish that an undertaking is consistent with preservation ethics or represents responsible stewardship.

The Commission must therefore consider not only the engineering feasibility or architectural appearance of the proposed arch, but its consequences for the integrity of the historic landscape and the public values that landscape embodies. At its foundation, historic preservation is a humanistic undertaking. It recognizes that the physical environment carries evidence of human lives, experiences, beliefs, achievements, conflicts, and losses. The protection of cultural heritage is inseparable from respect for those who came before us and those who will inherit these places after us. A monument that diminishes an existing landscape of remembrance in order to assert a new vision of national grandeur is not an act of preservation. It is an act of historical displacement.

I respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission to deny approval of the proposed monumental arch and require serious consideration of alternatives that do not compromise the historic integrity, visual relationships, and commemorative significance of Memorial Circle and the Memorial Avenue corridor.

The question before the Commission is not whether the United States has the right to build monuments. It is whether the federal government has the ethical justification to diminish an existing nationally significant historic landscape in pursuit of a new one.
The measure of a nation's respect for history is not the grandeur of the monuments it constructs, but the integrity with which it safeguards the cultural inheritance of humanity.

The Commission has an obligation to uphold that principle.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Cuss

Name: Patricia Margulies
Date: October 22, 2026 10:10:47 am

I do NOT want it; we do NOT need it; it is a waste and a weird homage to someone who does not deserve any recognition, other than us awaking from this really bad dream.

NO ARCH, no military equipment establishment, no ruined view, no Nazi paraphernalia on top .... no ARCH.

Name: mary phillpotts
Date: October 22, 2026 10:12:20 am

I wish our President would read the poem "Ozymandius". Monumental arches and other such items end up signifying nothing except some long forgotten person's personal hubris. I am absolutely opposed to any monumental arches being built anywhere on our public property anywhere in this country and I urge you to prevent this one from being built.

Name: Michael Norden
Date: October 22, 2026 10:13:03 am

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Daisy Kates
Date: October 22, 2026 10:23:55 am

This arch will forever change the landscape in DC. I do not believe we have need for such an expensive project that is clearly meant to personify the ego of one man. It will forever remind people of that fact and also flies in the face of so many needs that the greater society needs at this point in economic times. The ballroom will be enough of a testament to the ruin that has been caused by that same ego and included the demise of a beloved structure.

Please do not add insult to injury with this project. The majority of American people are not in favor of it, yet will be forced to pay for it.

Name: Claire Wade
Date: October 22, 2026 10:26:28 am

I strongly disapprove of the arch project. The size is disproportionate to the site and is far too big. It will disrupt sight lines in both directions, ruining the view shed from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington Cemetery. Most of all, it is

designed by a single person to glorify himself and put his gaudy and bombastic mark on our beautiful nation's capital.

Name: Carolynne Harris
Date: October 22, 2026 10:26:38 am

The proposed Monumental Arch is a terrible design - bombastic, derivative, and with no symbolism of any meaning. It overpowers classic and beloved structures and viewsheds that Americans have enjoyed for decades. It also presents traffic, air traffic, and pedestrian circulation issues that are not insignificant.

This project is rushed, does not improve any element of the Washington DC urban fabric, and should NOT be approved.

Name: Janet Kidd
Date: October 22, 2026 10:26:48 am

I am opposed to the construction of the proposed monumental arch. Because of its planned size and location, it would obscure the vista of the Arlington National Cemetery and dwarf the nearby Lincoln Memorial. If the monument is to be built, surely a better location than the traffic circle can be found which does not diminish the existing monuments nearby. And a smaller, more human scale and size would be preferable.

Thank you.

Name: Elizabeth Morley
Date: October 22, 2026 10:35:30 am

The Monumental Arch would be a monumental mistake. I has been proposed for the self glorification of an individual. It detract from the beauty of Washington and the dishonor those who have faithfully served this country. It reminds me of Franco's Arch de la Victoria - It is ugly, ostentatious, overbearing and totally unnecessary. Do Not Approve its construction. Though given recent history I fear your actions may have little impact.

Name: Carrie Lyons
Date: October 22, 2026 10:42:43 am

This arch as written will be an eyesore on the city. It’s completely unnecessary and a waste of our money! Standing presidents do not build monuments to themselves. This project is very disturbing and poorly planned as far as location. Have it built at Mar a lago!

Name: Timothy Leahy
Date: October 22, 2026 10:45:40 am

I strongly oppose the proposed Arch based on the NPS section 106 report dated Aug 28,2026. The report identified that the project will have adverse impacts on 42 historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect, including 6 National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), 8 historic districts, 8 cultural landscapes, and 20 individual or other historic properties. The report empasizes that there are no measures to mitigate these impacts. Please deny the application .

Name: Scott McKinzie
Date: October 22, 2026 10:54:34 am

I am strongly opposed to building this arch. It would be a visual travesty and an insult. Please vote “NO”!

Name: Eileen Oneill
Date: October 22, 2026 10:57:44 am

Please, please do not allow this shameful monstrosity to be built. Thank you.

Name: Vivian Carroll
Date: October 22, 2026 10:59:03 am

The arch will destroy Washington, DC and Arlington Cemetary.

It is not needed and now the plans for it are taller, to be made from imported materials, prove problematic for Reagan Airport, increase traffic on the bridge, destroy the diginity of Arlington, have a flame which could distort planes attempting to land and the list goes on.

This place must remain protected, as it has been for more than a century. We do not need a monument that looks like a bordello that threw up!

Name: Kathie Freeman
Date: October 22, 2026 11:06:09 am

As a proud American, I SAY NO. This is only a monument to trump's EGO. His fascism spits on the ultimate sacrifice made by all Americans who died to save the world FROM FASCISM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name: Deborah Mazzaferro
Date: October 22, 2026 11:07:00 am

While i don't object to new national monuments being built, I believe any new project should go through a thorough review by appropriate public and private experts and committees to ensure the integrity of the project.
There are unfinished projects. There are national monuments that need repair. The federal deficit is at an all-time high. This is not the time to approve the national arch which is being fast laned by this administration without Congress approving the funding and architectural review being considered. For example, Regan National Airport is too close for such a large impediment to be built in its airspace.

Name: Shirlene Harris
Date: October 22, 2026 11:07:11 am

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Suzanne Maguire-Negus
Date: October 22, 2026 11:09:28 am

This is a travesty and should not be built. It is time to start standing up and protect our heritage.

Name: Wilhelmina Tax
Date: October 22, 2026 11:13:17 am

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger than originally proposed, at 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.

Please do not approve construction of this ridiculous and completely unnecessary Trump project.

Name: Elizabeth Budd
Date: October 22, 2026 11:15:15 am

I am adamantly against the building of the Monumental Arch. Not only is it ugly and too big, but it detracts from the Reflecting Pool and the Washington Monument which are lovely in their simplicity. It is an enormous waste of money and materials and should not be built.
Please do not allow its construction.
Thank you, Elizabeth W. Budd

Name: Lonnie Spinozza-johnson
Date: October 22, 2026 11:15:52 am

Arlington was supposed to honor fallen soldiers not glorify a living president. This disgusting display is disrespectful. Don't let this happen to families of the men and women who gave their lives to serve the country not the current president. None of the monuments were done while the president was in office or while they were alive.

Name: Donna Smith
Date: October 22, 2026 11:15:54 am

I am totally against an arch being built anywhere!! Its the last thing we the people need to have more gov waste spent on junk when so many services are being cut and people are hungry

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Name: Dwight Tate
Date: October 22, 2026 11:24:22 am

Just say no.

Name: Warren Kauffman
Date: October 22, 2026 11:24:36 am

Proposed Monumental Arch is out of scale and out of place. We don't need it and we don't want it. Respectfully, wjk

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Name: Matthew Adler
Date: October 22, 2026 11:25:40 am

This project is completely unnecessary. The only reason is the president's inflated ego. Washinton's layout was planned. The city is the home of a democracy not the fiefdom of some dictator or king who needs to show how powerful he is. This still the land of the people, for the people and by the people.

Name: CHARLES KEELING
Date: October 22, 2026 11:38:41 am

As a park advocate, I strongly oppose the proposed "Triumphal Arch" as nothing more than an expensive vanity project that would destroy the solemnity of one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. My objections are based on serious concerns about its pretentious gaudiness and size, location, cost, and potential impact.

I would argue that a so-called "Triumphal Arch" sends the wrong message. The park is not about triumph; it is about honoring those individuals whose selfless commitment and contribution to the nation's raison-d'etre (freedom, etc.) makes them worthy of special recognition in the eyes of the nation. Instead of a solemn ground where the focus is on the individual, what is proposed is a "LOOK AT ME" monument to the builder's ego that distracts and detracts from the park's true purpose.

And it now appears the plans for the arch have morphed into a monstrosity even grander and gaudier than we were originally told. The arch plans are now bigger: at least 260 feet, instead of a mere 250 feet. Originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina, the plans now call for it to be constructed from marble sourced from Italy. And the addition of an “eternal flame” would purportedly create a “sky glow” 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument. Together, these factors will more than double the initial cost of the project.

And in terms of potential impact, an arch such as this would increase morning traffic delays by as much as 50% in and around Memorial Circle, numbers which do not include visitors to the arch during the morning rush, suggesting traffic delays may be even greater.

Name: Crista Worthy
Date: October 22, 2026 11:39:33 am

I vehemently protest the plans for this ugly monstrosity, which is being pushed ahead without proper authorization by Congress. Americans do not want this arch. It is going to be a serious navigational hazard for aircraft. I am a pilot, and Washington D.C. already has enough hazards and we have seen recent tragic crashes. NO do not allow this to be built, just to satisfy the ego of Donald Trump. He hasn't done anything as a leader that could possibly be construed as having helped America or the world.

Name: Kathleen Latshaw
Date: October 22, 2026 11:39:43 am

Triumphal Arch - NO! The only thing that should be on the Mall are monuments for our fallen soldiers and those who fought and came home. We do not need a vanity monument, especially made out of marble from Italy and no eternal light. Remember KISS, keep it simple stupid - no garish eyesores! I as a taxpayer do not want this.

Name: John Hockridge
Date: October 22, 2026 11:40:26 am

I strongly oppose the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle near Arlington National Cemetery.

Honoring American history means respecting and preserving it, not rewriting or overshadowing it. The monuments and memorials in Washington, D.C., were thoughtfully designed to tell our nation's story. Their placement, scale, and relationship to one another are as important as the structures themselves.

The historic vista from the Lincoln Memorial across Arlington Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery is not simply an open space waiting to be filled. It is a powerful expression of our nation's history, the sacrifices made to preserve the Union, and the enduring hope for reconciliation and unity.

Inserting an enormous triumphal arch into this landscape would diminish that history rather than honor it. It would fundamentally change the relationship between these important landmarks and compete for attention with memorials whose significance has endured for generations.

We do not demonstrate patriotism by making every monument bigger, taller, or more imposing. True respect for our nation's heritage requires humility, restraint, and an understanding that some places are already complete.

Preserving history is not the same as standing in the way of progress. It is recognizing that what we have inherited is sometimes more valuable than what we propose to build.

I urge the Department of the Interior and all reviewing agencies to reject this proposal and protect the historic integrity of this extraordinary American landscape. Future generations deserve to experience these sacred places as they were intended, without unnecessary additions that diminish their meaning.

Name: Susan O'Rourke
Date: October 22, 2026 11:42:37 am

This is just another brainstorm of a president that should be concentrating on the MANY PROBLEMS in our country now, but prefers to change names on waters, and buildings and destroying the East Wing for a ballroom he can have his name on and spend billions of dollars on unnecessary spending for this Arch, a ballroom, changing the name of a Great Lake, an airport, etc. etc. WE DO NOT WANT AN ARCH THAT WILL cause problems for nearby communities like too much traffic, losing green spaces at an enormous cost to the American people who cannot afford healthcare, groceries, rent, gas and insurance but no one is doing anything about these VERY REAL PROBLEMS!! The president only wants his Arch built and his name glorified. That is WRONG ON SO MANY LEVELS.

Name: Mariessa Dobrick
Date: October 22, 2026 11:47:22 am

I am writing as a historian, archivist, and concerned citizen. So far, concerns about preserving the landscape and history don't seem to matter, as the administration starts the work anyway, and no one seems to stop it. There is no need for a victory arch; it will change the view of Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, and not for the better. The current view is beautiful and carefully planned, so Arlington National Cemetery remains a hallowed sightline in the city. At a time of war, economic uncertainty, and when millions of Americans are unhoused, it doesn't feel triumphant to spend taxpayer

money on another monument to glory. I would suggest that any money set aside for the arch would be better served by going toward the planned National Global War on Terrorism Memorial or to a more appropriate monument to American civilian service toward humanitarian causes and American advances in science and humanities.

Thank you,
Mariessa Dobrick

Name: Claudia Reed
Date: October 22, 2026 11:48:17 am

Memorial Circle is just fine the way it is. The proposed project would cost significant taxpayer dollars. When there are so many other projects that are genuinely necessary but are being neglected for lack of funds, why is this useless and tacky vanity project even being considered? Please reject it!

Name: Leigh Krauss
Date: October 22, 2026 11:52:29 am

To everyone who should be concerned:

I object to the ridiculous arch that the fascist felon is demanding in his name. There should never be anything to remind this nation of the criminal that was once in the White House. His damage will last more than a lifetime, taking into account all the innocents that have died or been tortured under his rule; all the pollution; all the broken promises; all the destruction of natural resources, and the normalizing of child rape.

Please do not allow the naming or building of anything that will remind us of the worst period of time, when MAGA tried to destroy our democracy.

Most sincerely,
Leigh Krauss
70 years old, old enough to know right from wrong!

Name: Tom Bentley
Date: October 22, 2026 11:53:53 am

Another remarkably garish and self-centered effort by our president to polish his own shoes at the expense of the public good. Please stop this monstrosity.

Name: Sandra Baker
Date: October 22, 2026 11:54:51 am

The Arch project is not only financially unnecessary but blocks/disrespects our other historical sights. The taxpayers' money should be spent on the needs of USA citizens instead.

Name: J G Fontana
Date: October 22, 2026 11:59:29 am

NO Monumental Arch. The people would be better served if the money allotted for this monstrous obscenity was directed toward reduced food and gas costs as well as affordable housing.

Name: Rick DeGolia
Date: October 22, 2026 12:09:14 pm

The United States absolutely does not need a new Monumental Arch. We don't have have to compete with France and their remarkable historic arch. We have our Capitol Building and Lincoln Memorial and we absolutely shouldn't overshadow those wonderful historic properties with a Monumental Arch. America is better than that.

Name: Paul Johnsen
Date: October 22, 2026 12:13:07 pm

I object to the arch project at any location. :(

Name: Joel Vignere
Date: October 22, 2026 12:26:19 pm

Trump cares only about his grossly over inflated but completely undeserved ego. SCREW him.

Name: Diana Cowans
Date: October 22, 2026 12:27:57 pm

Are we going to be the generation that trashes our country's legacy? Because of the dementia of the man in the White House and the unwillingness of the people in the administration to stand up for what is right, we are in danger of replacing a beautiful area in Washington DC with a grotesque and self-serving travesty. There is only one reason to approve Trump's ridiculous Arch and that is the support for power over common sense. Listen to the voice of the people and put this request in the garbage can where it belongs.

Name: Lura Brookins
Date: October 22, 2026 12:29:45 pm

All monuments in the USA, including Washington DC., have to be decided upon by Congress, not one individual! This president has demonstrated no abilities to plan with the consultation of Congress.

Name: Celeste Evans
Date: October 22, 2026 12:32:04 pm

Please DO NOT ALLOW THIS ARCH TO BE BUILT!! The Washington Mall has spectacular layout and views AS IT IS. This new addition is would break up the view that honors the history of our country. DO NOT ALLOW TRUMP to create an undeserved monument to himself - The Mall should honor our country as a whole, and those who have given so much to create it. PLEASE use this money where it is needed, NOT FOR AN OBTRUSIVE ARCH. Thank you

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Name: Joan Wachter
Date: October 22, 2026 12:32:24 pm

The proposed arch would block the sight-line between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. The open vista was deliberately designed to represent post-Civil War reunification and shouldn't be disrupted.
The arch would be twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial, and would overshadow Arlington National Cemetery. Building a colossal structure on the approach to the cemetery disrespects those laid to rest there. Among those are my father and grandfather. This is hallowed ground for my family and many thousands of people.

The sightline is irreplaceable. The Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, the Memorial Avenue Corridor Cultural Landscape, Arlington House; placing a 250-foot structure on the deliberate axis between them destroys the integrity of setting, feeling, and association that gives those properties their National Register significance. The NPS's own adverse-effect finding argues that no mitigation in a Programmatic Agreement can restore a permanently obstructed view.
The Section 106 process requires the agency to explore alternatives that genuinely avoid or minimize adverse effects before accepting them.
Has the NPS prepared a full Environmental Impact Statement? A project of this scale, height, and documented public controversy warrants an EIS rather than a simpler categorical exclusion, and the Section 106 process must be completed before any NEPA decision document (a Finding of No Significant Impact or Record of Decision) is finalized.
Just a few concerns: What about pedestrian and traffic safety at a high-speed traffic circle? FAA airspace risk at Reagan National, where the administration's own feasibility study called itself a "limited review" and required a full aeronautical study before construction. The 1910 Height of Buildings Act, which caps most D.C. construction at 130 feet. Disruption to Arlington's daily funeral services and the solemn character of the cemetery landscape. Stormwater, tree loss, and landscape disruption….
On a personal note, my great grandfather was the first municipal architect of Washington DC, who designed or supervised everything the District built between 1885 and 1921. Their family lived near the White House and my grandmother was a neighborhood child, with occasional moments meeting President Woodrow Wilson and being invited inside the People's House. Those times are gone, but not forgotten. I cannot imagine my great grandfather and his contemporaries would have felt about watching their well thought out plans being upended. Please listen to the People, who have voiced their dismay and opposition to this project. Why here, why now?

Name: Lynn Zadkovic
Date: October 22, 2026 12:42:07 pm

Please stop the building of this ugly arch which is way too big and a waste of tax payer funds. Trump doesn't deserve it.

Name: Kevin King
Date: October 22, 2026 12:43:22 pm

I am a DC resident and a practicing architect and planner writing to urge the Commission to deny final approval of the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

Historic landscape. The arch's location and scale would damage the historic relationship between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington National Cemetery. A 250-foot structure at the cemetery's threshold would dominate a landscape designed to be solemn and open.

Traffic and pedestrian safety. Memorial Circle is a high-volume junction where drivers must read merging traffic, signals, and pedestrians in a short time. Placing a massive structure at its center would obstruct sight lines across the circle and reduce the visibility that drivers and pedestrians rely on to anticipate one another. The proposed changes, including full signalization and new crossings, do not by themselves address these obstructions. I ask the Commission to require the applicant to submit a sight-distance and conflict-point analysis for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, including visitor queuing and screening areas, before any final action.

Incomplete review. Section 106 historic review should be completed before the Commission acts, and the Commission has not resolved whether the Height of Buildings Act binds this project. A monument of this significance also warrants congressional review.

I respectfully ask the Commission to vote against final approval, or to defer until all required reviews and a public safety analysis are complete.

Name: William H. Tabor
Date: October 22, 2026 12:45:14 pm

I am opposed to the Monumental Arch.

1. Such an arch should not be placed in this location, between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, the Women's Military Memorial, and the Arlington House.
2. The proposed monument has no specific purpose, unlike the above public places.
3. The proposed monument would create navigation hazards for air traffic the Ronald Reagan National Airport
4. The proposed monument's sniper and other military/defense capabilities are not appropriate for this location
Thank you.
Bill Tabor

Name: Kathleen Peabody
Date: October 22, 2026 12:49:17 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,
I do not think the proposed Monumental Arch should be built in Washington, D.C. There are very, very many aspects of this whole plan that are so wrong! It is not a historical monument in keeping with the atmosphere of the city. It looks like, seems like and visibly is some kind of glorious, victorious thing rising way out of the beautiful trees canopy. It is meant to be a lasting reminder of You-know-who. It is controversial and rejected like he is. And - my whole family thinks - It Is Gaudy!
Thank you for your work.
Kathleen Peabody
Michigan

Name: Katherine Bourne
Date: October 22, 2026 1:07:37 pm

I cannot believe that this project is even being considered. It is monstrous and will destroy the proportions and sight lines of Washington DC. Cancel the plans now before the damage needs to be undone at great expense.

Name: Brett Kengor
Date: October 22, 2026 1:09:38 pm

I am asking Secretary Burgum to reject the Triumphal Arch.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!
This is a horrible vanity project. We are not Europe, we do not need an arch. Leave this sacred area alone!!!

Name: Gail Atkins
Date: October 22, 2026 1:17:55 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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• And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Elizabeth Schenk
Date: October 22, 2026 1:24:12 pm

Hello,

I am absolutely appalled about the work that has been done to the White House. This is an important historic monument to our country representing our people. It appears to have been done without any oversight from Congress or any buy in from Americans. The arch in particular is grotesque in its size and design. I urge you to not construct this monstrosity and rebuild the White House to its original form.

Thank you for taking the time to register my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Schenk

Name: Virgene Link-New
Date: October 22, 2026 1:35:32 pm

To Whom It Concerns:

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

The Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

This narcissistic, draft dodging president has not earned a triumphal arch in any way! Please do not do this.
Thank you.

Name: Caroline Sjostedt
Date: October 22, 2026 1:37:18 pm

I do NOT support building a Monumental Arch in Washington DC. Only Congress can approve and building an arch glorifying war, let alone the most vain man in history, is not appropriate!

Name: Wreatha Carner
Date: October 22, 2026 1:43:45 pm

Please vote against the "new monumental arch" concept. Do not indulge a megalomaniac.

Name: Marianne L'Abbate
Date: October 22, 2026 1:51:13 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: CAROLINE FORGASON
Date: October 22, 2026 2:04:21 pm

Not only will this arch pose a danger to air traffic bound for National Airport, it will interrupt the highly meaningful connection between Arlington (former home of Robert E Lee) and The Lincoln Memorial. This represents the reunification of our nation after our terrible Civil War. Lee's home was taken by the US and converted into our National Cemetery where members of our Armed Forces and important Americans whether from North or South are laid to rest. This construction is out of scale, out of place and represents nothing except one man's idea of a monument to himself...completely unnecessary, disrespectful of out fallen soldiers and leaders and those who made significant contributions to our nation as "One Nation under God".

Please remove this swan song from our national playlist. It doesn't belong anywhere.

Caroline Forgason

Name: Sarah Finley, MA, RPA
Date: October 22, 2026 2:20:01 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission and Responsible Federal Officials:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle and my support for the concerns raised by the National Trust for Historic Preservation regarding its scale, location, and design.

I hold a bachelor’s degree in anthropology and a master’s degree in cultural resources management, and I am a Secretary of the Interior–qualified archaeologist. My education, training, and professional experience have taught me that preserving history requires more than protecting individual structures. We must also protect the landscapes, settings, and relationships that give those places meaning.

The vista connecting the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House is one such landscape. Its significance lies in the relationship among these places and the history they convey together: the devastation of the Civil War, the enormous cost of military service, and the continuing responsibility to pursue reconciliation and freedom. The open space between these landmarks is part of that meaning. It is not an absence that needs to be filled.

I agree with the National Trust that the proposed arch would disrupt this important visual and symbolic relationship. Its scale would compete with the Lincoln Memorial and overwhelm the approach to Arlington National Cemetery. A landscape devoted to remembrance, sacrifice, and reflection deserves restraint and respect. It should not be dominated by a new structure whose sheer size would fundamentally change how people experience these places.

As someone who works in both cultural resources management and the engineering industry, I understand that landscapes evolve and that new construction can serve important public purposes. However, change must be justified by a clear need and evaluated with respect for what already exists. Washington’s carefully planned monumental landscape is a shared national inheritance. Decisions that permanently alter it should reflect thoughtful stewardship, meaningful public participation, and a compelling public benefit.

I also consider this proposal a flagrant waste of money. When we cannot figure out how to keep schools open or ensure that people have access to basic medical care, devoting substantial resources to a monumental arch demonstrates profoundly misplaced priorities. We should not have to explain to struggling families why another enormous monument deserves investment while their communities’ most fundamental needs remain unmet.

Whether the project relies on public funding, private contributions, or both, those concerns remain. The public has a stake in the use of this land, the protection of its historic character, and the long-term responsibilities associated with construction, maintenance, operations, and security. The availability of money to build something does not establish that it should be built.

I urge you to reject the proposed Monumental Arch at this location and give full consideration to the concerns raised by preservation professionals and the public. Our country’s history deserves careful stewardship, and its people deserve responsible priorities. We can honor America by protecting the places that already express its ideals and investing in the people those ideals are meant to serve.

Sincerely,
Sarah Finley
Secretary of the Interior–Qualified Archaeologist
B.A., Anthropology
M.A., Cultural Resources Management

Name: Norman Larson
Date: October 22, 2026 2:23:15 pm

Trump's Arch is monstrously out of scale and proposed to be set in a location that seems to have been purposefully selected to separate Arlington Cemetery from the monument to President Lincoln, the man who brought our nation through the war that led us to need that last great resting place for so many men. This Arch doesn't belong anywhere, but if we as a nation are to bear its presence and its cost, it should be smaller and located somewhere outside that area of our nation's capital where our monuments to our greatest leaders of the past stand. History should judge the value of a future tribute to Trump, not Trump himself in his own time.

Name: Rose Hogan
Date: October 22, 2026 2:24:02 pm

Please stop.this abomination from being constructed. Preserve the view of and approach to Arlington National Cemetery.

Name: Kelly Crunk
Date: October 22, 2026 2:24:54 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes, the sacred landscape connecting the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.
Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact.
The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process.
Please deny the construction of the so-called Triumphal Arch which in reality is just another one of Trump's ego trips to try to be remembered.

Name: Diane Lowe
Date: October 22, 2026 2:25:05 pm

I am writing to comment on the design of the proposed Monumental Arch. I do not think that the project is a necessary or attractive addition to our national landscape. As proposed, it will tower above other more thoughtfully designed monuments in Washington D. C. It serves no purpose. The proposed project has passed no legislative review. Its design is a near copy of the French Arch which is a symbol of a foreign power.

Please reject this grandiose and useless design and ask for a bipartisan solution to the ill-advised projects underway in our nation's capital.

Name: Karen Whipple
Date: October 22, 2026 2:30:48 pm

To:
Committee Members,

Since when do we construct monuments to living presidents? It's time to rein in the massive overspending on projects that are totally unnecessary. There is so much that needs to be corrected in government right now, least of which is a monument to someone whose ego knows no bounds. The money spent, even if donated, could be better spent on solving the gas crisis or lowering grocery bills. It's just amazing anyone would think that such a project will do anything to help anyone.
If I were allowed to vote on this, it would be a RESOUNDING NO!!!!!!

Karen Whipple

Name: Clayton Ferguson
Date: October 22, 2026 2:32:34 pm

Don’t build the arch. It is a stupid idea and will be an eyesore. It will forever change the landscape and block the view of other more important monuments.

Name: Sonya Curry
Date: October 22, 2026 2:46:57 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. We don't need an arch.

Name: Robert Poignant Jr
Date: October 22, 2026 2:47:43 pm

Do not approve this egotistical monument to a sitting president. It obscures the view shed of our most historic national cemetery and the most significant site inside our nation's capital.
Furthermore, vast amounts public taxpayer money are wasted on this president's second vanity project. (The first being his ballroom addition to the White House.) This is another scheme by Trump to accept bilberry from corporations to access favorable rulings (e.g., permits to evade environmental protections, to destroy consumer protections, while reaping tax advantages) from his administration. The President claims "private donations will pay for it". NO! All Americans pay for it.

Name: SHARON RUHL DNP APRN ANP-BC
Date: October 22, 2026 2:50:10 pm

Please do not allow the building of the Trump Triumphal Arch! This is a ridiculous proposal meant to glorify one man - not our country and the patriots that fought and gave their lives for it! Historical preservation of our monuments, cemeteries, and other buildings, and public lands is essential! The government i.e Executive branch has no right to destroy it without public / congressional action as deemed within the law!

Please preserve our country's history as appropriate to preserve the truth of our nation and its many strengths and well as past faults!

Thank you,
Sharon R

Name: Tom Trawick
Date: October 22, 2026 2:52:47 pm

I don’t that Washington needs an Arch. It would be out of place along side the Monuments. These vanity projects don’t address the real needs of Washington and the rest of the US. There are better things to spend money on.

Respectfully,
Tom Trawick

Name: Bob Bachelor
Date: October 22, 2026 3:03:39 pm

Chairman Paoletta and all members of the NCPC Committee, I want to let you know I am fully against the proposed arch, much less it being built at its proposed location.

It is more than clear that almost every commentor is also against using our taxpayer monies for this monstrosity. I have spent many hours reviewing the comments and testimony of the citizens of our country and I only found one person in favor of the arch, all others strongly against it, with a very few businesses proposing some alternatives in size and location, which is another way of saying don’t do it.

It is clear that I don’t stand alone in being against this White House "Me" vanity project. Also, when you consider the growth of our national debt, it makes no sense to add the construction and long term maintenance costs to the national debt. In addition, none of your review comments to the submitter(s) have addressed the cost, maintenance, and appropriation source, as well as congressional approval of the project.

Given the above, it only makes sense to for the NCPC to reverse its July meeting decision to proceed with the arch project. Stop it at your November meeting.
Bob Bachelor, 20 year AF veteran.

Name: Jane Broendel
Date: October 22, 2026 3:03:56 pm

The proposed "Triumphal Arch" is merely an egotistical proposal from Trump and should not be allowed to be built anywhere in Washington, DC. It will not only block the view from Arlington National Cemetery where true patriots are buried, it will also be an eyesore no matter where it is put. This "Arch" is totally unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer's money.

Name: Pamela Martin
Date: October 22, 2026 3:13:28 pm

Please do not allow this oversized arch to be built next to the cemetery honoring our military dead. It is disrespectful and detracts from the peace of the present design. The money should be directed to the parks in the rest of the country that are deteriorating due to lack of funding and staff shortages.

Name: Shayna O'Kelley
Date: October 22, 2026 3:16:56 pm

I urge you to deny final approval of the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle. The Park Service’s own assessment found the arch would adversely affect 37 historic locations, including the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. The site sits on a deliberate sightline between the two, and it is next to a cemetery where about 400,000 service members are buried. NCPC has long held that the Height of Buildings Act applies to federal projects, and the commission should not set that position aside for one structure. Construction would also run for years on one of the region’s busiest commuter routes. The 250th anniversary deserves a memorial that has had full public and congressional review, not one rushed through on this timeline that would disrespect the intentions of the existing monuments' creators.

Name: Peter Jones
Date: October 22, 2026 3:32:00 pm

There are many, many items that are being treated as discretionary spending that simply are not. Wasting taxpayer dollars on a monument when families working at the Headquarters of the U.S. 5th fleet were forced into emergency evacuation on their own dime is nonsense. These families have had their savings decimated just finding other places to live. Their governmental assistance is inadequate, and their assistance is coming to an end.

How about Ukraine? Absolutely invaded by Russia. These people need our assistance, they are attacked daily. Diverting money away from their efforts to defend their country so that we can choose to build an Arch is not in the best interest of democracy in the long run.

The Administration is treating taxpayer dollars as "easy money." They won't have to pay it back, so they just spend and spend. What was wrong with the White House that necessitated demolition? What was wrong with the Reflecting Pool that required mismanaged renovatoin? Does the country need an Arch? Or does it need to rebuild our defense stocks?

Be practical about funding. Government should not spend more than it takes in.

Name: Cheryl Watters
Date: October 22, 2026 3:34:24 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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Name: Shari Kraus
Date: October 22, 2026 3:38:11 pm

The triumphant arch/monumental arch is unbelievablely disrespectful to our veterans, their families as well as current service men and women and should be stopped. This needs to stop niw. Not only is offensive, it is a huge waste of taxpayer money.

Name: Joy gruzas
Date: October 22, 2026 3:43:21 pm

I am against approval of this vanity project

. Veterans have spoken against this arch and have filed a lawsuit to stop it.
Other groups of American citizens have also filed lawsuits to stop the contruction.

You should respect these American citizens and not approve the arch until all lawsuits have been settled. That would be the right thing to do.

I feel this arch is so tall it will look out of place. The appearance is gaudy and not respectful to Arlington National Cemetary.
Just because the president wants some type of building to himself and he appoints members of this commission that are his friends, does not mean the project should be approved.

This arch offers nothing to the American people and is a waste of money at a time when people are hurting.

You can and should do the right thing for the American people. Do not approve

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Name: Russell Dixon
Date: October 22, 2026 3:48:56 pm

Proposed without foresight and thought; and proposed without excellence in design.

Name: Terri ORourke
Date: October 22, 2026 3:49:37 pm

I am writing to strongly protest the development of this new arch as a completely unnecessary, ugly and wasteful use of taxpayer money. Arlington National Cemetery is a place of honor, to be respected, not blighted by the siting of this monstrous egotistical self aggrandizing monument. It serves no purpose and fails to respect the history of both Arlington and the Lincoln Memorial.

Name: Tamara Smejkal
Date: October 22, 2026 4:08:32 pm

Please do not desecrate this peaceful place. Tamara Smejkal

Name: Dennis Adams
Date: October 22, 2026 4:09:04 pm

Stop the monumental arch and all of trump's vanity projects. All are unnecessary, a misappropriation and waste of taxpayer money.

Name: Anne Ferguson
Date: October 22, 2026 4:24:09 pm

This project is a desecration of our country's capital and surrounding National Register properties and viewscapes. The justificiation is a supposed military use that you all know is false. You should be ashamed if you vote for this gargantuan travesty.

Name: Marie Thompson
Date: October 22, 2026 4:26:35 pm

I am very upset over Trump's actions of tearing down the east wing of the white house, removing trees for a golf course & extremely disheartened by Trump's desire to construct an arc in front of the white house. This would ruin the view of all the memorials in front of the white house which were constructed in such a way as to honor those represented there. Trump should not be permitted to destroy everything by putting his gaudy gold on everything. He is like a male dog peeing on every tree to mark his territory & I am sick of it.

Name: Joseph Zefran
Date: October 22, 2026 4:39:15 pm

This 81-year-old America loving Catholic is outraged at the ridiculous, laughable, sacrilegious monumental arch project. It's a disgrace to the USA and a complete waste of taxpayer money. Please STOP THE STUPID ARCH!!!

Name: marsha nash
Date: October 22, 2026 4:54:48 pm

No, no, no, no to any arch. This is an obscene ridiculous idea. Arches are to celebrate triumphs. There is no triumph here, just destruction and ignorance. The thought that this arch is the antithesis of what our veterans fought and died for is sickening. It would be placed right where the graves at Arlington will have to face it. This administration thinks veterans are suckers and losers. The ghosts of those brave men and women who are buried in the national cemetery will be sickened on a daily basis by having to face an arch built by someone who so denigrates our veterans.
Please don't even consider allowing this abomination to happen.

Name: Sarah Stewart
Date: October 22, 2026 5:01:22 pm

We are writing to ask that the Triumphal Arch not be built..
We are writing to protect our national parklands, which belong to all Americans, especially at a place that honors hundreds of thousands of veterans buried at Arlington and the proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process. The Arch plans are now bigger with 260 feet, instead of 250 feet, the Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy. The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.
And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.
So please do not build this Arch!
Thank you.
Sincerely, The Stewart Family

Name: Tim Whitaker
Date: October 22, 2026 5:04:44 pm

My wife and I object to any of Trump's vanity projects. Please stop them until after he is dead -- the appropriate time to consider whether he deserves one.

Name: Chuck Dusing
Date: October 22, 2026 5:10:24 pm

Trash the plans for the Triumphal Arch. Leave Arlington and the Views from both directions as they are now. Spend the funds to reduce the deficit!

Name: Bruce Harshberger
Date: October 22, 2026 5:35:03 pm

Don't do it! Don't allow this monument to a man who's ego is the center and not the common good of the USA. Besides, there must be oversight by the National Park Service.

Name: Michele Lorenzini
Date: October 22, 2026 6:04:24 pm

As a professional archaeologist and involved in cultural resources management for the past 30 years, it is extremely obvious that the placement of this Arch within the viewsheds of the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery is completely unacceptable. The damage to the feel of these sacred spaces in our national culture would be irreparable.

Name: Sally Neary
Date: October 22, 2026 6:08:52 pm

I can’t imagine a worse use of public property. Please do not permit this fiasco.

Name: Susan F Fleming
Date: October 22, 2026 6:17:57 pm

Please do NOT build this monumental arch. It is not a monument American people endorse and is being pushed by President Trump to glorify himself. The arch will be ugly, inappropriate, not in the national interest. It will destroy the view shed and is way out of proportion. We have other more important things to spend taxpayer dollars on.

Name: Madeline Amalphy
Date: October 22, 2026 7:07:30 pm

As a Maryland resident and frequent visitor to DC who is outraged by Trump's fascist attacks on Americans' civil rights and democracy, I passionately oppose the wasteful plans for a Triumphal Arch near Arlington National Cemetery.

The arch would permanently remake the DC skyline, disrupting the intended sightline between Arlington House in Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial—which was specifically designed to symbolize the unification of the country after the Civil War. As the daughter of a disabled Army veteran, I am offended by the plans' disrespect for our history and the 400,000 military service members who sacrificed their lives to defend our freedom.

The arch is deeply unpopular, with a USA Today analysis showing that 99% of public comments to the National Capital Planning Commission opposed it.

Moreover, proceeding to construction is unlawful: Congress is required to authorize the construction of monuments on National Park Service land in the District of Columbia, and it hasn't approved this arch.

I am outraged that the National Park Service acknowledged that this project would adversely affect dozens of historic properties, yet alternatives—such as another site, a smaller structure, a different design—were never seriously evaluated

A permanent monument to the man who has done so much to destroy our federal government and our democratic institutions has no place in our nation's capital—or anywhere. Instead of wasting a large sum of money on its unlawful construction, the National Park Service must invest in solutions to the rapidly accelerating climate crisis that Trump's pro-oil, anti-clean energy policies have worsened.

Name: Gary Pederson
Date: October 22, 2026 7:07:51 pm

What a misguided project this structure will turn out to be. It should be about the American Public and not paying homage to a President,

Sincerely,

Gary T. Pederson

Name: DIANA Kekule Bastron Family & Friends
Date: October 22, 2026 7:17:15 pm

PLEASE protect Memorial Circle, the sacred landscape connecting the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, by asking Secretary Burgum to reject the Triumphal Arch. Thank you for speaking up for our national parklands, which belong to all Americans, especially at a place that honors hundreds of thousands of veterans buried at Arlington.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of

transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

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The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO RAISE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF HUMANITY!

Name: Eugene Debs
Date: October 22, 2026 7:28:04 pm

As a taxpayer, I demand that the NCPC REJECT the proposed Monumental Arch for the following reasons:

Its height was originally proposed to be 250 feet but is now projected to be 260 feet!

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

The Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Eileen Michaud
Date: October 22, 2026 7:31:43 pm

To the National Capitol Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Monumental Arch within the jurisdiction of the National Capitol Region. As an urban planner and historic preservationist, I am disgusted by the blatant disregard for democratic process and respect for the general public interest in this proposal.

The proposed triumphal arch interferes with existing commemorative works and viewsheds, speciofically the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetary. The viewshed between these solemn national monuments would be forever disrupted and severed by the placement of a towering arch between them, which would be double the size of the Lincoln Memorial. It would directly interfere with the symbolic conversation between the Lincoln Memorial and the Cemetery, which both speak to the honor and sacrifice to strive for the values of freedom and equality in our country.

Secondly, I find it grossly innapropriate for the proposed arch to tower over the National Cemetery. This should be a peaceful place for family members, veterans, and visitors to reflect on the sacrifice of their loved ones and countless unidentified soldiers. This proposal does the exaxt opposite of the intended goal in EO 14252 to promote “beautification and the preservation of our history and heritage”. In fact, it does the opposite. It desecrates our history and national heritage through a monumental form that evokes the violent imperialism of Napoleon.

I would like to reiterate my strong disapproval of this proposal, and urge the governmental agencies and elected officials who are part of the review and approval process to take these comments into grave consideration and deny the advancement of the monumental arch.

Name: Meg Murphy
Date: October 22, 2026 7:45:12 pm

Dear Committee Members -

Our nation’s capital belongs to the American people, not any president. The proposed 250-foot triumphal arch near Arlington National Cemetery raises serious legal and historic preservation concerns.

The Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. § 8903) requires specific congressional authorization for memorials on covered federal land. 40 U.S.C. § 8106 requires express congressional authority for structures on federal public grounds in Washington, D.C. The Height of Buildings Act of 1910 imposes additional restrictions, although its application to federal structures is disputed.

Beyond the legal questions, the arch would permanently alter the historic landscape connecting the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.

At a time when Americans are struggling with affordability, the national debt continues to grow, and access to affordable healthcare and education remains a pressing concern, our national priorities deserve serious scrutiny. We should be investing in the well-being and future of Americans, not presidential monuments.

Stop the arch.

Name: David Layton
Date: October 22, 2026 7:48:05 pm

Every monument such as this is dedicated to those who sacrificed to protect a better world How can you look in a mirror and keep up the pretense that this is such a project? This is a tragic example of a vain insecure man who lacked the courage to fight for his country believing in his own lies

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Name: Margie Esola
Date: October 22, 2026 8:50:14 pm

This proposed arch is a monstrosity. It is proposed purely to serve the vanity of the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. It presents a hazard to flights to and from the nearby airport. Please reject this hideous and wasteful “monument”.

Name: William Aiton
Date: October 22, 2026 8:58:39 pm

Super bad idea. No one wants this except Trump. Please pass.

Name: Donald and Nancy Petersen
Date: October 22, 2026 10:07:02 pm

We adamantly oppose the Arch as envisioned. The placement and scope is an assault on the senses. It would destroy a longstanding view shed that is meaningful in its own right. This is a public area and any construction project should reflect a public consensus that the project is valued and wanted. This project seems to reflect the wishes of one man, the President of the United States. That is not good enough. In our democracy, his opinion is just one among many.

Name: Joel Mjolsness
Date: October 22, 2026 11:19:02 pm

Dear Chairman and Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing as a retired United States Army Infantry Officer from California to respectfully request that the Commission reject approval for the proposed triumphal arch project at Memorial Circle.

During my 30 year military career, I served two combat tours, received the Bronze Star, and have the privilege of being affiliated with the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). Throughout my service, I bore the solemn duty of burying soldiers from my units in national cemeteries across our country. Arlington National Cemetery stands as the ultimate benchmark of that sacrifice - a place defined by quiet reverence, where grieving families and a grateful nation come to honor those who gave everything.

1. Disruption of Historic Sightlines and Reconciliation Axis: The linear axis connecting the Lincoln Memorial across the Arlington Memorial Bridge to Arlington House was intentionally designed as a symbol of post-Civil War national unity. Erecting a 250-foot structure along this corridor severs this visual link, overshadowing the Lincoln Memorial and competing with the quiet landscape of Arlington National Cemetery.

2. Preservation of Solemnity and Military Values: Arlington demands humility and quiet dignity. Transforming the primary ceremonial approach to our nation’s premier military cemetery into a towering, high-density monumental attraction conflicts directly with the solemn atmosphere necessary for grieving families and visitors paying tribute to America’s fallen.

3. Traffic Congestion, Public Safety, and Aviation Hazards: Memorial Circle is a complex, heavily trafficked circle serving regional commuters, cemetery visitors, and traffic to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Adding a major tourist node at this intersection will exacerbate congestion, potentially delaying emergency response vehicles and official funeral processions. Furthermore, placing a 250-foot structure directly within DCA flight paths introduces unaddressed aviation safety concerns.

4. Bypassing Legal and Statutory Mandates: Major commemorative works in the National Capital Region require explicit Congressional authorization under the Commemorative Works Act (Title 40). Bypassing this statutory requirement undermines established federal oversight. Moreover, environmental and historic preservation reviews conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) were rushed and insufficient given the magnitude of this project.

For these reasons - grounded in historic preservation, public safety, statutory compliance, and deep respect for our nation’s veterans and fallen heroes - I urge the Commission to vote against approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Mjolsness
Colonel (Retired)
United States Army Infantry

Name: Alice Bennett
Date: October 22, 2026 11:32:09 pm

I am writing to ask that you protect Memorial Circle by not allowing the arch to be built. Not only is this plan a monumental waste of taxpayer money, we do not need another monument in the area that would increase traffic, destroy the view, and cause immense light pollution. There are so many backlogged maintenance items that need to be taken care of in our National Parks, and personnel shortages - take care of the existing facilities before you build something else. For once, please listen to the public like you're supposed to. We don't want this!

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 43

October 23, 2026

Name: Carla Williams
Date: October 23, 2026 11:13:17 pm

I respectfully request you NOT approve to build the ARCH. We as the United States are not an arch sort of country. No person should request an arch be built just to honor themselves.
The money and resources for this could be used in so many more beneficial ways.

Name: Bill Woodbridge
Date: October 23, 2026 10:42:51 pm

Please block this rediculous, unneeded, costly, egotistical, eye-sore project!!!! The only purpose for this project is to please Trump's narcissistic ego at great taxpayer expense when we have a huge national deficit.

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Marjory Keenan
Date: October 23, 2026 9:34:11 pm

Hello,

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

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And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

This sacred and symbolic landscape has been protected for more than a century. I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to continue its protection and preservation.

Name: Michele Gara
Date: October 23, 2026 8:02:26 pm

It's beyond words that a new monument be erected at 250 feet of what value to the beautiful monuments already there?

All other monuments required years of planning and were done with respect to the other monuments already there.

There is NO need for another monument to recognize veterans or liberty.

This is solely yet another ploy of Donald Trump to glorify himself to the detriment and disrespect of all else.

PLEASE vote against this proposed atrocity and end the onslaught!!

Name: Natalie Lilja
Date: October 23, 2026 7:13:19 pm

I strongly oppose building this arch, esp. in the location that basically desecrates hallowed ground. The United States doesn’t need a gratuitous monument and we don’t need to waste the money. Please cancel this unnecessary vanity project.

Name: Kate Ruland
Date: October 23, 2026 6:23:39 pm

This proposal of an Arch is a blight on the architectural heritage of our Capital.
Trump has no right to build this without permission of the local and national permitting and review boards as well as permission of Congress ands the American people who in the end would pay for its construction with their taxes.
This monstrosity is not appropriate for its design, placement, or reason for existence.

Name: Jeff Joeckel
Date: October 23, 2026 6:21:53 pm

I am against the arch. Putting a triumphal arch right beside Arlington Cemetery destroys the point of Arlington Cemetery. People died for our country we should respect that. The point is to have fewer graves at Arlington. Not to create a jingoistic mindset where we have more graves. There should be a clear view from from the Capitol to Arlington Cemetery so that the people who vote for a war will be able to see, whether victorious or in defeat, the consequences of their vote. If a Triumphal Arch blocks the view, it just hides the sacrifice that people paid. Thank you

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Name: Thomas O'Berg
Date: October 23, 2026 6:17:17 pm

The idea of a “Triumphal Arch” is antithetical to this nation's place in the world and in history. As President Lincoln so eloquently explained, America was “conceived in liberty” and we should remain “dedicated to the great task that remains before us,” namely that “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

What place does celebrating “triumph” have in that task? What triumph are we celebrating when that work remains unfinished? We have memorials to those who fought and died in all of America's major wars, those who, in Lincoln's words, consecrated those conflicts and their outcomes “far above our poor power to add or detract.” Our nation triumphs when freedoms are assured to our citizens, and the promise of freedom is made available to the rest of the world. Creating a physical monument to abstract “triumph” is a tawdry endeavor that distracts from our true purpose.

The proposed monument would dominate a vista that should highlight our nation's dedication to our people, represented by the open sight lines, isolated memorials (Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, etc.), our government offices, and the graves of its veterans. Taken together, these emphasize that ours is a nation of many parts making a greater whole. Putting a vague and misplaced monument to “triumph” in the middle of that invites reverence for the state above that for the people whose efforts and sacrifices consecrate its efforts.

The plan to put snipers and drones in the arch creates (at best) further dissonance between its purported and actual purpose. At worst, it reveals that the people in view of those means of surveillance and violence are perhaps more subjects of that triumph than beneficiaries.

Perhaps Lincoln's words from a later date provide a better vision of a monument to triumph: “Let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for [all who have borne our nation's struggles], to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.” That is a fitting monument.

Name: Molly Dight
Date: October 23, 2026 5:54:06 pm

I don't support the building of this arch
Please don't do it.

Name: Erin Crawford
Date: October 23, 2026 5:35:27 pm

I do not support the building of this Arch.

Name: Susan Kelly
Date: October 23, 2026 5:33:11 pm

I write as a resident of Arlington since 1983, and the daughter of a WWII fighter pilot and USAF spouse who are both buried at Arlington National Cemetery. I strongly object to the proposed New Monumental Arch for many reasons, but will discuss four in these comments.

First, the proposed Arch will ruin the view shed from Arlington House through to the Lincoln Memorial, and vice versa. Since my parents are buried at Arlington, I visit the cemetery often. The view from Arlington House down to Memorial Bridge and on to the Lincoln Memorial is indeed majestic and inspiring. Planting this outsized imperial Arch smack in the middle of it will not improve the vista; to the contrary, it will detract from it and stick out like the proverbial sore thumb. I am not alone in thinking this. The National Park Service staff found the arch would “disrupt the symbolic relationship between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.” In fact, the NPS staff found that 37 different historic sites could be “adversely affected” by the proposed arch. That alone should keep the NCPC from approving this proposal.

Second, the proposed Arch is a potential air traffic hazard. I am a business flyer who travels to and from DCA on a regular basis. And as a resident of Rosslyn, I live right along the DCA flight path. I personally witness every day the heavy traffic of commercial airliners, military helicopters, and emergency medical helicopters going up, down and across the Potomac River. The January 2025 fatal collision near DCA between an airliner and a military helicopter, and the even more recent incident involving the President’s own helicopter, emphasize the need to carefully manage traffic to maintain safety in the air and on the ground. Building this out-sized Arch right on the river, so close to the DCA approach, makes no sense. While the plan calls for "aviation required safety lighting" (plus an eternal flame???) to be incorporated into the design, this is truly putting lighting lipstick on a monumental 250-foot-high aviation hazard pig. It should not be constructed.

Third, the Arch will substantially disrupt traffic on the Virginia side of Memorial Bridge. The traffic pattern around the Memorial Circle is already quite complicated. Many commuters use Memorial Bridge to drive into and out of the District every work day. Tourists trying to navigate through the area already have substantial difficulties. The traffic patterns are complicated and hard to figure out, even with the help of GPS. Turning this circle into the site for a monumental public

work, with all the pedestrian traffic that entails, will make a difficult situation even worse, especially with all of the additional traffic lights, sidewalks, etc. apparently contemplated. The space is not sufficient to support these competing uses and activities.

Fourth and finally, the efforts of our current President to impose his distinctive style and tastes on the National Capital's Memorial District need to be carefully scrutinized. Organizations like the NCPC exist to make sure that our Capital's monumental and historic areas are preserved and improved for the benefit of ALL citizens. This Arch appears to have been proposed almost entirely at our President's urging. He has been quoted in the press as saying that the Arch is for "me." CNN Online News, "Trump involved in planning triumphal arch to commemorate country's 250th anniversary," October 16, 2025 (Rebecca Klein reporting). Recent press articles reporting that construction could start as soon as two weeks from now give the appearance that this decision is a "done deal." I sincerely hope this Commission will not just rubber stamp this project, but I fear it might. The NCPC must do its mandated job, and not simply accede to the will of one person, no matter how powerful.
For these reasons (among others), I ask that the NCPC recommend against building this Arch, and withhold the necessary planning permissions.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Susan Kelly

Name: Angela Gregory
Date: October 23, 2026 4:56:02 pm

Please do not go forward on the arch. I, and most of my friends, do not want our tax dollars spent on this. The view to Arlington cemetery as it exits now is beautiful. We, the American people, are your employers and your major concern, not the wishes of donald j. Trump. Thank you for your consideration. Angela Gregory

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Name: whitney Watters
Date: October 23, 2026 4:17:23 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an "eternal flame" would create a "sky glow" that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Bonnie Farmer
Date: October 23, 2026 4:13:30 pm

Donald Trump isn't doing this for anyone but him self. He doesn't care about anyone else, not even all the soldiers buried there. This is just one of his examples of showing enormous disrespect for others, and his fear that one day he will be forgotten.

Name: John Flynn
Date: October 23, 2026 4:11:40 pm

Come on folks - EVERYONE knows this is an expensive, TERRIBLE idea that nobody but one person wants. ENOUGH of us catering to this juvenile, POTUS who is focused on trivial vanity projects that we neither want nor can we afford. JUST SAY NO.

Name: Gerald Mackey
Date: October 23, 2026 4:10:02 pm

Out of respect for our service people and the one's buried at Arlington National Cemetery this arch should never be built in this area. If he wants to have his vanity project put in at Mar-a-Lago so he can see it every day once he is out of office. We as citizen and taxpayers DO NOT WANT TO PAY FOR THIS VANITY PROJECT. I hope that you all reject this and respect the wishes of the American people who in this case would be footing a bill that would not help the people.

Name: Linda Alexander
Date: October 23, 2026 3:38:50 pm

I am horrified that this grotesquely inappropriate arch is even under consideration. Our nation’s capitol has been well designed to honor those who have given their lives in support of the people o our nation. This arch would disrupt the sight lines. It has no purpose but to satisfy the ego of our current President. It would defy historic practice of honoring those who in retrospect served our country so well.

The monument borrows its architecture from the “old world”.
While I enjoy visiting other countries and theirs monuments, it is not fitting for our modern society.

Name: Barbara Bowie Wiesel
Date: October 23, 2026 3:32:38 pm

This arch is not approved and will disrupt both funerals for those who have served our country and will impede traffic

It is a wasteful and TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE EGOTISTICAL project

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Name: Basil Hernadi
Date: October 23, 2026 3:30:22 pm

I oppose the new Triumphal Arch.

Name: Joya Caryl
Date: October 23, 2026 3:10:59 pm

The building of the so-called Monumental Arch is completely unnecessary and will be an abomination in terms of its impacts on the surrounding monuments and memorials. Please do not allow this construction to go forward.

Name: Joyce Trent
Date: October 23, 2026 2:22:32 pm

Please do not build an arch just to honor Trump. He doesn't deserve anything to honor him as he has done so many things to damage the American people. He has destroyed so many other buildings, etc in Washington DC that we can't let block the view from one end of the Mall to the other end and every monument in between.

Name: Jeanne Reese
Date: October 23, 2026 1:59:49 pm

I do NOT Want this memorial built. It will hide other memorials that have been there that are longstandingthat have great meaning behind them .
Please do not approve the building of the memorial arch as it desecrates other Meaningful remembrances. Thank you

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Name: Karl Beilstein
Date: October 23, 2026 1:43:33 pm

We are a nation $40 trillion in debt. This is not a time for grandiose jestures that accomplish nothing. Regardless of how obtained, that money would be better served if used to pay for needed infrastructure and or toward payinf down this unthinkable debt!!!

Name: Doug Baker
Date: October 23, 2026 1:38:29 pm

This is a ridiculous waste of taxpayer money. If this monstrosity is approved and built, it will be yet another monument to the abuse, corruption and narcissism of this lawless administration.

The National Park Service's own review found the arch would significantly harm more than 40 historic sites, including Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.

Name: Dana Brown
Date: October 23, 2026 11:57:10 am

Please include my disgust and negative comments regarding the proposed arch. It is an abhorrent design and would be an expensive embarrassment to our great nation. It is slick and gaudy and would be more at home on the Las Vegas Strip. It would demean veterans and the Lincoln Memorial. I can’t believe anyone on the commission thinks this is a good idea.

Please find some courage and shut down this abortion.

Name: R Ellis
Date: October 23, 2026 11:45:03 am

I am opposed to the planned Triumphal Arch.
The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the

Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Dianne Miller
Date: October 23, 2026 11:44:57 am

The vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House is one of America's most sacred landscapes. The proposed Monumental Arch would interrupt this historic viewshed and diminish these iconic landmarks. In addition, the Arch's scale and design would overwhelm the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families, a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity.

This project should be approached with much time and consideration to ensure all aspects are studied, all pros and cons determined and analyzed, and congress is able to review and approve or deny its commencement. The project should not be rushed and no construction should begin until all analysis is complete. This is an expansive project that, if allowed to proceed, will loom over a cemetery where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day.

Please protect the current historic viewshed and preserve the symbolism embedded in this nationally significant landscape and DO NOT allow the proposed arch or any other such arch to proceed.

Name: MaryAnn Stana
Date: October 23, 2026 11:37:39 am

Please - no Arch! I stand with our veterans who oppose this project.
Thank you.

Name: Bill Richards
Date: October 23, 2026 11:32:36 am

This ridiculous vanity project must stop.
We all know this corrupt, narcissist will do anything to glorify himself but for once, how about caring about public opinion and those veterans who actually served (many who gave their lives for this country) instead of one who used daddy's connections to avoid service.
Thank you!
Do the right thing for the right reasons!

Name: Daniel Kozma
Date: October 23, 2026 11:29:25 am

I'm a veteran, 3 years, enlisted, in the Army during the Vietnam era and I live in Arlington. I am strongly opposed to this proposed vanity project for Donald Trump. It will obstruct the view from Arlington Cemetery to the Lincoln and Washington Monuments and the Capitol. It is unneeded, unwanted and a waste of our tax dollars.

Name: Melissa Gifford
Date: October 23, 2026 11:26:58 am

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 250-foot Monumental Arch (NCPC File Number 8778) at

Memorial Circle near Arlington National Cemetery. This is especially significant to me as I have multiple family members and friends interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

I urge the Commission to reject this project for the following reasons:

• Incompatibility with Sacred Space: A 250-foot, gilded ceremonial structure is out of scale and out of character for the threshold of Arlington National Cemetery, disrupting the quiet dignity and solemnity owed to interred service members and grieving families.

• Disruption of Historic Vistas: The massive scale of the arch would block and compromise cherished historic sight lines between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington National Cemetery.

• Lack of Statutory & Public Process: The proposal bypasses established local height restrictions, lacks proper congressional authorization under the Commemorative Works Act, and has failed to complete thorough Section 106 historic preservation and environmental evaluations.

I respectfully request that the NCPC vote to deny final approval for this project.

Sincerely,
Melissa Gifford
Vienna, VA

Name: Elizabeth St Clair
Date: October 23, 2026 11:26:07 am

I agree with building the new monumental arch.

Name: Patricia Leibowitz
Date: October 23, 2026 11:24:24 am

I think that the proposed arch is a terrible idea. When you look across memorial bridge you see the visitor’s center then you look up and see the cemetery with the eternal flame in front of John F. Kennedy‘s grave and then looking up further, you see the Lee Custis mansion. This has always been a wonderful historical experience and this arch would block everything. There is no reason to do this and the expense to taxpayers is terrible.

Name: Rochelle Warren
Date: October 23, 2026 11:17:48 am

I do not approve of the use of any tax dollars to fund this project. I do not support this project even if private funds are used. Tax dollars should be used to help the American people not support unnecessary projects like these. I believe this project is completely unnecessary, will damage the aesthetics of the area and should not proceed under any circumstances.

Name: Shelby Marrou
Date: October 23, 2026 11:13:54 am

As an 8-year Arlington resident in the Rosslyn area, I strongly urge you to deny an Arch. This Arch will block the view of Arlington Cemetery, an essential monument for our Veterans and Military history. Placing the cemetery in the shadow of an Arch is a disgrace. Please do not let this go on.

Name: Sheri Zielinski
Date: October 23, 2026 11:07:40 am

I write in opposition to the construction of this arch. At the very least, it has been hastily pushed through, not properly reviewed, and frankly an eyesore uncharacteristic with the sobriety of the landscape it seeks to overshadow. At worst, it is insulting to the dignity of Arlington Cemetery. I am a vehement opponent of this project and encourage the reviewers to deny its construction. Thank you.

Name: John Blount
Date: October 23, 2026 11:04:44 am

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose this arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are larger and more complex than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now at 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy. That increases the cost of the project for no good reason.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument. The city does not need anymore bright lights.. This extra bright light will distract drivers.

The Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater! During construction morning and evening traffic delays would be significant.

No provision has been made for visitors to the Arch. Parking for visitors and access to the Arch in the Memorial Circle would make a significant change to the surrounding area and added costs for construction and long term maintenance. Traffic would also increase around the Circle.

If it is like other D.C. Presidential projects the cost estimate will much less than the actual cost to construct and maintain this structure.

As a taxpayer I do not support construction of this project. It is a vast waste of money for the President's vanity project. The money is needed for National Parks around the country. It is disrespectful to the soldiers, airmen and sailors buried just beyond the Circle. It honors no one.

Name: richard peppin
Date: October 23, 2026 10:59:04 am

PLEASE do not approve the arch. It destroys the views of historic sites and it is really a horrible looking unnecessary structure that tRump wants.

Name: Leslie Elfenbein
Date: October 23, 2026 10:58:23 am

I recommend voting against the arch. There is no need to create this monument for many reasons.

Name: David Lee
Date: October 23, 2026 10:49:03 am

Grossly too large, the proposed arch would dominate space which I regard as sacred, and it would constitute a hazard for aviation.

Name: Tracey Haldeman
Date: October 23, 2026 10:47:55 am

Re: NCPC File No. 8778 — Proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle
I urge the Commission to deny final approval of the proposed arch.
Cost and accountability. No public cost estimate has been released, yet the project will consume federal land, Park Service resources, multi-year road reconfiguration, and permanent maintenance and security obligations. Before approving a permanent structure on public land, the Commission should require full disclosure of all costs to taxpayers, now and in perpetuity. A commemorative project of this scale should not proceed on undisclosed public money.
Damage to the nation's most symbolic sightline. The axis from the Lincoln Memorial across Memorial Bridge to Arlington House was designed as a symbol of national reunion after the Civil War. The Park Service's own Assessment of Effects found adverse effects to these historic resources. A structure of roughly 166 feet, topped by a statue reaching 250 feet, would dwarf the 99-foot Lincoln Memorial and permanently interrupt that view. No mitigation agreement can restore an obstructed sightline.
Process. Monuments on federal land in Washington normally require congressional authorization. Relying on a 1925 authorization for a different structure does not meet that standard. Litigation on both the authorization question and environmental review is pending. The Commission should not grant final approval while those questions are unresolved.
Public opposition. When the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed this project, about 99.5 percent of roughly 600 written comments opposed it. Approval in the face of that record undermines public trust in the review process.
Disruption. Two to three years of construction, closure of the south side of Memorial Circle, and permanent traffic changes at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery impose real costs on commuters, visitors, and families attending burials.
America's 250th anniversary deserves commemoration that unites rather than divides, and that does not permanently alter a landscape that belongs to every American. I respectfully urge denial.

Name: Sarah Twitchell
Date: October 23, 2026 9:20:30 am

It seems to me that enough concerns have been raised about the placement and costs of this project to decide to postpone. If the next President and Congress agree this is a good use of public dollars and it would enhance our Capital, then pull the project back for consideration and move forward. Right now as a country we are too divided to entertain the thought of a Triumphal Arch, not sure what we're being triumphant about.

Name: Fred Shamlian
Date: October 23, 2026 3:57:35 am

Why is it when our nation faces so many real challenges that our President focuses so much of his time on monuments to his ego? Even more repellent was his response to massive criticism to the project. He declared that the monument would serve national security needs by hosting drones. It is tragic to see the unvarnished and deeply authoritarian ego working with no brakes to remake Washington. I urge you to show decency and responsibility, and put an end to this tragic waste of time and money.

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 9

October 24, 2026

Name: Geri Schlenoff
Date: October 24, 2026 11:12:39 pm

I am against this monumental arch. It will detract from the serene atmosphere of Arlington cemetery. The president does not have the right to unilaterally decide on a monument. It should be brought up to the public to discuss and decide.

Name: Susan Chakmakian
Date: October 24, 2026 10:33:58 pm

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the new monumental arch project.

This arch would fundamentally and negatively alter the landscape of Washington, DC, specifically disrupting the symbolic sightline between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Please do not proceed with this shortsighted vanity project.

Name: Donald Cuming
Date: October 24, 2026 4:47:48 pm

1. Totally out of scale with Wash DC structures, as it is too high and massive. It exceeds the height limit of 130 feet in the district of Columbia.
2. The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) approval was rigged by the White House with appointment of members selected to agree with the President's wishes.
3. There are no know congressionally approved appropriations for the project, and private donations have not been publicly revealed.
4, The desire to complete by the end of the President's current term will require significant additional costs due to multiple shifts and dealing with lack of well-planned construction procedures.
5. As a Viet Nam veteran, I am concerned the project does not honor the "Avenues of Heros" along Memorial Drive, due to its height and mass.
6. Bottom line, I do not support the project in anyway as a tax paying citizen.

Name: Jon Gustafson
Date: October 24, 2026 4:34:13 pm

I am a veteran of the US Navy, having served 27 years. I am against the building of this arch, which would forever overshadow the solemn grounds of Arlington National Cemetery and destroy the beautiful view from that Cemetery towards Washington DC.

Please do not approve this project.

Respectfully,

Jon Gustafson

Name: Fred Millener
Date: October 24, 2026 3:23:47 pm

Commissioners,

This Arch has no stated purpose, other than to be grand! That is not enough to earn a place of honor in Washington, DC.

It will diminish the importance and view especially of the Lincoln Memorial, as well as other nearby structures that have long been reasons to visit DC.

Please don't allow this arch to be built!!

Name: Nancy Schmierbach
Date: October 24, 2026 1:27:38 pm

The proposed National Arch is a totally unnecessary project that will desecrate the historic landscape and detract from existing historically significant moments. The proposed security features intended to justify the project could be implemented in other ways in other locations to be just as effective without the exorbitant and expenses of this abomination to this beautiful and meaningful landscape.

Name: robert russell
Date: October 24, 2026 11:59:40 am

As a veteran and with my father buried at Arlington, I abhor in the strongest possible terms Trump's vanity arch and the travesty of its placement right by such a sacred and solemn location. Trump also said it was going to be used for weapons storage and drones? Really?That will certainly make it a polarizing piece... And with the national debt growing ever larger, is this a good use of taxpayer money?

Name: Victoria Heil
Date: October 24, 2026 11:23:14 am

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact.
The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Name: Victoria Hodgkins
Date: October 24, 2026 9:50:01 am

Our nation is founded on the idea that common people can and will be heroes. We don’t need an arch that mimics monuments designed by societies that have a monarchical, communist or fascist heritage. That’s not us, it adds nothing to making America great again, and detracts from the beauty and meaning of the monuments currently on the Mall.

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 16

October 25, 2026

Name: Elizabeth Lipford
Date: October 25, 2026 7:21:33 pm

I would like to submit my opposition to the Arch as proposed. It is in the wrong location and is too large. It will adversely effect many other important monuments and landmarks in Virginia and Washington, D.C. I respectively request you to vote NO on the arch.

Name: Juli Ames-Curtis
Date: October 25, 2026 7:12:31 pm

This arch is a dishonoring of our brave US veterans and all who have served our country. Also building this with taxpayer money is a disgrace to our democracy. We could use the money to serve and support our veterans better.
NO Arch!

Name: Julie Houk
Date: October 25, 2026 5:18:48 pm

I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle in Washington, D.C. I strongly urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the project in its current form and refuse to approve the final plans.

My greatest concern is the profound disrespect this massive monument would show to the solemn purpose and sacred surroundings of Arlington National Cemetery. Arlington is not simply a historic landmark or a tourist destination. It is the final resting place of generations of American service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It is where families say their final goodbyes, where grieving loved ones return to remember those they have lost, and where visitors come to reflect quietly on the true human cost of freedom.

Arlington National Cemetery deserves peace, dignity, and reverence—not to be overshadowed by a 250-foot triumphal arch.

The proposed arch would fundamentally change the character of this historic landscape. The views connecting the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington House, and the cemetery are not incidental scenery. They are part of a carefully established visual and symbolic relationship that connects our nation’s history, the sacrifices of the Civil War, reconciliation, and the enduring cost of preserving our union. Introducing an enormous, imposing structure into this setting would intrude upon that relationship and diminish the quiet dignity that makes this place so meaningful.

I cannot accept the idea that a monument intended to project grandeur and triumph should take precedence over the solemn experience of those visiting the graves of fallen service members. Imagine a family attending a military funeral, a spouse mourning the loss of a loved one, or a veteran returning to honor fallen comrades. The landscape surrounding these moments should offer a sense of peace, humility, and reflection. It should not be dominated by an enormous architectural statement competing for attention.

Patriotism is not measured by the height of a monument or the grandeur of a structure. It is demonstrated through respect for those who served, gratitude for their sacrifices, and our commitment to preserving the places where their service is remembered. Arlington National Cemetery already embodies these ideals more powerfully than any new monument could.

I am also deeply concerned about the permanent impact this project would have on Washington’s historic monumental landscape. Once these views are obstructed and the character of this setting is altered, the damage cannot simply be undone. A project of this magnitude demands the highest standards of historic preservation, careful consideration of

alternatives, and genuine respect for the public’s concerns.

I urge the Commission to put the dignity of Arlington National Cemetery, the needs of grieving families, the preservation of our national heritage, and the public interest above the desire to construct another monumental structure. The significance of this location demands restraint, not excess.

Please reject the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle. Preserve the historic views, protect the solemn character of Arlington National Cemetery, and ensure that this sacred landscape remains a place of quiet remembrance rather than a backdrop for an imposing new monument.

The men and women buried at Arlington have already left a legacy that needs no embellishment. The most fitting tribute we can offer them is to protect the dignity of their final resting place.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your responsibility to safeguard this irreplaceable part of our nation’s history.

Name: Adena Vivanco
Date: October 25, 2026 4:07:49 pm

I don’t support the Arch/ New Monument.
I want My Tax dollars supporting the positive environmental impact and regeneration and protection of the Natural Beauty created by God which is found within our parks and the people who maintain it. NOT a big Man-made structure in poor imitation of Europe and of fallen civilizations… So unoriginal and boring.

Name: Bernadette Margel
Date: October 25, 2026 2:06:02 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed construction of a new “monumental ‘Triumphal’ arch” at Memorial Circle.
This proposed arch would destroy one of America’s most sacred and symbolic landscapes. The location between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery should be kept intact - AS IS, without a new “arch” - to honor the sacrifice of thousands of US military members.
The proposed arch would be an affront to all Americans who want to honor our fallen service members.
In addition, there are negative practical consequences as well: the dimensions and proposed structure would increase traffic problems in the area, and would deter from attractiveness of the lighting on other buildings.
We - the American people - don’t want this arch!

Name: Maureen Kreklow
Date: October 25, 2026 1:38:21 pm

I object to the planned Monumental Arch near Arlington National Cemetery. Its size is detrimental to the area. It overshadows one of the most sacred places for those that died in service to our country.

This is a vanity project. It does not enhance the area in any way, but rather it detracts from it. It is gaudy and in poor aesthetic taste. And it's purpose is to honor the worst "president" in the history of the United States.

Please, do not allow this monstrosity to desecrate the National Mall.

Name: Margaret Culbertson
Date: October 25, 2026 1:13:53 pm

As an architectural historian, librarian, longtime member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and United States Citizen, I wish to register my objections to the current plan for a new Monumental Arch. If placed, as proposed, on Memorial Circle on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, it will disrupt the important visual and symbolic vista

from the Lincoln Memorial to the Arlington National Cemetery. It will tower over the Lincoln Memorial and overwhelm the entrance of the Arlington National Cemetery. The scale is wrong, and the location is wrong. Monuental arches are built by emperors. They are not built in democracies.
Thank you.

Name: Sydney Dunn
Date: October 25, 2026 11:56:22 am

Why would we spend money on this? Total waste of time and resources.

Name: Katie Donaldson
Date: October 25, 2026 11:54:33 am

This is a total waste of money. Please do not pursue this.

Name: Michael Jenemann
Date: October 25, 2026 11:26:03 am

I am not in favor of the proposed arch. I am concerned about the cost (better things on which to spend money). I am concerned about obstructing existing views. I am concerned about creating a hazard to (airplane) navigation. I am a former Naval Aviator and D.C. is some busy airspace.
Thank you,
Mike

Name: Janene Gray
Date: October 25, 2026 9:25:12 am

Registered Republican and I VOTE! And by my written response, I obviously also pay attention.

The last thing we need is another monument. Let's use those funds wisely and not try to boast any more unnecessary egos. If this were the other party recommending such a monument, you would be totally against it. Let's use the logic of why we wouldn't want them to put forth another monument, and apply it to ourselves.

That money time and effort can be spent doing much better and grander things. Let's think bigger than ourselves and not try to make a mark just because we are the 'new guy in the position' and need to show what we have accomplished. This is not where your performance review needs to shine. Focus on things that really do matter. This is trivial and unnecessary. And quite honestly, feels like a divide and conquer.

There are so many issues and items that people are spun up about that, as a collective, the numbers have been distributive into the different focuses. Maybe this is by design, but I am not supportive of this initiative.

Name: Deann Darling
Date: October 25, 2026 9:07:29 am

Please consider the following points of disruption due to the proposed arch;

• Historic and Landscape Disruption: Assessed by the National Park Service (NPS) as adversely affecting 37 historic properties and cultural sites, including the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington House, and critical Civil War reconciliation sightlines.
• Massive Scale: At 250 feet tall (with a 165-to-166-foot arch and gilded winged statuary), it stands more than twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial and visually overwhelms the surrounding civic scale.

• Legal and Regulatory Challenges: Faces federal lawsuits filed by veterans and preservation groups (represented by organizations like Public Citizen) arguing it lacks required congressional authorization under the Commemorative Works Act and bypasses transparent review processes.
• Airspace and Traffic Concerns: Critics and aviation experts warn that a 250-foot structure adds hazardous variables to congested low-altitude helicopter routes and approaches near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).
• Perceived Ego Monument: Critics and public commenters characterize the monument as a self-serving presidential vanity project that clashes with a solemn landscape dedicated to military sacrifice and mourning.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.
Concerned patriot

Name: Brian Russo
Date: October 25, 2026 9:04:26 am

I am writing in opposition of building a new monumental arch. This project would ruin the view and cause traffic. It would be a waste of taxpayers money and resources. We are facing a recession as we continue to lose jobs and see an increase of foreclosures. Working class Americans are struggling to buy necessities. The American empire is in obvious decline. There is no justification for these vanity products, cause for celebration or reason to honor the current administration. Our legislators should be working on projects that benefit working class Americans, not building wasteful monuments.

Name: Brian Yanke
Date: October 25, 2026 8:26:53 am

I'm against the arch. It's unnecessary and a waste of tax payers money. Please don't build this.

Name: stephanie phelan
Date: October 25, 2026 8:09:18 am

This proposed, and already illegally underway Monumental Arch is to be stopped immediately. It should never have begun. It is a disgrace to all those lying at Arlington Cemetery, to all the events and people who worked for and celebrated equality of all human beings at the Lincoln Memorial, to all U.S. citizens past, current, and yet to come who believe in democracy and a leadership that is of the people, by the people, and for the people.
Get rid of this project, this symbol of oligarchical control, of madmen's usurpation of the people's spaces, money, and right to be free and equal.
Stand up and do the right thing!
~ Stephanie

Name: Charlotte Serazio
Date: October 25, 2026 1:07:44 am

The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 91

October 26, 2026

Name: Dorothy Henry
Date: October 26, 2026 11:17:37 pm

As an American born citizen of 78 years, I do not want to see OUR national capitol destroyed or changed for one person. It is American's land, please do not destroy, block the views of our monuments more than what's already been done.

Please stop this ego based taxpayer money wasting nonsense. Thank you.

In Spirit,

Dorothy Henry

Name: Elizabeth Lawless
Date: October 26, 2026 11:12:38 pm

For the love of God, do not allow the proposed arch to be built. It will destroy or at the least diminish the peace, serenity and privacy that the Arlington Cemetery location should provide. That peace is what the Veterans' families deserve.

Name: Lorraine Backer
Date: October 26, 2026 11:04:42 pm

Good evening,

I do NOT support building the Triumphal Arch for the following reasons, many of which are really just Trump lies:

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy. This is crazy!

The addition of an "eternal flame" would create a "sky glow" that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument. This is really bad for bird migrations over the eastern seaboard.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater! Why? Why? Don't add MORE traffic to this already heavily congested area.

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process. Perhaps we can persuade Congress to do its job and participate in the review, and denial of this monstrous Trump vanity project.

Name: Fred Fiske
Date: October 26, 2026 11:01:01 pm

I oppose construction of the monumental arch without authorization from Congress, the people's representatives. I further call for a popular mobilization to prevent the start of any construction at the site.
There is no time to lose. It is time for direct action in Washington to stop Trump's arch from being built.
We have to do this in person because our representative institutions have let us down. Congress won't act. The bureaucracy is compromised. The Supreme Court is mesmerized by Trump's legal chicanery. Trump appears to be building his illegal ballroom. He is wreaking havoc with the Kennedy Center. Before he unilaterally bulls ahead and breaks ground for his triumphal arch, we must take action.
It's time to occupy the federal memorial park site. Put our bodies on the line to prevent excavation from beginning for Trump's garish, illegal, wasteful arch. The bulldozers could be there within weeks. The time to start blocking this offensive, vainglorious, costly project is now.
Set up an encampment on the people's land. Keep replenishing the numbers of "visitors" so that there is a continuous stream of people, walking onto the park, sitting in the park, occupying the park — day and night, 24/7 — preventing excavation in the park.
All you need to start is a group of 20 for more committed activists (there are thousands in Washington alone), willing to put their bodies on the line in this peaceful fashion. It won't take long for others to join them. I'll come down from Syracuse with my wife, who has Alzheimer's, and we'll do our stint occupying the park. Third Act retirees like us will stream in from all over with our folding chairs. Will we face arrest for loitering? Not if we keep moving. Will we be arrested for disorderly conduct, or interfering with police, or blocking traffic, or, or, or? Fine. The charges won't stick. Besides, as Walt Whitman would say, you can't arrest multitudes.
How long will we have to occupy the park? No telling. Until Trump backs down? Until the federal bureaucracy acts as it should? Until the Supreme Court starts affirming the decisions of lower court judges? Until Congress asserts its prerogatives? Until the midterms, when we throw the bums out? Until the snow flies?
Doesn't matter. There are enough of us to keep this going as long as necessary. As long as we the people are in the way, the president can't build his ugly arch in our park.
But we must act now.

Fred Fiske Minoa NY [redacted]

Name: Richard Kandus
Date: October 26, 2026 10:46:24 pm

Dear National Capital Planning Committee,

I would like to express my disapproval of the Triumphal Arch. There are many reasons why this is an inappropriate monument, including the position between Arlington Cemetery and Washington monument, the additional traffic that would cause, the gigantic size of the arch, and the narcissistic approach to the promotion of this unnecessary project.

I strongly urge you not to approve this project. Thank you

Name: Annette Murphy
Date: October 26, 2026 10:41:17 pm

I'll keep my comments short

Please do not go forward with the arch project

It wasn't approved by Congress

The planned arch is too big, too expensive, a traffic hazard, a source of light pollution. There is nothing positive about it. Please reject it.
Annette Murphy

Name: Michael Hodges
Date: October 26, 2026 10:34:24 pm

Subject: Public Comment on New Monumental Arch (NCPC File No. 8778)

Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully urge NCPC to reject the proposed New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

Memorial Circle, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the visual connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery constitute one of the nation's most important commemorative landscapes. The proposal's unprecedented scale would fundamentally alter that historic setting. Rather than complementing the memorial landscape, the arch risks dominating it.

I am particularly concerned that a 250-foot structure would disrupt established viewsheds, diminish the historic design intent of Arlington Memorial Bridge, and create a visual focal point that competes with existing national memorials. Historic resources should be preserved in a manner that respects their original purpose and character.

I am also concerned about long-term impacts on transportation, visitor circulation, maintenance obligations, security infrastructure, and future federal expenditures associated with the project. These impacts deserve careful scrutiny before irreversible changes are made to a nationally significant site.

Finally, I question whether this proposal serves a compelling public planning purpose that justifies such a substantial alteration of one of the National Capital Region's most historically significant settings.

For these reasons, I ask the Commission to deny final approval.

NOTE: If the project proceeds despite public objections, NCPC should require binding and transparent financial guarantees ensuring that neither construction nor future operation, maintenance, security, rehabilitation, or removal costs are borne by federal taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike Hodges

Name: Sally Stansberry
Date: October 26, 2026 10:30:31 pm

Sirs and Madams
I am opposed to the proposed arch. It adds no value to our country, detracts from existing features and traffic flow would be impeded.
Please deny approval
Thank you

Name: Malcolm Perkins
Date: October 26, 2026 10:21:15 pm

The arch Trump wants to build is one more self-serving action to put his personal stamp on the nation's capital rather than recognize America's greatness. Self-aggrandizement like this arch will be regarded by most citizens as merely cheap showmanship (like the gold trappings in the Oval Office) and not in keeping with the dignity of the United States. I respectfully oppose construction of a "monumental arch".

Name: Linda Shirkey
Date: October 26, 2026 10:19:53 pm

Please do not move forward with a large Arch which would obliterate the view of Arlington Cemetery. It is too huge. It is out of character with the surroundings. It is out of character with America. It is not a tribute to service people who fought and died.

Name: Andrew Hefner
Date: October 26, 2026 9:48:36 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts. Because of the recent politicization of the sacred grounds of Arlington, my father, a career non-commissioned officer and public servant, cancelled his planned internment at Arlington. This ridiculous, vainglorious arch, if built, would be the final insult to his 40+ years of selfless public service.

Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

For residents, the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% or more in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

For these, and a host of other reasons, I call upon this planning committee to block any and all moves to construct this godawful arch.

Name: Christine and Richard DiMambro
Date: October 26, 2026 9:41:59 pm

I am writing to ask you to reject the project for the Triumphal Arch.
This arch is projected to cost millions, when our deficit has already ballooned out of control under Mr. Trump. It will take badly needed funds from our existing parks. It is also extremely out of proportion for the Memorial Circle area.
A monument should enhance the area where it is place and not obstruct the view of other monuments. For over a hundred years, the view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery has been unobstructed. The Lincoln Memorial has brought hundreds of thousands of citizens together for significant events, to be united around causes. It celebrates the great president who saved the Union we celebrate this year. This Arch will detract from the beauty of Memorial Circle, not enhance it. Instead of honoring presidents Lincoln and Jefferson, it will overshadow their memorials. This Arch is unnecessary, as well as illegal since it was not approved by Congress.
Do the right thing and say NO to this project.

Name: Bob Denney
Date: October 26, 2026 9:37:41 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch

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Name: Katherine O'Sullivan
Date: October 26, 2026 9:36:26 pm

Why was the height of the proposed arch increased from 250 feet to 260 feet?
Why was the material changed from North Carolina granite to Italian Marble?
The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts. I am

concerned too.
The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument. Why the addition?
The Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!
Most importantly, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress must be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.
Halt any construction on this ill-advised monument immediately.

Name: Kathy Gaillour
Date: October 26, 2026 9:21:12 pm

We don’t need or want this arch. There is no reason to have this arch that would obstruct the view from the Lincoln Memorial to the sacred grounds of Arlington Cemetery. Stop any all activities associated with this arch; it’s only purpose is to be an albatross to remind us of waste of our taxes.

Name: Margaret McKelvey
Date: October 26, 2026 9:09:34 pm

A 250-foot arch would be the equivalent of a 20-story building. This would look absolutely ridiculous and out of scale in the relatively small Memorial Circle! It would impeded vehicular traffic and threaten air traffic, never mind spoil the scale and dignity of the existing vistas from Arlington National Cemetery to Memorial Bridge to the Lincoln Memorial. Vote NO!

Name: Mary Patton
Date: October 26, 2026 9:01:50 pm

To Whom it May Concern,

The proposed arch honors nothing in our American history or the men and women who have served and sacrificed with honor. It is a disgraceful waste of funds for a vanity project to salute the ego of a misguided president. Please do not allow him to destroy historical landmarks for this unnecessary and quite frankly embarrassing monument.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Name: Oleh Varanytsya
Date: October 26, 2026 9:00:07 pm

Please reject this harmful project.

Name: Lynn Barker
Date: October 26, 2026 8:45:37 pm

President Trump has wrecked our beautiful reflecting pool and part of the White House to build his unneeded, garish ballroom and now he wants to wreck our view and take focus away from honoring our veterans by honoring himself with yet another monument to his greed and monumental narcissism. DO not build this monstrosity.

Name: Bruce Service
Date: October 26, 2026 8:43:32 pm

Construction of the proposed arch will constitute an incredible "eye sore" in what is now a pristine thoughtful scape.

Consider applying the energy to something worthwhile.

We've done without an arch for hundreds of years, we certainly don't require one now.

Name: Lia Daniels
Date: October 26, 2026 8:34:37 pm

I'm opposed to the The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. It will destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes - Arlington Cemetery. It is projected to cause more traffic. The marble is now said to be sourced from Italy instead of the US, as previously planned. This entire project is a waste of taxpayer money. We need improved infrastructure, not new monuments that detract from the beauty in this area.

Name: Linda Napier
Date: October 26, 2026 8:32:53 pm

Washington DC has long been a place to honor the veterans who have sacrificed for our country and the great leaders who history has shown their lasting significance to the advancement of our nation. It is not a place of gaudy and brash decorations. I was last there in 2025 and the views of Arlinton Cemetery were solemn and impactful. This should not be disturbed by a meaningless and wasteful arch. Our country needs to move forward in protecting our current parks, not building a pointless arch. The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts. I oppose the addition of this wasteful project that seems like waste and abuse of taxpayer funds. Thank you for your attention and consideration to this matter.

Name: Irena Franchi
Date: October 26, 2026 8:27:12 pm

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington.
The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.
Memorial Circle must remain protected, as it has for more than a century. This is part of our history.
I urge you to reject this harmful project.
The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :
• The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.
• The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.
• The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.
• And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.

Name: Kerry Burkhardt
Date: October 26, 2026 8:23:23 pm

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even great

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Name: Shari Grover
Date: October 26, 2026 8:22:30 pm

I think everything should be left the way it is. I do not support disturbing this area or spending money on a the trump arch or construction costs associated with it.

Name: Seth Roseman
Date: October 26, 2026 8:21:45 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This 260 ft. structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts. I, too, oppose its construction.

Name: Caswell Patmore
Date: October 26, 2026 8:19:05 pm

I am submitting my comments in objection to the construction of the arch monument near Arlington Cemetery. The mere presence of such an arch especially one of the size planned will be incongruent with the solemnity and dignity of the surrounding area. Its construction would be insulting to the memory of the brave veterans interred there. I very strongly object to its construction.

Name: Mandy Hahn
Date: October 26, 2026 8:19:05 pm

Please do not allow the desecration of such a special place in America for a 34 count convicted felon that is very openly against Democracy.

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington – including my great-grandparents – a combat veteran and a combat nurse who met in active service during World War II.

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must

authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Name: Benjamin Wiener
Date: October 26, 2026 8:11:28 pm

Please reject The New Monumental Arch plans which:

Are worse than we were originally told;

And continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.

Importantly the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin.

Name: Jon Nelson
Date: October 26, 2026 8:03:47 pm

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

I am Jon Nelson, a resident of Saugerties, New York, and I urge the Commission not to approve the final site and building plans for the New Monumental Arch.

1. The Height of Buildings Act question is unanswered. The Commission has said it must decide whether the Height Act binds the federal government before taking final action, and it asked the applicant to justify the project's height. The arch would reach 250 feet. That is more than twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial. The lone dissenting Commission of Fine Arts member noted that the Height Act is an act of Congress, not local zoning. Approving this project would signal that federal heights in the capital are decided case by case.

2. Congress has not authorized this monument. Pending litigation argues the President has not obtained the necessary approval from Congress or independent agencies. The Commission should not treat that question as settled. I ask it to address the Commemorative Works Act and the Height Act on the record before voting.

3. The review record is incomplete. Commissioners asked for a traffic study, parking and loading plans, and coordination with the FAA. The National Park Service found the arch would have adverse effects on several historic sites and on the capital's skyline. Construction could alter traffic near the cemetery and Memorial Bridge for two to three years. Final approval should wait until every one of these items is complete and public.

4. The review must be independent. This Commission is led by Will Scharf, a top White House aide. The Commission of Fine Arts was reconstituted with the President's allies after he dismissed its members. A monument the President personally championed deserves more scrutiny, not less. Only a reasoned, documented decision will be credible.

5. Setting and purpose matter. Plaintiffs say Arlington House would no longer be visible from the Lincoln Memorial. Memorial Bridge was built to link those two places, and Arlington Cemetery is hallowed ground. Placing a 250-foot monument to "triumphs" there, reportedly with taxpayer money, obstructs a national symbol of reconciliation. I ask the Commission to require full disclosure of funding.

I respectfully ask the Commission to deny or defer final approval until these legal and procedural questions are resolved.

Sincerely,
Jon Nelson

[redacted]
Saugerties NY 12477
[redacted]

Name: Alice Jena
Date: October 26, 2026 8:03:07 pm

The idea of anything blocking Arlington Cemetery is a disgrace

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Name: Brett Myers
Date: October 26, 2026 8:01:16 pm

Out of respect for the past, present, and future of Washington D.C., a ridiculous arch for one person will stain the city forever…long after we are all gone. No monumental arch!

Name: Joe Wolf
Date: October 26, 2026 8:00:04 pm

no, we don't need it.

Name: Tripp Ford
Date: October 26, 2026 7:59:20 pm

This looks like something a dictator would want to build. Oh wait...

Name: Dan Stritter
Date: October 26, 2026 7:38:03 pm

This project is totally inappropriate and unnecessary. This should not be approved, and certainly not without the explicit approval of the US Congress. Additionally, using funds intended for our National Parks, which have been grossly underfunded, to build a memorial arch is an egregious act.

Name: Edward Laurson
Date: October 26, 2026 7:28:35 pm

The Arch would be in the wrong place at the wrong time. No Arch should overshadow our veterans, and no Arch should be a military installation used against the citizens in Washington DC,

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Name: Mary Dahl
Date: October 26, 2026 7:26:45 pm

I do not believe an arch is necessary and if built will negatively affect the planned view of Arlington National Cemetery from the Lincoln Monument. Washington DC and surrounding areas have been carefully planned and maintained to preserve our history. This arch goes against the views and historical plans. I should NOT be allowed.
Thank you.
Mary Dahl

Name: Michael Berger
Date: October 26, 2026 7:26:18 pm

Dear Chair Scharf and Commissioners:

I urge the Commission to withhold final approval of the proposed 260-foot arch at Memorial Circle. My objections concern the site, the design, and above all the process. Congress has not authorized this monument, and the public has not been given the transparent, lawful review it is owed.

Congress has been absent, and the law requires it. The Commemorative Works Act makes clear that Congress must authorize a commemorative work before construction can begin, and Memorial Circle lies within the area where that requirement applies. Congress has not acted. Veterans and preservation groups have sued on exactly this ground. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the conversation. It is premature, and I believe improper, for this Commission to advance a permanent structure while that question is unresolved, particularly when the administration has said excavation could begin within weeks.

The site is a gateway to hallowed ground. Memorial Circle sits at the western end of Arlington Memorial Bridge, directly in front of Arlington National Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day and more than 400,000 service members are buried. A structure more than twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial, with an observation deck drawing visitors, would loom over those services. Veterans and families of the fallen have said they fear exactly this.

It would sever a designed landscape. The bridge was conceived after the Civil War as a symbol of reconciliation, linking the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington House, and the open axis is the meaning of the place. NCPC's own 2001 Memorials and Museums Master Plan said the circle is not an appropriate location for a future memorial. The 2024 Cultural Landscape Report and your Executive Director's review treat the sight lines and landscape of Memorial Avenue as contributing elements of a National Register-listed landscape. The National Park Service's own assessment acknowledges adverse effects, and the D.C. Historic Preservation Officer has warned of severe damage to an exceptional cultural landscape.

The design keeps growing and changing. For a monument meant to speak for the American people, and on public land, the public deserves a settled design and a clear answer on materials.

The eternal flame would pollute the night sky over a place of mourning. The FAA is requiring an "eternal flame" at the top of the arch and continuous floodlighting around its base. That is a lasting change to the nighttime character of the National Mall, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Potomac, and it would happen next to a cemetery that is meant to be quiet and dark.

Traffic and construction impacts are severe and understated. Memorial Circle is a major commuter gateway. NPS estimates two to three years of construction, with lane reductions and closures around the circle, and the finished project would replace the circle's current yielding system with signals and new pedestrian crossings. Estimates already anticipate as many as 900 pedestrians per hour trying to reach the arch. These delays would also complicate funeral processions at Arlington.

The "original vision" argument does not hold. Earlier plans for the site, going back to the 1920s, envisioned columns and other modest features, not a 250-foot arch. Historians and preservationists have said the old proposals are materially different and cannot justify this one.

The process has not respected the public. The Commission of Fine Arts, whose members were all appointed after the prior commission was dismissed, approved the concept after receiving nearly 1,000 public comments, every one of them opposed. Most speakers at your own July hearing opposed the project as well. Commissioners themselves asked the applicant to justify its height, and staff raised concerns under the Height of Buildings Act. A monument on the nation's most symbolic axis should rest on broad public consensus and the deliberate judgment of Congress, not on the will of one office. When the president was asked who the arch is for, he answered "me." A national monument that honors its sponsor does not honor the nation.

The Commission exists to protect the planning legacy of the capital. That legacy is built on restraint, open vistas, and the principle that the central landscape belongs to all Americans. I respectfully ask NCPC to deny final approval, or at a minimum to defer any action until Congress has authorized the work under the Commemorative Works Act, the Height of Buildings Act questions are resolved, and the harms to Arlington National Cemetery, the historic axis, and regional traffic

have been fully addressed.

Respectfully,
Michael Berger
Imperial Missouri

Name: Pamela Magers
Date: October 26, 2026 7:26:14 pm

I oppose the plans for a Triumphal Arch in Washington D.C. The arch would disrupt the purposeful expanse of unobstructed space leading to the Arlington Cemetery. That space is actually part of the monument. The arch is so large as to be out-of-scale for the pre-existing buildings and memorials.

Name: Elizabeth Beil
Date: October 26, 2026 7:25:54 pm

Please do not allow this vanity project to come to fruition. It will mar the landscape of Arlington Cemetery forever and that is unacceptable. Our troops and their sacrifice should not sit under the shadow of the unnecessary arch.
Thank you, Elizabeth Beil

Name: Maureen Markillie
Date: October 26, 2026 7:25:29 pm

Subject: Public Comment on New Monumental Arch (NCPC File No. 8778)

Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully urge NCPC to reject the proposed New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

Memorial Circle, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the visual connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery constitute one of the nation's most important commemorative landscapes. The proposal's unprecedented scale would fundamentally alter that historic setting. Rather than complementing the memorial landscape, the arch risks dominating it.

I am particularly concerned that a 250-foot structure would disrupt established viewsheds, diminish the historic design intent of Arlington Memorial Bridge, and create a visual focal point that competes with existing national memorials. Historic resources should be preserved in a manner that respects their original purpose and character.

I am also concerned about long-term impacts on transportation, visitor circulation, maintenance obligations, security infrastructure, and future federal expenditures associated with the project. These impacts deserve careful scrutiny before irreversible changes are made to a nationally significant site.

Finally, I question whether this proposal serves a compelling public planning purpose that justifies such a substantial alteration of one of the National Capital Region's most historically significant settings.

For these reasons, I ask the Commission to deny final approval.

If the project proceeds despite public objections, NCPC should require binding and transparent financial guarantees ensuring that neither construction nor future operation, maintenance, security, rehabilitation, or removal costs are borne by federal taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Matthew Alderfer
Date: October 26, 2026 7:24:00 pm

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington – including my great-grandparents – a combat veteran and a combat nurse who met in active service during World War II.

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Name: Charles DAmbrosio
Date: October 26, 2026 7:22:00 pm

This is a project that is unnecessary, harmful, and not appropriate for the site. I reject the rationale for the 'arch' and vehemently oppose the construction. I ask Congress to put an end to this nonsense.

Name: Stephanie Honore
Date: October 26, 2026 7:20:59 pm

Please reject this project!

Name: Kathleen Maloney
Date: October 26, 2026 7:18:25 pm

No triumphant arch! No no no.

Name: Jeffrey Wilson
Date: October 26, 2026 7:17:29 pm

The Trump arch is a bad idea from the start. It's to glorify him, plain and simple. The proposed location is an even worse idea. The attempt to honor himself who chose not to serve his country in the military to the detriment of those who did and often died for their country.

No matter how you look at it, this arch idea sticks.

Name: Rebecca Rucker
Date: October 26, 2026 7:17:14 pm

I am not in favor of the proposed new Monumental Arch. This arch is a monument for the self-promotion of Donald J. Trump, not the veterans who served in uniform. Further, the Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Name: Maureen Markillie
Date: October 26, 2026 7:17:09 pm

Subject: Public Comment on New Monumental Arch (NCPC File No. 8778)

Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully urge NCPC to reject the proposed New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

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I am particularly concerned that a 250-foot structure would disrupt established viewsheds, diminish the historic design intent of Arlington Memorial Bridge, and create a visual focal point that competes with existing national memorials. Historic resources should be preserved in a manner that respects their original purpose and character.

I am also concerned about long-term impacts on transportation, visitor circulation, maintenance obligations, security infrastructure, and future federal expenditures associated with the project. These impacts deserve careful scrutiny before irreversible changes are made to a nationally significant site.

Finally, I question whether this proposal serves a compelling public planning purpose that justifies such a substantial alteration of one of the National Capital Region's most historically significant settings.

For these reasons, I ask the Commission to deny final approval.

If the project proceeds despite public objections, NCPC should require binding and transparent financial guarantees ensuring that neither construction nor future operation, maintenance, security, rehabilitation, or removal costs are borne by federal taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Malaika Boyd
Date: October 26, 2026 7:17:08 pm

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. It was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington.

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

This administration has already proven that it cannot be trusted to build anything. It has done nothing but destroy treasured historic artifacts, monuments, and landscapes.

This arch is a horrible idea, and needs to be stopped.

Name: Patricia Rowell
Date: October 26, 2026 7:17:03 pm

The Arlington burial grounds do not need any more 'memorials'. The grounds are a place of great beauty and great meaning. Do not even consider a monumental arch in honor of a President who never served his country and has, as President, move our Nation toward a dictatorship.

Name: James Bannerman
Date: October 26, 2026 7:15:53 pm

I object to this, yet another poorly planned project from the Trump administration, as someone who has two relatives buried in Arlington National Cemetery and former resident of Washington, DC.

I understand that the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.

Furthermore, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorise this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

The bottom line, the Trump Administration should be following the law and not doing whatever idiotic idea crosses his mind at the time.

Name: Tawny McLellan
Date: October 26, 2026 7:15:39 pm

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an "eternal flame" would create a "sky glow" that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Name: David Weeshoff
Date: October 26, 2026 7:10:59 pm

I am a 81 year old California native and proud American. I am in awe, and revere the veterans who died for our country - a democratic government and set of ideals and dreams. Their sacrifice is hard to imagine (both as thousands of individuals and in grand total). They made a decision to put their very lives at risk - lives full of hope, dreams, ambitions, love of family, love of country. Arlington National Cemetery is truly a holy, consecrated, place, and deserves the utmost reverence and respect, in perpetuity. Please let no man's desire for personal immortality desecrate this sacred place through a horrendous, mis-placed monolith, designed by him without any consideration for the holiness of the adjacent hallowed ground or the will of he people. Thank you.

Name: John Schwabe
Date: October 26, 2026 7:10:54 pm

This proposed Arch would be a travesty to those who gave their last full measure.

Name: Ref Lindmark
Date: October 26, 2026 7:02:07 pm

Hello NCPC members,

I am writing to express my total opposition to the building of the New Monumental Arch in Washington D.C. My name is Ref Lindmark, I live at 2344 N 63rd St. Seattle, WA 98105.

I learned throughout my childhood, my schooling, my professional life that Washington DC is an almost 'sacred' place in our country. It was created as a way to help bind out 13 states into one great country. We learned that great care was taken to make sure that the new capitol would withstand the whims of any one person, that when you visit the capitol that it would be a place you remember as a small child and a place you could take your grandchildren. The great vistas, the holy spaces (Arlington, the Washington Monument, the Capitol, the White House, and the great monuments to our special icons would be preserved for all time.

Please do not let this Arch be built, it will be a stain on our great capitol. I look forward to you protecting this special place from the ill thought-out, travesty of the current plan and it's sponsor.

Thank You
Sincerely yours

Ref Lindmark

Name: Christopher Lish
Date: October 26, 2026 7:01:16 pm

Monday, October 26, 2026

Subject: Reject the new Monumental Arch Project

To the National Capital Planning Committee:

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington.

The proposed Monumental/Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

The Monumental/Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the

lack of transparency throughout this process:
• The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.
• The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.
• The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.
• And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater.

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

I strongly urge the National Capital Planning Committee needs to ensure that the Memorial Circle remains protected and to respect the laws in place to prevent this unwanted, unnecessary development and to reject this harmful project.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lish
San Rafael, CA

Name: GRADY WARREN
Date: October 26, 2026 6:54:41 pm

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington – including my great-grandparents – a combat veteran and a combat nurse who met in active service during World War II.

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

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Name: Brenda Dent
Date: October 26, 2026 6:51:26 pm

Before memorial circle is altered please consider
These concerns:

The view from Lincoln Memorial to Arlington Cemetery is one of America’s most scared
landscapes. More than 400,000 veterans are buried there.

Congress should be part of the discussion and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

The arch is unwanted and unnecessary.

Name: Gini Horner
Date: October 26, 2026 6:48:29 pm

This should not be built, there is no need and would disrupt the view from the Lincoln Monument to Arlington.The cost would be prohibitive especially during this time when normal Americans are struggling to pay for their daily expenses

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Name: Clare Armstrong-Seward
Date: October 26, 2026 6:48:03 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. The area connecting the Lincoln Memorial, Memorial Circle, and Arlington National Cemetery is already one of the most meaningful and historically significant landscapes in our nation. It does not need a massive new monument to make it more impressive. Its dignity comes from its history, its simplicity, and its association with generations of Americans who served and sacrificed.

Constructing an enormous arch in this location would be an unnecessary and extraordinarily costly alteration of a landscape that should be protected rather than redesigned. Public funds could be put to far better use preserving our historic sites, caring for our veterans, maintaining our national parks, and addressing genuine public needs. We should not diminish an irreplaceable historic setting in pursuit of something larger and more imposing. National monuments should honor our shared history rather than serve as expressions of any individual administration or moment in political time. The landscape between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery belongs to generations of Americans, and decisions that permanently alter it should reflect that enduring national significance.

Please reject this proposal and preserve Memorial Circle as it is. Good stewardship sometimes means recognizing that the most respectful choice is not to build something new, but to protect what generations before us entrusted to our care.

Name: Robyn Reichert
Date: October 26, 2026 6:45:27 pm

Please protect our environment!

Name: Donald Nemerov
Date: October 26, 2026 6:43:52 pm

This is an awful idea, both in spirit to what our nation's capital is to represent, as well as visually, it has no place in Washington DC. This needs to be rejected

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Name: Stephen Scarano
Date: October 26, 2026 6:42:37 pm

Even a one inch tall Arch is an inappropriate project. The proposed 260' arch is an atrocity, whether or not it is constructed of locally sourced stone. The existing eternal flame in Arlington National Cemetery is bright enough to remind us who and why we are--brave souls have illuminated our history. I'm honored to be one of the property owners and I vigorously object to the execution of this project.

Name: Mark Emlet PAc
Date: October 26, 2026 6:36:14 pm

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :

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Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Name: Teresa Pargeter
Date: October 26, 2026 6:34:30 pm

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington.

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process. This administration destroys not builds. This administration is the governmental equivalent of repugnant private equity that seeks to take something and dismantle and destroy it for their benefit and no one else's. Do not allow this to happen!

Name: Catherine Harper
Date: October 26, 2026 6:32:43 pm

I strongly urge you to prohibit Donald Trump's proposed "Triumphal Arch" from being built next to Arlington Cemetery, thus obscuring the views from and of the Cemetery, a sacred spot to millions of patriotic Americans, including myself.

Trump is a would-be dictator who is trying to cement a legacy he has not earned by erecting monuments to himself. This should not be allowed at any site, but most particularly at Arlington, which honors heroes. Trump knows he will not be invited to be buried there along with other American Presidents, because he simply does not deserve that honor.

If this Arch is erected, and/or if Trump somehow manages to be have himself buried at Arlington, the net result will be to cheapen Arlington's reputation and tarnish the legacies of these who were buried there. This would be a big mistake.

Thank you for allowing me to comment; I hope that you will receive many more comments that are decidedly NOT in favor of this plan.

Sincerely,

Catherine Harper
Port Angeles, WA
(wife, sister, and daughter of veterans)

Name: Kimberly Sims
Date: October 26, 2026 6:32:39 pm

Please do not allow this arch to be built. It is an affront to the American People. It is a desecration of Arlington Cemetery to satisfy one man's ego.

Thank you,

Kimberly Sims

Name: Pam Wesolowski
Date: October 26, 2026 6:31:55 pm

I’m writing in opposition to the building of a Monumental Arch.

Congress has not been involved, but more importantly, it the administration wants to place it in an area held sacred to Americans. A massive arch would destroy the line of sight and historic importance between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Monument.

I believe this would also disrupt traffic at the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

Please oppose this gaudy Arch. American citizens do not want it. Thank you.

Name: Brendan Hickey
Date: October 26, 2026 6:31:36 pm

Esteemed committee members,

I write to urge you to reject the proposed monumental arch, which President Trump would erect in his own honor. The tradition of requiring memorials to be proposed by others, after sufficient time since the passing of the honored person, has great value in its tendency to reveal essential information about a person's character and actions in life. The memorial spaces in the capital are limited and the real estate is extremely valuable. Our nation has none to spare. Every acre and structure must be protected and used in the best possible way to communicate our national values and character to visitors both foreign and domestic. The president should not be able to nominate himself for this honor nor should the committee, I respectfully suggest, rush to honor the president. If time and tradition reveal him to be worthy then both will find space for such a monument.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on the matter.

Dr. Brendan Hickey
Pennsylvania

Name: cindy black
Date: October 26, 2026 6:31:11 pm

NO to the rump arch. NO to the arch! Felon rump should be in prison!!!!

Name: Denise Flook
Date: October 26, 2026 6:31:09 pm

This "monument" would destroy our beautiful monument area in Washington. It would be an ugly addition, not built with American materials, and ruin the night view of the beloved monuments that are truly national treasure. This "monument" has not purpose except to ruin our beautiful existing monuments. It is also an inexcusable waste of money when so many have needs much more important than this. STOP THE RUIN!!!

Name: Kathryn Fidati
Date: October 26, 2026 6:30:57 pm

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington.

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :

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And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

There is no triumph to celebrate: this is a vanity project plain and simple. DO NOT allow its construction.

Name: Marisa Serafini
Date: October 26, 2026 6:30:53 pm

Please, I beg of you, do not destroy the history and dignity of this sacred area of Washington to a vanity project. Please open your eyes and ask yourselves why a sitting president would ever undertake this narcissistic tribute to himself. Please say no this desecration.
Marisa Serafini
Wayland, MA

Name: Keith Porter
Date: October 26, 2026 6:29:13 pm

We must not allow a grotesque, ego-centric arch structure to impinge on one of the most sacred and iconic scenes in our nation's capital.

Name: Sarah Lundstrum
Date: October 26, 2026 6:28:29 pm

This arch should not be built. It will ruin the sight line from Arlington National Cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial. It’s a hideous design, too big, too much gold. No on wants this arch and it shouldn’t be approved without congressional support. The NCPC should deny it.

Name: Edh Stanley
Date: October 26, 2026 6:28:20 pm

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington – including my great-grandparents – a combat veteran and a combat nurse who met in active service during World War II.

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

I oppose any construction of an arch on any Capitol property.

Name: Janyce Keyes
Date: October 26, 2026 6:26:38 pm

No need for an arch in DC. There is one in Valley Forge. Please don’t build it!!! There is no good reason for one.

Name: Nicole Mich
Date: October 26, 2026 6:25:46 pm

The idea of a monumental arch for a sitting president is preposterous and wasteful. The views on the National Mall need to be protected. Approving this arch for a president in peacetime who is not a war hero and has not significantly contributed or improved the country AND without Congressional approval is a blatant sign of corruption and goes against the Founders ideals. Please reject this proposal and keep DC dedicated to true history. The American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Name: Karen Jensen
Date: October 26, 2026 6:25:20 pm

I am against an Arch being built in the D.C. area. This is an outrageous abuse of power. Please STOP it. Thank you

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Name: Elizabeth Hamilton
Date: October 26, 2026 6:24:42 pm

There is absolutely no reason to approve the new arch that the narcissistic president thinks he needs as a tribute to him. I just think that Arlington is a national treasure. It's there to honor our fallen soldiers. It would degrade that honor to have

that arch towering over them. PLEASE don't approve the arch because it is not a necessary addition to the Washington landscape.

Name: Charles Baumann
Date: October 26, 2026 6:24:12 pm

I strongly object to the Arch project. Since when do we put up monuments to living persons in D.C. Most if not all of the current monuments honor deceased persons like Washington or Lincoln. Or honor fallen heroes like those from our wars like the Viet Nam wall. I urge you in the strongest possible language to deny this project to someone who I believe is undeserving of recognition at this point in time. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Name: Mukisa Lumala
Date: October 26, 2026 6:18:51 pm

Pls don't do this. The memorial circle is a key part of our national history. we really do not need to be changing it at all.

Name: Stephen Folding
Date: October 26, 2026 4:02:36 pm

I am a veteran and I strongly oppose that hideous arch being built. It distracts from the solemnity of the area and the respect due to everyone buried there who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Name: Teresa Browning
Date: October 26, 2026 3:54:27 pm

The last thing the US capital needs is an arch honoring Donald Trump, a convicted felon, twice impeached stain on our nation. On the day you will be reviewing this monstrosity, the people of the US will be voting in midterm elections. The expected result is for Republicans (who pledge absolute fealty to Trump) to definitely lose the majority in the House of Representatives and likely to lose the majority in the US Senate. The majority of the nation does not want any monument to this embarrassment, let alone a monument that is bigger than anything but the Capitol Building. Please save us the effort of having to start demolition on this waste of space on Jan 21, 2029.

Name: Kathleen Folding
Date: October 26, 2026 3:41:35 pm

The arch should NOT be built.
It is hideous.
It is a distraction to all service members who have given their lives for our country.
It is a waste of taxpayer money, when we have children in this country going to bed hungry.
We DO NOT need to add more to the national debt!
About time the government start asking themselves (as we have done in our 67 years of marriage and have always lived within our means)…."Do we WANT it or do we NEED it"?

Name: Alison Guinness
Date: October 26, 2026 2:22:41 pm

My parents are buried in Arlington. When I was a child my father took us to Arlington numerous times. One of the things I remember is the view from the mansion at the top of the hill, the view that would have been seen by George Washington. This historic viewshed is too valuable to block with the gigantic arch that would block even the Capitol

building. Please do not proceed with this project.

Also it is difficult enough to maneuver around the traffic circle as it is. This arch would create unsafe conditions for travel in the area. Construction would also bring traffic to a standstill.

This is not a good idea.

Thank you,
Alison Guinness
East Haddam, CT

Name: MARIAN VALERI
Date: October 26, 2026 2:16:04 pm

Please no arch at Arlington National cemetery!!!!
Thank you,
Marian Valeri

Name: William Mockovak
Date: October 26, 2026 12:58:43 pm

As a veteran, I'm strongly opposed to the proposed monumnetal arch.

If finished, its size will detract from activities conducted in Arlington Cemetery, and its mere presence will break the visual link between the cemeterey and the Lincoln Monument.

Also, aesthetically and practically, a monument of any type is not needed in the proposed space. The traffic is already bad enough. Accommating tourists who will want to visit the monument, will create a traffic nightmare, and possibly a safety hazard.

Name: Janell Copello
Date: October 26, 2026 10:52:33 am

Please do the right thing and protect Memorial Circle. The proposed Triumphal Arch would destroy one of America's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Constituents, Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious and valid concerns about its size, location, cost, and impact. To make matters worse, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency and recklessness throughout this process. This proposal is an irresponsible waste of taxpayers money that does no need to happen. Thank you.

Name: Carol Mackey
Date: October 26, 2026 9:40:01 am

Out of respect for our fallen soldiers and the one's still in the military, this monstrosity of an arch which is just another Vanity Project for Trump at the taxpayers' expense should NOT HAPPEN. No one wants to see this huge arch blocking not only the view, but when there are funeral services going on it would interfere with respecting the people involved in a burial ceremony.
Please say No to the arch and if Trump wants one, he can put it at his own home in Florida at a cost to him and not taxpayers!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name: Char Schumann
Date: October 26, 2026 9:23:29 am

This is an absurd way to spend taxpayer money!!!
Please stop this selfsish misuse of taxpaer dollars

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 75

October 27, 2026

Name: Dale Burns
Date: October 27, 2026 11:34:19 pm

I am opposed to the building of the arch because:
1) it is unnecessary and taxpayer dollars should not be wasted on this
2) it will mar the current view of Arlington National Cemetary
3) it is another Trump vanity project and not to benefit American citizens

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Name: Catherine Belt-Vahle
Date: October 27, 2026 10:33:51 pm

As a descendent and relative of every war since the United States was born, I abhor the notion of this arch being built.

Name: Susan Peterson
Date: October 27, 2026 10:23:35 pm

The Trump Arch is an ATROCITY. How much longer are officials going to tolerate this maniac's destruction of our once beautiful and historic Washington DC??? I formerly wanted to visit DC, but not anymore! It has become a travesty, and for reasons I don't understand, the Malignant Narcissist keeps building this crap. Please demonstrate common sense and revery for the history of DC by shutting this project down. Thank you.

Name: C. Campbell
Date: October 27, 2026 10:17:17 pm

Absolutely not. This is a vanity project and imposes on the existing monument landscape. This project lacks a valid purpose and has no positive or inspirational meaning. The entirety of this project is tainted by association with a convicted criminal, a felon, a convicted rapist. Due to this association this project should have NEVER been considered to even have been put to paper.

Name: Connie Fox
Date: October 27, 2026 10:05:40 pm

This proposed arch is disrespectful of our fallen heroes buried in Arlington & will detract from the beauty of the surrounding area. There is no benefit for spending this much money! It service no logical purpose. Besides everything else it is grotesque.

Name: Amy Hartman
Date: October 27, 2026 9:57:23 pm

I’ve lived in the DC area for over forty years. The idea of this new arch proposed is disastrous. As a tax payer and US citizen, I strongly oppose it. Washington is a unique and beautiful city with such integrity of design and amazing history. The planners of this great city took major efforts to not have anything taller than the Washington Monument for a reason. Presidents of both parties have come and gone honoring this integrity. Our city does not need another sign of “power over” which is what this arch will represent. We are already know as “the city of power” and do not need a structure to

remind us of that. It will ruin the beautiful landscape and line of our city. We need to fight for beauty and integrity and responsibility. Please object any efforts to build the monumental arch.

Name: Alexandra Winder
Date: October 27, 2026 9:52:21 pm

I deeply oppose any "triumphal arch" or other monument built without direct consent of Congress and every required step being followed. Too many parts of our historic capitol in Washington DC have been damaged or destroyed already, we must not allow any more. This proposal is especially appalling. Any damage to the National Cemetery where people who gave their lives for this country are buried would be unconscionable. This course of action must not be permitted to continue.

Name: George Hammel
Date: October 27, 2026 9:45:12 pm

I respectfully submit my comment opposing Trump’s Memorial Arch for the following reasons:

· it obscures the peace and serenity of Arlington National Cemetery

· it dwarfs all of our other historical monuments

· Congress has not authorized or appropriated any funds for its construction

· the majority of the American people oppose this arch

· @ 250 ft. tall and 166 ft wide, it poses an additional hazard to commercial planes taking off and landing at Reagan National Airport

· it is location in a very busy, dense traffic circle adjacent to the Memorial Bridge
- All other monuments are designed to fit togethr and flow with the natural grace and beauty of our nations capital. This does nothing but stand out like a sore thumb, obstructung views that are at once both historic and honors our naations fallen.

For these reasons I urge the Commission to oppose this arch.

Name: Christine Kreif
Date: October 27, 2026 9:45:02 pm

WE do not need or want this Arch built on scared ground. What we need to do is preserve and protect the monuments that are already in our capitol. This would not add anything to our national heritage and is a huge waste of tax payer money. We want to see our tax dollars spent on preserving and protecting our National Parks and National Monuments! In addition this project should be approved by Congress and the American people deserve to know exactly what is begin planned and how much this going to cost. Again I want to emphasize that we do not need this Arch!

Name: Alyssa Rogo
Date: October 27, 2026 9:35:22 pm

I stand with the park advicates, veterans and family members who do not wish to have the Triumphal Arch looming over the Memorial Park cemetery and one of America's most symbolic landscapes. The proposed arch would be too big and create undesirable outcomes. Please consider listening to advocates who visit the park most. Thank you.

Name: Julie Naji
Date: October 27, 2026 9:24:34 pm

Our country is suffering through financial hard times and this is not the time to be creating monuments.

Name: John Houston
Date: October 27, 2026 8:55:57 pm

I have lived my whole life in the Washington DC area and have been to Arlington Cemetery many times. The sight lines from DC and from the Virginia side at this location would be ruined by this arch. This arch would signify nothing except the munental overreach of one man. Please do not build this.

Name: Mikhail Schee
Date: October 27, 2026 8:51:02 pm

I oppose the construction of the arch proposed to be built over Memorial Circle. The proposed structure would disrupt the sight-line between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House, a sight-line which represents national unity. The structure would also cast a shadow over Arlington Cemetery as well as allow those visiting the arch to look down upon funerals happening there, which I believe is a grave act of disrespect. Additionally, this project has not received the required approval of Congress; Using the justification that Congress had approved a similar project 100 years ago is baffling. Not only is this proposed arch not at all similar in scope to the original project, I believe that 100 years is far too long for Congressional approval of a building project to remain valid. I urge you to listen to the report given by the National Park Service as well as conduct a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts of this project before any actual construction takes place.

Name: Omar Hakeem
Date: October 27, 2026 8:26:48 pm

first of all the structure is illegal. I shouldn’t even have to write this comment. Second, the structure is hideous and has not gone through the proper design review process.

Marcel took a golden parachute. Now it’s your turn to step up to the plate Diane. Do your civic duty.

Name: Nora Schwartz-Martin
Date: October 27, 2026 8:22:37 pm

The proposed Arch will likely directly harm numerous historic sites, including Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, and Memorial Bridge, This is unprecedented and not following usual protocols for enactment of major projects along usual public line of transparency and input - 40 historic sites will be affected It is unconscionable!

Name: Nadja Gutowski
Date: October 27, 2026 8:11:26 pm

Please consider the thoughtful assessments of the negative impact of this oversized arch on adjoining historic properties and the important viewshed. Halt this ‘Trump-awful’ arch.

Name: Cathy Dadin
Date: October 27, 2026 7:59:55 pm

Building this vanity project is a poor use of tax payer dollars and an obscene dishonor of our fallen soldiers. The building will block the view of Arlington National Cemetery and dwarf the Lincoln Memorial. I've visited arches in Barcelona and Paris which are 1/2 the size of this project and they are enormous. We do not need an arch. We have memorials to wars all over the city, WWII, Vietnam, we do not need this. Please reconsider. What happened to Congressional oversight? How,is a President allowed to pend our tax dollars when the country is drowning in debt, people are hungry, and they've lost their medical benefits.

Name: Helen Mirkil
Date: October 27, 2026 7:59:39 pm

This arch has not been approved by the public or by any traditional channels. It will interfere with the beauty of the gravesite and the feeling of quiet and calm reverence for those who died giving their lives for our country. The arch is large and imposing and its presence will loom over the graveyard.

The arch is a sign of disrespect for those who fought, and is going against all procedural channels, ignoring the laws and statutes that require a structure so large and imposing to be reviewed and discussed before a project breaks ground.

Name: Felice Nord
Date: October 27, 2026 7:48:54 pm

I am asking that you oppose the building of this arch. It is contrary to the design of the National Mall and will ruin the views. It is being done without the usual steps of going through the correct channels and also has a standing court restriction to not start building without prior notice. President Trump has already been known to ignore these mandates. I believe that the majority of the public does not want this and I am asking that the project should not be allowed. Please do not allow this arch to be built.

Name: RICHARD STEWARD
Date: October 27, 2026 6:35:13 pm

Please listen to public opinion. Stiffen your spines and vote against the Trump vanity arch.

Name: Eli Asplund
Date: October 27, 2026 6:30:53 pm

The idea of creating an arch for a living man by decree with the only intent being to cement a man's legacy that he fears will not survive on its own is so disgustingly offensive to the notion of what it means to be an American and live in a republic of equals it is hard to fully explain in words. Not only that, but to use said display of vanity and ego near, and indeed partially obstructing, what could be argued as this nations only true sacred ground at Arlington National Cemetery is reprehensible. Do not make this arch, do not desecrate these great American graves, and do not inflate the ego of a fragile man with American tax dollars.

Name: Michael Doble
Date: October 27, 2026 6:14:03 pm

This vanity project for Trump is a national embarrassment. If you have any sense of decency and common sense you will NOT APPROVE THIS MONSTROSITY. Never in my life have I seen such naked corruption and self aggrandizement and you all should stand up to this guy and represent the American people. Do. Your. Job.

Name: Denise Motta
Date: October 27, 2026 6:13:55 pm

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Name: Marguerite Schellentrager
Date: October 27, 2026 6:01:08 pm

Attached is my letter regarding the above project for consideration at the Commission Meeting on November 5, 2026.

Attachment

Name: Erin Sullivan
Date: October 27, 2026 5:59:36 pm

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed monumental arch in Washington, D.C. While I recognize the importance of commemorating our nation’s history and honoring those who have contributed to its founding and continued strength, I believe this project is unnecessary and risks diminishing the significance of the memorials, monuments, and sacred spaces that already define our nation’s capital.

Washington, D.C., is home to some of the most meaningful and recognizable memorials in the world. These landmarks were thoughtfully established to honor our nation’s history, commemorate sacrifice, and preserve the ideals upon which our country was founded. The proposed arch risks overshadowing these existing memorials, competing with their visual prominence, and disrupting the balance and dignity of the monumental core. Rather than adding meaningful historical value, a structure of this scale could divert attention from the places that already hold profound significance for Americans and visitors from around the world.

I am particularly concerned about the potential impact on the setting and prominence of Arlington National Cemetery. Arlington is hallowed ground, serving as the final resting place for generations of American service members and as a powerful symbol of sacrifice, service, and national remembrance. Its solemn landscape and its visual relationship with the nation’s capital deserve the utmost respect. Introducing a massive monumental structure nearby risks drawing attention away from Arlington’s essential purpose and diminishing the quiet dignity of this sacred place. The focus should remain on the individuals who gave their lives in service to our country, not on a new architectural statement competing for prominence in the same landscape.

The historic views connecting the Lincoln Memorial, the Potomac River, and Arlington National Cemetery are an essential part of the capital’s commemorative landscape and should be protected. These vistas create a powerful visual and symbolic connection between our nation’s ideals, its history, and the sacrifices made to preserve it. They provide a setting for reflection and remembrance that cannot be replicated once compromised by an oversized new structure. The

Commission should carefully evaluate how the proposed arch would affect these views, the visual balance of the monumental core, and the prominence of the memorials and sacred grounds already in place. Preserving these historic sightlines should take precedence over introducing another dominant architectural feature.

Our nation’s capital does not need another monumental structure to demonstrate its greatness. Its existing monuments, memorials, and historic spaces already tell a powerful and comprehensive story of our nation’s struggles, ideals, achievements, and sacrifices. Preserving the prominence of these landmarks is essential to maintaining the character, historical integrity, and visual harmony of the capital.

The National Capital Planning Commission should carefully consider the long-term consequences of this proposal, including its visual impact, its relationship to existing memorials, its effect on historic vistas, and its impact on the setting of Arlington National Cemetery. The Commission has a responsibility to protect the unique character of our nation’s capital and ensure that new development respects, rather than competes with, the historic and commemorative landscape.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to oppose the proposed monumental arch and prioritize the preservation of the memorials, historic views, and sacred spaces that already honor our nation and its people.

Name: Joanna Chulick
Date: October 27, 2026 5:41:46 pm

We don’t need or want this arch. It will be an eyesore blocking the view of Arlington Cemetery. This would be a monumental change to the landscape in DC and yet the administration feels no need to involve Congress. Congress and the American people should be involved in this planning. But there is NO reason for it.

Name: Gary Mullen-Schultz
Date: October 27, 2026 5:25:08 pm

It's grotesque. Don't waste my taxes on it.

Name: Robin Potvin
Date: October 27, 2026 4:28:40 pm

National Capital Planning Commission -

I am writing today from my heart, as an American and a historian.

I am writing to beg you to block construction of the proposed “Triumphal Arch” on Memorial Circle.

There are some historic objects and places that are truly sacred. The Lincoln Memorial, the eternal flame at the grave of John F. Kennedy, and Arlington National Cemetery, are three sacred places for America’s history.

I have read that some veterans are suing to stop construction of the arch. I thank God for their continuing service to our country! Therefore, I probably don’t have to belabor the points of what the arch would destroy.

But as a historian, with ancestors who served in the Northern army, including one buried at the Vicksburg battlefield, I will tell you that destroying the symbolism would break my heart.

The symbolism of the sight line between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery, property taken from a Confederate Loyalist, where even Confederate soldiers are buried, is the perfect symbolism of this great country uniting after the Civil War. IF THE ARCH IS BUILT, AND THIS SIGHT LINE IS BROKEN, THE SYMBOLISM WILL INSTEAD BE OF A COUNTRY THAT ONCE AGAIN IS TORN APART AND DIVIDED IN TWO.

Also, the ability to see the President Kennedy eternal flame from the Lincoln Memorial is another poignant symbol with deep significance. You can see the connection between two Commanders in Chief who both gave the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America.

Please preserve this meaningful sightline and block the construction of the arch!!!

In closing, I would ask that you share these words with President Trump the next time you meet with him. They are paraphrased by Thucydides from Pericles, spoken circa 400 BC. “What you leave behind is not what is engraved on stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

I have no hope that President Trump would ever understand or feel these sentiments. I can only hope that YOU feel them and stop the desecration of Memorial Circle.

PS Since I wrote the above and sent it to all my elected representative, the President has indicated the Arch would be for snipers and hold ammunition. What a travesty!!!! Tourists and funerals at the sacred Arlington Cemetery would have to worry about snipers considering them a threat and taking them out??? What about terrorists knowing the arch contains ammunition and attempting to blow it up to destroy our capital??? I cannot believe I am even having to mention this!!!!

Name: Ernest Pittarelli
Date: October 27, 2026 4:25:08 pm

I am totally opposed to this project unless its design is fully authorized and funded by Congress with sufficient time for public review.

Name: Lars Haarr
Date: October 27, 2026 4:17:50 pm

I am writing to oppose construction of Trump's arch, for countless thousands of reasons, many listed below. It is an absolute travesty and America deserves better.

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington. They deserve better.

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts. They deserve better.

This is a critical moment. Please submit your comments to the National Capital Planning Committee and share why Memorial Circle must remain protected, as it has for more than a century. Tell them to reject this harmful project.

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument. Light pollution is already a huge problem the world over, with 90% of the population unable to see anything other than the moon and the very brightest stars and planets at night.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Please do the right thing for all of us, and all of America and shut down this incredibly stupid project.

Name: Scott Stevens
Date: October 27, 2026 3:42:37 pm

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a 250-foot Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. I love spending time in Washington DC with my family and taking in all the history there. Standing at Arlington Cemetery and looking toward the mall is always breathtaking. My objections are based on the following concerns regarding the project's scale, location, and procedural compliance:

• Disruption of Historic Vistas: At 250 feet tall—more than double the height of the 99-foot Lincoln Memorial—the arch will drastically overwhelm the landscape and obscure the intentional axial and visual relationships between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington House.

• Incompatibility with Sacred Grounds: Placing a massive, gilded ceremonial structure at the threshold of Arlington National Cemetery compromises the solemn dignity, quiet reflection, and historical character owed to service members and their families.

• Planning and Preservation Violations: The proposal departs from the established McMillan Plan and civic architecture standards of Washington, D.C. Furthermore, questions remain regarding compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act.

I urge the agency to deny approval for this project and preserve the open, historic view shed of the National Mall and Memorial Circle.

Sincerely,

Scott Stevens
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

Name: john white
Date: October 27, 2026 3:31:00 pm

Please do not approve the arch. It would take away from the solemn mood of the cemetery.

Name: Elaina Howell
Date: October 27, 2026 3:20:23 pm

This is a submission of Vietnam Veterans of America's and other relevant VSO's letter regarding the Triumph Arch project. We thank you.

Attachment

Name: Frank Turner
Date: October 27, 2026 2:45:42 pm

The proposed monumental arch is an insult to taxpayers and the American people as a whole. Not only is it a waste of most needed tax dollars, it is an insult to the American heroes buried in Arlington cemetery. Imagine a sitting president demanding a monument to himself at the expense of one of our nation's most sacred places. Disgusting.

We are over $40 trillion dollars in debt. This nation is teetering on brink of insolvency. Congress should be deciding when, what and how monuments in our nation's capital should be built, not DONALD TRUMP! I oppose this arch and

any other destruction/improvements directed by the Office of the Executive for Washington DC. This insanity MUST STOP NOW!

Name: Malik Turner
Date: October 27, 2026 2:37:54 pm

I write in total opposition to the proposed Triumphal Arch. No past president has EVER demanded a monument to his personal glory, particularly one that would put one of our most valued monuments, Arlington Cemetery, at risk as well as literally, in the shade.

And today, the Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process:

- The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

- The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

- The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

- And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

As a taxpayer, I do NOT want to pay for this ridiculous, unwanted monument to Donald Trump's ego. He won't paying for this I will and I say NO to yet another insulting waste of my tax dollars! Let this be decided by the Congress as it should be!

Name: Rebecca Erickson
Date: October 27, 2026 2:33:21 pm

The view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of America's most sacred landscapes. After the Civil War, it was designed to honor our veterans and unite a divided nation. More than 400,000 veterans are buried at Arlington – including my great-grandparents – a combat veteran and a combat nurse who met in active service during World War II.
The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.
Memorial Circle must remain protected, as it has for more than a century. It is important to reject this harmful project.
The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :
• The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.
• The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.
• The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.
• And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!
Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Name: Rebecca Jean-Louis
Date: October 27, 2026 2:30:34 pm

I would like to know the following:

Full financial disclosure: What is the independently prepared construction estimate, including contingencies, professional fees, security, site preparation, and infrastructure modifications?

Taxpayer exposure: Which federal appropriations are being used, what amounts have been obligated, and what is the legal authority for applying those funds to this project?

Private contributions: Who are the donors, how much has each contributed, and are any contributions restricted to particular uses?

Long-term responsibility: Which federal agency will own, secure, operate, insure, and maintain the structure, and what is its projected annual budget?

Legal authorization: What exact statute authorizes construction without a new congressional vote, and how is the administration resolving the objections raised in the federal lawsuits?

Name: LuAnne Swainson
Date: October 27, 2026 1:35:45 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

Name: Kathy Opitz
Date: October 27, 2026 12:55:31 pm

I respectfully submit my comment opposing Trump’s Memorial Arch for the following reasons:

· it obscures the peace and serenity of Arlington National Cemetery

· it dwarfs all of our other historical monuments

· Congress has not authorized or appropriated any funds for its construction

· the majority of the American people oppose this arch

· @ 250 ft. tall and 166 ft wide, it poses an additional hazard to commercial planes taking off and landing at Reagan National Airport

· it is location in a very busy, dense traffic circle adjacent to the Memorial Bridge

For these reasons I urge the Commission to oppose this arch.

Name: Yvonne Wilkins
Date: October 27, 2026 12:54:15 pm

NO. This project is a waste of money. It does not enhance the surrounding area. It is a monument to one man's ego designed to be paid for by the taxpayer. Do not spend my tax dollars so foolishly.

Name: CJ OSullivan
Date: October 27, 2026 12:51:45 pm

I find it hard to believe that an expensive vanity project - 260 feet tall, imported Italian marble is being considered at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery. The economic health of the United States is in decline and the government is broke. Yet a person wants to waste taxpayer money to build an arch to himself, which is sickening. We all hope to forget him as soon as he leaves office.

Name: Ronald Roden
Date: October 27, 2026 12:32:12 pm

The proposed Arch would be an abhorrent distraction overlooking both our national cemetery and the Lincoln memorial. Both sites are meant to inspire and stir reflection in the American soul. The over-sized Arch would diminish the connection between these two hallowed monuments and would forever change the landscape of our beloved National Capital.

Name: Robert Snyder
Date: October 27, 2026 12:00:18 pm

What an archly monmumental mistake. Holy smokes. It would be funny if it weren't such a joke. This idea never should have gotten past the word "go".

Name: Linda Finkel-Talvadkar
Date: October 27, 2026 11:42:20 am

Dear Commissioners,
I respectfully strongly oppose the constructing this latest edifice for the following reasons:

1.We must protect the historic landscape: Do not allow a new monument to overwhelm the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington House, and the views connecting them.

2. We must respect the fallen: Arlington National Cemetery should remain a place centered on the people buried there, not a backdrop for a massive triumphal structure associated with a contemporary political leader.

3. You must demand accountability: Require transparent cost estimates, public consultation, independent review, and compliance with applicable preservation and CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS before proceeding.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE DUTIES OF YOUR POSITION AND NOT THE WHIMS OR DESIRES OF THE PRESENT PRESIDENT. YOU OWE ALLEGIANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Name: Kim Hoffman
Date: October 27, 2026 11:38:24 am

I strongly oppose the Triumphal Arch. The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument

before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.To date that has not happened.

Name: ANDREW LARSON
Date: October 27, 2026 11:24:12 am

I am a veteran of the US Army and I find Trump's arch to be utterly distasteful.
Trump does not need an arch. The US does not need an arch.
The arch is too tall. It breaks D.C. traditions.
Do not allow this awful arch to be constructed.

Name: jeanette mooney
Date: October 27, 2026 11:08:37 am

This so-called "Victory Arch" is a meaningless proposed construction that commemorates no victory. It is another of Trump's vanity projects that has no regard for what it will destroy. The land is unstable and will not support such a structure. It breaks the visual design of unifying the country after the Civil War. It desecrates the service of those who are buried in Arlington. There is no need for such a monument. The construction of this must be stopped.

Name: Thomas Reyer
Date: October 27, 2026 10:57:05 am

This Arch must NEVER be built. P.E.R.I.O.D..
We do not do dictatorial aggrandizement in this country!
We do not need another Napoleon!
If this monstrosity is being permitted to being built I will support its IMMEDIATE DECONSTRUCTION of all its parts after this president leaves office!
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Name: joseph kollar
Date: October 27, 2026 10:31:16 am

the arch should not be built. It is a disservice to the veterans of Arlington cemetery. It will also cause traffic problems. It will look grossly out of place.

Name: barbara elsas
Date: October 27, 2026 10:09:26 am

Public Comment to the National Capital Planning Commission November 5, 2026 Opposition to the Proposed Arch at Memorial Circle

I strongly oppose the proposed construction of an arch at Memorial Circle.

This is, in my view, a vanity project that serves no meaningful public purpose. It is an unnecessary and unsightly addition to a city whose beauty lies in its historic monuments, open spaces, and carefully considered vistas. Washington, DC, is not a blank canvas for any president to reshape according to his personal taste or ego.

The proposed arch threatens to obstruct the beautiful views from Arlington National Cemetery and diminish the magnificent vista of the Lincoln Memorial. These are not incidental views. They are an integral part of our national heritage, connecting places of sacrifice, remembrance, freedom, and democracy. They belong to the American people, not to any one president.

There is something deeply troubling about the impulse to impose a monumental structure on our nation's capital as a personal legacy project. It brings to mind the playbook of authoritarian leaders who seek to stamp their identities on the capital cities they govern. This is dictator 101—the use of grandiose architecture to project personal power rather than serve the public good.

Our nation's capital should reflect our democratic ideals, not the vanity of an individual. No president has the right to treat this beautiful city as his personal monument or to permanently alter its historic character to glorify himself.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject this proposal and protect the historic landscape, monumental vistas, and democratic values that make Washington, DC, a place of national significance.

Our nation's monuments belong to all of us. They should not be diminished or overshadowed to satisfy the ego of one person.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Elsas
[redacted]

Name: Marcia Wilson
Date: October 27, 2026 9:55:33 am

Congress has not given permission for this project, nor should it. Such an arch would add nothing to the memorials already in place and approved for the Nation's Capitol, and in fact would detract from several revered sites including Arlington National Cemetery and the Iwo Jima Memorial. In addition, it will create traffic delays and light pollution.

There is NO NEED or DESIRE for such an arch on the part of the American people. One person's vanity does not outweigh the majority of the citizens of the country.

Name: Robert Posch
Date: October 27, 2026 9:54:50 am

First and foremost, The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process!

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

I am appalled that trump would spend taxpayer dollars on such an effort that is objected by our Veterans and families that have sacrificed so much for our Country!

The Arch must be stopped now.

Name: Kathleen Emanuelson
Date: October 27, 2026 9:51:37 am

To the members of the National Capital Planning Committee, I am writing to ask you to put a 6 month pause on any further action toward the construction of the proposed "Triumphal Arch" near Arlington National Cemetery. The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would loom over Arlington Cemetery, destroying one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This sacred land is NOT a place to make hurried changes, and the construction of this monument of such huge proportions should not be continued without historical and architectural experts examining the plans.
Thank you for your consideration,
Kathleen Emanuelson

[redacted]
Waymart, PA 18472

Name: Megan Parsons
Date: October 27, 2026 9:47:26 am

I strongly oppose the proposed construction of the “Monumental Arch” in Washington, D.C. This project is unnecessary, aesthetically unappealing, and a colossal waste of resources. Washington is already home to some of the most iconic and historically significant monuments in the world. Its beauty lies in its carefully planned architecture, open spaces, and historic character. Adding an oversized, ostentatious arch would do nothing to enhance our nation's capital. Instead, it would be an eyesore that detracts from the dignity and beauty of the surrounding landscape.

This proposal seems like yet another vanity project driven by Donald Trump's desire to leave his personal mark on Washington, rather than by any genuine public need. At a time when our country faces so many pressing challenges, spending enormous sums on an unnecessary monument is an insult to taxpayers. Our nation's capital belongs to all Americans, not to any one president, and decisions about its appearance should reflect thoughtful stewardship, historical preservation, and the public interest—not personal ambition. I urge those responsible to reject this misguided proposal.

Name: David Filgas
Date: October 27, 2026 9:38:50 am

Please cancel a plans for the Triumphal Arch. What a giant waste of money and a huge eyesore. It will ruin historic views and make traffic even worse around the Capitol

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Name: Tanya Saunders
Date: October 27, 2026 9:11:53 am

Please stop remodeling our icons for one temp employee.
There is not now, nor has there ever been, a need for any type of triumphal arch. Although, please explain, in detail of at least 20 pages, single lined, on how America has triumphed over anything, that might require an arch, to symbolize. We engage in conflicts to steal oil, we have concentration camps on our soil, where human beings are being treated worse than any animal, simply for trying to live somewhere safer. Targeted simply for the color of skin and hair? We are no longer that safe haven. In fact, if there is an arch, perhaps it should replace the statue of liberty, and simply state, "closed because racism won".

Name: Janine Lawton
Date: October 27, 2026 8:54:39 am

I’m a hard no for a monumental arch! I am throughly disgusted by Trump and his administration! To allow him to rape our country of its national beauty is abhorrent.

Name: Sherri Simpson
Date: October 27, 2026 8:53:16 am

The Triumphal Arch plans are even worse than we were originally told, which continues to demonstrate the lack of transparency throughout this process :

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Name: Aileen Carroll
Date: October 27, 2026 8:30:47 am

The Triumphal Arch is a vanity project for a president who has historically low approval ratings. It is a violation of one of America's most symbolic and sacred landscapes in Memorial Circle. It will be a stain on the city and a stain on US history. I vehemently opposed the construction of the arch.

Name: Monica Theroux
Date: October 27, 2026 8:27:47 am

I am writing to express strong opposition to the allocation of federal funds and administrative approvals for the proposed 250-foot "Triumphal Arch" project at Memorial Circle. At a time when families and local communities are managing tight budgets and elevated living costs, directing public resources toward a costly vanity monument is an irresponsible use of taxpayer money.

The primary grounds for opposing this project center on fiscal responsibility, legal oversight, and historical preservation:

Fiscal Misallocation: Multi-million-dollar federal spending commitments—including taxpayer funds routed through federal agency accounts—should be prioritized for pressing national needs. Capital would be far better spent strengthening infrastructure, expanding veteran services, supporting public education, or delivering relief to hardworking households.

Lack of Congressional Authorization: Projects of this scale within the National Capital Region require explicit approval and authorization from Congress. Relying on century-old statutes, such as the 1925 Memorial Bridge legislation, to bypass standard congressional appropriations and oversight sets a concerning precedent.

Disruption of Historic Sites: Official assessments by federal land managers indicate that a 250-foot structure at Memorial Circle would permanently disrupt the historic landscape surrounding Arlington National Cemetery and the Potomac River corridor. Public expenditures should preserve, rather than overshadow, established national landmarks.

I urge you to use your vote and oversight authority to block federal funding allocations for this project, demand full legislative review, and ensure taxpayer dollars remain focused on immediate public priorities.

Respectfully,
Monica Theroux

Name: MaryJo Lusnak
Date: October 27, 2026 8:26:06 am

Please reject the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. It would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where funeral services are held every day

including some of my family. I oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

Name: Brian Shultz
Date: October 27, 2026 7:45:37 am

Nobody in America wants a triumphant Arch in Washington DC or anywhere else in the United States of America!!! This is an Authoritarian move that only happens in a communist country to one with a Dictator!!!

Name: Cynthia Flynn
Date: October 27, 2026 7:21:16 am

The President's plan to build an arch near Arlington National Cemetery is strictly a vanity project that is not only unwanted by the American people, but is another Washington project that is wasteful spending when the country has more pressing problems that this administration refuses to address. Please note:

The Arch plans are now bigger! At 260 feet, instead of 250 feet.

The Arch was originally to be built from granite sourced from North Carolina. The plans now say it could be built from marble sourced from Italy.

The addition of an “eternal flame” would create a “sky glow” that would be illuminated 10 times the brightness of the Washington Monument.

And the Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Please do not allow this monstrosity to be built.

Name: Robert Girard
Date: October 27, 2026 7:06:34 am

Construction of the Arch will ruin the historic view of the area. Changes in historic Washington should be more than one man's concept. It should enhance what is already there and should not totally change the historic look of Washington D.C.

Name: Ilene Kummer
Date: October 27, 2026 6:55:33 am

I absolutely do not think this Arch is needed or necessary. It is way too big for the area that is being planned. It will be very expensive to build. That area of Arlington should be left the way it is. As the saying goes, leave well enough alone.

Name: Karl Oeky
Date: October 27, 2026 6:49:55 am

We don’t need an arch. Especially one that will obstruct views of existing landmarks. All the tax dollars spent on an eyesore reminiscent of war should be spent more responsibly. Thank you. Karl.

Name: Amy Rafalow
Date: October 27, 2026 6:20:28 am

No arch in DC. Just no.
We need to spend taxpayer money on infrastructure to support our communities.
Not another ridiculous monument that will ruin the view on the mall.
No arch. NO ARCH!

Name: Aaron Pospisil
Date: October 27, 2026 5:38:26 am

TO: National Capital Planning Commission
RE: Public Comment in Opposition to the Proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle
Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle.
The visual and historical axis extending from the Lincoln Memorial across the Potomac to Arlington National Cemetery at Memorial Circle is one of our nation's most sacred and symbolic landscapes. Designed following the Civil War to honor veterans and signify national unity, this sacred vista looms over a resting place for more than 400,000 veterans where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Memorial Circle requires solemn reflection, not an intrusive development.
Beyond the disruption to this historic landscape, recent revisions to the proposal demonstrate a troubling shift in scale and a distinct lack of process transparency:
Unnecessary Expansion: The proposed structure height has increased from 250 feet to 260 feet.
Material Changes: Initial plans to use North Carolina granite have been shifted to imported Italian marble.
Light Pollution: The inclusion of an "eternal flame" will create a "sky glow" several times brighter than the Washington Monument, severely disrupting the night vista and quiet solemnity of Arlington National Cemetery.
Severe Traffic Impact: Modeling indicates a 50% increase in morning traffic delays around Memorial Circle—a figure that does not even account for prospective visitors to the Arch itself.
Furthermore, this proposal sidesteps required oversight. Under the Commemorative Works Act, Congress must explicitly authorize this monument before construction can begin. Moving forward without Congressional authorization deprives the public of a transparent, lawful process.
I urge the Commission to uphold its oversight duties, adhere to the Commemorative Works Act, and reject the Triumphal Arch proposal to preserve Memorial Circle.
Sincerely,
Aaron Pospisil

Name: Peter Ismail
Date: October 27, 2026 4:06:56 am

This proposed monstrosity would block dignified historic views, slow traffic, and negatively affect sacred ground.

Countries ruled by kings and dictators build such structures in honor of their purported and usually failing glories. The United States of America is above such gaudy theatrics.

Name: Krissa Dutton-Schandelmaier
Date: October 27, 2026 2:29:55 am

I am going to try to keep emotion out of this comment, but I feel very strongly about this. There is no need for the planned Monument Arch. The obsession with changing everything in / about the White House and stretching out into D.C. is not something we Americans share. One person's obsession should not make it possible to do the things that have already happened and can't be reversed.

Our Nation's Capital does not need these changes...and here's where keeping emotion out becomes more difficult so I'll just stick to a couple relevant facts.

His plan now is to use marble from Italy for is Arch. That alone is unacceptable.

He plans for it to have a light that will overshadow and obliterate the light from the Washington Monument. That is unacceptable.

It is time to stand up and say no. Please have the courage and the strength to stand up to this nonsense and just say no. We do not need or want Monumental Arch in Washington D.C.

Thank you for reading my message.

Name: Channah Harris
Date: October 27, 2026 2:00:59 am

A new monument that takes all of the attention off of the actual memorial purposes of Arlington cemetery is an outrage. In this country, we respect our fallen. Our service-members and veterans are not to be made into some kind of gaudy, nationalist spectacle. This is a place of mourning, and honor. Please do not introduce further tourist attractions. As an artist, I reject the idea of art for art's sake. Let the dead, rest. Let OUR dead, rest. Please. Thank you.

Name: Gloria Burd
Date: October 27, 2026 1:00:54 am

The proposed Arch of Triumph is a really bad idea. It would violate the sacredness of Arlington National Cemetery, where so many of our heroes are buried. The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts. Traffic would become much heavier, too.

Name: Mary Luckenbaugh
Date: October 27, 2026 12:57:33 am

This arch is a travesty! My parents are buried in Arlington National Cemetery. I strongly object to the addition of this planned "tribute to Trump" eyesore that should not have a place among the other sacred monuments in our nation's capital.

Name: Edward Loosli
Date: October 27, 2026 12:42:15 am

The proposed new monumental arch must be REJECTED by the Commission, as it is being promoted by only one person and OPPOSED by millions of Americans.

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

I regret that the Commission has been dragged into one of the current President's vanity project that is all about him - and has noting to do with anything else.

Yours, Edward Loosli
Cathlamet, WA

Name: Thomas Carmichael
Date: October 27, 2026 12:41:36 am

Let’s Show America’s Better Face, Respect our Fallen, and Show Common Sense!

I hope my submission can be considered in a final decision to halt the Triumphal Arch on Memorial Circle.

When initial details of the project were publicized, I walked Arlington Memorial Bridge to view its site, examine published photos, and stay current on various design twists and debate about its future.

Certainly, its size and siting create a threat to airport safety. Ground transportation will be slowed in traffic. The site is also small and quite probably unstable for such a heavy construction. Consideration of loading it with drones, ammunition storage, and snipers for a role in our national security has made civilians and the military incredulous. The suggestion simply did not make common sense.

More broadly, the monument would lack the solemnity appropriate to its site leading to the Arlington Cemetery. I shake my head to think of its intrusive views its observation decks give tourists of ongoing burials of fallen U.S. soldiers in Arlington Cemetery. Veterans and others have erupted with criticism. I’m sure you have felt our citizens’ distain for this among other aspects.

What’s more, the Roman Triumphal Arch stands out among several different arch forms for the praise it gave to Roman Imperial conquest and expansion, as well as the cult-like aggrandizement of the Roman Emperor. They celebrate an archaic political system that violates our democratic ideals.

Roman Art scholar Sir Mortimer Wheeler wrote, “Time and time again their ostentatious inutility has commended these costly ornaments, these towering advertisements, to the Herrenvolk (master race) mind.”

The proposed arch would abandon the intention of the originally planned site axis between Arlington Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. It is embarrassing that our president would choose the Roman triumphal arch design for a memorial to American battle dead also meant to underline the process of our post Civil-War reconciliation.

America leads in many fields, including the Arts, and needs not swagger about with a massive imitation of a dated and derivative European monuments. Sadly, we would simply embrace a worldwide ego competition with Mexico, North Korea, France, and dozens of other more modest countries.

We can do better, more respectfully of our heritage, not just bigger with outrageous glitz!

Citation:
Sir Mortimer Wheeler
Roman Art and Architecture
Praeger World of Art Series
Published by Praeger Publishers
New York, New York 1964
(note: Passage marked with (x.) at their beginning is quote drawn from Wheeler’s book.)

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 76

October 28, 2026

Name: Jay Novin
Date: October 28, 2026 10:37:11 pm

Authoritarian leader trump wants to be "remembered " so he wants to build this arch.
The American Citizens do NOT want it.

I DO NOT WANT THIS ARCH...NO WAY NO HOW.
Please vote DOWN this "ARC DE TRUMP"!!!

Name: Julie Patrick
Date: October 28, 2026 9:04:40 pm

I oppose the building of the new monumental arch. It interferes on the solemnity of Arlington National Cemetery, destroys the meaningful view. The pictures of its plan look out of place--it looks overly ornate compared to the neoclassical historical buildings in D.C. Our nation's capitol should not look like some kind of Las Vegas attraction!

Also, I am concerned about the cost, considering our growing national debt. And has Congress approved this? I thought that was required, and I'm pretty sure they have not.

Please take into consideration the concerns of our veterans, and also of the pilots who have worries about its impact on the nearby airport.

Is it really an inspiring structure to go see when we've been told there will be snipers viewing us from up above?

Please do not approve this ill-advised project in this location.

Name: Beatrice Camp
Date: October 28, 2026 9:03:57 pm

The proposed arch is unwanted, unnecessary, and unappealing. It would be a monstrous obstacle, both physically and visually, between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. I regularly bike past Memorial Circle on my way into DC from my home in Arlington and can easily foresee the kind of traffic problems such an arch would cause. I am very much opposed to this project.

Name: Dominique Rychlik
Date: October 28, 2026 8:22:33 pm

The Trump arch is completely out of scale and style of the monuments in DC. In addition these kinds of monuments are not made to living people and go through a long process of approval, planning and appropriation. This arch is revoltingly out of place and inappropriate for such a controversial president who is actually destroying our democracy while the other monuments are to our founding fathers who built our democracy. I urge you to reject this arch.

Name: Carolyn McDonald
Date: October 28, 2026 8:08:31 pm

This American and daughter of a retired Army Colonel is ADAMANTLY AGAINST the obnoxious ARCH!
No no no no no Arch!
What a disgrace to the dead!

Name: Patricia Holloway
Date: October 28, 2026 7:53:21 pm

No arch. Not now. Not ever. It does not speak to what the United States is, or ever should be.

Name: Maryanne Berry
Date: October 28, 2026 6:58:19 pm

To the Commission: it is truly remarkable how you are ignoring the overwhelming objections to this hollow and shabby monument project to appease one individual. It is a horrible waste of space and money like the ruination of the Kennedy Center, the Reflecting Pool renovation debacle and the ridiculous ballroom/bunker. What of the plans to house drones and other armaments on top of the arch along with its garish statuary? Has any of this been seriously considered by your “planning commission”? What more can be said - no Arch.

Name: Moya Mosher
Date: October 28, 2026 6:25:26 pm

Please stop plans for the construction of the new Monumental Arch in Washington D.C.

The design would detract from the solemn Arlington National Cemetery and is not in harmony with adjacent existing structures.

The Arch would increase morning traffic delays by 50% in and around Memorial Circle. These numbers do not include visitors to the Arch during the morning rush, which suggests traffic delays would be even greater!

Just as troubling, Congress has been absent from this conversation. The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Robyn Reals
Date: October 28, 2026 6:24:34 pm

Terrible, embarrassing and garish idea. Please, do not permit!

Name: Michelle Haas
Date: October 28, 2026 6:16:44 pm

The arch project needs to be rejected. Historically, the design of the National Mall has been to ensure that no one independent monument or memorial worked against the others, but rather connected them in reflection of the trials and triumphs America has faced. Independently, each memorial, cemetery, and monument are designed to allow visitors to reflect upon the significance that each represents within the collective history of America.

The arch is in direct opposition to this idea. It does nothing to honor, remember, or reflect on where we’ve been and who we are as a nation. The arch is no more than a phallic representation of the greedy and narrow mind of one man’s ego.

The arch would be a desecration to the intention of the National Mall. Allowing it to move forward is unlawful without Congressional authorization. It gives additional precedence that breaking other laws doesn't matter, such as the National Historic Preservation and Environmental Protection Acts. To give a green light to this project starts a domino effect that threatens the preservation of any other public lands, historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. No one is above the law, not even the President of the United States.

The arch is shortsighted. It's expensive. It's a vanity project. The details have not been transparent. I do not agree with using my tax dollars for this.

I love visiting DC and the National Mall. I love bringing visitors there. I'm proud of this country when I get to experience the monuments, memorials, Smithsonian museums, the Capital Building, etc. I get excited sharing the history these places represent with visitors I bring. If this arch is allowed to move forward, I will not come back to DC and all that it offers. The National Mall will not make me feel proud and patriotic. It will become a symbol of shame to turning point in our history when America truly turned its back on the ideals this nation was founded upon.

Do National Capital Planning Commission members want their names associated with allowing this abomination to move forward? You shame our country if you do.

Name: Amanda Craggan
Date: October 28, 2026 6:13:10 pm

No thank you. I travelled to Washington DC in April 2026 and the fencing and other modifications that have already been started have torn up the national mall area. It was so disappointing. Nothing is getting finished and so much money is being wasted.

Name: Julie Farkas
Date: October 28, 2026 5:48:16 pm

I strongly oppose the new monumental arch proposed for Memorial Circle on Columbia Island in Ladybird Johnson Park. I stand with the veterans who stand against this arch.

Name: Shawn Garcia
Date: October 28, 2026 5:44:03 pm

Re: Please oppose funding and construction of the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle

I am writing to urge you to oppose any federal funding for the proposed 250-foot Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle, and to insist that Congress exercise its constitutional authority over this project.

Families in our communities are struggling with the cost of groceries, gas, electricity, and water. In these difficult times, spending taxpayer money on a monument is the wrong priority. The administration has said the arch would be privately funded. Yet the National Endowment for the Humanities spending plan includes $2 million for the arch and $13 million in matching grants reserved for it, and no total cost has been disclosed. Taxpayers deserve a full accounting before another dollar is committed.

There is also a question of process. The Commemorative Works Act sets a multi-step approval process for monuments on federal land, and Congress has not authorized this one. The Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial all went through that process. Veterans, historians, and now Arlington County itself have sued to stop this project. The County's suit says construction is being rushed without the review of the law requires. Congress should not allow its role to be bypassed.

Finally, the site matters. Memorial Circle sits on the sightline between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House, a view designed to symbolize national unity. A structure more than twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial would permanently alter that landscape beside our nation's most hallowed ground.

I respectfully ask that you:
*Oppose any appropriation or grant funding for the arch.
*Require a full, public accounting of its cost and funding sources.
*Insist that no construction proceed without congressional authorization under the Commemorative Works Act.

Please focus on bringing down the costs families face every day.

Name: Lynn Glasscock
Date: October 28, 2026 5:31:06 pm

No Arch. Not here. Not ever.

Name: Margaret Buel
Date: October 28, 2026 5:26:31 pm

10/28/26
National Capital Planning Commission
Re: New Arch

Without express authority of Congress, the proposed Arch Project is illegal. I'm distressed at the scale and location at the Memorial circle causing safety issues both for vehicle and air traffic. The FCC should conduct a thorough aeronautical review. Section 106 review process is required under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Other legal challenges should be allowed to play out in the courts. There is NO good reason to push this project into existence without examining the impacts on public safety, traffic and historical landmarks.

The construction of this behemoth arch would shatter the peaceful resting place of our veterans to include my family members. Construction would drag on for 20 hours a day for several years. This is unconscionable and highly disruptive especially for the numerous daily military funerals!

Please follow the Commemorative Works Act in seeking authorization from Congress. From polling, it appears to have evoked overwhelmingly negative feedback from the public and from preservationist groups and for excellent reasons.

Margaret Buel
[redacted]
Clifton, VA 20124

Name: linda Genovese
Date: October 28, 2026 5:11:08 pm

I am deeply concerned about the proposed arch that Donald Trump wants to construct in our nation's capital. Growing up in Maryland, I cherish the memories of visiting Washington, D.C., and exploring its remarkable museums and monuments.

One of the most unforgettable experiences was crossing the Arlington Memorial Bridge and gazing at Arlington Cemetery, the final resting place of over 400,000 veterans and their families who sacrificed for our country. This arch will not only obscure the Lincoln Memorial but will also fail to add any historical significance to our capital or nation. I am firmly opposed to its construction.
Thank you for your attention,

Name: Mary Wyckoff
Date: October 28, 2026 4:54:38 pm

October 28, 2026

RE: Arch at Memorial Circle -Public Comment

To the National Capital Planning Commission,

I write to express my opposition to the arch President Trump proposes to build in Memorial Circle. Such a structure in the middle of the approach to Arlington National Cemetery will diminish the grandeur and solemnity of this sacred resting place for America's veterans. Arlington's somber and contemplative character would be negatively impacted by such a structure as would the long view and historical connection across the bridge from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington, damaging the experience of veterans, grieving families, and other Americans as they visit the cemetery.

Public land in Washington, DC belongs to the American people, and historic spaces belong to the nation. This landscape deserves dignity, restraint, and reverence, but the proposed arch cheapens the setting, overwhelms the existing landscape, and turns a solemn public place into a political trophy. It does not honorably reflect how we Americans show respect to those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice defending democracy and our shared freedoms. It also would insert a tall structure directly in the flight path to Reagan National Airport, which only last year saw a tragic mid-air collision with all lives lost that resulted from the already congested air space. In addition, the administration keeps changing the purpose and plans for the Arch structure, much of which has not been the subject of Planning Commission review or made available to the public.

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject this project and protect the integrity of Memorial Avenue, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington National Cemetery, and the surrounding monumental core.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Wyckoff
[redacted]
Washington, DC 20009
[redacted]

Name: L. Brunner
Date: October 28, 2026 4:40:54 pm

This arch is a terrible idea that no one with any taste, integrity, or common sense asked for or wants. It'll be terrible for traffic and views, not to mention actively dangerous for incoming flights at National Airport. Stop allowing this wannabe dictator to deface and destroy our nation's capital!

Name: Susan Wexler
Date: October 28, 2026 4:37:20 pm

The New Monumental Arch which the Trump administration hopes to erect creates danger in our already complicated airspace close to Regan National airport and is a direct affront to the families whose loved ones are buried in Arlington National cemetery.

Once again this vanity project for one man presents many serious negative impacts on the American people. All after the fact suggestions that this arch will provide a military defense capability is disingenuous at best.

Please stop the desecration of our commons. Do not proceed with this project. Is this the legacy your commission seeks? It will be your shame to bear.

Sincerely ,

Susan Wexler

Name: Donna Judkins
Date: October 28, 2026 4:01:48 pm

The current president seems to be consumed with rebuilding THE PEOPLE's capital in his image. We don't need to start another vanity project when so many of our wonderful parks and monuments are in need of upkeep. We don't need any more gold anywhere in DC, anywhere!

Name: Deborah Holobaugh
Date: October 28, 2026 3:40:07 pm

No arch. Not here. NEVER!!

we do not need another vanity project and using taxpayers dollars when people are struggling due to this economy caused by this president.

Revere those who have died in great service for this country. Not a vanity project.

Name: Frank Vogtner
Date: October 28, 2026 3:33:48 pm

I strongly oppose Trump's triumphal arch.

Name: Meredith Needham
Date: October 28, 2026 3:31:13 pm

NO ARCH. Stop this egregious waste of money and a blight on the District. NO ARCH EVER. STOP IT NOW!!

Name: Megan Wiginton
Date: October 28, 2026 2:59:32 pm

The proposed Monumental Arch has not, in my view, adequately satisfied the intent of the required review process. The project appears to have advanced despite substantial public opposition, thousands of submitted comments, and significant concerns raised by consulting parties. As a result, it is difficult to conclude that the review process has fully accounted for stakeholder input or demonstrated meaningful consideration of alternatives.

After reviewing the Monumental Arch Assessment of Effects Report (Revised August 2026), I am unconvinced the project complies with Section 106, particularly given its location within one of the most historically significant and culturally sensitive landscapes in the United States. The project area encompasses a concentration of nationally significant historic properties who's interconnected viewsheds, spatial relationships, and symbolic associations are main drivers in their historic fabric.

The AOE acknowledges substantial impacts but fails to address them adequately stating that:

“The undertaking would alter the characteristics that qualify identified historic properties for listing in the NRHP.”

It further concludes that:

“The most substantial adverse effects are concentrated in the Memorial Circle, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Avenue, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington House, and Lincoln Memorial corridor. Within this area, the undertaking would alter the character, setting, and design continuity of a nationally significant commemorative landscape whose significance is defined by axial relationships, formal circulation patterns, designed views, and symbolic connections between Washington, D.C. and Arlington.”

Additionally, the report notes:

“Additional adverse effects were determined for historic properties where the undertaking would be visible within significant viewsheds or would alter setting, context, or nighttime visual character.”

These findings demonstrate that the undertaking would have significant adverse effects on numerous historic properties and cultural landscapes and that the NPS and governing parties are also fully aware of when this AOE was conducted.

The discussion of avoidance and minimization measures similarly raises concerns. The report states that smaller alternative designs were rejected because they “fully obstructed” views however not obstructing the views would be a more appropriate route than obstruction or view through another structure. The report also concludes that alternative locations outside Memorial Circle would not satisfy the undertaking’s purpose and that adverse effects could not be fully avoided while meeting the project’s location-dependent objectives.

These excuses suggest that the project purpose was narrowly defined around a predetermined outcome rather than used as a framework for evaluating a broad range of reasonable alternatives. Dismissing alternative designs because they do not fulfill the preferred vision of a 250-foot monument does not demonstrate alternatives were thoroughly considered. Moreover, there is no inherent relationship between the significance of a commemorative monument and its height. A monument does not need to be 250 feet tall to effectively commemorate the nation’s 250th anniversary. The report does not provide sufficient justification for why this specific height is necessary, particularly when it results in widespread adverse effects to surrounding historic landscapes and resources.

The visual simulations provided in Appendix H further illustrate the extent of these impacts. From Arlington House, the proposed Arch intrudes upon views toward the Lincoln Memorial. Along Arlington Memorial Bridge, the scale of the Arch interrupts the intended visual experience and designed vista of the corridor. Similar impacts are evident from numerous other locations throughout the APE, including resources situated at or near the boundaries. The cumulative effect is a substantial alteration of historic viewsheds, designed landscapes, and the visual hierarchy of existing commemorative features.

The project's nighttime illumination also warrants concern. The introduction of a large, illuminated monument would alter the nighttime character of the commemorative landscape and draw attention away from existing memorials and historic resources. This change would further diminish the integrity of setting and feeling that contribute to the significance of the affected historic properties.

Finally, the report does not adequately explain the basis for establishing the APE as a 3.5-mile radius, nor does it clearly document how that determination was reached. Given the monument’s extraordinary scale and regional visibility, additional justification for the APE boundaries is warranted. Furthermore, the report appears to rely heavily on APE's set on rehabilitation projects which focus mainly on maintenance-related activities, temporary impacts, and are fundamentally different from the construction of a permanent 250-foot monument with long-term effects on viewsheds, setting, and landscape character. Consequently, these examples offer limited support for evaluating a project of this magnitude and permanence.

For these reasons, I do not believe the Assessment of Effects sufficiently demonstrates that adverse effects have been adequately avoided, minimized, or mitigated, nor does it convincingly justify the necessity of a monument of this scale and location within one of the nation's most historically significant resources and landscapes.

Name: Valerie Green
Date: October 28, 2026 2:49:44 pm

American court systems, law firms and police must protect further destruction made by Donald Trump, and make certain that he is not allowed or able to even try to build his arch in Washington DC, or anywhere in the United States for that matter. rump has illegally demolished Our People's House West Wing. In one weekend he demolished American art, artifacts - American history in order to build himself an insanely expensive ballroom for himself and his fellow billionaire oligarchs. We cannot forget his destruction of our country and must make certain that he is not allowed to destroy this unique area that provides a respectful view of the veterans memorial. We must also make it clear that rump is not allowed to bulldoze our national public lands and destroy our forests, oceans, and further endanger many endangered animals and plants in these areas. Please let our congress people and senators know that Americans do Not support trump's thoughtless destruction of the United States of America.

Thank you,
Valerie

Name: Derek Schuld
Date: October 28, 2026 2:38:38 pm

This project is a disgraceful abomination that needs to be shelved immediately. Taxpayer funds should be wasted on such vainglorious nonsense. No sane person needs or wants this ridiculous crap, which will only mar our nation's capital and National Cemetery.

Name: Sarah Jesup
Date: October 28, 2026 2:23:01 pm

I urge you to stop the unlawful construction of the Triumphal Arch on the doorstep of Arlington National Cemetery, where hundreds of thousands of military service members and their families are buried. The proposed structure is inappropriate both in scope and theme at the proposed location.

Name: Ilana Goll
Date: October 28, 2026 2:03:45 pm

Please do not approve plans to build the Monumental Arch in Washington DC.
As you are well aware, the National Park System's deferred maintenance needs are already estimated to cost $24 billion as of end of 2025, according to the NPS itself. This includes critical repairs to visitor and operational facilities. Even with funding from the GAOA, these needs will continue to worsen if the federal government siphons funding to brand new projects in DC such as this arch. And an arch this size would need a large funding investment for routine maintenance to keep it in good condition.
Additionally, this arch may be to mark the 250th anniversary of declaring independence, but it is still inappropriate to build a structure that will so completely and massively overshadow (literally in some cases) memorials and monuments to America's war heroes and past civil rights champions. The NPS itself acknowledged there would be adverse effects to 37 different historic properties as a result of the construction of the arch on Memorial Circle. I'm sure there are other, more respectful ways to mark the occasion of the 250th without dishonoring the dead.
In conclusion, when considering your vote, please consider the funding that would be wasted on this vanity project while other National Parks lose funding, and please consider the capital's existing, carefully planned tributes to our nation's history and how this arch would throw that out of balance.
I hope you will agree this project is unnecessary, fiscally irresponsible, and frankly disrespectful.

Name: Judith Shannon
Date: October 28, 2026 1:57:58 pm

I ask that the Arch be denied for building.
Here are my reasons:
It will destroy the view of the Arlington National Cemetery.
It could be a hazard for planes to the Reagan Airport.
The cost is something our country can’t afford at this time with our 41T debt.
Many military retirees have asked that it not conflict with the cemetery.
It will affect the overall view of the city.

It absolutely should not be used as an arsenal for weapons or drones as is the excuse of the president to build it.
It absolutely is not something the majority of the American people want built in DC at this time.
Thank you

Name: Ritamarie Weigand
Date: October 28, 2026 1:51:17 pm

I completely disagree with Trump’s proposal to build himself an arch anywhere! He doesn’t deserve it. He has the absolute lowest approval rating of any president ever! He is incredibly disliked, no one wants it and it will be torn down as soon as he is out of office!
It will be a total waste of taxpayer money all for the incredibly selfish, personal aggrandizement of the most incompetent, self centered person to hold that office. Stop the Trump Arch NOW!

Name: Patricia Ralston
Date: October 28, 2026 1:41:49 pm

I totally oppose the plans arch in Washington D.C.!

Name: Kathleen Walsh
Date: October 28, 2026 1:40:36 pm

Another project for his vanity is nauseating. The great lawn the rose garden and more have been destroyed all to make him feel bigger than he could ever dream of being.

Name: Jan Christopherson
Date: October 28, 2026 1:29:07 pm

I'm really tired of this president building monuments to himself while he's still alive. These treasures are suppose to be reserved for the fallen who have sincerely contributed to our nations uplifting, support of the people & have given of themselves to others. This president just wants to mark his territory for generations to come. Let's apply a little common sense to these monuments & use the actual protocol to erect them & not let the political climate take control. Besides, who if anyone, will visit them? We have made enemies of all our allies & anyone else in the world that might be interested in our democracy. Let's not do this!! Thank you, Jan Christopherson

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Name: Laura Minne
Date: October 28, 2026 1:12:17 pm

No arch! Respect our veterans!

Name: Elizabeth Wakefield
Date: October 28, 2026 1:02:17 pm

The arch must follow the statutory requirements.

Congressional authorization first requires the participation of multiple stakeholders. Congress must first identify the commemorative subject, then it must consult with the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission regarding the project. See 40 U.S.C. § 8903(a)(1), (d). Congress must then pass legislation authorizing the work

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Name: Jean Paulsel
Date: October 28, 2026 12:41:53 pm

As the daughter niece, mother, aunt, wife, and sister-in-law of combat veterans, I find it absurd that this is even being discussed. This is sacred ground, meant to honor our military. The idea that a self-aggrandizing, ego-motivated structure could be imposed here is unconscionable. The idea is horrific and should immediately be "shot down" as opposed to having snipers in the middle of this honored ground to "shoot down" drones.

Do the right thing and continue to honor our veterans.

Name: cheryl zeiger
Date: October 28, 2026 12:35:41 pm

The arch is totally out of proportion for the area and is disrespectful to the families visiting and attending burials in Arlington National Cemetery. An arch honoring an unpopular living president is not appropriate. NO TO THE ARCH! Respect the Cemetery and the monuments of our nation.

Name: William Schmitt
Date: October 28, 2026 12:33:13 pm

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed memorial arch. I believe this project raises serious concerns about the appropriate use of our nation’s capital, the preservation of its historic character, and the protection of the public spaces that belong to all Americans.

Washington, D.C., is a city of national monuments, memorials, and historic landmarks that collectively represent our country’s history, democratic values, and shared heritage. Adding a monumental arch risks disrupting the existing architectural balance and the carefully considered design of the capital.

I am concerned that this proposal would introduce an unnecessary structure into an already significant civic landscape. Our national spaces should be preserved for public enjoyment, reflection, and civic engagement rather than altered by projects that may detract from the historic character of the city.

I respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission to carefully consider the long-term effects of this proposal and to reject the memorial arch. Protecting the integrity, accessibility, and historic character of Washington, D.C., should take priority.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your responsibility to protect our nation's capital for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

William Schmitt

Name: Anne-Marie Napoli
Date: October 28, 2026 12:26:40 pm

Never should this be built.

It's horrible that I can barely make ends meet with what this administration has done to the economy for non-billionairs. And now it's a slap in the face that my tax dollars will go to fund this discuting and unneccesary monument.

As a democracy this issue should be up to a vote by congress or the american people.

Name: Dena Mercer
Date: October 28, 2026 12:23:54 pm

No arch! Not now. Not ever.
People are in need of clean air, water and soil. People need affordable health care, food, and fuel. The arch project is an insult to the American people.
Please do not allow this monstrosity to be built.

Name: Kelly Noto
Date: October 28, 2026 11:57:19 am

Commission Members,

We have no need for a replica of the Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile in Washington, DC. Our triumphal monument is the view of Arlington National Cemetery. The proposed monumental arch would block that view.

We have individual monuments to the various wars throughout the Capital (e.g. World War I and II, Vietnam, Korea). If we need to build monuments to other wars we should ensure that the design of the monument reflects the war itself.

The proposed monumental arch adversely impacts commercial air routes into Regan National Airport. In heavily congested airways we should not put yet something else that poses a potential danger. The congestion itself poses sufficient danger, and reflect on the Army helicopter that hit an American Airlines plan on approach.

I stand against the proposed Monumental Arch.

Regards,
Kelly Noto, MBA

Citizen
Voter

Name: Linda Abbott-Roe
Date: October 28, 2026 11:54:29 am

No arch!
1. The placement is wrong. It will overshadow Arlington Cemetery.
2. The scale is too large for the design of the city.
3. The U.S. cannot afford the cost.
4. This president does not deserve a monument to himself.
5. The concept that it will be some form of defensive position is laughable. Snipers?! Really? Who do they plan to shoot?

Name: Joanne Edwards
Date: October 28, 2026 11:52:29 am

No arch. Not now. Not ever.

This project is a vanity project for one man, but Arlington represents the sacrifice and service of thousands of patriots.

Please stop the arch.

Name: Barbara Young
Date: October 28, 2026 11:34:21 am

Arlington is for veterans.This arch is not fir a veteran.If you want to place something there put the veteran wall or Jake one for all who have died from agent orange.This is inappropriate for Arlington.

Name: Allison Foote
Date: October 28, 2026 11:31:00 am

I'm against the construction of this arch. It is unlawful to build this arch.

Name: Earl Pray
Date: October 28, 2026 11:19:40 am

This arch violates the sanctity of Arlington Cemetery. Because the president wants it is simply not enough of an argument to violate a space that honors our nations fallen. It gets worse when proposals are made to allow tourists to climb to the top of the Arch and see the families of our fallen soldiers in their grief.

Name: Corinne Rigoni
Date: October 28, 2026 10:55:57 am

I absolutely oppose the construction of this eyesore. This project was not approved by Congress nor funded by it. It violates numerous federal laws as well.

Name: Heywood Williams-Tracy
Date: October 28, 2026 10:17:49 am

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to urge you to reject the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle.

The view from the Lincoln Memorial across Arlington Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery is one of the most sacred landscapes in America. It was designed after the Civil War to honor our veterans and to symbolize the reunion of a divided nation. That meaning is personal for me. My great-grandparents are buried at Arlington. He was a combat veteran and she was a combat nurse, and they met in active service during World War II. When I visit them, the approach from the Lincoln Memorial is part of how I honor them. A 260-foot arch placed at the exact point where visitors pass from the memorial to the cemetery would permanently break that connection.

The arch would also loom over a working cemetery where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Families burying their loved ones deserve dignity and quiet, not a towering tourist attraction with an observation deck and an “eternal flame” whose sky glow would be several times brighter than the Washington Monument.

I am deeply troubled by how the plans keep changing with little transparency:

The arch has grown from 250 feet to 260 feet.
The original plan called for granite from North Carolina, and the plans now say it could be built from Italian marble.
The added “eternal flame” would create light pollution far exceeding the Washington Monument.
The arch would increase morning traffic delays around Memorial Circle by 50 percent, and that estimate does not even count visitors to the arch during rush hour.

Local officials share these concerns. Arlington County staff flagged significant problems with the review process and the project’s effects on public safety, transportation, and historic resources, including pedestrian safety, parking, and traffic circulation with no plan to study or address them. They also noted that the arch’s height would exceed limits set for safe flights into and out of Reagan National Airport, and urged the federal government to honor the 1902 McMillan Plan. The public has spoken just as clearly: an analysis of 1,696 public comments found that 99 percent opposed the project.

Statement on Proposed Triumphal Arch Planned for Memorial Circle

I share the desire to mark our nation’s 250th anniversary, and I believe it deserves a fitting tribute. But honoring America’s founding does not require damaging the landscape that honors those who have defended it. A celebration of 250 years of self-government should follow the rules that self-government created, with Congress authorizing the work and the public given a real voice. A monument rushed through review, without congressional approval and over the overwhelming objection of the people who commented on it, would commemorate the anniversary in a way that undercuts the very principles it claims to celebrate. If the nation wants a permanent tribute to its 250th year, there are sites in the capital where one could stand without looming over the graves of our veterans.

The arch would also violate the Height of Buildings Act of 1910, which generally restricts the height of structures at 130 feet. At 260 feet, the arch would be roughly double that limit. Memorial Circle sits on Columbia Island, which is within the District of Columbia, so the law applies. This Commission’s own staff recognized as much: the staff report said the commission has long applied the law in its approval process, and staff recommended a series of changes so the arch would comply. The suggestion that the law is not binding on the federal government would reverse more than a century of practice, and the Commission should not abandon its long-standing interpretation to accommodate a single project. The height limit is the reason Washington’s skyline is defined by its monuments and open sky, and it is exactly the kind of protection Memorial Circle needs.

Finally, the process itself is not lawful as it stands. The Commemorative Works Act requires Congress to authorize a monument like this before construction begins, yet Congress has been absent from this conversation. The project also did not go through the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, with the Department of the Interior instead claiming the arch is not a memorial at all. A permanent structure of this scale and symbolism at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery is plainly a commemorative work, and it should not be allowed to sidestep the law.

Memorial Circle has been protected for more than a century. Please keep it that way. I respectfully ask the Commission to reject this project, or at minimum to halt review until Congress has acted and the public has received full, accurate plans.

Respectfully,
Heywood Williams-Tracy

Name: Sherri Olson
Date: October 28, 2026 10:17:37 am

This monument will be an absolute horror! Is is being built for the ego of one man only, Donald J Trump, the worst President our great country has ever had.
The committee to approve this monstrosity has been handpicked by him.
I STRONGLY OBJECT to using any tax-payer or donated dollars to build this terrible Trump monument.
DO NOT APPROVE THIS MONUMENT.

Name: Joseph Hardy
Date: October 28, 2026 9:59:50 am

I am writing to make my feelings known concerning the proposed Monumental Arch. I am greatly concerned over the impact it will have looking into Arlington National Cemetery.

I am a veteran of the war in Vietnam and a number of my dear friends, lost in that war, are buried there. To me and to their families, Arlington is sacred ground and its beauty and peace should not be disturbed in any way.

My father was a veteran of WWII, having served in the Pacific with the US Marine Corps. A number of his friends are also buried there. Were he alive today, I'm sure he would hold the same feelings regarding this project.

Finally, members of my wife's family are buried there. Both she and I urge you to reject this proposal.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Name: Patricia Pletzrr
Date: October 28, 2026 9:59:00 am

No disgusting arch. A slap in the face to our veterans and families.

Name: Steve Hess
Date: October 28, 2026 9:43:59 am

Another frivolous illegal monument by the Trump administration which will surely no doubt go down as the worst in the history of the US. I hope the Republican party gets railroaded as they have sold out everything they stood for. This is another example. Everything Trump has done will be overturned.

Name: Jessica Deal
Date: October 28, 2026 9:42:38 am

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 250-foot Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. As a citizen, I urge the Commission to deny final approval for this project at the upcoming November 5, 2026 meeting.

This monument represents an inappropriate and disruptive addition to the National Capital's monumental core. The proposed 250-foot height is completely out of scale with the historic landscape, and recent spatial analyses confirm that the structure will cast severe physical shadows directly over Arlington National Cemetery, including thousands of sacred military burial sites and landmark graves. Blanketing these hallowed grounds in darkness is highly disrespectful to the more than 400,000 veterans interred there and to the grieving families who visit.

Arlington National Cemetery must remain a place of quiet reverence and solemnity. Erecting a massive, gold-accented tourist attraction at its immediate threshold—complete with heavy floodlighting and an observation deck overlooking active burials—fundamentally desecrates that sanctity. Furthermore, the arch permanently destroys the purposefully planned, uninterrupted historic vistas between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House.

Washington, D.C.’s civic architecture is designed to honor enduring national principles, not serve as a vehicle for personal vanity or grand, ego-driven presidential projects. This proposed structure is a fiscally irresponsible and legally flawed attempt to fast-track a monument without the standard, deliberative public oversight and explicit congressional authorization required by the Commemorative Works Act.

For the sake of our nation's history, our skyline, and the dignity owed to our fallen service members, I request that the Commission reject this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. J. Deal

Name: Linda Pennock
Date: October 28, 2026 9:39:05 am

Please don’t let this happen! The veterans and their families need the Arlington National Cemetery not to be overlooked! This is just another example of him wanting to destroy our nation with his name on everything! Look what is going on with the Kennedy Center! Don’t let this happen!

Name: Lisa Orange
Date: October 28, 2026 9:33:49 am

This proposed Arch would encroach on more than 40 historic properties in the memorial landscape around Arlington National Cemetery.

Preservation laws represent a national consensus that places holding our shared history as Americans must be protected through careful planning, genuine public participation, and responsible stewardship. The proposed project lacks all of these attributes.

The Arch project should be halted before irreparable damage is done to a national historic site.

Name: Karen Anderson
Date: October 28, 2026 9:33:15 am

NO ARCH!

Name: Nancy Van Deusen
Date: October 28, 2026 9:26:52 am

The proposed arch is not in the public interest. It would degrade the Arlington National Cemetary All proposed changes and additions to public property should be thoroughly reviewed and assessed as to how they will fit in or enhance the area. I understand that this proposed arch will affect air traffic at nearby airport, will obscure the view of National monuments and otherwise have negative impact on Washington DC. Vote NO.

Name: Julia Walters
Date: October 28, 2026 9:26:02 am

We don’t need an arch. Specifically one that interferes with Arlington National Cemetery. My grandfather, father, brother and uncle all served. Unfortunately they are all deceased so I feel compelled to let you know that this arch should not be built.

Name: Janet Cole
Date: October 28, 2026 9:25:37 am

This proposal is a disservice to all those buried at the Arlington National Cemetary. They sacrificed all to serve our nation. Out of respect and to honor them and their living family members the location should of this proposal needs to be changed.

Those who gave all for this nation is of greater importance than a structure which will dishonor them. It provides a viewing platform to the public overlooking our fallen heroes and would be the ultimate means of disrespect to them and their surviving family members.

Name: Katie McCreary
Date: October 28, 2026 9:22:24 am

There is no legitimate reason for a Monumental Arch to be built at this time.

There are plenty of reasons NOT to build an unregulated, unresearched, unwanted arch that will disrupt traffic, have a total disregard for our own National Cemetary, and firmly place the U.S. in line with the Third Reich.

But it comes down to the fact that presidents don't build monuments to themselves. At least not respectable Presidents of the United States of America. Monuments are built in honor of the work that has been done, the memory of a time when a

president was working toward the good of our country.

Dictators build monuments to themselves (because they know, deep down, that no one else will when they're gone). Building a monument now, while still in "power," shows that President Trump knows no one will build anything in his memory in the future. It's admitting defeat. It's admitting that he's not worth honoring. It's a pretty weak move on his part to admit all of that so largely and publicly. And an administration that pushes it through and allows it to happen to support his weak agenda? Well, what does that say about anyone approving this, honestly?

Keep the plans. If, in the future, a monument is to be built to former President Trump, then we will know this is what he wanted in his honor. Use them then. Not now.

Now is not the time.

Name: Linda johnson
Date: October 28, 2026 9:17:57 am

No Arch. The Arch is for the benefit of one person. Washington, D.C. is shared by the people of the world and all who come in the future.

Name: Dawn Knight
Date: October 28, 2026 9:13:19 am

Public lands belong to the people. Donald Trump must not be permitted to use them for his personal pleasure, to enrich himself, or for vanity projects. The arch is a vanity project and represents the opposite of everything we stand for as a nation. This must not be permitted.

Name: June Halpin
Date: October 28, 2026 9:13:00 am

I support the Public Citizen’s motion for the district court to HALT the unlawful construction of the Triumphal Arch. The project to build a memorial to this living president is against the law of the United States. The federal law that prohibits building a commemorative work or memorial for a living person in Washington, D.C. is the Commemorative Works Act (CWA) of 1986 (codified at 40 U.S.C. §§ 8901–8909). The law explicitly dictates that the subject of any commemorative work (monument or memorial) on federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs must be of long-term historic importance and CANNOT BE FOR ANY LIVING PERSON. Under the statute and local planning guidelines a person must generally be deceased for at least 10 years before a commemorative work can be considered, preventing tributes to political figures currently in office or still alive.
The fact that it is against the primary statutes of the CWA should be enough for this despicable atrocity to be built. But my objection to its building must include my personal objection, too. My father, TSgt. James E. Halpin, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. My father made serving in the US Air Force his career & after that he worked civil servant jobs. The fact that the president, who this gaudy monstrosity arch will be built for, has called our service men multiple degrading adjectives! It will be an absolute insult to all the fallen soldiers in that cemetery as well as their families & friends who visit their deceased loved one.
I am abhorrently against the building of the Triumphal Arch & I fervently beg you to cease & desist the building of the Triumphal Arch.

Thank You for your time,
June Halpin
[redacted]
Asheville, NC 28803

Name: Marjolaine Renfro
Date: October 28, 2026 9:08:04 am

I strongly oppose the building of the New Monumental Arch - anywhere! It is unlawful. It is a monument to a man who encourages hatred, bigotry, racism. We are not a country whose values were founded on these ideas. The accomplishments of Jefferson and Lincoln were erected to honor men who governed our country by the Constitution of the United States. This man, who wants the gilded arch, does not.

Do not allow this arch to be built!

Name: Paula Law
Date: October 28, 2026 9:01:42 am

NO ARCH! What a terrible idea to over shadow the Arlington National Cemetery. Only a narcist would want such a thing. DO NOT use MY tax money to fund a ridiculous arch for Donald Trump. We as a nation are better than this. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Name: Pam Koger-Jesup
Date: October 28, 2026 8:47:24 am

I urge you to stop unlawful construction of the Triumphal Arch on the doorstep of Arlington National Cemetery, where hundreds of thousands of military service members and their families are buried. The proposed arch is totally inappropriate in both scale and theme at the proposed location.

Name: Larry Lambertz
Date: October 28, 2026 8:43:59 am

This project must be delayed until reviewed and funded by Congress. A construction of this cost and scale, and devised on the whim of one man, should not be built. A large majority of Americans oppose expensive ego monuments. Do not approve it.

Name: Cher Schneider
Date: October 28, 2026 8:43:21 am

Stop the arch!

Name: Tina Lynn Young
Date: October 28, 2026 8:32:52 am

Stop the expensive, unnecessary, unpatriotic, vanity Arch that would diminish sacred ground.

Name: Susan Baer
Date: October 28, 2026 8:22:32 am

I am a Washingtonian for the past 45 years and member of a military family. I vote to NOT have this new monumental arch built for the multitude of reasons we are all very aware of that would be harmful and unwanted.

Name: Susan Messina
Date: October 28, 2026 8:20:32 am

I live in NW DC. I have relatives buried in Arlington National Cemetery. I oppose this arch for a variety of reasons, including the impact on air safety, automobile traffic, potential obscuring of the sight lines between Arlington House and the Washington Monument, the shadow it will create over graves, and the basic fact that we don't need this arch. It is a monument to the vanity of one man, a man who is a convicted felon, a man who has started a war he cannot end that has driven prices up, and a man who cozies up to tyrants and turns his back on our allies. He has already done enough damage to our beautiful city. And his argument that the arch will be part of the defense of the capital is horrifying. It seems most likely that US citizens will be the target, as it's extraordinarily unlikely a foreign enemy will breach our borders or air defense.

Name: Kevin O'Neill
Date: October 28, 2026 8:09:09 am

The proposed arch will forever interrupt the solemnity of not only Arlington Cemetery, but also the sightline of our nation's capital. I cannot believe that the NCPC would even entertain such an abomination. At a minimum, the commission must provide the proposed arch the same due diligence scrutiny afforded a single flagpole at Arlington Cemetery.

"To the Young Who Want to Die," by Gwendolyn Brooks
Sit down. Inhale. Exhale.
The gun will wait. The lake will wait.
The tall gall in the small seductive vial
will wait will wait:
will wait a week: will wait through April.
You do not have to die this certain day.
Death will abide, will pamper your postponement.
I assure you death will wait. Death has
a lot of time. Death can
attend to you tomorrow. Or next week. Death is
just down the street; is most obliging neighbor;
can meet you any moment.

You need not die today.
Stay here--through pout or pain or peskyness.
Stay here. See what the news is going to be tomorrow.

Graves grow no green that you can use.
Remember, green's your color. You are Spring.

Name: Kay Kunze
Date: October 28, 2026 7:11:26 am

No arch. Not here. Not ever!

Name: Philip Simon
Date: October 28, 2026 3:30:40 am

no Trump Arch. there has been no review of this project. Trump does not have authority to do this just because he want to.

Name: Carol Fisher
Date: October 28, 2026 3:18:41 am

I object to the construction of a 250-foot “Trump” arch. The project is yet another unwanted , over-the-top example of the current administration’s aggressive attempt to revise Washington DC to accommodate Donald J Trump’s aesthetic .

“Displaying an extraordinary abuse of power, the National Park Service deliberately ignored the law and their requirement to develop design alternatives for the Triumphal Arch before shutting down the federally mandated review process in the face of massive public opposition to a project that would destroy the sacred, symbolic visual link between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House,” said Charles A. Birnbaum, Founding President & CEO of The Cultural Landscape Foundation.”

Please do not let this project move forward. We’ve already lost the East Wing, Rose Garden and Kennedy Center, plus gained a gilded Oval Office and ballroom. No arch is wanted or needed. Thank you.

a 90,000- square-foot ballroom that dwarfs the size of the White House.

Name: Skai Mendez
Date: October 28, 2026 2:30:42 am

No Arch. Not here. Not ever.

This would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 160

October 29, 2026

Name: Sandra Zelasko
Date: October 29, 2026 11:11:50 pm

DON'T BLOCK MY VIEWS, DON'T DISRESPECT OUR VETERANS. NO MONUMENTAL ARCH!

Name: Margaret Andem
Date: October 29, 2026 10:49:51 pm

I am opposed to the Arch that Trump wants built. One of America’s most sacred landscapes, the vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House communicates the magnitude of the Civil War, the obligation its unimaginable cost imposes on all Americans, and the aspiration of a post-Civil War reconciliation in a new birth of freedom.

It is because this viewshed carries so much meaning to the country that the National Trust has raised concerns about the proposed Monumental Arch (or Triumphal Arch), whose scale, location, and design will disrupt this important visual and symbolic vista.

In addition, the Arch will tower over the Lincoln Memorial and disrupt the long, open, and uninterrupted viewsheds, overwhelming the entry to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families and a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of the Nation’s Capital. Since our nation’s founding, Americans have understood the symbolic power of Washington, D.C. Our capital city is a planned city. In their design, context, and relationship to each other, our most meaningful buildings and monuments communicate our system of government and the principles on which it is based. Achieving this requires deep respect for what has gone before and careful planning, in measured steps that honor our history and our aspirations.

Please do not ruin the DC landscape by inserting an arch that is out of place and unnecessary. There are so many better ways to spend this department's money.

Name: Bev Gavenda
Date: October 29, 2026 10:34:45 pm

No arch. Do not allow the building of the arch.

Name: Charlie Mastro
Date: October 29, 2026 10:31:49 pm

We do not need this in any way and is just another self aggrandizing move by trump to leave another mark on the capital.

Name: Carole Ackelson
Date: October 29, 2026 10:30:55 pm

To whom it may concern,

My grandfather and great-uncle fought in world war II, my great-uncle is buried in Arlington, he would roll over in his

grave. They would absolutely be ashamed at what the capitol has become today. It's reflective of the tapestry of America. Tax dollars that could be spent on important National Parks projects like cleaning up all of the litter and dead animals I saw around the Reflecting Pool this summer during July, right before that big, unnecessary party. Or perhaps spent on the overwhelming smell of chlorine at the World War Two memorials that I know is hazardous to both animals and humans in large quantities (you should try bromine instead.) Tax dollars that could be spent on veterans in need of housing and food assistance, not a vainglorious, gaudy, and frankly ugly addition to a city that does not need it. The capitol is for the people, by the people, and the people reject this hideous, Versailles-esque built by an out of touch king. Please, for the sake of not making the capitol look like a Germany look-alike, do NOT build that arch.

Thanks,

A concerned citizen

Name: Sally Scheib
Date: October 29, 2026 10:29:26 pm

This proposed arch will deface other monuments by blocking out the beautiful landscape, which is part of the way we honor the heroes of this country. If we fail to respect the monuments already in existence, we can expect that future generations will not respect those we create in honor of today's heroes.

Name: Susan Grey
Date: October 29, 2026 10:24:45 pm

stop construction of the proposed 250-foot Arch, which would encroach on more than 40 historic properties in the memorial landscape around Arlington National Cemetery. Our history is important to the country and should not be lost.

Name: Jean Schwinberg
Date: October 29, 2026 9:52:09 pm

This project should not happen. The proposed arch is too large and will interrupt the view from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington Cemetery. Aside from these considerations, the arch is primarily a glorification of Donald Trump. Trump has nothing whatever to do with the Civil War or Lincoln. He certainly has done nothing whatever to be memorialized by a triumphal of any sort.

Name: E W LeGrand
Date: October 29, 2026 9:38:24 pm

Stop this ridiculous and disgusting monster of a trump ego boost it’s disrespectful and humiliating for all of those who gave their lives protecting your freedom.
Enough of the hypocrisy by the President who is totally desecrating these sacred grounds. The families deserve their privacy while visting or burying their loved ones.
Put an end to this nonsense
Sincerely
E W LeGrand

Name: Patricia Annoni
Date: October 29, 2026 9:30:10 pm

STOP construction of the proposed 250-foot Arch, which would encroach on more than 40 historic properties in the memorial landscape around Arlington National Cemetery!!

Name: Karen Shelby
Date: October 29, 2026 8:58:26 pm

The proposed arch does not represent any specific moment in U.S. history. It will compromise the very carefully planned historic program that has been memorialized in the Arlington Memorial landscape.The process for adding a monument or memorial to to federal, whether in or outside of Washington, D.C., is governed by the Commemorative Works of Art of 1986 and managed through federal and local review boards. The proposed arch has not gone through this process.

Name: Ronni Haston
Date: October 29, 2026 8:19:36 pm

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed arch that trump is demanding we the taxpayers pay to let him build. Trump is trying to build monuments to himself like a dictator and he has no right to do this. The arch will interfere with the honors we show to those who have given their lives for our freedom who are buried in Arlington Cemetery, Trump didn't even sere in the military! He is ruining our capital and has no business building an arch to memorialize himself. His vanity projects are out of control. He is spending taxpayer money on these unnecessary and unwanted projects such as the ballroom, arch, helipad, and destroying our house and capital. He needs to be stopped.

Name: Kate Anber
Date: October 29, 2026 7:53:48 pm

Please do not move forward with any work for the arch. It does not match the current aesthetic of that area and it does not meet the needs of people to put in stone anything that will soon be a disgrace of the outcome of Trumps embezzlement and fraud.

Name: Margaret Hall
Date: October 29, 2026 7:45:28 pm

I am opposed to the Monumental Arch proposed to be built between Arlington Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. There should be an unobstructed view between those two important and related monuments. The proposed arch would block that view in addition to damaging other historic sites. Arlington was established as the final resting place for Civil War soldiers. The Lincoln Memorial is a tribute the man who was President during that War and who also gave his life to it and for this country. Do not approve an Arch that will damage that view.

Name: Susan Lumsden
Date: October 29, 2026 7:44:10 pm

Please have the courage to stand up to Trump. You all know that the majority of the American public is not in favor of Trump's Arch. You have read, hopefully, many comments that have been submitted about the planned arch, most of these written by people who are opposed to the arch. Do you ignore these comments? Do you proceed no matter what the majority wants?
Have you served in the Military? If so, you understand why those who did serve, do not want the Arch to take away from the beauty and calm and the dignity of Arlington Cemetery.
Perhaps you are not in favor of the arch either, but you are "afraid" of what Trump will do to you, should you not vote in his favor. One person, no matter their position, should not outweigh what the American public wants. Please show that you have dignity and courage to vote for what the American public wants. Please do not vote in favor the the arch.
Thank you.

Name: Scott Linge
Date: October 29, 2026 7:38:49 pm

The arch is not needed. It is too large and obtrusive even from a distance.

Name: Dr.DN Lyons
Date: October 29, 2026 7:36:14 pm

The memorial circle was designed to honor our veterans. They and their families deserve clear open skies and freedom to grieve. It would be a disservice to all to have the grounds overshadowed by one man's monument to hubris.

Name: Caterina Nelson
Date: October 29, 2026 7:33:02 pm

This arch is an abomination. Not only will it tower above other important items, it is both ugly and gaudy — not to mention having a religious symbol prominently displayed. The worst part of the arch is its citing, next to (and looming over) Arlington cemetery.

Name: Karen Hood
Date: October 29, 2026 7:32:14 pm

The gigantic arch with golden embellishments Trump is proposing at the sacred Arlington National Cemetery is a disgrace. Please do not allow this project to move forward. Our country needs to allocate funds for needed infrastructure projects and to help alleviate poverty and homelessness, not victory arches. The time for wars is over. We need to focus on peace and healing.

Name: Connor Olson
Date: October 29, 2026 7:25:33 pm

I strongly oppose the proposed Arch because of its excessive size and the obstruction it would create. Such a massive structure would overwhelm the surrounding landscape, obstruct important views, and negatively impact the character of the nation’s capital.

Name: Laura Farrell
Date: October 29, 2026 7:10:53 pm

This proposed Arch, which has no meaning for Americans, will disrupt the vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House. It should not be built.

Name: Mark McVay
Date: October 29, 2026 7:10:29 pm

Please put an end to the nonsense of the monumental arch. Specifically the idea of a monument erected by a President who purposely avoided service during the Vietnam war that overshadows the graves of fallen soldiers is a disgrace. I have many brothers who are buried in national cemeteries nationwide that have their lives in service of this country. I am a combat veteran and my wife served 26 years in the Marine Corps. Allowing this vanity project to go forward is a slap in the face of those who served honorably.

Name: Suzanne Bria
Date: October 29, 2026 6:48:38 pm

We are completely 100% opposed to this ridiculous arch. Not only is it a waste of money, but it would obstruct very important views and would serve only to be a vanity project for a bad president.

Name: Emily Anderson
Date: October 29, 2026 6:45:21 pm

I am a disabled combat veteran. My fellow service members deserve, and have earned, their final place of rest. They deserve nothing but respect and dignity. The proposed triumphal arch in its design and stated purposes is neither respectful nor dignified. It does not seek to honor the fallen. It does not aim to protect their memory. It is vanity and hubris in the extreme. It is vulgar and repulsive. And I write to insist that this project be denied without dither or delay. Please reject this proposal in full and in plain language. Do not allow this site to be desecrated by such a foul and irreverent display.

Sincerely,

Emily Anderson

Name: Amanda LaMantia
Date: October 29, 2026 6:33:44 pm

There should never be an arch. Not near the Arlington cemetery. Not anywhere else either. Not ever

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Name: Denise Klassen
Date: October 29, 2026 6:25:29 pm

I wish to simply say my biological father and my adoptive parents are all buried at Arlington National Cemetery and I do not want the arch construction. It will greatly change the appearance of the cemetery; and, in my opinion, will be disrespectful to our military soldiers who are buried there.
Thank you for this opportunity to share my opinion and for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Denise Chapell Perritt Klassen

Name: John Fleckner
Date: October 29, 2026 5:59:23 pm

This project is a travesty.

Any undertaking like this should involve years of discussion and planning. There is no expressed need for this project beyond one man's whim and ego. The project would create a traffic nightmare for automobiles, aircraft. pedestrians, and cyclists. The carefully planned view between the Lincoln Memorial and the Arlington memorial spaces would be grossly interrupted. The drawing for the plan shows how the Washington Monument--a sacred site--would be diminished in the view from Arlington.

Only one person wants this monstrosity. Stop it now!

Name: Kathy Goldman
Date: October 29, 2026 5:53:51 pm

Please stop construction of the proposed 250-foot Arch, which would encroach on more than 40 historic properties in the memorial landscape around Arlington National Cemetery. Thank you.

Name: Ian Zukswert
Date: October 29, 2026 5:51:43 pm

The Monumental Arch is not only a monumental waste of money, likely all taxpayers at that, but is a vanity and totally unnecessary project that will destroy the beauty of surrounding areas. I beg of you to truly think about this long and hard before voting. What is happening to this country is all because no one seems to want to stand up to a man who has overstepped his boundaries time and time again. Please do the right thing and vote against this wasteful project. Thanking you in advance!!

Name: Virginia Sivigny
Date: October 29, 2026 5:50:26 pm

My name is Ginge Sivigny. My husband and both his parents are buried in Arlington Cemetery. I have been at Memorial Circle many times recently with signs urging the protection of that sacred space. On those days my heart has been filled with awe and gratitude as I look across Memorial Bridge to the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, and take in the lovely view of the Potomac River, The Kennedy Center, the steps where, as a teenager I used sit and enjoy evening Watergate concerts by the Army Band on a river barge playing George Gershwin hits. Each time I visit my husband's grave the solemn experience begins as I approach Memorial Circle and drive around it towards the checkpoints to enter the cemetery.
I cannot imagine driving there and being faced with bulldozers and cranes constructing this monstrous arch. The noise, the traffic, the chaos. I'm 80 now, and after 3 ½ years of construction I may not be able to resume my visits.
Aside from its grotesque size and design, this arch, if built, will be a jarring contradiction to the comforting, unifying, and healing atmosphere that has prevailed there for so many years, fostered by the millions of visitors who respectfully honor those who served and sacrificed for our country. The proposed arch will scream of vanity, division, discord and disdain for normal processes such as Congressional oversight and approval.
I urge you to abandon this short-sighted and poorly planned attack by self-aggrandizing people to invade a sacred space that belongs to and is beloved by the American people.

Name: Eric S
Date: October 29, 2026 5:49:34 pm

This disgusting arch is a joke from a loser president who wants to put himself on a pedestal. It has nothing to do with our fallen heroes. Don't destroy the people's national treasure with this abomination.

Name: Gail Ladd
Date: October 29, 2026 5:48:01 pm

As the daughter of a WWII veteran, and friend of many veterans of the Vietnam War, I am absolutely against the building of an arch that will overwhelm Arlington National Cemetery. This proposed arch is a vanity project for one man, one who I believe does not deserve any honor. For one reason, he is not even a veteran and has disparaged and made fun of veterans!
This arch should not be considered at all!. Full stop.

Name: Rose Marie D'Alesandro
Date: October 29, 2026 5:42:55 pm

Please do not approve this arch. There is no need for such a large monument, especially in front of the Arlington Cemetery. There area around the cemetery should remain as is. Our deceased veterans deserve to have their resting place left in peace.

Name: Pamela Chrisco
Date: October 29, 2026 5:39:50 pm

No arch. The comment terms dictate I must remain courteous. With that in mind, I respectfully request you listen to and follow the will of the People and not one person’s ego driven demand. No arch. Respect and honor Arlington Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial, please.

Name: Martha Waid
Date: October 29, 2026 5:30:07 pm

I am AGAINST building the Triumphal Arch. At a time of economic struggle I think it is wrong to use taxpayer funds or private funds to build a useless edifice. In addition to the fact that it disrupts the view of monuments dedicated to our soldiers, it is a waste of any resources that might be used more effectively in other pursuits.

Name: Maureen Meyers
Date: October 29, 2026 5:20:23 pm

I am a professional archaeologist who was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia, and who as a child visited Arlington National Cemetery and was struck then, and still, by the courage and selflessness of the men and women buried there. My father worked for most of his career as a civil servant at the nearby Pentagon, and never failed to show respect for those who gave their last full measure. A long-time family friend who served his country in Vietnam, who instructed my father to watch over his family while he was deployed--is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He risked his life so I could have freedom. My father-in-law did the same, and in so doing earned the honor of being buried there one day.

This arch desecrates their memories and their sacrifice. It is a self-serving project that seeks to glorify a President who never served, who in fact called Senator John McCain a "loser" for being captured in the war he himself did not participate in. This arch is a travesty and it violates Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It will confer adverse effects on the landscape, sound, and view shed of the Arlington National Cemetery and indeed on the original planned historic layout of Washington, D.C. That it is being touted as a military defense monument is farcical. I'm not sure we so readily reveal our military tactics in such a public and vainglorious manner.

I urge you to do the right thing and deny the planned construction of this arch.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Meyers, PhD, RPA

Name: Sharon Brei
Date: October 29, 2026 5:01:28 pm

We cannot allow this!

Name: Travis Sims
Date: October 29, 2026 4:37:17 pm

Please reject this ill-conceived vanity project of an out of control president. Violating the sanctity and history of historic site lines and spaces on this architectural monstrosity is a waste of taxpayer resources.

Name: Gina Gianfala
Date: October 29, 2026 4:35:40 pm

We, the People, do not wish to see a monumental arch built. The area looks great just as it is. Let’s spend the money on other more worthwhile projects!
Thank you

Name: Charlotte Jones
Date: October 29, 2026 4:10:36 pm

I think this is the worst addition possible. PLEASE do not let this Arch ruin the view that is currently there. We definitely do NOT need an arch. This thing is being built only to make ONE person happy. This is America. Or, at least, this used to be America. We do not let anyone, president, citizen decide what monument will be built to satisfy someone's fantasy of themselves. NO ARCH, PLEASE!!

Name: Jennifer Valentine
Date: October 29, 2026 4:08:12 pm

stop construction of the proposed 250-foot Arch, which would encroach on more than 40 historic properties in the memorial landscape around Arlington National Cemetery.

"Our preservation laws reflect a fundamental promise that the places that hold our shared history as Americans must be protected through careful planning, genuine public participation, and responsible stewardship." — Brent Leggs, President and CEO

Please vote against this arch. thank you

Name: Elsa Koval
Date: October 29, 2026 3:59:08 pm

Please do not vote for this ridiculous monument. Imagine how disrespectful an observation deck looming over funerals of our service men and women and their grieving families. Washington doesn’t need a monument. We need accountability we need Donald Trump and his family and administration to pay for their corruption. Please vote no !

Name: Ann Smith
Date: October 29, 2026 3:46:00 pm

Arlington Cemetery is one of our country's most hallowed areas. It is a reminder of the incalculable cost in terms of human lives of the bloody Civil War that ripped our country--and our ancestral families--apart. The current view, with its wide expanse of green, provides the aura of peaceful rest that these heroes are entitled to. When I see the proposed Memorial Arch, it desecrates the memory of our soldiers and the values Abraham Lincoln fought so hard to preserve. Planning for the monument feels rushed; the genesis of the idea for the monument did not arise with a view to enhance and preserve the overall viewscape of all of the memorials honoring the leaders and heroes of our country. I strongly oppose erecting this arch.

Name: Karen Anderson
Date: October 29, 2026 3:33:21 pm

To whom it may concern, please allow me to state my opposition to the construction of the proposed 250 foot Arch. This is no apparent reason, other than a penchant of a president, for this Arch. I am told that it would encroach upon 40 historic

properties in Arlington National Cemetery. I am old enough to remember as a child the procession that placed President John. F. Kennedy's body to rest. I have a son in the Air Force, and my father served in the Army in WWII, and my grandfather in the Spanish American War, and great great great grandfather and uncles in the Civil War. This cemetery is sacred and not to be changed by odd whims.
Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Name: CARL CORBETT
Date: October 29, 2026 3:28:56 pm

No arch. Not here. Not ever.

Name: Ginger Vollmar
Date: October 29, 2026 3:25:28 pm

Please do not approve the proposed "Monumental Arch". It is monstrous and does not belong at the proposed location (or anywhere). It will cast shadows on much of Arlington National Cemetery all day, different locations at different times of the day. There are also many historic properties in the general area that will be disturbed and minimized by placing a completely inappropriate arch in the proposed location. Stop the arch now. It is a waste of taxpayer money and most of us do not want it!

Ginger Vollmar

Name: Sylvia Salget
Date: October 29, 2026 3:15:16 pm

I am against building this arch. It is an unnecessary vanity project for Trumps ego. I am against this arch.

Name: sandra dembski
Date: October 29, 2026 3:09:50 pm

The proposed arch would cast a dark shadow on Arlington cemetery. Instead of honoring the fallen of American wars, it would belittle them to placate the ego of the current president. In addition to the disrespect it would show the dead, it overpowers the Lincoln memorial and memorial bridge - both of which are fitting tributes to a difficult time in America’s past.

Name: Chandra Gomes
Date: October 29, 2026 3:03:31 pm

I am horrified that such an ugly, grotesque, and unsightly object, which does not enhance or even fit in with the other stately, elegant, and dignified edifices on the National Mall is being considered.
I object to this.

Attachment

Name: Deidra Smith
Date: October 29, 2026 2:54:46 pm

One in five kids are hungry in the U.S. Wasting money on this senseless arch is a crime against humanity when millions of Americans need food.

Name: JS Anderson
Date: October 29, 2026 2:50:55 pm

All of the links after this short comment are saying Not to allow the arch to be built. I agree with all of the comments. DC does not need this monument at this time.
Here is a list of the comments, in case you forgot:
Amici Curiae (Friend of the Court) Brief (Oct. 26, 2026)
National Trust Objection to Vice Chairman's Draft Section 106 Comment Letter for the Triumphal Arch Project (Oct. 7, 2026)
National Trust Objection to Termination of Section 106 Consultation (Sep. 28, 2026)
National Trust Comments to NPS on Draft MOA for Triumphal Arch Project (Sep. 21, 2026)
National Trust Comments to NPS on revised Assessment of Effects Report (Sep. 16, 2026)
National Trust Comments to NPS as Section 106 Consulting Party (July 19, 2026)
Public Testimony of Rob Nieweg Before the National Capital Planning Commission (July 9, 2026)
National Trust Comments to NPS on Section 106 Assessment of Effects Report and Draft Programmatic Agreement (June 15, 2026)
Public Testimony of Carol Quillen Before the National Capital Planning Commission (June 4, 2026)
Comments Submitted by David Scott Parker, FAIA to NCPC (June 4, 2026)
Comments Submitted by Carol Quillen on behalf of the National Trust to CFA (May 20, 2026)
Comments Submitted by Elizabeth Merritt on behalf of the National Trust to CFA (May 21, 2026)
National Trust Letter Regarding Proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle (April 15, 2026)

Name: Mary Cato
Date: October 29, 2026 2:50:01 pm

I am writing to join the National Trust, the National Parks Conservation Association and preservation partners in urging a stop to construction of the proposed 250-foot Arch, which would encroach on more than 40 historic properties in the memorial landscape around Arlington National Cemetery.

"Our preservation laws reflect a fundamental promise that the places that hold our shared history as Americans must be protected through careful planning, genuine public participation, and responsible stewardship." — Brent Leggs, President and CEO of the National Trust

I cannot say it better.

Mary Cato
Arlington, Texas

Name: Mary Kinnick
Date: October 29, 2026 2:49:13 pm

Attachment

Name: Ginnie Hartman
Date: October 29, 2026 2:45:22 pm

I’m hoping you’ll say no to the arch. Aren’t we supposed to be shrinking the national debt rather than ballooning it with unnecessary expensive projects like this that will only make the city less attractive? Please do not approve this project.

Name: Ann Fuller
Date: October 29, 2026 2:42:38 pm

The arch is ridiculous and absurd. It is only an appalling vanity project of a bigoted egotist. The arch needs to be rejected. Reject and block the arch.

Name: Tom Lane
Date: October 29, 2026 2:29:34 pm

Re: Opposition to the New Monumental Arch — NCPC File 8778

To the Members of the Commission:

I urge you to deny final approval for the proposed 250-foot monumental arch at Memorial Circle.

The landscape surrounding Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the Lincoln Memorial deserves careful stewardship. Its significance comes from the relationship among these places and the history, sacrifice, and national ideals they represent. In my judgment, inserting an oversized triumphal arch into this setting would undermine the dignity of a landscape that already speaks powerfully for itself.

The acknowledged preservation damage is substantial. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s October 9 letter records the National Park Service’s finding of adverse effects on six National Historic Landmarks and dozens of other historic properties. It also records that smaller heights were rejected because they were considered insufficiently representative of the nation’s 250th anniversary. An anniversary does not require a structure one foot tall for every year being celebrated. That symbolism cannot reasonably outweigh lasting harm to irreplaceable historic places.

The suggestion that national security requires this particular triumphal arch is frankly laughable. Even accepting administration officials’ assurances that the structure could accommodate military equipment or personnel, possible usefulness does not establish necessity. It does not explain why national defense requires this architectural form, this height, or this sensitive location.

The published final project synopsis states that the arch’s interior has not changed since preliminary review, describing public circulation, elevators, and an observation deck. In my view, the administration’s subsequent military justification looks like a flimsy, after-the-fact excuse for a design already selected. The public can recognize that distinction.

If officials identify a legitimate security requirement, the Commission should insist on a documented assessment of alternatives, including existing facilities, smaller structures, and other locations. Any claimed military use also warrants a clear explanation of its implications for public access, visitor safety, and the surrounding memorial landscape. Invoking national security cannot substitute for demonstrating why this project is necessary and proportionate.

The Commission should judge this proposal on its planning merits, documented impacts, and long-term public value. Presidential enthusiasm and monumental scale do not establish a compelling public purpose. Our nation’s anniversary deserves commemoration that respects the heritage entrusted to us.

Please reject the proposal and protect this extraordinary landscape for future generations.

Tom Lane
Torrance, California

Name: Rebecca Lawrence-Weden
Date: October 29, 2026 2:20:11 pm

It is of great importance that the Monumental Arch NOT be constructed. Our nations capital must remain free of such structures, especially one which will encroach on other historic sites.

Name: Ruth kaiser
Date: October 29, 2026 2:17:16 pm

NO NO NO NO NO!
This is illconceived. It will destroy the view. It's unneeded and a waste of funds. None of the normal and leagally required processes for such a massive construction are in place. Trump has proven he does shoddy; look at how he ruined the reflecting pond! Trump is trying to make it a monument to himself.

Name: Frank Kuebbeler
Date: October 29, 2026 2:09:17 pm

I am writing to share my perspective as a veteran who intends to have my cremated remains inurned at Arlington National Cemetery, and to offer a specific, foundational historical argument regarding the project's visual impact that I believe warrants strong emphasis in the ongoing litigation.
As someone who has earned the right to rest at Arlington, my future final resting place is directly and permanently impacted by the proposed 250-foot structure at Memorial Circle. The hallowed, peaceful nature of the cemetery grounds is an essential part of the promise made to veterans. Introducing a massive structure—particularly one proposed to house military installations and drones—directly adjacent to the gateway fundamentally disrupts the solemnity of the site and inflicts a concrete, individualized injury upon those of us planning our final rest there.
Furthermore, from a historical preservation standpoint, this project severs a sacred constitutional and landscape lineage. Arlington House was intentionally constructed by George Washington Parke Custis, George Washington’s step-grandson and adopted son, as the nation's first memorial to Washington. It was deliberately situated on that specific hillside to look out across the Potomac River and overlook the capital city named in his grandfather's honor.
Placing a 250-foot structure directly in front of Arlington House destroys that intentional, historic axial view. It does not merely block a modern scenic viewpoint; it completely obliterates a historic visual link designed by Washington’s descendants to honor the founding of our republic.
As a veteran and a future candidate for inurnment at Arlington, I am deeply invested in protecting both the sanctity of these burial grounds and the historical integrity of this national viewshed.
Thank you
Sincerely,
Frank A. Kuebbeler
USN Petty Officer 2nd Class
[redacted]

Name: mary naden
Date: October 29, 2026 2:08:30 pm

The proposed arch is preposterously out of proportion with the landscape and nearby monuments. It partially obscures Arlington National Cemetery-- disrespectful of our nation's fallen soldiers.

There is no purpose for this vanity project, and no need for the expense of it in these lean budgetary times. It is a monument to nothing, built by a nobody.

Name: Peter Tannen
Date: October 29, 2026 2:02:23 pm

I am vehemently opposed to this unnecessary project. It is much too large, in an extremely poor location that will interfere with a very important vista. Its top will be above the Lincoln Memorial and it will overpower the Arlington National Cemetery entrance.

The defense and security aspects of this project are a red herring that could be address in a much less obtrusive manner, if they exist at all.

Washington, D.C. is a planned city and additions need to be more prudently planned, considered, and reviewed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Elizabeth Satterfield
Date: October 29, 2026 1:48:34 pm

I am writing to express my concerns for the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle in Washington, D.C. I have a professional background and training in historic preservation and currently work at a historic site and museum in West Virginia. I love history and am always interested in how and why we preserve our national history. Because of this, I have significant concerns about this proposed arch.

This project will negatively impact the cultural and historic landscape at the Memorial Circle. Its scale, location, and design will disrupt this important visual and symbolic vista which includes the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. My great-uncle is buried in this Cemetery, and I find this arch to be irreverent to his memory and service to this nation as well as to the other 400,000 veterans and their families interred there. The National Park Service agrees, acknowledging that this project will adversely affect 37 different historic properties.

I urge the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to vote against this damaging and inappropriate project. Furthermore, I would encourage the Council to look at alternative locations, designs, and structures that will still honor the symbolic power of our nation without diminishing its important existing cultural and historic heritage.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Satterfield
Morgantown, WV

Name: Sharon O'Donnell
Date: October 29, 2026 1:31:11 pm

When so many Americans cannot afford basic needs, Why spend taxpayer funds on an unnecessary atrocity that serves only one purpose: to satisfy the President’s ego who pays little to no taxes.

Name: Colleen Carroll
Date: October 29, 2026 1:24:15 pm

Tell Donald Trump to shove that arch up his fat …

Name: Terra Hegy
Date: October 29, 2026 1:11:56 pm

I am strongly against the arch that Trump is proposing. The proposed design including the height is ridiculously out of character with other Capital structures. I visited Arlington Cemetery once with my mother and we were very impressed with the site and felt awed with the dignity and silence of the site. Please do not approve this outrageous structure on these sacred grounds.

Name: Shannon Gillen
Date: October 29, 2026 1:01:56 pm

The proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle would destroy one of America's most symbolic landscapes. This massive structure would loom over Arlington Cemetery, where roughly 30 funeral services are held every day. Veterans and park advocates oppose the arch and have raised serious concerns about its size, location, cost, and impacts.

On top of ruining one of America's most sacred landscapes in the heart of our nation, there are other concerns, not limited to: an unnecessarily tall structure with a troubling source of light pollution (eternal flame), an (at minimum!) 50% increase in traffic delays around Arlington Cemetery, and now, plans include sourcing the stone for construction from Europe rather than locally, astronomically increasing the costs and demonstrating to Americans that we will always choose to buy foreign when it comes down to it.

This is a disgusting overreach and a horrible plan. Where is Congress?? The Commemorative Works Act makes it clear that Congress must authorize this monument before any construction can begin. Before Memorial Circle is altered forever, Congress should be part of the discussion, and the American people deserve a transparent, lawful process.

Stand up against this fascist administration and show that the 300+ million people in this country matter more than a handful of sycophants. Thank you.

Name: Melissa Nasea
Date: October 29, 2026 1:01:52 pm

Protecting Arlington’s Memorial Landscape

I support the filing by the National Parks Conservation Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and preservation partners in filing an amicus brief urging the court to stop construction of the proposed 250-foot Arch, which would encroach on more than 40 historic properties in the memorial landscape around Arlington National Cemetery.

The proposed Arch would lessen the importance of and reverence for both those who fought in and suffered due to the Civil War and for those buried in Arlington National Cemetery. It would also disturb the beautiful views and open spaces in the area.

Name: Janet Lipstreu
Date: October 29, 2026 12:55:55 pm

This grandiose project is totally unnecessary and only reflects the ego of a president that has no touch with what is appropriate let alone what is an elegant treatment of architecture. The use of tax dollars to build this monument is a slap in the face of the American people and this project needs to be shut down completely.

Name: Joseph McAuley
Date: October 29, 2026 12:51:50 pm

Do not approve the ridiculous vanity arch.

Name: Susan Koch
Date: October 29, 2026 12:41:21 pm

I want to register my 100% objection to the Monumental Arch being built. It will be an eyesore, an expense whose funds should be used elsewhere and a danger to flights in and out of National Airport. It is also an insult to the Veterans and those buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Trump building an arch to honor himself would be a despicable act.

Please reject this request for construction.

Name: Sandra Walters
Date: October 29, 2026 12:29:57 pm

Please do not be complicit in this expensive, unneeded, inpopular and detrimental project .

Name: Sylvia Moran
Date: October 29, 2026 12:14:23 pm

One of America’s most sacred landscapes, the vista from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House communicates the magnitude of the Civil War, the obligation its unimaginable cost imposes on all Americans, and the aspiration of a post-Civil War reconciliation in a new birth of freedom.

This viewshed carries great meaning to the country and the proposed Monumental Arch, with its scale, location, and design will disrupt this important visual and symbolic vista.

In addition, the Arch will tower over the Lincoln Memorial and disrupt the long, open, and uninterrupted viewsheds, overwhelming the entry to Arlington National Cemetery—the hallowed resting place of 400,000 veterans and their families and a powerful reminder of American military sacrifice, selfless service, and national unity, all within sight of the monumental core of the Nation’s Capital.

My father is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, as are many of my fellow soldiers and dear friends. It is my desire that the viewshed and the entry to Arlington National Cemetery not be disrupted in any way.

Name: Julie Adelson
Date: October 29, 2026 12:13:45 pm

NO Arch! PERIOD! HOw dare you even consider this abomination to our US historical sites! Our history belongs to all of us not one president or one party. The majority of the people who these monuments belong to are against this! Democracy demands an end to trump's destruction of our property! IMMEDIATELY!

Name: Deborah Carter
Date: October 29, 2026 12:12:57 pm

An arch of Trump’s magnitude would be an ugly addition to an otherwise historic and beautiful entrance to the amazing cemetery and then back to a beautiful city. Vote against the arch!

Name: Phyllis MacGowen
Date: October 29, 2026 12:08:07 pm

Trump's vanity projects are ridiculous! Voters do not want this arch. Taxpayers do not want to pay for it. tRump has gotten away with murder already. He has destroyed the White House as we know it with taxpayer dollars. How.much more is.he going to get away with??? America is furious!

Name: Maureen Becker
Date: October 29, 2026 12:03:57 pm

October 29, 2026

To the members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to express my opposition to the construction of the proposed triumphal arch.

The arch is an unnecessary vanity project that will not only siphon funds from America's coffers, but will also literally and figuratively overshadow memorials to Lincoln, Jefferson, and Washington. It will block views to and from Arlington National Cemetery. The citizens of the US and the District have not been clamoring for an arch for 200 years, and dignified memorials to those who have fought for this democracy already exist. My father fought in World War II when he was only 20 years old. Among other campaigns, he was in the Battle of the Bulge and helped liberate concentration camps. Even he and his fellow veterans did not seek to be glorified in this manner, and they would be appalled by the actions being taken by the Trump administration.

In addition, a study released by the NPS has identified almost 40 historic and cultural resources that would be adversely affected by this arch. It would be an impediment to the flow of traffic and potentially affect flights in and out of DCA. It is not needed for national security; that appears to be a handy justification fabricated in response to public opposition.

Under Section 106, the public has the right to comment, and a period of three days is insufficient. Rushing the process is evidence that the administration recognizes just how unpopular this project is and that the majority of the comments will be in opposition. Approval of other memorials and monuments has been an intentionally slow and deliberate process, undertaken with the long-term implications in mind and to ensure compatibility with the surroundings.

The layout of Washington DC, including the key governmental structures and memorials/monuments, was intentional and is deeply symbolic. It is your responsibility to ensure that the processes and procedures codified by Congress (e.g., the Commemorative Works Act of 1986) are followed and that projects are not fast-tracked just because the president wants them.

Thank you in advance for acting in the best interest of the citizens of the District and the United States rather than the whims of the current administration.

Name: Bob Schildgen
Date: October 29, 2026 12:01:10 pm

Vulgar, intrusive, pretentious ugly, perverse, etc., etc. describe Trump's pompous proposal for his gigantic arch in D.C. This
expensive rubbish must be STOPPED immediately.

Name: Katherine Pettiss
Date: October 29, 2026 11:55:07 am

This unsightly and damaging piece should not be entertained at all. Besides desecrating Arlington National and the resting place of John F Kennedy and the Eternal Flame, it is ugly and has no place in our country’s quiet site.
Please refuse to give this creation any more gravity. It deserves to be in the dustbin of history.

Name: jennifer schultz
Date: October 29, 2026 11:50:40 am

This area should not be tarnished with this arch. The site of the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and Arlington Cemetery was made the way it was to show the North and South reunited after the Civil War. General Lee and other Confederate soldiers are at Arlington Cemetery.

Name: Holly Stryker
Date: October 29, 2026 11:50:34 am

This is just simply hurtful. The most disrespectful President we've ever elected is choosing his vanity over the solemn respect for our buried heroes. Shame on Trump for even suggesting this. Just how low can America go here. Please do NOT approve this project.

Name: Gail Maher
Date: October 29, 2026 11:48:00 am

The prospect of the memorial arch will be an abomination. Arlington will be directly affected and will take away the view of our most honored site. It is unnecessary and nothing more than a vanity project.

Please stop the arch.

Name: Douglas Thayer
Date: October 29, 2026 11:40:58 am

Please do not desecrate one of our most sacred areas in our Nation's Capital for the short-sighted whim's of an administration lacking foresight & tactful, conscience thought into such a beautiful landscape. Hear & listen well to the experts & forebears whose expertise are in such fields & help them with the decision making that is their purview; don't forego their valuable & ultimately wiser decision making, please.

Name: Jody Duggan
Date: October 29, 2026 11:40:44 am

Growing up in DC, I can remember standing at the mansion in Arlington National Cemetery and looking over to the city. What a view.
This arch is an abomination. It means nothing to anyone, and it is strictly a vanity project for Trump.
If this horrible thing is allowed to be built, I feel certain it will be destroyed.
The fact that it dwarfs the Lincoln Memorial and ruins the view from Arlington should be more than enough to turn it down!!

Name: Jeanne Stangle
Date: October 29, 2026 11:37:20 am

Please do not build this giant Arch which would cast a shadow over Arlington National Cemetery. I just read in The Washington Post, October 2026: "The arch would darken the nation’s premier military burial ground on more than 280 days a year. In total, its shadow would pass over more than 75,000 graves."

Name: Janie Taylor
Date: October 29, 2026 11:37:09 am

Please stop this travesty from happening. Nothing should interfere with the historic view in that area.

It is a project of one man’s vanity, not honoring our ancestors, country or history. Only the American people should be the ones wanting this project!

Thank you,
Janie Taylor

Name: Robert Strader
Date: October 29, 2026 11:35:37 am

I am strongly opposed to construction of the proposed arch. It would be a terrible blemish to the landscape of our nation's capital - interrupting the line of sight from Arlington Cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial and serving solely as a monument to President Trump.

Name: Curt Torell
Date: October 29, 2026 11:33:19 am

I deeply oppose the construction of this arch. It betrays the beauty and symmetry of the city of Washington as originally laid out by Pierre Charles L'Enfant. It ruins the views looking into the city from Alexandria, blocking the majesty of the Lincoln Memorial and, leaving the city, it ruins the solemnity of the view of Arlington Cemetery.

Name: Monica Sylvester
Date: October 29, 2026 11:31:04 am

No arch. Not here. Not ever.

Name: Joy Bissonnette
Date: October 29, 2026 11:27:48 am

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Opposition to the Proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Monumental Arch (also referred to as the Triumphal Arch) at Memorial Circle along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, near Arlington National Cemetery and the Potomac River.

The axis extending from the Lincoln Memorial, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, to Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington House represents one of our nation's most sacred and historic vistas. This carefully planned visual corridor communicates the immense cost of the Civil War, honors the sacrifices of our nation's veterans, and symbolizes national reconciliation.

Constructing a massive monumental arch at this location would disrupt this historic visual and symbolic line of sight. The proposed scale and placement of the structure risk towering over nearby historic landmarks, interrupting the open viewsheds, and overwhelming the solemn entrance to Arlington National Cemetery—the resting place of more than 400,000 American service members and their families.

Our capital city's landmark views rely on deliberate, respectful planning that honors our shared history. Adding an arch of this magnitude to Memorial Circle detracts from the character of the surrounding landscape and adversely impacts the historic context of the monumental core.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to reject the site and building plans for the Monumental Arch in order to protect and preserve the integrity of this national vista for future generations.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your commitment to preserving our nation's historic landscapes.

Sincerely,

Joy A. Bissonnette

Name: Catherine LaCroix
Date: October 29, 2026 11:24:38 am

Please do not build this arch. It is not needed and will cheapen the look of the current location and the area around it, including Arlington National Cemetery. Thank you!

Name: Victor Sytzko
Date: October 29, 2026 11:21:18 am

Stop construction of the proposed 250-foot Arch, which would encroach on more than 40 historic properties in the memorial landscape around Arlington National Cemetery.

Name: Michael Solomon
Date: October 29, 2026 11:19:05 am

The proposed arch goes against everything a memorial is supposed to be. Scale, somber reflection and genuine gratitude are all missing from this proposal. Please do not let another Trump vanity project desecrate Washington DC.

Name: Joseph Reidy
Date: October 29, 2026 11:16:57 am

This is the dumbest thing to make, it’s an insult to our military and all of our fallen heroes, as well as their families.

Name: Mara Beldavs
Date: October 29, 2026 11:08:07 am

The Monumental Arch will be an eyesore in our Nation's Capital! It does not symbolize America's greatness but cheapens its image.
It must not be one person who reshapes our Capital grounds without the consent of the American people!
Our tax dollars are better spent to improving the lives of our citizens not a gaudy structure which has no meaning!

Name: Elizabeth Seltzer
Date: October 29, 2026 11:02:56 am

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS PRESIDENT TO LITTER HIS VANITY PROJECTS ALL OVER OUR CAPITAL CITY.
THIS HAS NEVER BEEN ALLOWED BEFORE & THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR PERSONAL ATROCITIES TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY THE PEOPLE THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT!
WHEN THIS PRESIDENT IS DEAD IF WE WANT A MONUMENT TO HIM WE [AS IN WE THE PEOPLE] CAN CONSTRUCT IT THEN.
ARLINGTON CEMETERY IS SUPPOSED TO HOUSE OUR MILITARY HEROS.
THIS PRESIDENT HAS NEVER SERVED IN THE MILITARY & HAS NO PLACE IN THOSE HALLOWED GROUNDS.

Name: tom wible
Date: October 29, 2026 11:00:54 am

A nation’s capital should be a monument to the ideals that bind a people together—not a stage for the vanity of any one individual.

The proposed arch associated with Donald Trump deserves serious scrutiny, not merely as a question of architecture or aesthetics, but as a question of national identity, public priorities, and the meaning of democratic leadership. What message does such a monument send? Whose history does it commemorate? And why should a nation founded on the rejection of personal rule entertain a grandiose symbol so closely associated with a sitting president?

Washington, D.C., already possesses monuments that speak to the American experiment: its struggles for liberty, its sacrifices in war, its pursuit of equality, and its imperfect but enduring promise of self-government. These monuments remind us that the nation is larger than any president, party, or personality. Their significance comes not from the ego of the person who commissioned them, but from the ideals and collective sacrifices they represent.

A presidential arch risks turning that principle on its head. Instead of directing our gaze toward the shared aspirations of the American people, it risks directing it toward one man's image of his own place in history. The distinction matters. Democracy is not strengthened by the glorification of individual power; it is strengthened by institutions, accountability, humility, and a public willing to question those who govern.

There is also the question of priorities. At a time when Americans debate the cost of housing, healthcare, education, infrastructure, and the preservation of public spaces, any major publicly funded monument must face legitimate questions about expense, necessity, and opportunity cost. What would this project cost taxpayers? Who would authorize it? What public benefit would justify the expenditure? These are not petty objections. They are the basic questions citizens have every right to ask of their government.

Nor should the symbolism of such a structure be dismissed as inconsequential. Architecture shapes civic memory. A monumental arch can convey triumph, permanence, authority, and national greatness. But greatness cannot simply be declared in stone. It must be earned through public service, respect for constitutional limits, and a commitment to the rights and dignity of all citizens.

America does not need to prove its greatness by building ever larger monuments to political power. Its greatness, when it lives up to its founding promises, is found in the ordinary citizen whose voice matters, the public servant who answers to the law, the protester who can dissent without fear, and the peaceful transfer of power that reminds every president that the office belongs to the people—not the other way around.

If this arch is intended to celebrate America, then the public deserves to ask whether it truly represents the whole country, including those who disagree with the president. If it is intended to commemorate an individual administration, then the public deserves an open debate about whether a permanent monument is appropriate at all. And if it is intended to project strength, we should remember that no structure, however imposing, can substitute for the strength of democratic institutions.

The objection is not to architecture, nor to the idea of celebrating America. It is to the possibility that a national monument might elevate personal prestige above our shared democratic inheritance.

Let Washington remain a place where monuments challenge us to become a more perfect union—not a place where political power seeks to carve its own permanence into the national landscape.

The American people deserve symbols that unite rather than divide, inspire rather than intimidate, and honor the enduring republic rather than the temporary occupant of the Oval Office. Before another stone is laid, the nation should insist on a simple principle: our monuments should serve the people, not the vanity of power.

Name: Jacqueline Solomon
Date: October 29, 2026 10:56:08 am

Please, please do not approve this project. The monumental arch, if approved, will memorialize a very dark, corrupt, hate-filled and sad time in our great country. All it represents and all it disrespects will mar the nation's capital.

Please be brave and steadfast in your duties.

Thank you-
Jacqueline Solomon
Danville, California

Name: Lawrence Jones
Date: October 29, 2026 10:51:53 am

Please do not approve this monstrosity. It was never a monument brought forth by the people - it was pushed down on the people from above. Something this large has to have massive public support, otherwise it will be a symbol of its proponent's ego and not a celebration of our country's 250th anniversary. That symbolism will never be lost and will stain it irrevocably.

Name: Gloria Fooks
Date: October 29, 2026 10:46:35 am

EVERYBODY HATES this. NO ONE wants to pay for it or look at it. It looks Nazi-esque.

Name: June Fait
Date: October 29, 2026 10:44:43 am

Please! Please! Vote NO

Name: Ronald Pauly
Date: October 29, 2026 10:44:41 am

Don't build a monument for the worst president we've had since FDR or maybe ever!!!!!!

Name: Jean Marie VanWinkle
Date: October 29, 2026 10:44:25 am

I am adamantly opposed to the construction of the Monumental Arch that is under consideration of being constructed in any proximity of the Arlington National Cemetery. I grew up in the Washington, DC, area and frequently commuted around the area of the Cemetery. As I crossed the bridge I could see the eternal flame on President Kennedy's gravesite and the crosses of the many brave military personnel who surrendered their lives to protect the freedom of our country and all who reside within its borders. I witnessed the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the dedicated soldiers of the Sentinel of The Old Guard who stood guard at the site. To erect this despicable facade would not only encroach upon the sacred land of the Cemetery but also would be a desecration and unconscionable insult to the memory of those who are laid to rest.

I am strongly urging the National Capital Planning Commission to deny the permit to construct the Monumental Arch.

Name: Christopher Corey
Date: October 29, 2026 10:43:46 am

Absolutely NO to the ridiculous arch. There is no redeeming qualities whatsoever to this eyesore and waste of funds. Nobody wants this in this historic setting or anywhere else. It’s a desecration to the site and those honored in Arlington.

Name: Raymond Valinoti
Date: October 29, 2026 10:38:18 am

I oppose the construction of the New Monumental Arch. Arlington's Memorial Landscape must be protected.

Name: Nina Coles
Date: October 29, 2026 10:34:12 am

I’d like to express my utter dismay and disgust about the erection of a triumphal arch which will be a monument to the most unpopular president in history. Washington DC was laid out and built thoughtfully and so should any new major changes. I doubt a majority of the public supports this. This arch will obscure our sacred cemetery and our monument to a truly great president. This arch will be totally out of scale with anything near it. I cannot stress how much object to this, along with the ballroom, national garden of heroes, golf course renovations and Kennedy Center destruction. I'm not alone. Please forward my comments to anyone associated with this project.

Name: Amanda Wells
Date: October 29, 2026 10:31:28 am

I urge you not allow the monumental arch to built. It will overshadow graves that should be respected and contemplated as the actual personal cost of the history of this nation. It will be an eyesore, and a flagrant monument not one man's ego, not to the country or the people of it. We are not a monarchy, and this structure is grossly out of alignment with American values. Also, Congress alone should be proposing national monuments.

Name: Kasey Holwerda
Date: October 29, 2026 10:30:29 am

The time has come to hold the line in the remaking of Washington DC. This arch is an egregious overstep supported by no nonprofits, no veterans groups and is not wanted by the public.

It is too large for the place it is proposed and needlessly permanently and disastrously alters the view of our nation’s most revered national cemetery.

Please follow the process of the law and historic preservation. This is rushed. This is not popular. This is a travesty. Do not allow it.

Name: Iris Valanti
Date: October 29, 2026 10:28:27 am

Please STOP this arch from being built. It is nothing with historical or societal value, does not commemorate anything valuable, and is nothing but one man's desire to glorify himself. Surely that's the WRONG reason to OK such a thing.

I know Trump is powerful, but honestly, just say NO, and stick to it.

Name: BEVERLY WILKERSON
Date: October 29, 2026 10:27:32 am

The Arch is garish to begin with. I oppose it! It will encroach on at least 40 historic places. What is really scary is that it will have weapons in it. REALLY! They would only be aimed at Americans? Do not approve this, I implore you. I am an American citizen that enjoys our National parks and monuments. Lets not create this monstrosity.
Bev Wilkerson

Name: Elizabeth Lee-Rausch
Date: October 29, 2026 10:27:15 am

No arch. Not here. Not ever. Spend the money improving existing facilities.

Name: Oliver Weltzien
Date: October 29, 2026 10:23:55 am

This is another visual obscenity from the sorriest excuse of a bin-President we've ever seen: a wannabe dictator, a terminal narcissist and megalomaniac.

The analogies with Hitler and his architect. albert Speer, are close and should escape no one's ire.

I fiercely oppose this proposal. The Monster has already destroyed the White House. We need no more of a gilded cheesecake factory.

Yours,

Dr. O. Alan Weltzien

Name: Todd Wilson
Date: October 29, 2026 10:21:40 am

The cost alone to build such a monstrosity should be the first stopping point! The honored dead should be revered for their sacrifices and mourners and visitors do not need a "trumpian tribute tower" reminding them of someone who has zero connection with honor, sacrifice or true patriotism! It would be a hazard to navigation for aircraft as well.
The 'leader' is going to try and push it through as he does with everything. It must stop! Deny this dementia-addled octogenarian toddler this stupid waste of money and time! The funds for that project alone would be far better suited to critically underfunded National Parks!
Thanek you!

Name: joanne snider
Date: October 29, 2026 10:14:04 am

I urge your commission to deny the building of the arch that has been proposed. It is out of scale, unnecessary and will block the views of other important sites. I strongly oppose the structure.

Name: Debra Michelson
Date: October 29, 2026 10:13:34 am

If Mr. Trump wants an Arch, let him build it at Mar-a-lago. DC is not "HIS TOWN" or property. And ostentatious monuments are not in our country's best interests or cost effective.

Name: Caroline Orlando
Date: October 29, 2026 10:08:38 am

The Arch as proposed is completely inappropriate in scale and location. It will be by far the largest landmark on the skyline other than the Washington Monument. From the Virginia side, it will block views of the Lincoln Memorial. From the DC side, it will completely overpower views of Arlington Cemetery. The DC State Historic Preservation Office has suggested a much more appropriate location. Several laws have been flouted in the arch's planning, including the Height of Buildings Act; the Commemorative Works Act; and the National Historic Preservation Act. This plan must not be approved.

Name: Ann Polanski
Date: October 29, 2026 10:08:02 am

Dear Sirs:

I am an 87 year old woman who is fortunate to call the Washington DC area my home. I am writing to state my strong disapproval of erecting the so-called Arc de Trump in our nation's capitol.

For me, growing up in Washington was an amazing experience! - What a privilege to visit the beautiful, historic, inspiring landmarks of the city, and to learn personally about our nation's great history.

I remember watching President Truman's inauguration. I remember marching with my high school band past the reviewing stand where President Eisenhower waved and smiled at all of us at his inauguration. Over the years our school trips through the museums were amazing, educational and inspiring. I sang with my high school (BCC) choir at the National Cathedral at Christmas. With my friends, classmates, and family there were numerous visits to the Smithsonian, art galleries, celebrating the 4th of July on the mall, the tragic view of President Kennedy lying in state at the Capitol, and talking with Vice President Humphrey and various congressman who were the parents of my friends.

For me these weren't pictures on a TV screen - I was there in person. My heart and soul have been forever influenced by actually experiencing our country's history.

I was present also at the burial of my father, mother, and husband at Arlington Cemetery. All of them served our wonderful country with pride in the Air Force and the Army. And I will be honored to be buried there also.

As citizens of this country, the city of Washington belongs to all of us. - Certainly it is NOT and never will belong to any one person but to ALL the people of this great country.

President Trump is showing such disrespect to all of us as he constantly plans memorials, buildings, events, and changes in Washington just to satisfy his own need for publicity and recognition.

And now his threat to build a monstrous Arc de Trump, towering over the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery!
If you consider the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington monument, the Jefferson Memorial, and Arlington Cemetery, these monuments
were constructed long AFTER the celebrated people and events - with the perspective that only time could bring to them. The Lincoln Memorial was dedicated over 50 years after Lincoln's death. The Washington monument , 49 years after Washington's death, and the Jefferson memorial,121 years after his death

They were NOT planned or constructed by those honored to glorify themselves. They were built long after their lives ended by the public to honor them and their rightful places in history.

In closing I do not think our purpose is to make Washington look like Disneyland (with apologies to Mr. Disney). Our city is a monument in itself. We need to be mindful of how we use it and how we honor those who EARN their place here in our history.

Thank you.

Ann Rodgers Polanski
Cell phone : [redacted]

Name: Larry May
Date: October 29, 2026 10:07:56 am

I oppose the building of this arch in any form. However, if an arch is to be build it needs to be significantly reduced so as not to dominate the skyline of our capital city. The Washington skyline by design has always been to feature our Capitol Building where the people rule with the exception of the Washington Monument celebrating a man who after serving his nation, returned to private life. Please preserve this heritage of our capitol city for generations to come and reject the current monumental arch proposal.

Name: Margaret W Sullivan
Date: October 29, 2026 10:05:52 am

This is an inappropriate location of a monumental structure. It also ignores and detracts from the meaning and symbolism of the memorials that it will visually diminish.

Name: Margaret Hrncirik
Date: October 29, 2026 10:05:21 am

As a citizen of this great country, I do not want a monumental arch constructed for several reasons..,
It interferes with Arlington Cemetery's peaceful and solemn atmosphere,
it costs way too much of our public dollars when our country cannot afford this cost,
it ruins the view of other beautiful structures in Washington DC.

Please do not authorize this project!

Name: Suzanne M Borozny
Date: October 29, 2026 10:02:55 am

Please, no Monumental Arch, this administration has already destroyed too much. Preserving our heritage and history is important.

Name: Tiffin Shewmake
Date: October 29, 2026 10:01:46 am

Please do not approve construction of this arch. Monuments in the Washington, DC area, need to go through a careful approval and planning process. In this case, being careful and thoughtful is required to maintain the national capital as a beautiful city and not a Soviet wannabe. Second, an environmental analysis needs to be conducted, and, as you know, that takes time. Third, the pictured arch is totally out of scale for the surroundings, would interfere with air traffic, and does not fit with the aesthetics of the national capital region or the Constitution. I urge you to reject this arch or, if you really think it’s a good idea, start a real planning process.

Name: Gail Safian
Date: October 29, 2026 10:01:22 am

The monumental arch planned by President Trump is completely out of scale in Washington and will destroy a vista that was carefully planned and —I thought—protected. It disrespects the brave people buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Please don’t cave to political pressure that will have an outsized and negative impact on our beautiful capital city.

Name: Fran Bowman
Date: October 29, 2026 9:56:55 am

No other project that I can recall has received more negative comments than the hideous Arch de Trump. Yet the plan moves on. Veterans, families of our war dead, chaplains, and just plain citizens like me have protested the desecration of the scenic and historic viewscape between Arlington and the Lincoln Memorial. Yet the plan moves on. What will it take for some one person, or some important review body like yourselves, to just say "NO" ?

Name: Jen Gold
Date: October 29, 2026 9:55:56 am

Any monument in the District is supposed to got through extensive vetting from both a design and historical perspective. The arch has not. It is without question a vanity project for the current President and in no way should be bullt. The way he has gone about pushing this through is an insult to those dedicated goverment employees who are tasked with the job of maintaining the city and its skyline.

The arch is outrageously large and out of proportion with any other building and monument in the city. It is garish and ugly.

No monument should be installed to a LIVING president -- ESPECIALLY by that same president. That would be a foolhardy precedent to set. Nay, it would be STUPID.

The arch would disrupt the beauty of both the riverscape AND the other monuments nearby. Presidents Jefferson and Lincoln, for example, would roll over in their graves if that kind of obsequious sculpture were built. It is undemocratic to its very core.

And it is allegedly going to also be an armory of some kind? Do I have to explain how stupid that would be to the committee? The extent of the security that would (should!?) be required if arms were kept in the arch? It would be extremely disruptive to traffic flow -- of pedestrians, commuters, AND the zillions of tour buses that carry citizens from our country and around the world who are OUR GUESTS.

Finally, the arch is a serious offense to those service members -- some of whom lost their lives to defend democracy in our country and (perhaps misguidedly) around the world. Their honor and memory should never ever be overshadowed by a meaningless, purposeless arch. Its incredibly disrespectful.

DON'T DO IT. In the words of Nancy Reagan (whose husband did NOT build himself a narcissistic structure): JUST SAY NO.

Name: Alison Sweeney
Date: October 29, 2026 9:50:28 am

Just say no! Safeguard the view shed sacred to all Americans, and respect the nearly half a million veterans interred at Arlington. Just say no!

Alison Sweeney
Bozeman MT

Name: Bradford MacGowan
Date: October 29, 2026 9:49:34 am

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

As someone who cares deeply about historic preservation and protecting the places that tell our nation’s story, I urge you to carefully consider the lasting consequences of the proposed 250-foot Arch near Arlington National Cemetery.

This enormous structure would encroach on more than 40 historic properties and risk diminishing the historic character, dignity, and integrity of one of our nation’s most significant memorial landscapes. These places are more than monuments and buildings. They represent our history, our sacrifices, and our responsibility to preserve our national heritage for future generations.

On November 5, you have a critical opportunity to exercise your responsibility to protect these historic resources. I urge you to put preservation, respect for our fallen, and the long-term integrity of this landscape ahead of a proposal that could cause irreversible harm.

Please vote NO on the proposed Arch. Protect our history, honor our fallen, and preserve this irreplaceable landscape for future generations.

Name: Jon Speicher
Date: October 29, 2026 9:48:13 am

Will you people please stop feeding trumps overly enlarged egotistical megalomanicle ego and stop him from wasting any more time and taxpayer money on these tacky self centered whims he comes up with. Do the right thing and stop him NOW!

Name: Nancy Ball
Date: October 29, 2026 9:47:46 am

PLEASE vote AGAINST the arch. It is nothing but an obscene monument to Donald Trump. It will block the iconic view from the Mall to Arlington National Cemetery, both of which honor true heroes.

Name: Eugene Brusin
Date: October 29, 2026 9:46:20 am

As a Vietnam War Veteran, 4 years USN, I am against a 250 foot monument to a certified Draft dodger and Fellon, Donald Trump. The view of Arlington is for the memories of people who served in various wars and paid the ultimate price, not to say to the world "My monument is bigger than yours".
Please refuse to allow this attack on patriots who rest in Arlington to become a part of the Trump legacy of "me, me, me"
No to a 250 foot arch of lies, corruption and ego.

Name: Kathleen Gill
Date: October 29, 2026 9:45:29 am

Re: 8778: New Monumental Arch (Submitted by: United States Department of the Interior), I am absolutely opposed. I am a private citizen and I am thoroughly disgusted by the illegal actions and insulting, self-aggrandizing proposals by the current administration. I am fully in support of the testimony consistent with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Public Testimony of Rob Nieweg Before the National Capital Planning Commission (July 9, 2026).

Sincerely,
Kathleen M. Gill, Ph.D.

Name: Amy Borland
Date: October 29, 2026 9:45:22 am

As an architectural historian with 25 years of experience, I strongly object to the construction of the Monumental Arch. It dramatically destroys the viewshed and historical connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. It is unacceptable that the Department of the Interior has chosen to move forward with this project despite over 40 impacted properties existing within the project area. The National Historic Preservation Act must be followed, regardless of the project, to project our heritage at the local, state, and national levels. One could argue that the office of the President must even more stringently follow the laws of the country, as that position sets the example for all communities and citizens to follow. Do better.

Name: Nick Carter
Date: October 29, 2026 9:45:00 am

I deeply oppose the construction of this arch. It betrays the beauty and symmetry of the city of Washington as originally laid out by L'Enfant. A look back at that history shows how his original vision of a grid system overlaid with sweeping diagonal grand avenues, starburst patterns from key landmarks, public squares, and the open space of the National Mall was betrayed. The cluttered, disorganized and ugly city had to be rescued by the McMillan Commission in 1902. This proposed arch is yet another betrayal of the visions of the past. It ruins the views looking into the city from Alexandria, blocking the majesty of the Lincoln Memorial and it ruins the solemnity of the view of Arlington Cemetery. Don't make a beautiful city tawdry and force us into having to create another commission to rescue the nation's capital again.

Name: Shela Hadley
Date: October 29, 2026 9:44:06 am

Please do not permit this oversized monumental arch to be constructed in such a major historic area where it would overshadow and impinge on so many other significant historic sites.

Name: Kathy Bradley
Date: October 29, 2026 9:43:10 am

I vehemently oppose construction of the trump narcissist vanity project politely titled "New Monumental Arch" in this proceeding. It is desired by no one other than trump and "supported" only by those too cowardly to speak up. Obscuring the actual history and symbols of sacrifice of many brave Americans, to fleetingly gratify the narcissistic ego of one completely unqualified and undeserving individual, to pretend that he is worth any recognition, thus despoiling public lands and iconic sites, is an affront to America and our history.

NO. JUST. NO.

Name: Gregg Russo
Date: October 29, 2026 9:43:06 am

Building a monumental arch at Arlington will be a disgrace to our fallen soldiers as it will not glorify them. Cemeteries are meant to be places of quiet reflection, not grandiose monuments. It will be nothing more than an ego boast to the most un-American president in the history of this nation. Stop it now!!!

Name: Betti Mentzer
Date: October 29, 2026 9:43:03 am

Please do not allow this proposed Arch to be built. Thank you.

Name: Stephen Wing
Date: October 29, 2026 9:40:30 am

I am vehemently opposed to the construction of the President's proposed monumental arch. Both my parents served in WWII and are interred at Arlington National Cemetery. I served in the U.S. Army 1968 to 1972 and my sister served 1964-1968. That this President who never served would take unilateral action to aggrandize himself is an abomination. Please do everything possible to thwart this awful project.

Stephen Wing, [redacted], Milford, Ct 06460

Name: Jennifer Metz
Date: October 29, 2026 9:40:13 am

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

Please adhere to appropriate reviews and planning timelines and procedures relative to the impact this proposed arch will have on historic resources in which this Monumental Arch will impact in our nation's capitol. Due to its scale it will harshly effect the resources around it. The scale is far too large, it reads visually as Nazi-era design, and it is deeply unpopular with the American people. It will overshadow and impinge on our historic resources and be a dark mark in our history if constructed. I urge you to consider if approved this body and its members will be remembered for this choice. The formal and legal opposition from our most revered organizations who protect historic resources in this country and are experts in historic and modern architecture should jolt you to carefully consider their rationale to oppose it. Also, although likely not in your purview to consider cost, with our national debt skyrocketing this also feels unethical to move forward with this project.

Thank you for your service to our capital and your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Metz

Name: Denise Cameron
Date: October 29, 2026 9:40:11 am

Please I respectfully ask that this arch not be built. This is a vanity project by our president. The service people who fought for this country and our democracy do not deserve to be overshadowed by this.

I will be truly disgusted to see this being erected.

Please do not let this happen.

Kind regards,

Denise Cameron

Name: Sue Lukens
Date: October 29, 2026 9:39:14 am

No arch near sacred grounds. It's obscene.

Name: Robert Hugi
Date: October 29, 2026 9:37:42 am

It would be obscene and offensive. Should never have even been suggested!

Name: Ronald King
Date: October 29, 2026 9:36:00 am

The scale of the project is grotesque. It’s an insult to the 400,000 veterans buried at Arlington Cemetery.

Name: Meryl Pinque
Date: October 29, 2026 9:35:21 am

To: National Capital Planning Commission
Re: NCPC File 8778, New Monumental Arch, Memorial Circle, Washington, DC: request to disapprove final site and building plans

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge the Commission not to approve the final site and building plans for the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle, or at a minimum to defer the vote until the outstanding issues below are fully resolved. I am writing from outside the United States, but the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery belong to the shared heritage of everyone who values democratic memory.

1) The arch would disrupt one of the nation’s most meaningful vistas

The sight line between the Lincoln Memorial, Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle and Arlington National Cemetery is a deliberate, open and uninterrupted composition. As the Commission itself has recognised, the sight line, design and landscape features of Memorial Avenue are contributing elements of the National Register-listed Arlington National Cemetery Historic District and of Arlington Memorial Bridge. A structure of roughly 250 feet, topped with gilded statuary, would dominate that landscape, compete with the Lincoln Memorial and overwhelm the entrance to a cemetery whose character depends on dignity, quiet and restraint.

2) The federal review has documented serious adverse effects

The National Park Service’s own Section 106 review acknowledges adverse effects on 37 historic properties. Adverse effects of that scale call for avoidance, not just mitigation through a memorandum of agreement. I also note the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s concern that the Section 106 process was ended before consultation was complete, and that the public had only a few business days to comment. Decisions about places of this significance should follow complete, transparent and unhurried review.

3) Important planning questions remain unresolved

At earlier stages the Commission asked for further information on the justification for the arch’s height, its effect on air navigation, lighting, stormwater management, and the regulation of traffic and parking. Concerns about pedestrian safety and about compatibility with the capital’s long-standing height controls have also been raised. A final vote should come only once each of these questions has been answered with clear, published evidence, not deferred to later phases of the project.

4) Traffic and public safety

Memorial Circle is a major junction on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Introducing a massive structure and a public plaza in the middle of a busy roundabout creates real risks for pedestrians, visitors and emergency access, especially during large events. These risks should be addressed before approval, not afterwards.

5) The capital is a planned city; its principles deserve respect

Washington’s symbolic power comes from patient, coordinated planning over generations, in which each monument relates to the others and to the principles of the republic. Adding a very large new landmark at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, a place dedicated to sacrifice and mourning rather than triumph, risks altering that carefully balanced meaning. If the nation’s 250th anniversary is to be commemorated, it can be done in sites and forms that do not harm irreplaceable historic landscapes.

I respectfully ask the Commission to disapprove the final plans for the Monumental Arch, or at least to withhold final approval until the Section 106 process is properly completed, all outstanding questions on height, aviation, traffic, lighting and drainage are answered publicly, and the public has had a real opportunity to review the final materials.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Respectfully,
Meryl Pinque

Name: Michael F Martin
Date: October 29, 2026 9:35:19 am

The proposed arch is a boondoggle and a vanity project which would encroach on more than 40 historic properties in the memorial landscape around Arlington National Cemetery. I am totally against this.

Name: Sal Sinsigalli
Date: October 29, 2026 9:35:01 am

What a total waste of money and the destruction of nature that surrounds our nations Capital. Instead of bringing this country together, we keep dividing it with insane decisions like this one! People are struggling with everyday costs because of this blatantly corrupt administration. Do not allow this stupidity to continue!!!

Name: Linda Barksdale
Date: October 29, 2026 9:34:51 am

Please vote no on the monumental arch near Arlington National Cemetery. The heroic and triumphal actions of those lying in Arlington National Cemetery speak louder with quiet dignity and promote deep thought and thankfulness much more than a huge, invasive arch could ever evoke. Please do not allow the proposed arch to overshadow the sacrifice of so many brave men and women. Thank you.

Name: Kathleen Foster
Date: October 29, 2026 9:32:59 am

I am a 71 year old citizen of the United States. It is plain to see that this monument is nothing but an ego-driven tribute to one man, and nothing to do with honoring our country or government in any way. My husband has family buried at Arlington Cemetery, which is a sacred and revered place for many families who lost loved ones defending our country. If this arch is built, you might as well just go ahead and spray paint it gold. Because it is that obvious what this project is about. Nothing else.

Name: Robert Hoekstra
Date: October 29, 2026 9:32:02 am

Unnecessary and a colossal waste of money.

Name: margaret bach
Date: October 29, 2026 9:30:37 am

Absolutely NO to the Arch!

Name: Barbara Blumenthal
Date: October 29, 2026 9:25:16 am

I want to add my voice as a staunch opponent of the proposed 250 ft. arch. Its size, design, and site are irreversibly detrimental to many historical sites, landscapes, and vistas in D.C. The arch itself would obscure the historical and carefully planned site lines between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House. To build this gaudy, out-of-scale arch is an affront to the memories of those buried in Arlington Cemetery. It is unthinkable to ponder its completion. I hope that the National Capital Planning Commission will choose tradition, history, historical preservation (by NOT disturbing the site line nor other sites in D.C.), and common sense, above the petulant whims of one man.
Thank you for seriously considering my comments and those of others who oppose the construction of this arch.
Barbara Blumenthal

Name: DONNA KEEM
Date: October 29, 2026 9:24:53 am

The proposed new monumenal arch is an affront to the American people and democracy. It would overshadow the intent and atmosphere of Arlington National Cemetery to honor those who died serving our country. Its design is out of balance with the whole design of Washington D.C.. The purpose to glorify a living president is horrendous. The cost at a time of austerity for average Americans, the disruption of Arlington funeral services, environmental concerns are all major objections to this proposed idiotic project. Please deny approval of the project.

Name: Deb Lang
Date: October 29, 2026 9:16:03 am

The Trump arch will create an eyesore, as it's out of scale and style of the monuments in DC. I find it offensive to self honor a living politician, and feel like it lessens what the rest of DC is about and its beauty and sanctity. I urge you to reject this arch.

Name: Kimberly Kozakiewicz
Date: October 29, 2026 8:42:36 am

Protect the memorial the way it is and say no to the new project for arch plans. It's going to be too high and too bright and will interfere with what's already preserved. This is unneccessary.

Name: SHARON BARATZ
Date: October 29, 2026 7:30:11 am

The Trump arch is completely out of scale and style of the monuments in DC. In addition these kinds of monuments are not made to living people and go through a long process of approval, planning and appropriation. This arch is revoltingly out of place and inappropriate for such a controversial president who is actually destroying our democracy while the other monuments are to our founding fathers who built our democracy. I urge you to reject this arch.

Name: Mary Snider
Date: October 29, 2026 6:45:23 am

Please do not build the arch. The American people do not want our tax money going to this project and it will block the view of Arlington Cemetery.
Thank you.

Name: Benjamin Jesup
Date: October 29, 2026 5:45:02 am

I urge you to stop the unlawful construction of the Triumphal Arch on the doorstep of Arlington National Cemetery, where hundreds of thousands of military service members and their families are buried. The proposed structure is inappropriate both in scope and theme at the proposed location. It will also be a colossal waste of money and resources.

Name: Jeff Halvorson
Date: October 29, 2026 12:55:16 am

As a former resident of DC, I urge the Commission to actively engage the US Congress before proceeding with any development of the Arch. I have vivid and powerful memories at Arlington and was present during multiple ceremonies, I have spent significant time on the National Mall, and firmly believe that nothing should change these hallowed landscapes unless authorized by both Houses of the US Congress. I urge you to bring Congress into this conversation and if we collectively choose to proceed (i.e., the Legislative and Executive Branches), I support that decision. Please respect our fallen soldiers, the men and women who died for this country, and give them the dignity they deserve by ensuring any and all changes are authorized by the elected representatives of the people in a fair and transparent manner. Thank you.

Name: Jeff Colburn
Date: October 29, 2026 12:14:16 am

Please, No arch. Thank you.

Name: Bonnie Geertsen
Date: October 29, 2026 12:09:46 am

I AM STRONGLY AGAINST THE PLAN FOR THE MONUMENTAL ARCH. I DO NOT BELIEVE IN HAVING THIS AT THE MEMORIAL CIRCLE. THE CIRCLE SHOULD NOT BE ENCUMBERED WITH A NEW EXTRA LARGE ARCH. IT IS TOTALLY UNNESSESARY AND USELESS. THE IMPACTS ON TRAFFIC ARE VERY DETRIMENTAL AND PROBLEMATIC. THIS ARCH HAS NO BENEFIT TO THIS AREA !

Name: Melinda Gleason
Date: October 29, 2026 12:01:02 am

Not only is this unlawful, it's a stupid idea.
Thank you.

Public Comments for New Monumental Arch

Total comments: 11

October 30, 2026

Name: Patrick Rafferty
Date: October 30, 2026 12:38:38 am

I do not support the construction of the new monumental arch. Washington DC is the nations capitol and changes are usually carefully thought out in relationship to the master plan for the city. This arch will block vistas and it is out of scale to other buildings and constructions in DC.

It is a waste of taxpayer dollars in this time of armed military conflict with Iran. The country is suffering from very high inflation as well. Now is not the time to be spending money on an unnecessary arch.

Name: Erik Stark
Date: October 30, 2026 12:55:05 am

Please do not approve this disgusting arch. It isn't in accord with the sacred views and purposes of the existing memorials. It's gaudy and over-the-top like all of Trump's vanity projects. Do not indulge him. The majority of U.S. citizens don't want this. Thank you.

Name: Susan Robertson
Date: October 30, 2026 1:16:35 am

Do not build that abominable, hideous piece of stone. First, it looks like a Nazi monument. Second, the location and ridiculous size is disrespectful to the veterans buried in Arlington Cemetery. A monument for war, overshadowing the sacred grounds of soldiers who gave their lives for our country, is one of the most disrespectful ideas I have ever heard. You should know better. And you should know, it would be a waste of money because it will get knocked down as soon as he’s out of power.

Name: Brianna F
Date: October 30, 2026 6:42:18 am

I strongly disagree with the building of the arch as it will literally overshadow Arlington National Cemetery. I have three grandparents buried their, and the cemetery is sacred ground meant to honor and respect those who died in service to our country, not to celebrate American triumphs. Furthermore, the arch will tower over the rest of the DC memorial landmarks, which were purposefully built to be low profile so that there was no hierarchy associated with them. Finally, the government should be spending its limited funds preserving the National Park Service sites that we already have, including years of backlogged maintenance and repairs, instead of constructing vanity projects.

Name: d bra
Date: October 30, 2026 9:17:04 am

As a U.S. Army veteran who served multiple years active duty during the Vietnam war, I am furious and appalled at the horrible prospect of seeing this 'Monumental Arch' project come to fruition! It is a tremendous affront to all the men and women who have ever served in our armed forces! To think that my brothers and sisters in arms who are buried in the National Cemetery would be disgraced by this hideous monstrosity that is meant for one reason: a monument to the vain and fragile ego of president Trump. I oppose it with every cell of my body!

Name: Mary David-Kvicala
Date: October 30, 2026 9:28:17 am

No to unlawful Arch construction! Not here. Not EVER!

Name: Cecilia LaViolette
Date: October 30, 2026 10:37:55 am

As a native Washingtonian, with friends and relatives interred at Arlington Cemetery, once again I strongly urge the Commission to permanently halt the Trump Arch. It is a vanity project for one man. No citizens requested such an arch. Money spent on it could be spent on many different projects, including continued support for Ukraine.

The arch will damage the Cemetery views and is inappropriately sized. And let's not get into the drones and snipers it can hold.....

Name: Sylvia Carroll
Date: October 30, 2026 11:33:03 am

There is no reason to erect a vanity arch for only one person. It will be torn down once Trump is gone.

Name: John Callas
Date: October 30, 2026 11:48:13 am

I write to oppose the Monumental Arch. It is unlawful. Congress has not authorized the arch. Trump does not have the authority to direct the building of the arch. It is unwanted by the public. It disrespects those that have fallen in service to this nation. Do not permit this project to go forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,
John Callas
Pasadena, California

Name: Sandra Schaberl
Date: October 30, 2026 11:54:41 am

The plan for the monumental arch is a vanity project that does not benefit Americans in any meaningful way and it detracts from other very meaningful sites, in particular, Arlington National Cemetery. The proposed height of the arch transforms the viewshed of the capital in an undesired way. The fact that the arch regulation and approval has not gone through proper channels and the Administration has taken steps to implement the construction project regardless, is infuriating and insulting to American citizens and to the checks and balances built into our governmental system.
This monumental arch should not be built.

Name: Sandra Reber
Date: October 30, 2026 12:00:50 pm

The proposed arch serves no purpose and will defile the view of Arlington National Cemetery. Vanity projects such as the proposed arch have no place in our country particularly in such a sensitive location.
Sandra L Reber

Name: Valerie McLaughlin
Date: July 8, 2026 12:01:59 pm

Please do not approve this. It is misuse of funds, and Trump has wasted enough money on destroying the rose garden, and the reflecting pool and putting his name on everything. Thank you!

Name: Susan Byers
Date: July 8, 2026 12:02:20 pm

I am against any monument honoring President Trump who avoided the draft due to what has been reported as fake heal spurs and whom talks so disrespectfully of those who were injured or died while serving our country. I think erecting the arch would be ultimately disrespectful to those who are laid to rest there!

Name: Cheryl Dyer
Date: July 8, 2026 12:02:22 pm

How dare he overshadow hallowed ground with his despicable arch. His disgusting revamp of our White House and its grounds are shameful.

Name: Jenny Iverson
Date: July 8, 2026 12:03:00 pm

I oppose the building a a triumphal arch built on the Mall. The celebration of our nation's democracy is memorialized and celebrated through our daily democratic actions and does not need a physical monument constructed. The existing monuments should not have their impact denigrated by an unnecessary project.

Name: Patricia Pearson
Date: July 8, 2026 12:03:19 pm

This arch will violate the intent of Washington's design. It will violate the law in being built without congressional authorization or the required permits. It will violate the sacred ground of ANC and insult the men and women buried there. They earned their place of honor. This arch honors nothing but one man's ego.

Please stand up for the dignity of those who have served and do not approve the arch.

Name: Mary Ellen Swadley
Date: July 8, 2026 12:04:27 pm

I am strongly opposed to the Monumental Arch. It does not serve to create a somber and respectful entrance to a sacred resting ground of our military deceased. It serves to leave a stamp of one man who did not have the courage to serve or love of country that these fallen patriots had. Spend the money on our veterans and veteran's hospitals that serve our brave military instead.

Name: Joe Stephens
Date: July 8, 2026 12:04:55 pm

This arch doesn't belong in the sightings for Arlington Cemetary. I did not go to Vietnam to support a celebration of superiority. I have friends and family in that cemetery and we dishonor their sacrifice by blocking the ever-present memory with this obelisk to excess.

Name: Debby Den Dekker
Date: July 8, 2026 12:07:13 pm

I respectfully urge the Commission to deny approval of the proposed Triumphal Arch (also referred to as the Independence Arch) near the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

I've heard many complaints about the size, that it will block the view of the cemetery and will mar the sanctity of it. It would be ghastly looking and no living person should have a monument attributed to them and completely unnecessary. Also, federal funds to build the arch have not been authorized by congressional appropriation. The project has bypassed standard environmental and historic preservation evaluations, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

This is a mistake to allow to happen. Thank you.

Respectfully Debby Den Dekker

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 12:17 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Mary Kordsmeier

I strongly object to this despicable desecration of ARLINGTON cemetery. The brave soldiers who lie there deserve our respect. Please stop Trump from doing this

From: Robin
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 1:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO TRUMP ARCH!!!

No no no no

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 1:56 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Patricia Haley

Please do not build the arch. This project is a waste of public funds that can be better used elsewhere. Our veterans are already honored by the lovely cemetery and grounds.

From:
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 5:48 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Memorial Circle Arch Proposal

To the Commissioners of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed arch at Memorial Circle. Memorial Circle is the solemn, structural gateway to Arlington National Cemetery. It is a space designed for quiet reflection on the ultimate sacrifice of American service members, not a piece of vacant real estate waiting to be repurposed as a backdrop for a political vanity project.

Erecting a self-aggrandizing monument in the immediate sightline of our nation's most hallowed ground is a gross desecration of its purpose. We do not honor the military by overshadowing the Avenue of Heroes with a monument to a politician's ego.

Approving this project sends a clear message that the Commission views the dignity of our veterans as secondary to political theater.

I urge the Commission to reject this absurd proposal in its entirety.

Sincerely,
Craig Crawford
WASHINGTON DC 20009

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, 08 July 2026 17:55:48
To: Herr, Jamie
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Eileen Gay

Hi Jamie -

What criteria does the panel look at? Do they have a specific checklist they are supposed to consider?

I oppose the Arch project on historic and esthetic grounds (to name the strongest two). With what appears to be 99% of the public responses being against the Memorial Arch, how can the panel simply ignore the public / stakeholder input and choose to move forward with approval of it anyway?

Hence my question above.

Thank you.

Eileen Gay - Public Artist

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 7:27 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from DeAnna Charett

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Trump Arch, sometimes referred to as the "Arc de Trump," and to urge the Commission to reject any final design that would place this structure near Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington House, or the Lincoln Memorial.

As a veteran, and as the daughter of two veterans, both who served during the Vietnam era and one who served in Vietnam, I find this proposal disgraceful, disrespectful, and an unacceptable waste of money, time, and federal attention.

This proposed arch would interrupt the historic and symbolic line of sight between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington House, and the graves of the fallen at Arlington National Cemetery. That view was not accidental. When the location of the Lincoln Memorial was planned, the visual connection between Arlington and the memorial to President Abraham Lincoln was intentional and deeply meaningful.

That view represents what the Civil War was fought for: the preservation of the United States, freedom, equality, reunion, and national reconciliation. It connects sacred ground, national sacrifice, and the memory of the president who helped save this country from dissolution.

Placing a massive monument associated with Donald Trump in that space would break that solemn connection. It would place our honored dead in the shadow of a political monument tied to one man's ego and personal legacy. That is not patriotism. That is not respect for veterans. That is not honoring the fallen.

Donald Trump avoided military service, yet this proposal would allow a monument connected to him to dominate or interfere with one of the most sacred veteran landscapes in the United States. As a veteran, I find that deeply offensive. Many veterans and military families see Arlington National Cemetery as sacred ground, not as a backdrop for political spectacle.

The design itself is also inappropriate for this location. It resembles authoritarian-style monument building more than American democratic remembrance. It is excessive, out of place, and visually disruptive to a historic memorial landscape that should be protected, not politicized.

At a time when veterans, disabled Americans, seniors, military families, and working families continue to struggle with healthcare access, benefits delays, housing costs, and basic affordability, this proposal is a disgraceful misuse of public attention and planning resources. Whether funded publicly, privately, or through a combination of sources, federal approval would still give this project legitimacy it does not deserve.

The National Capital Planning Commission has a DUTY TO PROTECT THE DIGNITY, HISTORY, and MEANING OF THIS SPACE. Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington House, and the Lincoln Memorial BELING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. They should not be altered, obstructed, or overshadowed by a monument to ONE PRESIDENT, ONE POLITICAL MOVEMENT, or ONE MAN'S DELUSION OF GRANDEUR.

Veterans DESERVE RESPECT, not spectacle. The fallen DESERVE SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE, not to be used as scenery for a political vanity project.

I respectfully but firmly urge you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

DeAnna Charett
Veteran, Gulf War Era
Daughter of Two Veterans

From: Martin Cohn
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 8:56 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Memorial Circle Arch Proposal.

To the Commissioners of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I want to formally oppose the proposed arch at Memorial Circle. The proposed arch is a frivolous insult to the memory of American soldiers who died for our country.

There is only one reason the arch is being proposed and that is to feed the overweening vanity of our President Donald Trump. I just wish he had better things to do than to ruin our nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Martin Cohn
San Francisco, CA

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, 08 July 2026 21:01:11
To: Acosta, Marcel
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Patricia Greason

Please do NOT approve the proposed ARCH.

-----Original Message-----
From: AFF
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 9:11 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NCPC File Number: 8778 Triumphal Arch

To the National Capital Planning Commission,

I respectfully urge the Commission to deny approval of the proposed Triumphal Arch (also referred to as the Independence Arch) near the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

The proposed structure is incompatible with both the solemn purpose of Arlington National Cemetery and the carefully planned civic architecture of Washington, D.C. It would place an enormous, gold-accented ceremonial monument at the threshold of our nation's most sacred military cemetery, diminishing the quiet dignity owed to those interred there and to the families who come to mourn. Arlington should remain a place of reflection and remembrance, not become a destination dominated by a monumental tourist attraction.

The proposed 250-foot, approximately 25-story structure would dramatically alter the historic vista between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Its immense scale and gilded statuary are inconsistent with the restrained, neoclassical character that has long defined the monumental core of the nation's capital. In my view, the design is inappropriate for such a place of honor and reverence.

I am also concerned that the proposal raises significant legal and procedural questions. The Commemorative Works Act requires explicit congressional approval for building monuments on federal parkland. Federal funds to build the arch have not been authorized by congressional appropriation. The project has bypassed standard environmental and historic preservation evaluations, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Finally, I believe that committing public resources to such a massive ceremonial structure is fiscally irresponsible at a time of growing federal deficits and competing national priorities.

For these reasons, I request that the National Capital Planning Commission reject this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Campbell

From: Jim Harnish
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 10:12 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Memorial Circle Arch Proposal

Please vote against the proposal for a monstrous arc that will disrupt the connection between Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery. It is a totally inappropriate waste of tax payers' dollars to satisfy the self-aggrandizing desire of the current President. Washington, D.C., is not one of his private resorts. The city and all it represents belongs to all of us!

Thank you for stopping this project before it goes any farther.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. James A. Harnish
Longwood, FL

From: gschmid
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 12:26 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject Trump's Arch

Good evening,
I have reviewed the Trump Arch planned for DC and I find it gaudy, unnecessary, and offensive as a former Army soldier. Disrupting the sightline of the Arlington House/Cemetery from the Lincoln Memorial (solemn symbols of our history and the Nation's sacrifices) with a vanity totem goes against what our country was built on. This is an enormous waste of money that the majority of Americans find wasteful.
I have lost faith in the independence of this body, but I ask you to shut this project down none the less.
Thank you for your time,
Greg

From: Robert Murray
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 4:33 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Memorial Circle Arch Proposal

To: the Commissioners of the National Capital Planning Commission:

We do not need a monument to the ego of a malignant narcissist, who is also a draft dodger.

To build this grotesque arch at Memorial circle, would be an insult to all veterans, living and dead who served with honor.

I urge the Commission to reject this proposal.

I am a Vietnam War veteran.

Sincerely,

--
Robert Murray
Yarmouth, Maine

-----Original Message-----
From: K CUNNINGHAM
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 8:16 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment: Opposition to Triumphal Arch Proposal

National Capital Planning Commission,

I am submitting formal opposition to the proposed Triumphal Arch in Washington, DC. The project conflicts with long-standing planning principles, threatens the integrity of the monumental core, and introduces unnecessary congestion and disruption. It does not serve the public interest.

I urge the Commission to withhold approval.

Thank you for your consideration and for lodging my opposition to this project.

Kecia A Vaughn
Harrisburg, PA

Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 8:25 AM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

hello this is mrs clancy from syracuse NY and i'm upset about this arch that trump wants to build i thought that the bridge was made low and so lincoln the lincoln memorial is facing across the bridge into arlington he does he's spending money that we don't have like is everyone unaware that we are broke that we're 40 trillion in debt and he's spending money like we have it be like be like me going out and buying the cadillac i want that i can't afford it's crazy and it's disrespectful and he's already disrespected arlington they asked him not to take picture he just he he disrespected mccain said he because he got he was a POW and didn't sign he was a loser he he disrespected veterans in normandy it's he avoided more he avoided the war was like 5 times bone spurs or something it's it's crazy and this US commission of fine arts is a joke he put everybody in and don't cut down the cherry trees at the golf course it's crazy like look up egomaniacal or just google it and see who you think of it's this person keeps putting his name all over everything he's crazy OK please please we don't we can't afford an arch we're broke no more spending money thank you good luck with that i hope you can stop this commission of fine arts i hope you can help congress hope you can stop this ban from putting his name all over everything it's just insane thank you

From: Betsy Fuchs
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 8:39 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No to Triumphal Arch

TI am emphatically against building the Triumphal Arch in DC. It is a vanity of our current president and has no place in a city that honors people not "triumph" or strange concepts that Trump puts forth.

I love the DC statues that honor presidents of the past and citizens who have fought in our wars.

NO NO NO to the Triumpha Arch.

Betsy Fuchs
Chicago Illinois

From: Susan Boone-Rowan
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 10:14 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's arch

I understand that our "president" is demanding a monument to his ego at Arlington National Cemetery. Please in the name of everything you hold dear, do not allow this to happen. He does not deserve to desecration ANOTHER national monument in order to satisfy his over blown ego. He is a draft dodger and worse. It would be the ultimate insult to allow him to continue with this ill-conceived endeavor. Much like the destruction of the East Wing of the White House.
Please do not let this man destroy the final resting ground of our fallen men and women who gave all to secure our lands.
Please do not stroke this man's ego with allowing another half baked scheme to bilk the American people. Tell him no.
If you really feel he deserves a monument put it over a landfill.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Susan Boone-Rowan

From: Joan Toth
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 10:35 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Proposed Triumphal Arch

Please consider whether this arch should be built in our nation's capital. I speak for a number of people who do not want to see this arch built!! What is it a triumph for?

When people come to our country - they want to visit the capital, other historic buildings and exhibits. A triumphal arch has no significance or meaning - other than to be a gaudy example of money spent foolishly.

With so many people struggling financially and with so many other ways to help the people of our country, we should not be spending money on monuments.

Thank you for considering voting down the building of any triumphal arch in our country - Joan Toth

From: Shari Mccormick
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 11:24 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's arch

Please do not agree to the building of Trump's proposed arch. He has already said it will be paid partly with taxpayer funds. With the inflationary economy and his proposed budget cuts, American taxpayers don't need their taxes to pay for a frivolous structure that is actually paid from cuts to medicare and other escentual programs.

In truth, this is another piece of Trump's ego, to glorify his name and remind people he was president. He has already destroyed portions of the White House and is now eyeing the stately pillars at its entrance. Please turn down the approval of this structure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 11:24 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Peter Ricchiuti

This arch is a terrible idea. This is a sacred space. This will turn it into just another political advertisement.

It’s wrong no matter who’s name is on it.

From:
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 11:41 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] STOP THE ARCH!

It blocks JFK's view of the city. He's pissed.

Trail Mix International Headquarters
Craig Crawford, Sommelier

From: Shirley Berry
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 11:45 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch Plans

Please prevent this from happening. Arlington is a place to honor our fallen. We do not need a gaudy, gold-dripping arch detracting from this solemn place.

From: Jeanette Sweeney
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 11:54 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Height of buildings

Sorry but I wasn't sure where to write since they're were so many addresses.

Just real quick..... I wanted to comment on the ridiculous arch that President Trump is planning, though not yet approved to my knowledge, to install. We already have an arch!! Therefore, another is not necessary!! We most definitely do not need 2 arches!! The second one being 250' tall is certainly not necessary! President Trump can build one that tall at Mar-a-Lago if he likes but it's second one in the same area as the first certainly is not necessary.

So, to be clear, in case you were unaware of this, a second arch is NOT necessary.

Feel free to contact me if you wish.

Jeanette Sweeney
Lake Havasu City, AZ

From: Linda Bloomfield
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 11:55 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

Hell NO!

From: Gary David
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 1:43 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Fw: Arch

Preston
Please stop that fool from building this arch that is not needed and would just be a place to stick his name. It would take away the solemnity of Arlington.
Sincerely
Gary David
Macedonia, OH

From: Maureen Lakin
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 1:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Trump Arch!

I am categorically opposed to Trump building his Arch! This project is a massive misallocation of resources and a disruption to our national landscape. I urge you to intervene and block this construction for the following reasons:

- **Desecration of Sacred Space:** The proposed site sits directly between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery—a space purposefully designed to visually symbolize national healing and reunification after the Civil War. Placing a towering, 250-foot monument here fundamentally disrupts that solemn sightline and disrespects our nation's veterans.
- **Flawed Legal Justification:** The administration is attempting to bypass congressional approval by distorting a 1925 plan that originally called for 166-foot columns. Adding an extra 84 feet of pedestals and statuary to build a massive arch completely alters that historical intent. Executive overreach should not be used to reshape the National Mall.
- **Fiscal Waste and Quality of Life:** National Park Service documents show plans for an aggressive 20-to-24-hour daily construction schedule to rush this project through. Raiding federal funds for a divisive vanity project—especially while our existing national parks suffer from maintenance backlogs—is completely irresponsible.

Our capital's monumental core belongs to the American people, not to the personal real estate ambitions of any sitting president. I ask that you use your legislative and oversight authority to deny funding for this project.
Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.
Sincerely,
Maureen Lakin
Greensburg IN

From: Kimberly Fien
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 3:07 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Please do not allow the arch to be built!
It will be a Desecration of sacred space. We plan to go to a burial in Arlington soon. I used to live in Alexandria and drive to GWU medical center cross that bridge
Do not allow this monster of a monument to be built but especially in this place.
It is just wrong
Thank you
Kimberly Fien

-----Original Message-----
From: Danacumings
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 3:20 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch waste

Please reconsider this abomination of an arch to a terrible president. An enemy of the constitution!
I’m not alone! Powell HATE it!

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 4:13 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Lori Bradford

No question, just my statement of disgust for the potential Trump Arch that he wants. It's a disgrace. Our beloved people who are buried in Arlington now and the many who will be are the reason for this hallowed space. Not a man hell bent on ingratiating himself, whom, by the way never served or made any sacrifices for the sake of our nation.
Please add my remarks to the list of people against this hideous and wasteful project.

From: Wendy Cale
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 4:32 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; Don Reed; Don H. Reed
Subject: [External] Today's Commission Meeting

Good afternoon,

It is now nearly 3 p.m. and your teleconference continues to have difficulties which should have been rectified by now. I logged on a tiny bit late today, but listened intently until Stephanie Fisher, Gold Star Mother, began her testimony. Apparently there was some sort of technical difficulty, which froze her statements and then your website began replaying the meeting. Again, I listened awaiting the continuation of the meeting only to have it interrupted again during Mrs. Fisher's declaration. Again, the meeting began and recycled recorded testimonies but halted again with Mrs. Fisher.

Mrs. Fisher was giving emotional personal statements concerning her son's final resting place in Arlington National cemetary, so it is extremely disappointing to be halted from hearing her full testimony and the comments by others. I trust that you will allow the public to listen to the full meeting at another time without interruptions and that all technical difficulties will be assessed and corrected in time for the September 3rd meeting.

I'd like to add that I am ***adamantly*** opposed to this monstrosity for a number of reasons, but especially because this vanity project seems to be avoiding all norms and regulations concerning monument builds. The proposed location is absurd, the architecture grandiose and pompous as compared to the simplicity of other monuments, and its construction would disrupt traffic for years. Most important, the reverence of the 30 plus burials daily at Arlington would be comprised or jeopardized by constant construction for over three years and that is totally unacceptable.

As you know, sometime in the 1920's our County thought about building two large columns in that traffic circle but declined to follow through. I urge you to do the right thing and abandon this project because it is an unnecessary, expensive project that memoralizes nothing to our nation. A triumphant arch DOES NOT belong at the entrance to the most sacred site in American history.

Sincerely yours, Wendy Gayle Cale, Birmingham, AL

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 6:17 PM
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Anonymous

Attention: NCPC Management and staff...

Kind reminders:

1. The currently seated, 45th & 47th, U.S. president currently remain a court convicted rapist and business fraud with numerous court convictions. One of his more recent convictions, the "Trump University" case came just prior to being "Sworn in" and he willfully without duress or coercion plead guilty. Another recent conviction involved misuse of campaign funds. Feel free to talk with the court clerks for details on the fraudulent U.S. president's public court conviction record. In addition to a U.S. public court conviction record, the fraudulent U.S. president also has an international public court conviction record.

2. Over exaggeration and false sincerity are common sales tactics frequently used by the fraudulent U.S. president. You can thumb through a copy of the the fraudulent U.S. president's self-published book for details on his favorite sales tactics(ie; "White lies," etc).

3. The United Nations, European Union, China, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Russian, North Korea, and Iran already know of the fraudulent U.S. president's court conviction records. Do not be surprised if the diplomats of other "Countries" are using the fraudulent U.S. president's international court conviction record against him.

4. As of 1946 and according to CHARTER MEMBERSHIP contractual agreements, the UNITED STATES is SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION of the UNITED NATIONS. To the United Nations, the U.S. election of court convicted fraud just proves to them that the "Republicans" are as bad as their told.

No reply needed. Feel free to tell others...

Anonymous

From: Evan Spicer
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 6:51 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc De Trump

Dear Planning Committee,

Please stop cucking for the fascist authoritarian pedophile that appointed you, and do not allow the Arc De Trump to be constructed. It is the vanity project of a dictator, and nothing more.

It would be a national embarrassment and disgrace if the arc is built. Trump has already brought enough disgrace and embarrassment to our nation, and we the people can suffer no more.

Best Regards,
The American People

From: Cathy and Norm Kordsmeier
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 7:09 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External]

Don't desecrate our beautiful Arlington Cemetery with Trump's vs vanity project. Please vote against this horrible arch

From: Robert Rutkowski
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 7:24 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Monumental Arch in Response to July 9 NCPC Meeting

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director
National Capital Planning Commission
01 9th Street, NW
Suite 500N
Washington DC 20004
Re: Proposed Monumental Arch in Response to July 9 NCPC Meeting

Today, the National Capital Planning Commission held a meeting to review the proposal for a new Monumental Arch in Washington, DC. The National Trust for Historic Preservation presented formal comments opposing the project. It's disappointing that the NCPC approved the preliminary site and building plans for the Monumental Arch today. The design is inappropriate and overwhelming, particularly given its damaging impact on the solemn character of Arlington National Cemetery

The NCPC should remain true to its mission and follow the legally required processes including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Height of Buildings Act, as well as the Commemorative Works Act, which requires Congressional authorization.

Yours sincerely,
Robert E. Rutkowski
Topeka, Kansas, USA

From:
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 8:43 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

hi i'll say good morning from southern california it is thursday afternoon just reading an article that your commission clear the let the president's little arc to triumph nonsense go forward you know what it's just reprehensible people and the fact that all of you are trump appointees what do you think you were going to vote do you think we're all stupid it doesn't belong there i don't know what his problem is and the way he is his attitude trying to burn down the house trying to be authoritarian ruler drifter in chief the way he treats people coming into this country the way he's trying to censor whether it be the press the free press museums going after the smithsonian i saw the letter that the head of the smithsonian institute who leads all the museums wrote to the staff members you know and it was amazing money punch maybe is her name i'm sure you guys know her well but you know what you have just let down america and for the three of you that voted president i don't know what that means but the fact that you're even considering this much less not outright rejecting it tells me a whole lot of who you are a really allied with it's obnoxious it is absolutely obnoxious so i hope whoever gets the next approval gets hit with even more feedback of not to allow this to go forward all he wants to do is make a gilded washington DC all in the image of his mar a lago what he has done to the white house alone is shameful and how anybody go forward with any of it you should all be ashamed of yourself that you all have a nice day just know that you all stood on the wrong side of history you bowed down to a frail male little man but you have a nice day thank you so much

-----Original Message-----
From: Susan Parrington
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 9:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Approval of plans for Trump arch

I have never had the honor of traveling to Washington, DC. But I live in the other Washington, Washington State, where interest in our capitol city is great.

I simply haven't protest the decision of your panel to approve the hideous plans for the Trump arch! If there is a need for an arch, it should be the result of thoughtful design that takes into consideration existing views and structures. It should be built to honor something extraordinary about our country. It should not exist for the aggrandizement of a single individual, even if he is currently president. Maybe especially because he is currently president!

Your other actions, in approving changes to the East Wing of the White House after the current president had destroyed it, and of the plans for the ballroom are incomprehensible to me. What has happened to planning, real planning? Where is the public input on projects so large? Where is the involvement of historians and artists in the criteria for such projects?

I can only hope that when the current administration fades out of office that incoming administrations do their best to rectify the damage this regime has done. I am hoping our wealthiest citizens step up to fund the removal and/or restoration of Mr. Trump's projects. If you voted for approval of these projects, your name will also go down in infamy.

Sincerely,

Susan Morris Parrington
Kingston WA

There is nothing more fragile than civilization.
Havelock Ellis

From:
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 9:24 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Stop the 250' Arch Project--NOW
Importance: Low

Dear National Planning Commission,

For the love of God, PLEASE DENY THE CRAZY PLAN TO BUILD A 250 ‘ ARCH IN WASHINGTON, DC!

It is inappropriate. It is the crazy president’s narcissistic attempt to be a king. The morally right thing to do is to preserve the historic statue of Washington, DC and STOP LETTING TRUMP BUILD UGLY, AWFUL ITS-ALL-ABOUT-ME VANITY PROJECTS to defile the beauty of our capitol

Please, I am BEGGING YOU, stop what the spineless Republicans refuse to do: STOP THIS MADNESS—NOW!

Gail Rolka
Novato, CA

From: Teri Pflugner
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 9:27 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Arch that Donald Trump wants to build

Hello
I am a US citizen. I am also a Registered Republican. I understand that Donald Trump has apparently appointed all of you and probably expects you to approve all his wishes. I am hoping that you will have integrity in your position as part of the National Capital Planning Commision. I do not see how you can possibly go against all of the people who wore a uniform and chose to risk their life to fight for our country and allow a man to build a memorial to himself when he chose to claim bone spurs to get out of fighting for our country.
You need to stand up and fight for those who fought for you and our country and vote NO for his monument to himself. How can you be proud of yourself for not fighting for our Veterans? No Arch for Trump!!! Please do the right thing.
Teri Pflugner

-----Original Message-----
From: X
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 9:57 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Arch

I'm writing to give a THUMBS DOWN VOTE to building the arch.

It has been said that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder".
To let one man dictate his personal ideas of "beauty", and force it on the rest of us, speaks of tyrants.
History reflects poorly on those who bend over to satisfy tyrants.

The Public overwhelming rejects the arch.
I'm hoping those on the commission have enough backbone to stand with the Public.

Regards,

David Waddell

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 5:23 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Colleen Dean

Could you please respond to my concerns about the potential arch? While a Triumphal Arch may seem appealing, as an American citizen and taxpayer, I am concerned about this proposal for several reasons, including but not limited to:
Expense – taxes should be directed to the safety and betterment of the American people:
• Over 2 million American children are starving, neglected, and lack education and proper healthcare
https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/nearly-2-million-young-children-in-the-us-lived-in-food-insecure
• The constant danger and disasters due to poor infrastructure across the country
https://www.commonplace.org/p/americas-glaring-infrastructure-vulnerability
• Billions of dollars are being spent on the Iran conflict (the cost of medical care for injured American military personnel has not been calculated)
https://www.hks.harvard.edu/faculty-research/policy-topics/international-relations-security/why-war-iran-so-expensive
• Although the FAA found no danger and recommends red lights on the arch, I have worked in Washington, DC, and know how low planes fly during landing and take-off at Reagan National Airport. https://nyti.ms/4uOH6yl
• Upkeep of our present National Parks and monuments:
https://www.frommers.com/trip-ideas/national-park/national-parks-make-more-money-than-they-take-in-taxes/
• Concerns of veterans. Personally, my parents are buried at Arlington Cemetery; my father fought in World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam.
https://www.forbes.com/sites/siladityaray/2026/02/20/vietnam-veterans-sue-to-block-trumps-proposed-triumphal-arch/
Horrific traffic issues will result, and families wishing to visit the graves of their loved ones will find it difficult, if not impossible. https://www.politico.com/news/2026/06/12/trumps-massive-arch-could-snarl-traffic-years-00960554

One solution might be to build a smaller version elsewhere, and not at the expense of the American people. In conclusion, I urge you not to build this arch. Thank you.

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 7:15 AM
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: john metz
no trump monument …ballroom nothing trump…he already left a mark that will take decades to correct to celebrate make you a idiot in charge

-----Original Message-----
From: LouAnn Haney
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 8:06 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

The arch shouldn’t be approved without congressional oversight.
LouAnn Haney

From: Carol Warfield
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 8:38 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

You know the arch I am commenting on.

GROSS
TACKY
EYE POLLUTION

It's unbelievable that this is even being considered.

From:
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 9:27 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Arch and other Atrocities

I am writing this to ask you not to allow the building of an arch between the Lincoln Monument and The National Cemetery. There is no need for one except to stroke one man's ego. Listen to the Veterans who have the greatest right to oppose it. Please respect them and their service to our country.

Washington DC is now looking like it was hit with a bomb. The White House and its ground are a shambles. He wants to replace the columns on the Portico now. For what reason? Americans are paying for imported marble while they can't feed their families or put gas in their cars. Again, to stroke one man's ego.

He wants to cut down the cherry trees and remove a hiking trail used by everyone to build a golf that will be used by the few. Again, to stroke one man's ego. Will you approve that even though it's not wanted?

The Reflecting Pool was fine. But the tax payer is again footing the bill for a bungled job because qualified people weren't hired. What's worse, the bungled job has resulted in an innocent man being charged with a crime because the people behind the job won't take responsibility for their ineptness.

At what point is enough, enough? When are the American people going to be considered. We own the White House etc. We should have a voice. You are going against the will of the people with what you are doing. Haven't you allowed enough damage already? You know as soon as this is built he will want something else as his ego will never be satisfied.

On another note--is anyone going to clean up the toxic waste he has already dumped or is he even allowed to do that?

Thank you for listening.

-----Original Message-----
From: Virginia Hunt
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 9:42 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

To All members of the commission,
I urgently request that you NOT approve of the arch for President Trump.
It is a terrible excessive project . At a time when health care , medical research, programs for the poor and elderly ect ect ect are being cut, how on earth can you justify this vanity project?

Please take time to consider your values.
You have the power to do good in this world. Please exercise it.
Thanks you.

Virginia Hunt
Louisville,Kentucky

From: NCPC System
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2026 10:15:47
To: Acosta, Marcel
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: David Robertson

Dear Mr. Acosta,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed 250-foot triumphal arch at Memorial Circle.

As a Washington, DC resident, I believe this project would cause significant and unnecessary harm to one of the nation's most important historic and symbolic landscapes.

First, the proposed arch bears little resemblance to the 1925 concept frequently cited in support of the project. The original plan contemplated two 166-foot columns associated with the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The current proposal is a 250-foot monument that would dramatically alter the visual relationship between Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Bridge, the Lincoln Memorial, and the National Mall.

Second, numerous architects, historians, preservationists, veterans, and family members of those buried at Arlington National Cemetery have expressed concerns that the project would damage historic sightlines and diminish the solemn character of the area. These concerns deserve far greater consideration than they have received thus far.

Third, the project appears to be moving forward despite substantial public opposition. According to public reporting, more than 100,000 comments were submitted regarding the proposal, and national polling has shown significantly more opposition than support. Public engagement should be a meaningful part of the planning process, not a procedural hurdle to be acknowledged and then ignored.

Fourth, the administration has not clearly disclosed the total cost of the project or how it will be funded. Before a monument of this scale proceeds, the public deserves transparency regarding construction costs, long-term maintenance obligations, and the use of any public funds.

Fifth, the proposed construction schedule raises serious concerns for Arlington National Cemetery. Families visiting and burying loved ones should not be subjected to years of construction noise, heavy equipment, and disruption adjacent to one of the nation's most sacred sites.

Finally, Washington's monumental core is the result of deliberate planning carried out over generations. The city's skyline, memorials, and ceremonial spaces were designed to balance symbolism, accessibility, and historical continuity. Introducing a 250-foot triumphal arch into this setting would fundamentally alter that balance.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject the current proposal or require a substantially revised

plan that better respects the historic character of Memorial Circle, Arlington National Cemetery, and the National Capital Region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David A. Robertson
Washington, DC Resident

From: Barbara Freer
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 10:28 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Arch

From: Debbie Woodson
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 10:51 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The “Arch”

It my understanding that the “Arch” will be built on federal land.
This is a travesty to Virginia and Washington DC. If you are TRUE AMERICAN PATRIOTS please cease operations. This is an abomination. You should be ashamed for supporting the destruction of the sight lines from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington cemetary.

From: Addie Horn
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 10:58 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

WE BEG YOU NOT TO ALLOW THE UGLY ARCH IN FRONT OF OUR DEAD HEROS, OR ANYWHERE IN WASHINGTON. IT IS HIDEOUS.

SINCERELY,
ADELAIDE M. HORN
WIMBERLY, TEXAS

-----Original Message-----
From: Gene Henriksen
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 6:41 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's gaudy arch

This arch belongs in Disneyland. It is too gaudy to be associated with the Arlington cemetery where men and women who have served in uniform are buried. Further the “One Nation Under God” is against the separation of church and state.

Kill this so the next presdent does not have to have it demolished.

From: Danielle Brandis
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 11:23 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arc de Triumph

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm appalled that Trump's Arc de Triumph has been approved by the NCPC. Trump is wasting Americans' money on ego projects while failing to do anything which benefits the American people. Shame on you!!!

I beg you to prevent the Arc de Triumph from being built as well as all wasteful ego projects.

Sincerely,

Danielle Brandis

From: Pamela Staeck
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 11:24 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Arch

Clearly this committee doesn't care what the American citizens want, because if you were listening to the concerns we have with this project it wouldn't have been approved. Since you did approve it, citizens should vote who pays for it....Trump should not the taxpayers. We are already footing the bill for his other pet projects.

Lastly, I hope the next President is a democrat and he or she removes the Arch, restores the WH columns to their original state as well as the reflecting pool, and any other projects Trump touches during the remaining term he's in office.

Signed, former republican....now independent voter.

From: Coral G
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 12:18 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO TRIUMPH ARCH!!

We the People DO NOT WANT an arch outside of Arlington Cemetary!! This would be a slap in the face to those buried there. Deny this atrocity!!

Coral Grothe

From: NCPC System
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 12:49 PM
To: stephanie.free@ncpc.gov
Subject: Re: NCPC Website Email

From: Kit Meyer

NO ARCH!! Stop letting ONE PERSON, continue to destroy history and desecrate hollowed grounds. Grow up, get a spine and say "NO"!

From: Donna Skora
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 12:58 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposition to Proposed Trump Arch Project

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to register my unequivocal and very strong opposition to the proposed Trump Arch project. This plan is not simply ill-timed or ill-considered, it is fundamentally misaligned with the values, priorities, and fiscal responsibilities of our country.

At a moment when the citizens of this great nation are asking for infrastructure improvements, safer public spaces, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds, the idea of diverting resources toward a politically charged vanity monument is both tone-deaf and unacceptable. The proposed arch does nothing to strengthen our economy, improve quality of life, or reflect the diverse voices of the people who actually live in this country.

Beyond the practical concerns, the symbolism of the project is deeply and painfully divisive. Our country deserves public works that unify, not structures designed to glorify a single political figure. We should be investing in projects that serve everyone, not monuments that risk becoming flashpoints for conflict and controversy.

I urge you to reject this proposal outright and redirect attention to initiatives that genuinely benefit the public. Our country deserves leadership focused on progress, not spectacle.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Donna Supitilov Skora

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 1:15 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Patricia Feeley

No question. I just wanted to register my opposition to the proposed Triumphal Arch. I believe it is out of proportion for its site and violates the height restrictions in Washington, DC. I further believe this is the wrong site for it. It detracts from the majesty and reverence due to the veterans buried at the National Cemetery. Personally, I do not find it attractive. Please do your duty and refuse approval of this monument. It would fit right in at a presidential library or center.

Please do not reply to this email. I truly just wanted my voice heard.

From:
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 2:13 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Project Call Queue)

hello i am calling from the midwest i am calling to say several things #1 when our white house was planned it was planned to be humble because we didn't care to have this country give the impression that we were a kingdom with a king if you allow that ballroom to be built as large as it is proposed i am totally objecting to that because it will over shadow architecturally the white house we do not need a ballroom that big there #2 to allow a an arch to be built designed by this president is premature usually things that are built with that have to do with the president from what i understand are done after they die or well after they have finished their presidency presidency so all of these architectural quick moves that are going on even from paving over the little beautiful rose garden remember commission our country was formed to be humble not to be grandiose not to look like some royal you know country ruled by someone who is making all the decisions i beg you not to approve the arch and not to let this huge ballroom take place architecturally it looks disgusting it is too big and as a taxpayer i don't want any of this done i don't want this president to be able to change the architecture of washington DC it is not necessary at this time so please halt all of this i appreciate it thank you

-----Original Message-----
From: Christy Glaeser
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 3:55 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch - please DENY it

I STRONGLY hope you will rethink approving trump's request to build an arch at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery... it's a CEMETERY - not a field of his dreams... the beauty of that place is the silence... a quiet respite where ALL of us can honor heroes.. where we can see rolling hills of crosses and stars and crescent moons... a 5-star general could lie next to landsman Wm Brown... a WWII ace pilot could lie next to private Wm Blatt..

There is something awe inspiring looking across the Potomac and seeing rows upon rows of simple white markers... it's NOT about glitz... it's a visual reminder that so many sacrificed so much for this country... THAT VIEW is what needs to be seen - NOT blocked by a large arch built by someone who wants credit... your job is to protect our national treasures, NOT acquiesce to trump's whims.

Desecrating any cemetery is unacceptable... Desecrating Arlington National Cemetery is unforgivable... History will remember !!!

Christy Glaeser
KCMO
father - marine in WWII
uncle - marine in WWII
uncle - marine in WWII
uncle - army in WWII
grandfather - marine in WWI
great uncle - army in WWI

From: John Ernst
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 5:09 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Cc: Representative April McClain Delaney; Craig Ernst; Senator Chris Van Hollen; Representative David Trone; Gayle Ernst; Charles C. Ernst; James A. Ernst; Hector, Gwendolyn A.; m mark camper; Congressman Jamie Raskin; Mary Elizabeth Oberle; Volker Soffel
Subject: [External] Proposed Monumental Arch

Dear Commisioner and Members,
As a Maryland resident and citizen of the United States, I formally and vehemently opposed the new Monumental Arch as proposed. I have no objection to such an Arch, however, this particular structure would be MUCH TOO LARGE. As proposed, the structure would be overwhelming to the visual landscape and skyline of our federal city, to the point of being grotesque and insulting. Out of respect for the service heros interred at Arlington Cenetary, and the dignified memorials of our great Amercan presidents, it should be no taller than either the Lincoln or Jefferson Memorials.
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.
John Ernst, MEd. Ret

From: Robert Rutkowski
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 5:16 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Cc: Schumer; John Thune; Dan
Subject: [External] Trump's Proposal to Build Triumphal Arch on National Park Service Land

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director
National Capital Planning Commission
01 9th Street, NW
Suite 500N
Washington DC 20004

Re: Trump's Proposal to Build Triumphal Arch on National Park Service Land

Dear Director:
Organizations testified yesterday before the National Capital Planning Commission in opposition to the Trump administration's proposal to construct a 250-foot arch on National Park Service land at Memorial Circle, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery. During the hearing, representatives urged the Commission to reject the proposal, arguing it would permanently alter one of the nation's most significant commemorative landscapes.

When Donald Trump first unveiled a model of the proposed triumphal arch, a reporter asked him a simple question: 'Who is it for?' His answer was just as simple: 'Me.' That answer should tell us everything we need to know. Our public lands are not there to serve the vanity of any president. They belong to every American, and they should be managed with future generations in mind.

Honoring the legacy of the servicemembers who gave their lives in defense of this country requires protecting the hallowed ground where they rest from desecration by Donald Trump and his vanity projects. This is an important time to remember the steps this administration has already taken to diminish the legacies of heroes at Arlington. This is a time to honor the more than 430,000 soldiers buried on those grounds by protecting their legacies. This is a time to demand those who honor commitments to living veterans by committing resources to individual wellness and correcting systemic environmental injustices in the communities where they live.

Yours sincerely.
Robert E. Rutkowski

cc: Senator Chuck Schumer
Senator John Thune
Speaker Mike Johnson
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries

Topeka, Kansas

From: Deborah Walker
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 5:19 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch in Washington DC

The proposed arch is extremely inappropriate and all planning for it should be scrapped. It does not have approval from Congress, is a waste of tax payer dollars for another useless, oversized, tacky vanity project and would only serve to further decrease the dignity of the USA on the world stage.

From: Howard Smith
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 6:31 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The "Triumphal Arch"

I'm sorry but let me be direct: what the bloody hell is wrong with you people? What are you afraid of? Why are you approving this monstrosity, this insult, this pharaonic nonsense?

This is wrong and you know it, and the government's position is disingenuous at best. How can the federal government by exempt from a law that the Congress itself passed and the President signed back in 1910?

This is positively shameful and should you approve this horror you may as well resign now because the next administration--and there WILL be a next administration, contrary to what the current one seems to believe--will likely run all of you out of town on a rail and destroy what little will likely remain of your reputations. History will NOT treat you well.

Howard L. Smith
Woodbine, MD

-----Original Message-----
From: James McCarty
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 6:35 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump’s “Triumphal Arch”

There is no way this arch idea is acceptable. Please stop its movement through the approval process. It will destroy the visual connection between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.

From: Cindy Hansen
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2026 8:43 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] New Monumental Arch (Trumps)

7/10/26

To Whom It May Concern,

I have a real problem with this even being considered. In my opinion, Donald Trump does not deserve a monument period and especially not on hallowed ground, which is the final resting place for deserving individuals that gave the ultimate sacrifice. ***He just wants to leave his mark without actually earning it.*** Besides, aren't honors like a monument bestowed on individuals once they've departed and are honored for good deeds? Tell me what good deeds has Trump done?

During his first term in office, he created all kinds of chaos around Covid-19 and treated Dr. Fauci, who had America's best interest at heart, like a criminal. When he got Covid-19, he received treatment from Walter Reed Medical Center that the average joe didn't have access to. Once he returned to the White House, he went on the balcony and ripped off his mask. Millions of people died! And Trump treated it like it was a big joke!

Then when he ran for re-election in 2020 and ***LOST***, he created more chaos. He instigated an angry mob on the US Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021. He tried to have VP Mike Pence go against protocol. When Pence didn't do his bidding, Trump stood by while that angry mob that he instigated converged on the capitol, which put people in danger and a couple of lives were lost (5 in all, Brian Sicknick U.S. Capitol Police officer & 4 rioters). And now that he sits in the oval office once more, he pardoned each and every one of those individuals (1,583 prosecuted) that stormed the capitol on January 6, 2021. ***What a slap in the face to America in general!*** Thankfully, Pamela Hemphill refused Trump's pardon for the Jan. 6, 2021 riot because she did in fact participate. She said that accepting the pardon would be "an insult to the Capitol Police". Finally, an individual that accepts responsibility for her actions! What a novel idea!!! Btw, pardoning was not enough for Trump, he wanted to set-up a 1.8 billion slush fund for the rioters because he felt they were mistreated…hmmm?!

Currently, the US is at war with Iran (during his 2024 campaign, Trump described himself as a "peacemaker" and "anti-war president", and that he was focused on ending "endless wars").
*He claimed that he would have the conflict between Ukraine & Russia over on day 1 of his presidency, that war continues.
*He has the Department of Defense blowing up boats in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean claiming there are drugs on board with no evidence. He claims that they are "narco-terrorists". This campaign has killed over 200 people.
*The list goes on…Venezuela (ousted President Nicolas Maduro) re: the drug boats. Then he accepted Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado's 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her democratic advocacy, who does that?! Accepts an award that was given to someone else?!
~Claims that Greenland should be under US control.

~Nigeria
~Iran-Strait of Hormuz; on again off again ceasefire causing all kinds of chaos with the US economy: food, housing, gas, etc.
It seems to me that Trump is creating more chaos than resolving it.

~Then Trump has the East Wing of the White House demolished without going through proper channels. He just had it demolished!
~Adding his name to the John F. Kennedy Memorial.
~That UFC fight on the White House lawn on his birthday, June 14th, which happens to be America's Flag Day. He's spending taxpayers dollars on frivolous crap!
~Oh and the reflecting pool, there again, Trump didn't go through proper channels and chose a crony of his to do the work. Look how that turned out!

The constitution reads: "We the People, By the People, For the People". Trump doesn't believe in "We", he only believes in "I, me, myself". Trump DOES NOT care about anyone but himself! He doesn't abide by our constitution, democracy or the rule of law or anything really. He does whatever he wants whenever he wants. There are 3 branches of government for a reason! They NEED to work together! Trump basically circumvents Congress! Trump IS NOT a team player. Plus, he has weaponized the DOJ to go after people he feels have wronged him. Yet, the Epstein files haven't been released in full to date.

To even consider a monument like he wants and where he wants it is a travesty! TRUMP DOES NOT DESERVE a monument or a Nobel Peace Prize or any accolade for ANY reason!!!
Credit should only be given where credit is due.

Honestly, how Trump treats people in general is RIDICULOUS! He is nothing more than an egotistical BULLY!!! ***In my opinion, he should either be impeached or the 25th amendment should be invoked because he isn't fit to be in the oval office!!!***

Please DO NOT allow a Trump Monumental Arch anywhere because he DOES NOT deserve one and certainly NOT at the Arlington National Cemetery!!!

Thank you in advance for your consideration regarding this matter.

A ***concerned*** American citizen,
Cindy Hansen

From: Elizabeth Sheets
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 8:10 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] the Arch

PLEASE NO ARCH. It is nothing more than a monument to Himself,!!!

-----Original Message-----
From: Sherry Doughty
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 8:33 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

I am a 72 year old woman who teaches “Peace” in my Montessori School and whose family members have served in the Military since The Revolutionary War. It is unbelievable that you would even consider putting up a 10 foot arch much less a 250 foot arch that disappears the beautiful entrance to Arlington Cemetery. A sacred place that honors our fallen heroes. Much less an arch that would be named after a person that has NEVER served a day in the military- a person who removed needed services from our veterans and active duty military - a person who sent our soldiers into an illegal war - a person who turns US streets into an unsafe environments due to misuse of US National Guard - a person that chooses a Military leader with no knowledge or respect for the hero’s he’s supposedly leading - a convicted felon. PLEASE respect and honor the people’s voice and STOP this diabolical action. NO Trump Arch Thank you for you attention, Peace, Sherry Doughty

From: ben osinski
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 9:48 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO ARCH !!!!!!!!!!!!!!

No arch! This is about the veterans, not about one President's vanity project! It doesn't matter which president wants this arch or any kind of structure in this place...this place is sacred to ALL Americans for it's deep significance over the history of the country. It is not about one man...

--
Thank You
Ben Osinski Vietnam Veteran

From: Marty Mattson
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 11:11 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

AS a voting VietNam veteran, from California, I oppose this vanity project. I love Washington DC and all the monuments and what they stand for. This money should be for the people, not his pride! (Get rid of "his committee members") Marty Mattson

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 12:18 PM
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Linda Uhley

I object to building the Triumphal Arch. It is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money. It seems to be a vanity project for President Trump. I would send this same message to the members of the commission, but your website does not provide contact information for them. Please do what you can to prevent the building of the Arch.

From:
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 12:48 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

my name is sister sharon bolthing BOLF like in frank ING like in go umm i am so opposed to this arch that trump is trying to put up to make new history for himself and cover up the arlington memorial and the lincoln memorial and washington memorial it is sickening i want to oppose it i want to know how to be able to get this done i my my my uncle fought in the invasion of normandy 3rd wave my my i have people that actually go back to the american revolution and he's not following the constitution he is not following could you i'm sorry i'm angry please excuse me could you please send me information on what to do i've already know i need to write an email to the ANC feedback but what else can i do to so trump doesn't get his arch thank you very much for listening and helping me out bye

From:
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 3:09 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] DO NOT APPROVE New Monumental Arch, NCPC File No. 8778

Staci Sarkin
Playa del Rey, CA

July 11, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street NW, North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Formal Objection to the Proposed "Triumphal Arch" at Memorial Circle

To the Commissioners of the National Capital Planning Commission,
I am writing as a United States taxpayer to register my strong and unequivocal objection to the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. I urge the Commission to withdraw its preliminary approval and reject this project at final review. My reasons for this are below:

Fiscal Irresponsibility
Our nation carries a debt exceeding $39 trillion. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid all face documented solvency crises within the coming decade. Our roads, bridges, and public transit systems are aging and underfunded. Against that backdrop, spending public money — even partially — on a 250-foot monument to a sitting president is an indefensible use of taxpayer resources. This is not a moment for vanity architecture. It is a moment for fiscal discipline and investment in the infrastructure and social programs Americans actually depend on.

Disrespect to Veterans and Sacred Ground
This arch would rise at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, the resting place of hundreds of thousands of American service members. Veterans, Gold Star families, and military relatives have testified that the construction itself — reportedly requiring 20-hour-a-day work for up to two to three years, with tower cranes, drill rigs, and pile driving — would shatter the solemnity of hallowed ground. A 25-story structure topped with gilded statues does not honor those buried there; it overshadows them. Vietnam War veterans have already filed suit to block this project, and I stand with them. Sacred ground is not a construction site, and it is not a backdrop for self-glorification, let alone for someone who has never served or sacrificed for the nation's military.

Destruction of a Historic Sightline
As a former resident of Washington, DC, I am well aware of the skyline and its preservation over the ages and the reason, significance and importance of this. The arch would sit directly on the axis between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery — a vista deliberately preserved for nearly a century to symbolize post-Civil War reconciliation between North and South. This is not empty space awaiting development; it is a designed memorial landscape

carrying real historical and civic meaning. Permanently obstructing that view in both directions erases a piece of the nation's reconciliation story to make room for a monument to one man.

Distortion of the National Mall's Skyline

At 250 feet, this arch would stand more than double the height of the 99-foot Lincoln Memorial. The National Mall's carefully preserved classical proportions exist by design, not by accident. Introducing a structure of this scale would permanently distort sightlines and skyline balance that generations of planners have protected.

Legal and Procedural Violations

This project should not proceed as planned, for several reasons:

- It violates the Height of Buildings Act. The 1910 Act limits District structures to 130 feet. The Commission's own staff have acknowledged this applies to federal buildings, yet the current proposal — even with proposed revisions — would still substantially exceed that limit.
- It lacks proper congressional authorization. The Commemorative Works Act of 1986 requires congressional approval for commemorative structures of this kind. Administration officials have claimed a 1925 congressional authorization covers this project, but that authorization was for a modest pair of columns, not a 250-foot arch quadrupled in scale from its original proposal. Lawmakers have warned that proceeding without explicit authorization exposes officials to legal liability.
- It encroaches on protected federal parkland. Memorial Circle has never been built upon, specifically because of its protected status and its role in the memorial landscape. Federal restrictions on new construction in this area exist for good reason and should not be waived for this project.

Conclusion

I recognize the desire to commemorate our nation's 250th anniversary. But this proposal fails that goal on every count: it disrespects our veterans, damages a historic and symbolic landscape, violates height restrictions, bypasses Congress, and diverts attention and resources from the fiscal and infrastructure crises this country actually faces. I respectfully but firmly ask the Commission to reject final approval of this project.

Thank you for including this comment in the public record.

Sincerely,
Staci Sarkin

cc: Senator Adam Schiff
Senator Alex Padilla
Congressman Ted Lieu

From: Cathleen Sors
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 7:15 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch, file # 8778

I wish to vehemently OPPOSE any construction for trump's arch on any federal land .
Is there a formal requirement in filing this complaint?
Thank you so much!
Cathy Sors

From: Paula Gullion
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 8:22 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] ARCH at Arlington National Cemetery

Distinguished panel members: thank you for listening to the speakers today and delaying a go ahead decision on a proposed Trump ARCH.

I not only support the delay but a final determination of NO would be best.

Kind regards,
Paula Gullion
Oklahoma

From: Betty Bradley
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2026 11:19 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

I do hope you reconsider allowing an arch to be
built in Washington. It looks so much like the Nazi Germany one. It would be a shame to remind everyone of the horrors of WW2.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2026 8:06 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No ARCH for DJT

No anything for him at the moment. Let a future generation judge him and decide what he deserves.

Don’t be bullied by his ego and desire to put his name on anything and everything.

Robbie Hewitt
Smyrna, GA

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2026 5:14 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Nancy M LeBar

I am contacting the National Capital Planning Commission to express my outrage and firm opposition to the "arch" Mr. Trump wishes to construct. The size of this proposed "arch" overwhelms other monuments, monuments that are significant to the history of our Country. The placement by Arlington National Cemetery is disrespectful. Arlington is a place of quiet, it is a sacred place. In High School, one of our teachers had been part of the Army Detail in charge of burials. 60 years later, I still remember his quiet talks about Arlington. This "arch" does not belong there, or any place else. PLEASE, DENY THIS PROJECT!

From: Healthy Communities
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2026 9:14 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

Good Evening!

As a planner of 30 years who appreciates the historical development of DC (where I lived), I can't believe you approved this project. Please oppose it. The flip side is the respect you lose in the planning industry.

Thank you,
Noel

Noel P. Comeaux, AICP, PMP

From:
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2026 7:22 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump arch plans

To who this may concern.
As a Marine veteran, I would like express my feelings about the planned arch in Washington D.C.

The planned meeting on September 3rd must take more than the height and cost of the plans into consideration.

The intent of this arch has little to do with the desire to memorialize any one action of the glory of our nation, but more so the desire of one man to leave a legacy of his own

The funds to accomplish this unwanted addition to the location of the hallowed ground are being supplied by a nation of taxpayers.

Their voice to respond to the actions and plans this man has already forced on an unwitting public will be heard in November.

Why not wait until after that? Your postponement should clear up any doubts of how favorable your decision to continue will be.

Lastly, my family has had My father, my two brothers, my sister, and myself that have served in the military of this nation.
While I can speak only for myself, my late father and one deceased brother, we do not support this arch or it's desired effect.

Thank you for your time.
Gary S. Olson
Once a Marine.

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2026 11:13 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Carol Cheyne

I would like to offer my opinion on the Arch being considered. I am totally against it for its size and location.
We are United States of America..not Europe where all these statues have long standing history. President Trump seems to have an obsession with gold and glitter and large shinny objects, please do not allow this arch to be built and ruin the sight lines from Arlington to the Lincoln Memorial..it is an abomination to the peacefulness of the area.

-----Original Message-----
From: Harry Konen
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2026 12:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] File No. 8778

This proposed monument is a waste of time and money. It is a tribute to ostentatious aspirations of grandeur, and its proposed location is an insult to the dedicated Americans buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

I oppose this project and I ask that I be notified when formal comments are open for final review.

Harry Konen

From: <noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 5:29 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

this is sheila markley and i am calling uh so that you are informed that i am opposing the project uh of the arch and ask to be notified when formal comments open for final review again i am opposed to the arch and i wish to be notified when the comments are open so please call me again sheila markley thank you

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 7:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Laura Kehn

This monumental arch seems to go against what the US stands for. Napoleon, Stalin had a need to glorify themselves. Why are we catering to an oligarch? We wasted money on the reflecting pool and allowed the east wing of the White House (aka the Peoples House)to be destroyed. I might add a historical structure. Where were you to protect it??

-----Original Message-----
From: MARIANNE J Boegli
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 12:40 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] New Monument Arch File No. 8778

Absolutely am opposed to building Arch by Memorial Bridge. Let me know what else I can do to oppose.
Marianne J Boegli

-----Original Message-----
From: Patti Lell
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 9:50 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The arch

I don’t know if I’m sending this to the right place. But I am writing to protest the construction of the arch at Arlington. It is disrespectful to the intention of Arlington in honoring war heroes.

If there is somewhere else, I can write, please let me know

Patti Lell

From: PIP.PWF
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 10:32 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please do not approve the NEW MONUMENTAL ARCH

It is unsightly. It will degrade the cemetery. It looks horrendous.

Thank you
Richard Parker
Scotch Plains, Nj

-----Original Message-----
From: Wilma Wheten
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 4:27 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed arch

I am opposed to this arch.

I would like my voice to be heard.

Wilma Wheten

From: Meg Cowan
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 3:13 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] URGENT: Pause the Monumental Arch Review

To the National Capital Planning Commission:

I strongly object to the proposed Triumphal/New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle and to any Programmatic Agreement that allows this undertaking to proceed at this location.

The arch would cause serious adverse effects to one of the nation's most sensitive commemorative landscapes, including Memorial Circle, Arlington Memorial Bridge, the ceremonial approach to Arlington National Cemetery, and the historic visual and symbolic relationship between Arlington and the Lincoln Memorial. This is not an ordinary development site. It is a place of national mourning, memory, and solemn public meaning.

The Draft Programmatic Agreement is inadequate because it appears to manage and excuse the harm rather than require genuine avoidance or minimization. The appropriate preservation response is relocation, not cosmetic mitigation.

I am also deeply concerned that this Section 106 review is occurring while the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is considering changes to the Section 106 regulations that may weaken public consultation and reduce the role of preservation officials, consulting parties, and the public. NPS should not finalize this Programmatic Agreement or advance the undertaking while the rules governing this process may be rewritten midstream.

NPS should not allow a controversial, politically driven monument to proceed through a weakened or unstable review process that appears designed to excuse harm rather than prevent it.

Meg Cowan
Wilmot, NH

From: Jo Carr
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 12:53 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: New Monumental Arch & More News

The memorial arch project is disgusting to a majority of Americans. If this committee is not going to listen to the people, then I don't wish to hear anymore about new projects. It makes me sick.
Adding gold to more projects is repulsive. In spite of Trump's love of glitter, it really just cheapens the look of whatever it touches.

From: jane matlas
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 4:08 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: New Monumental Arch & More News

This arch is a joke and a monumental waste of taxpayer money

From: william bailey
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 4:57 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: New Monumental Arch & More News

I would like to protest thisgod awful arch. It being where they want it would obstruct every view from Arlington National Cemetery towards the Washington Monument. As a veteran,I am asking, that you deny this project. Thank You

From: Mimi Rumpp [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2026 10:16 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: New Monumental Arch & More News

Shame on you! Stop this overpriced memorial to an egotistical narcissist who does not do much for the American people but creates tributes to himself. Save the money and hassle from this project. It serves no purpose and has no artistic value in our lives.

M. Rumpp

From: Carole Mccann
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 2:12 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: New Monumental Arch & More News

NO ARCH for AUTOCRATIC EGO; an INSULT to THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY

NO BALLROOM for SELF-IMPORTANT NARCISSIST

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, EVEN CONSIDERING SUCH VANITY PROJECTS?

IS THERE NO REASON LEFT IN OUR GOVERNMENT?

EVIDENTLY, THERE IS NO SHAME!

PLEASE, STOP THE MADNESS!!!

-----Original Message-----
From: Alan Rubin
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 7:56 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Stop this absurd arch project which does nothing but inflates a deranged egoist's head.
Alan Rubin
Dallas, Texas

From: ML
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 9:03 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Cc: marvonne [redacted]
Subject: [External] proposed arch

I am very concerned about the proposal to build an arch near Memorial Bridge.
Not only is it unnecessary but it imposes on Arlington Cemetery, which many people consider sacred ground,
It is an enormous waste of funds and projects a superficial, ostentatious attitude totally inappropriate to our country's philosophy.
There are many worthy uses of money, especially in this economic climate. Building a superfluous structure is a vain and unethical expenditure.

Marjorie Lidoff
Washington, D.C.

From: Carole Mccann
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 12:25 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: New Monumental Arch & More News

NO ARCH, NO BALLROOM, NO INCOMPETENT EGOTISTICAL AUTOCRAT

-----Original Message-----
From: Catherine A Harr
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 2:08 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Arch

Unwanted distraction/obstruction to carefully mindfully (mostly) planned beautiful city. It's not okay to destroy my hometown and the gorgeous buildings built over our shared history and heritage. Blocking view of Arlington Cemetery where my parents, uncle and countless other' family are buried is sacrilegious. Leave us alone already! Stop killing mockingbirds!
Cathy Harr
Presently in Greenbelt, MD
Grew up 2 blocks from the DC border in Chevy Chase and most places I went (school, church, movies, restaurants, stores, protests, work, 4th of July, concerts, theater etc were in DC) We used to drive down to drive around the mall, White House, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials at night when they looked particularly beautiful lit upon the dark!
Sorry to lose that now at 71 years old, but I have the beautiful memory at least. Would like 7 great nieces and nephews to have this beautiful experience as well.

From: Robin Martinek
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 7:36 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's arch

Dear Committee,

I am writing to request that you deny permission for the Arch to be built. It doesn't do anything for Washington, DC and as a matter of fact I believe it detracts from the other Monuments that we have.

Please listen to the majority of the people in this country that do not want that Arch to be built.

Thank you,

Robin Martinek
Solvang, CA

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 12:56 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Suzanne Lander

I am vehemently opposed to Trump's proposed 250 foot tall arch and ask that you DO NOT allow this to happen! Trump is DESTROYING our National Parks and, quite frankly, our Country. It is time to stand up and say NO to his dictatorship. The building of this arch will adversely affect many historic sites, including the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, the Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Capitol. The arch would also obstruct the view from the cemetery of the Eternal Flame at President John F. Kennedy's gravesite.

Just like his attempt to rename the Kennedy Center, all he cares about is his name being prominently displayed; This is FACISM, this is a DICTATORSHIP and that is NOT what this country is about. DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN!!!

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 2:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Gregory Y Matsumoto

I object to the building to Trump's Arch.
This is not a desire by the citizens and government representations. It is in response to Donald Trumps individual plans. The only authorizations are by individuals selected by trump. The arch detracts from veterans and presidential monuments. National buildings are to represent the nation and its citizens. Not the personal decision of one individual. We are a government of and by the people, not of and by trump. Please stand by the people, not one person..

From: <noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 3:10 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Commission Call Queue)

Yes, hello, my name is Mary Elke, E-L-K-E, address, Napa, California, 94558. I'm a native Californian, a US citizen, and I'm calling to oppose the arch that's being proposed by the president. It's out of scope. It's out of scale. It wasn't approved and it shouldn't be allowed. Please, don't do this to our beautiful capital and our country. Thank you. Goodbye.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 1:04 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Eden Umble

President Trump's proposed 250' Monumental Arch is an embarrassing, wasteful vanity project for a soulsick man whose fragile ego can never be assuaged. In addition to being a needless waste of taxpayer dollars, this monstrosity deliberately goes against our nation's standards for existing historic monuments in an effort to outdo similar hollow gestures in authoritarian countries. It goes against what we are as a nation, and it cannot be allowed to proceed.

From: Stephanie Duff-Ericksen
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 2:54 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO ARCH

The man has already changed the historic character of our nation's beautiful capital.

STOP the arch. Thomas Jefferson is rolling over in his grave.

Stephanie Duff-Ericksen

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2026 3:50 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Dano zeos

President Trump's proposed 250' Monumental Arch is a needless waste of taxpayer dollars, this that goes against our nation's standards for existing historic monuments. It would be a blight on our beautiful Capitol, goes against what we are as a nation, and it cannot be allowed to proceed.

From: Beverly Mcchesney
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 4:08 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Ugly Arch

Please please please don't approve that ugly arch. It's tacky and looks like it belongs in old Nazi Germany. PLEASE enough with the gold gilding and trailer park glitter. Remember we are supposed to have some dignity in DC; it's not Mar-a-lago.

From: Margery Hunter
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2026 4:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] STOP THE TRUMP ARCH
Importance: High

Please!! Stop this monstrosity now! Trump only wants gaudy, cheap monuments to himself.

Please do not ruin a beautiful space!

Margery Hunter

Dallas, TX 75205

Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2026 10:04 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The arch is not to honor Americans

As a 30 year former resident of Silver Spring, MD, I crossed the bridge behind the Lincoln Memorial countless times. The setting and the scale of the current bridge>memorial>reflecting pool>capitol is an integrated and beautiful testament to public city planning. No one individual, even a President, should be allowed to erect anything on this significant and historic space without full public discussion and debate. The Trump arch is 1) too tall, 2) too big, 3) too ornate and 4) unaligned with the scale of the city and its public spaces. In 5 years, visitors will be wonder what were city planners thinking. PLEASE do not allow this construction to take place it is a travesty to those who came before the current administration.
Renate Brenneke

From: Carole Mccann
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 12:58 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Tentative Agenda - NCPC September 3, 2026 Meeting

NO ARCH
NO BALLROOM…REBUILD THE EAST WING, CHARGE TRUMP COST OF REBUILD
NO GOLD PLATED STATUES…WHO LET THAT HAPPEN???
NO KENNEDY CENTER INFLUENCE…IT IS A MEMORIAL, STUPID…

NO NARCISSIST WHO THINKS HE OWNS EVERYTHING

TIME TO STAND UP TO THE EMPEROR WHO HAS NO CLOTHES…

From: Suzanne Schweitzer
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 12:41 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] ballroom and other Trumpisms

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to ask you to please NOT allow the ballroom to be built. It is garish, too large, and very inappropriate to be part of the People's House. I consider his destruction of the East Wing criminal and one of the most offensive acts committed by him (though that hallway with his own "bios" of the Presidents is right up there). . Also, do NOT allow the Arc de Trump to be built and do NOT allow the new inscription he wants added to the Kennedy Center. I see he's putting a stone with his name inscribed on it into the new helipad. I'm guessing that can't be stopped now, but it's such a telling statement about his sick need for recognition.

PLEASE, do NOT allow the ballroom to be built, especially as it is designed now. This madness has to be stopped.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Schweitzer
Missoula Montana

From: NCPC System
Sent: Thursday, 20 August 2026 19:03:40
To: Acosta, Marcel
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Susan Findling

Dear Mr. Acosta,
I am writing in regard to the new Monumental Arch will is proposed for Washington D.C. I am very much opposed to this proposal.

Firstly, it seems that the proposed arch is to high in both scale and height. I addition to not fitting with the aesthetics of the area, this 250-foot structure violates federal guidelines (Height of Buildings Act).

Secondly, the structure would negatively impact historic sightlines between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington House, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Thirdly, I am concerned about the impact of this construction on traffic, as well as, disruptions near active burial sites.

This structure is unwanted and unnecessary and does not belong near Arlington National Cemetery.

Please vote against this structure.

Susan Findling

From: LYNN MCSORLEY
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 10:29 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's arch

I am begging you to deny President Trump permission to create yet another vanity project in Washington D.C. I wrote the president several weeks ago about the damage the arch will do to the existing established monuments and Arlington Cemetery. I am enclosing the description of the cemetery from the website.
“Arlington National Cemetery conducts between 24 and 27 funeral services each weekday, except on federal holidays. The grounds honor those who have served our nation and provide a sense of beauty and peace for our guests. Rolling green hills are dotted with trees that are hundreds of years in age, complementing the gardens found throughout the cemetery's 639 acres. This impressive landscape serves as a tribute to the service and sacrifice of every individual laid to rest within these hallowed grounds.”
President Trump never served in the military. He has said the arch is in honor of “me”, but it will demean every soldier buried in the cemetery. Trump has no right to desecrate that cemetery by building a self-indulgent memorial to himself.
Lynn McSorley

From: Linda Andrews
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 3:23 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Vanity projects

As a senior citizen of these United States if America I wish to register my vehement objection to the so-called ballroom construction, the ridiculous arch proposal and any further destruction of our once elegant national capital.

I further insist that the rose garden be restored as a garden and not a hotel patio, the reflecting pool restored to its tranquil beauty and the obscene gold removed from our national statues. Oh and clean up after the trash events of recent months.

This money SHOULD have been used to preserve and protect our true treasures, our national parks.

linda andrews

My thoughts are whirled like a potter's wheel; I know not where I am nor what I do. - William Shakespeare
The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too. - Samuel Butler

From: GREG WRIGHT
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 2:48 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please Reject the Proposed Triumphal Arch

NCPC Commission,

I just learned that the National Park Service released its final Assessment of Effects for the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle.

I am frankly stunned.

The NPS assessment acknowledges that the project will have an adverse effect on historic properties. Yet somehow the project continues to move forward.

I am a Republican and a strong supporter of celebrating America's 250th anniversary. But I cannot understand why celebrating our country's history requires permanently altering one of the most beautiful and historically significant landscapes in Washington.

The area surrounding Memorial Circle, Arlington Memorial Bridge, the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery was carefully designed as a monumental gateway. The scale, sightlines and relationships between these places are what make the setting so powerful.

A 250-foot arch would fundamentally change that experience.

And once it's built, it's built. We don't get to put the historic landscape back the way it was.

Please don't confuse “America's 250th anniversary” with a requirement to build something enormous.

There are countless ways to celebrate 250 years of American history without sacrificing an important part of the history we already have.

I respectfully ask the National Capital Planning Commission to reject the proposed Triumphal Arch when the project comes before the Commission for final consideration.

Sometimes preservation means having the courage to say, “No. This doesn't belong here.”

I hope you will.

Sincerely,

Greg Wright

From: Tamara Prince
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2026 3:22 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle (NCPC Project #8778)

To the Commissioners of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to oppose the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle (NCPC Project #8778) and to urge the Commission to withhold final approval.

First, congressional authorization: the Commemorative Works Act requires congressional approval for new commemorative works in the monumental core, and no such approval has been granted for this project. Reliance on a 1925 authorization for a different structure on this site does not satisfy that requirement.

Second, the Height of Buildings Act of 1910 restricts D.C. structures to approximately 130 feet. At 250 feet — more than twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial — the arch as proposed is squarely in conflict with this statute, a conflict NCPC's own staff has already flagged in requesting revisions.

Third, the National Park Service's own Assessment of Effects found the project would directly impact dozens of historic sites, including the Lincoln Memorial–Arlington House sightline, the National Mall, the Capitol, and the Washington Monument grounds — one of the most protected viewsheds in the country under the McMillan Plan.

Fourth: the design is artistically and architecturally ludicrous, to say nothing of hideous, inappropiate in a Democracy and reminiscent of monarcy and empire or the Reich.

I ask the Commission to deny final approval.

Tamara G. Prince
Silver Spring, MD

-----Original Message-----
From: Toni Rice
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 6:30 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Monumental Arch, NCPC File 8778,

Dear Sir/Madame -
I do NOT support the Arch if the name Donald Trump is engraved or placed on it.
I do support it otherwise as my father was a Veteran.

Toni Rice
Richmond, VA

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 4:40 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Kathleen Mahan

I believe that the Trump Arch is a travesty to this country. It is near so many truly historic and meaningful monuments. Abraham Lincoln, the Washington Monument, the Viet Nam War Memorial, the WWII memorial.....all of these were erected to HONOR men who actually changed our country for the better. Or they were built to memorialize the 58,000 men and women who gave their lives for this country in Viet Nam or the 405,000 men and women who died during WWII. All of these people were true heroes.

When, in our 250 year history has a sitting president designed and planned his own memorial?

HOW DARE YOU give space for a self-aggrandizing man who does not care about the majority of Americans? HOW DARE YOU? I find your approval of this “monument” abhorrent and frivolous. Rescind your votes NOW! Reverse your decision! There is still time for you to do the right thing. Let him place it above his grave.

Signed,

A patriotic, voting American

Kathleen Mahan
Knoxville, TN

From: <noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 4:10 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Commission Call Queue)

James Snyder. I submitted some information to your information portal, and this is a document with some suggested changes, constructive changes to the arch project. I send in two versions. The second version has the most recent document that I would hope could be shared with the chairman and staff and the members of the commission. This is regarding the arch, which I understood was supposed to be finalized in September, but I see it's not on the agenda at this time with the new chairman. So I wanted just to clarify and get some acknowledgement that you'd received the document. Again, this is constructive comments along with some illustrations. It's about a seven page document. Suggested improvements to the proposed arch at the end of Memorial Bridge. James Snyder. Thank you.

From: Gary Beckman
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:03 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed triumphal arch for D.C.

Re: proposed triumphal arch
This monstrosity has NOT been approved by Congress or the National Capital Planning commission, as required by LAW!! It is much too large and tall for that location. Also, and Environmental Assessment MUST be completed before any construction is started. Doing any ground work before this is all completed is putting the cart before the horse and ILLEGAL! Millions of Americans, including military veterans like myself, and VoteVets organization oppose this grandiose structure blocking the view from Arlington National Cemetery to the National Mall. STOP this illegitimate work until, if and when, any and all studies and approvals are completed. IF it is eventually built, it would be a total SACRILEGE to have Trump's name on it anywhere, as MOST Americans disapprove of his presidency and his treatment of our military in general! Besides, he was a DRAFT DODGER during the Vietnam War, faking "bone spurs!"
Gary Beckman
Las Vegas, NV

From: NCPC System
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:47 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Doreen Gregori

As a US citizen, I am AGAINST the STUPID TRUMP TRIUMPHANT ARCH! STOP IT. IT US A WASTE OF OUR TAXPAYER MONEY! It will dominate over all other monuments. THIS IS NOT WHO WE ARE. Do NOT approve it. Do not be ANOTHER COWARD to this immoral and corrupt administration !Thank you,

-----Original Message-----
From: Michael Wright
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 10:16 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment – Proposed Independence Arch

To: Members of the National Capital Planning Commission

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed “Triumphal/Independence Arch” project. From a planning and land-use perspective, this monument is an unnecessary and wasteful undertaking that would impose long-term visual, environmental, and infrastructural costs on the capital region.The scale and placement of the arch would create a permanent disruption to established sightlines, traffic patterns, and the carefully balanced spatial relationships that define the National Capital Region. Rather than enhancing the landscape, the structure would stand out as an oversized and intrusive eyesore — one that conflicts with the planning principles that have guided federal development for more than a century.

Beyond its physical impact, the project raises concerns about the use of federal funds for a monument whose purpose appears more aligned with personal aggrandizement than with national unity or historical reflection. In a period of fiscal constraint, directing resources toward a structure that serves no clear public need is irresponsible and contrary to the mission of the NCPC.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this proposal and preserve the integrity, coherence, and dignity of the capital’s built environment.

Sincerely,

Michael Wright
US Marine Corps Veteran
Carlisle, PA

From: +<noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Project Call Queue)

My name is Lee Woodlane. My e-mail is [redacted] I'm calling because I want to find out who is in charge of the approval for this arch that Trump wants to build. I want to know whether or not not approval has been granted for this project. And if approval has not been granted, I want to know what the NCPC is doing to make sure it is not started without proper approval. The position of you people of the United States of America is adamantly against the building of this ridiculous piece of junk in our nation's capital. I want some answers to this. Anybody who wants to get back to me, you go right ahead. Thank you.

From: Carole Mccann
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 12:15 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Final Agenda for NCPC's September 3, 2026 Meeting

NO ARCH, NO BALLROOM, NO TRUMP!

Are you all TRUMP TOADIES??? HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR OUR DEMOCRACY??? THIS IS NOT EUROPE, BOWING TO THE EGO of KINGS!!!

WE ARE ASHAMED of ALLOWING TRUMP TO DESECRATE OUR CITY and COUNTRY

From: Alexander MacPherson
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 7:18 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

Please do not approve the Trump Arch. It will be a permanent eyesore for decades to come.

Alex MacPherson
Ocala, FL

From: Jane Brack
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 1:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please reconsider the Triumphal Arch before final approval

To whom it may concern:

I'm asking NCPC to please reconsider the proposed 250-foot Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle before granting final approval.
I commute into DC from Northern Virginia every day and am extremely concerned about the traffic nightmare this massive, reckless construction project will create. Memorial Circle is already dangerous to navigate, and years of construction will only make it worse!
I also believe this enormous monstrosity is completely out of place in Washington's historic landscape and will obstruct important views of Arlington National Cemetery. How unnecessary and outrageous!
With construction reportedly beginning within two weeks, I hope NCPC will use the authority it still has to fully consider these concerns before giving final approval. We are citizens who live and work here, and we do not want it!
Thank you,
Jane Brack

From: Penny Jarrett
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 1:11 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

NO, NO, NO, NO!!!!!!!!! How can you allow this idiot to build this horrific structure that will ruin the beautiful look of an incredible low-key, historic city. You are SOOOOOOOO wrong to approve this stupid monument. Why??????? Did he pay you??

Regards,
Penny Jarrett

-----Original Message-----
From: Marie Marshall
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 2:15 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Vehemently opposed to Arch being built in our nations capital

Atten. To those left with a backbone @ National Capital Planning Commission,

Only the bootlickers want this. The land does not belong to trump to decide. You know his vanity playbook of lies & deceit by now. Please do your job as Congress sleeps. STOP THIS.

Thank you,
MARIE MARSHALL

From: +1<noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Project Call Queue)

Yes, I've read about this great arch that President Trump wants to build, and I think the commission needs to put a stop to this. It's going to interfere with Arlington Cemetery, and this needs to be stopped. Don't let him start excavating and start doing something. Please do something about this. My name is Mary Leggett, L-E-G-G-E-T-T. Please, no more monuments to President Trump. This arch, there's problems going on in the world and in our country. This is not something you need to be, they need to be doing. And he needs to get permission to do something rather than just tear up the ground and start doing it like he did in the East Wing. They shouldn't have let him do that. Please don't let this arch be built. It will be damaging to the Arlington Cemetery, to the view. Please don't let this be done.

From: NCPC System
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 5:00 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Lora L Wright

My family and I have visited the Arlington National Cemetery and believe it is a truly remarkable memorial to those that have served this country. Recent news about Donald Trump trying to get an Arche de Triumph built near the entrance of Arlington disgusts me tremendously. After visiting historic structures in both Italy and Greece in recent years, I do believe there is beauty in long standing structures, but Donald Trump's effort to build bigger and better is disgraceful and gaudy. Taxpayers do not need to build an arch to commemorate anything to do with Donald Trump. Let history play out. If the United States of America need to honor Donald Trump in any way, let our children build memorials in his honor, not the man himself. I ask that you let the beauty of Washington D.C remain as it is.

From: prton
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 7:39 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trumps arch vanity project

Please please do not let this felon put up a arch that's just for him and has no other reason for existing. DC isn't trumps city to do with what he wants and another vanity project with the people's taxes isn't ok with most US citizens.

From: NCPC System
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Cathleen Magliola

I would like to express vehemently the construction of the Triumphal Arch in Washington DC. There is no historic reason to put up the Arch except to accommodate the whim of the president who likes to build things in his honor.
This is a disgrace to the veterans at Arlington and the National Park service.

Washington belongs to the people of the United States not to one man, who no one wants to stand up to, to honor himself. .

From: +<noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 8:52 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

My name is Judith Roth, R-O-T-H, and I live in West Allis, Wisconsin. I am concerned about Trump making plans to start the groundwork for his massive, iconic Triumph Arch. and would like you as one of the groups that can control what goes into our parks, prevent this from even starting. He has not been given permission to do this, and he knows that if he gets far enough along, that powers of be will shrug their shoulders and say, well, it's too late now, just like he did with his ballroom. So please, prevent this man from starting to work on the arch in our protected, beautiful grounds for Arlington Cemetery and Lincoln. Thank you very much.

From: ANN Joyce
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 11:25 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposition to New Monumental Arch — NCPC File No. 877

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,
I am writing to urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject final approval of the proposed New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle on Columbia Island, NCPC File No. 8778.
I recognize and respect the desire to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States and to honor the service and sacrifice represented by Arlington National Cemetery. However, I believe the proposed location, scale, height, and design are fundamentally incompatible with one of the most important historic landscapes in the nation's capital.
The Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Avenue, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House form an intentionally designed ceremonial and historic composition. The relationship among these places is itself a national memorial. A 250-foot structure placed directly within this composition would permanently alter the historic vistas and visual hierarchy that visitors experience between Arlington and the Lincoln Memorial . Such a structure also diminishes the sacrifices of the men and women who have fought for our country
With the proposed arch being more than twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial , it will become a dominant element in a landscape whose existing monuments were deliberately composed to convey solemnity, balance, and national reconciliation. I believe NCPC should give substantially greater weight to the preservation of this existing composition than to the addition of a new monumental structure.
I am also concerned that the project is proceeding toward excavation before NCPC has completed its final review. Preliminary approval is not final approval.
I respectfully ask NCPC to:

1. Deny final approval of the proposed arch at its current location and scale.
2. Require a thorough evaluation of the project's effect on the historic vistas connecting the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House.
3. Require the applicant to demonstrate why a 250-foot height is necessary and compatible with the Monumental Core and the surrounding historic landmarks.
4. Give full consideration to the project's effects on Arlington National Cemetery as a place of national mourning and remembrance, rather than treating the proposed arch simply as another monumental structure.
5. Require completion of all applicable historic-preservation, environmental, transportation, aviation, and planning reviews before allowing the project to proceed.
6. If the commemorative purpose is retained, require consideration of alternative locations or a substantially smaller design that does not intrude upon the historic landscape and protected views.

Most importantly, I ask the Commission not to allow the perceived and unnecessary urgency of a political or commemorative timetable to substitute for careful consideration of the permanent consequences of this project. Once a 250-foot monument is built at this location, the historic landscape cannot simply be restored.

Washington's monumental core belongs to the nation and to future generations. The Commission has a responsibility to protect the extraordinary relationships among its existing memorials and landscapes.
Please include my comments in the official record for NCPC File No. 8778.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Ann Joyce
East Hampton, NY 1193

-----Original Message-----
From: Dana Lanier
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 11:01 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Block the arch

Why di Trump's destructive projects around DC keep happening illegally and without Congressional approval. Please block this one. It's a disgrace to have it at Arlington. Please let the veterans suing have time to fight this and don't let construction crews in. Your job is to protect our historical places. Trump seems determined to ruin DC. Please protect our Capitol!

Dana Lanier

From: Carole Mccann
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 1:33 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO ARCH

AMERICANS LEFT COUNTRIES RULED BY DICTATORS WHO BUILT MEMORIALS TO THEMSELVES

AMERICA REFUTES SELF AGGRANDIZEMENT

NO MEMORIAL TO A CON MAN CONVICTED FELON

SHOW SOME BACKBONE

PRESERVE AMERICAN CHARACTER

-----Original Message-----
From: Scott Kranzusch
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 1:59 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

I am VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED to the building of the Triumphal Arch and Military Observation Deck! It is WASTEFUL SPENDING and not needed for anything else but to satisfy ONE INDIVIDUAL'S EGO! The money for this proposed project is badly needed elsewhere. I believe this administration needs to focus on what the AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED instead of what the President wants for himself!

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THIS PROJECT!
Sincerely,
Scott Kranzusch

From: NCPC System <
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 4:03 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Catherine Cahill Mehl

As an American citizen who reveres this country, Washington DC, it's amazing history and monuments, I sincerely hope you will carefully consider the long-term effects of the poorly constructed idea of a triumphal Arch. Aside from its poor taste, it's height will lessen the importance of Arlington cemetery and those who've given their life for their country.

From: Billy M
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 8:23 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch Construction

I am writing to register my opposition to the planned construction of a 250-foot tall arch in Memorial Circle outside of Arlington Cemetery. My 80-year old father, LTC William F. Meyers, Ret. proudly served in the U.S. Army for 26 years and has a plot reserved for his final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery. Having an arch towering over the hallowed ground of that cemetery is an affront to the sanctity of the cemetery and all who served our country who are interred there.

Respectfully,

William P. Meyers

From: Jackie Meyers
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 8:32 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

This Arch is so not wanted or needed. Trump has taken a step to obstruct and take over the Lincoln Memorial view as you cross over the Memorial bridge and the flow of traffic but more importantly is the fact that this arch is not approved yet Trump is doing the “do first ask later” approach. The cost on the tax payers will be a Hugh addition financially to the on going national debt. Do we as a nation really need this?

Jacqueline Meyers

-----Original Message-----
From: Carrie Saucy-Bowersox
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 9:47 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] An arch.

Hello,
I'm writing to oppose the building of any triumphal arch in the Capitol Mall area. I believe that Congress is required to approve any such building before any informational research is done. Congress has not approved anything. I sincerely hope they will not.
I understand that a Portland Oregon engineering and design firm, Otak, has been awarded $500,000 to help clear environmental hurdles. This shouldn't be allowed as trump doesn't have the right to unilaterally decide to build this.
I'm embarrassed the National Park Service is promoting this build. It's against the NPS's own acknowledgement that the arch would have "direct and indirect adverse effects on the sight lines of historic properties."
trump doesn't own our public lands, the people do. He is required to have congressional agreement to build this structure and he does not.
Please stop this.

In appreciation,
Carrie saucy-Bowersox

From: Marsha Stickford
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 10:13 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No to the arch that will block the view

Your vote to give permission for this administration to build a 250 ft arch that will block the view between the Lincoln Monument and Arlington Cemetery is a violation of the rules that state that Congress needs to give approval for that kind of project in that area.

What you have done is terrible and an insult to our nation's Armed Services members and their families. You are putting your loyalty to a corrupt and unconstitutional administration over the desires and interests of the American people. You should be ashamed of yourselves for helping this president destroy our Capital-the American Peoples' Capital so he can leave his mark.

I no longer want to visit Washington because of the harm this administration has inflicted on our beautiful Capital!

Please do something to stop the wrong you have started!

Marsha Stickford
Raleigh, NC

-----Original Message-----
From: Suzie Kelleher
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 10:41 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

Dear Sir or Ma'am,
I want to go on the record as a veteran, the daughter of a veteran, the wife of a veteran and the mother of a veteran that I am opposed to the building of an Arch near Arlington National Cemetery. Arlington is sacred ground to every member of the military. An arch that includes an observation deck that looks over the sacred burial of my comrades is a slap in the face to every veteran and service member.
I ask the board to reconsider allowing the building of this arch. It is unnecessary and unacceptable. We don't need to mirror Paris and Berlin. We are the United States and have our own identity.

Respectfully,

Suzie Kelleher
SSG (Ret), USAR

From: Patti Mascone
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 11:38 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reprehensible Arch

Dear Commission:

First, your lack of accessibility to comment on your actions is an attempt to ignore the public good. But I digress.

Your vapid approval of an authoritarian arch that ignores history and solemnity hurts me and my extended family to our very souls. I am turning my tears into writing this email.

My Godmother, a Navy nurse, is buried at Arlington, per attached photo. My dad, a former ww2 POW, attended decades of POW/MIA ceremonies at the Amphitheater and/or Pentagon, with us children by his side. (He could have been buried there but chose a site elsewhere to be with my Mom, a sewer who made WAC uniforms and artic military coats.)

We visited the Kennedy grave site, as do multitudes of school children, learning our history. There is peacefulness upon entry to these hallowed grounds, which all Veterans and families need and the public deserves. The sight lines to nature and other memorials must remain. Over chaotic traffic patterns and a structure that pays homage to one man's vanity and frames the Confederate loser's house.

You disgrace their service and memory, and I beseech you to change your decision to No on this arch.

Regards,

Patricia Mascone
Halethorpe, MD

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2026 4:31 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] United States Arch Proposal

PLEASE in the name of all things BLOCK this arch from being built. The cost will out yet another burden on the American public and trump doesn't need any more vanity projects. Thank you

Sincerely
Linda Lesnick

From: Christine Sabatini
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:01 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No to the Arch

As an American taxpayer, I wish to express my strongest opposition to this so-called triumphal arch that the current administration is planning.

We do not need it. We do not want it. It will disrupt funerals and the peace & calm at Arlington National Cemetery.

The liberties this administration is taking with the Nation's Capitol is disturbing. This is a major waste of money and with a $40 trillion debt, it is the last thing we should be contemplating.

I am also writing to my representatives in Congress, who have little say in anything this administration is doing.

Very truly yours,
Christine Sabatini

Philadelphia, PA

-----Original Message-----
From: Maralie Rowell
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:15 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Please do not approve that horrendous Monumental Arch that President Trump is pushing for. It is only a monument to his ego. It totally does not fit the character of Washington DC architecture and the character of other monuments. It is just tacky. Destroying the sight line from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington Cemetery is such a bad idea. I've stood at the Memorial and looked across to where some of my relatives are buried. I'm not the only one who has done this. I'd hate to lose that. Please use some common sense and do not approve this abomination. Nobody I've talked with, on either side of the political aisle, wants it. Thank you for listening to me.

It's always something with something.

From: Sharon Kachur
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:16 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

To whom it my concern,

I just read that President Trump is planning on building an arch by Arlington National Cemetery.

Not quite sure what he needs this for, seems like a memorial to himself. I have visited Arlington many times and the
serene beauty should not be disturbed.. It is a solemn place, a place to honor those who have sacrificed
for our country. It speaks for itself. It should remain that way.
Please stop President Trump from ruining our nation's capital. It's one thing to hang up a bunch of tacky gold medallions but this is a violation of our nation's dead, those those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

I plead with you to take a stand and prevent this Arch.

Sharon A Kachur
Monticello GA 31064

From: Alinda
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 12:57 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment — New Monumental Arch, NCPC Project 8778

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to respectfully urge the Commission to reconsider approval of the proposed 250-foot Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle and to give serious consideration to the impact this structure would have on the historic character and visual integrity of Washington, DC.

I understand and respect the desire to create a monument celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States. However, the question before the Commission is not simply whether the monument is worthy of recognition. It is whether this particular monument, at this particular scale and location, is appropriate for the nation's capital.

Memorial Circle occupies an extraordinarily important place within Washington's monumental landscape. It sits at the western end of Arlington Memorial Bridge, directly within the historic visual and ceremonial relationship among the Lincoln Memorial, the National Mall, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington National Cemetery. A 250-foot structure would fundamentally alter that landscape and the experience of approaching and viewing these national monuments.

The scale concerns me especially. A national memorial should enhance the existing monumental landscape rather than compete with it or dominate it. At 250 feet, this arch risks becoming the defining visual element of an area whose significance comes precisely from the carefully balanced relationship among the monuments and open spaces already there.

I also believe the unresolved issues identified by NCPC deserve full consideration before any final approval. The Commission has requested additional justification for the proposed height, analysis of transportation impacts, details concerning pedestrian and vehicular circulation, loading and drop-off, FAA lighting requirements, and final materials. These are not minor details; they are essential to determining whether this project is appropriate for this extraordinary location.

I respectfully ask the Commission to exercise its responsibility as steward of the nation's capital and to require a substantially more compelling demonstration that the proposed height, scale, and location are compatible with Washington's historic monumental core.

Celebrating America does not require making a monument as large as possible. Our capital is most powerful when new commemorations respect the proportions, vistas, dignity, and history of what already exists.

Please do not grant final approval for the proposed Monumental Arch unless these fundamental concerns have been fully resolved and the project demonstrably protects the historic character and visual integrity of Washington's monumental landscape.

Thank you for considering my comment and for your service to the nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Alinda Iman
Chevy Chase, MD

From: Judith Sibert
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 1:33 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public comment opposing the New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle (NCPC File 8778)

Dear Commissioners and staff:

I write in opposition to the proposed 250-foot monumental arch at Memorial Circle.

First, the arch would interrupt the historic sightline connecting the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington House at Arlington National Cemetery—a designed relationship meant to express national reunification after the Civil War.

Second, the height and bulk are out of scale with the surrounding commemorative landscape and raise unresolved questions under the Height of Buildings Act relative to existing monuments, including the Lincoln Memorial.

Third, construction and operation would add traffic pressure at an already constrained circle, risk prolonged noise next to frequent funerals at Arlington, and require further aviation review given the site's proximity to Reagan National Airport.

Fourth, a commemorative work of this size and purpose on this land should be authorized by Congress under the Commemorative Works Act, not advanced by executive action alone.

Please reject this proposal and preserve the existing ceremonial landscape.

Sincerely,
Judith Sibert
Otsego, MN

From: Gregory Milbourne
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 1:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Arch

DC does not need an illegal and uneccessary arch thwarting the carefully crafted site lines of the current city layout. Please do not proceed with this illegal construction.

-----Original Message-----
From: cathleen a labate
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 1:51 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The trump arch

Commissioners

I am a retired Army Col, COL. Cathleen Labate....who deployed to Iraq and Kosovo. Arlington Cemetery is sacred to me, and to so many of us who have served. People talk about the view being ruined by that ugly arch to trump's vanity...but it is so much more. I deployed with very honorable men and women who served our country. Arlington is not a vanity project and to desecrate this sacred space to a man who has never served, is not honorable, calls veterans sucker and losers, is an insult to all of us veterans who proudly wore our uniform and did our duty. His presidency is coming to a close, but the desecration of our resting place in Arlington will be marred forever, if that travesty is erected. I walk those paths of the cemetery, pray at the Kennedy resting places, attend sunrise service on Easter at the amphitheater and salute the Tomb of the Unknown soldier...all hereos, all honorable men and women. A vanity arch is blasphemy, and yes, an eyesore

DO YOUR DUTY! DO not allow this travesty to continue!

COL Cathleen Labate
Lafayette, LA

From: Charles "Skip" Cannady
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 1:54 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Count me as opposed to the construction of the arch blocking the view of Arlington National Cemetery.

Charles Cannady
Commander US Navy retired

From: Evelyn Gilmartin
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 1:57 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Totally inappropriate placement of an arch that is not suitable girl placement where we honor our fallen heroes

From: Kris Pagenkopf
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 1:58 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's proposed 250-foot arch

ATTN: National Capital Planning Commission

Trump's proposed 250-foot arch in front of Arlington National Cemetery is so patently offensive to those who served and those with loved ones buried at Arlington. The arch will not just change the atmosphere in and around Arlington but will lead to near non-stop construction and heavy machinery drowning out funerals, and an eventual observation deck that will allow visitors to Washington, DC to peer down on burials as a tourist stop.

The head of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, Charles Birnbaum, has stated that the breaking up the layout between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington with a massive arch will impact the purposeful design of the area.

Please stand up for those who wore the uniform for our country, and those who gave their lives, and ensure they're always afforded the deepest respect.

Please oppose the arch and use your power to stop its construction.

Kris Pagenkopf
Gainesville, FL

From: wendy holtzman
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:11 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The arch

To Whom It May Concern:
The Lincoln Memorial, Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle and the Arlington National Cemetery will be desecrated with the arch that is twice the building height allowed in Washington DC proper. The hallowed ground of Arlington Cemetery deserves an environment that is respectful to our veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Essentially the noise, the dirt, and all the people involved in the construction over the next several years will create an environment that is the opposite of the somber atmosphere funerals in Arlington Cemetery deserve. The observation deck and the entire project is obscene.

Wendy Holtzman

From: Deborah Sudduth
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:22 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] That hideous arch Trump wants to have built

Please, please do not allow that arch to be built! It would be such a disrespectful thing to place it right in front of Arlington Cemetery.
Thank you for your consideration of this request.
Deborah Sudduth

From: Stephen McCreary
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:25 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc de Triomphe

Really bad idea, just copies what the French already did centuries ago, will detract badly from Lincoln Memorial and even worse from Arlington National Cemetery, no place for it in DC.

From: GREGORY KARL
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:27 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

As a combat veteran I stand with General Eaton in his opposition to this hideous arch. It is yet another Trump vanity project so out of place it should not even be considered. The reason it got this far is the fact the commission is filled with Trump sycophants hell bent on approving anything he proposes regardless of the project, cost, or effect on the surrounding area. Any changes should go through a rigorous approval process replete with congressional approval, something this president seems loath to do. The proposed arch is an eyesore and an insult to veterans and needs to be dismissed out of hand.
Thank you,
Gregory Karl

From: Mike Davis
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:36 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch de Trump

As a veteran, I am highly against the preposed arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetary.
Not only is it disrespectful to those buried in Arlington, an eyesore totally incompatible with the solemnity of the area, it is a monument to one man who has done nothing to deserve such recognition.

Request you exercise your authority and stop this travesty before it breaks ground.

Thank you,

MIke Davis
Charlottesville VA

From: Mary Williams
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Stop Trump's arch to glorify himself!

My greatuncle served in WWI in France; his parents were Irish immigrants in the late 1800s. My father served in the US Navy during WWII; he and his parents emigrated from Wales in the early 1900s. We have many friends and relatives who have served in wartime and peacetime for the USA.

We have friends whose family members are buried in Arlington National Cemetery. It is a holy site. The only thing that compares is the US Cemetery just above the beaches of Normandy..
It is a terrible blasphemy to allow this president, or ANY president, to overshadow the final resting place of so many heroes.

Building an enormous, gaudy, vulgar, ugly arch is a betrayal of the idea of our nation's capital, and breaks the purposeful sightline plans that carefully laid out the connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington's holy ground to honor the war dead.

An observation deck? Why? So tourists can gape and gawk down at funerals for those in flag-draped coffins, with the mourners saying their final farewell?

Will Trump set up a hot dog stand and make money from tourists looking down on war heroes?
Will he set up a ferris wheel and charge admission?
Will he erect (I use this term advisedly) an animatronic image of himself bragging about his war victories and his intelligence and his superiority, while frowning fiercely and waving his arms about?
Will he replace the statue of Abraham Lincoln with a gold-plated one of DJT?

Will he ever follow the law and request permission from Congress for his destruction and tawdry additions?

You must stop this terrible thing from happening!

Dr. Mary B. Williams
Fox Point, WI

-----Original Message-----
From: Steve Gladis
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No

As a veteran and someone with friends who are at Arlington Cemetery, I think this idea of a self-aggrandizing arch, is horrendous. Please say no.

Please excuse any fat-finger or dictation errors.
Steve Gladis,Ph.D.
Executive Coach, Professor, Author

From: leigh & dickie woodling
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:48 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] STOP THE ARCH

I am writing as an American and a citizen of the United States of America. I vehemently oppose the construction of the trump arch in Washington DC. It is a travesty that this ridiculous project has come this far. This committee needs to listen to the voice of the people. Recent polls show that 65% of the populace DO NOT want this project to continue. Do the right thing. Shut down this monstrosity!
Leigh A. Woodling
Ft. Pierce, FL

-----Original Message-----
From: Paul Paglia
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:51 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Arch

I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed arch. It should never be allowed to be built. Arlington Cemetery should be respected and a tranquil place to honor our veterans.

Paul Paglia
Newton MA

From: Mary Lou D'Amico
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:54 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External]

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:
My name is Mary, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 250-foot Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.
The National Mall and its surrounding historic landscape belong to the American people. This massive 250-foot structure is out of scale and out of character for the setting. Standing more than twice the height of the Lincoln Memorial, the arch would permanently dominate viewsheds between the National Mall, the Lincoln Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery. [1, 2, 3]
Furthermore, the construction process itself—planned for up to 20 hours a day over multiple years—would introduce unbearable noise and disruption directly adjacent to a hallowed ground where dozens of families lay their loved ones to rest each day. Honor and solemnity require quiet, not the constant operation of pile drivers and heavy machinery during solemn services. [1, 2]
Finally, this project moves forward without explicit congressional authorization while bypassing critical, mandated reviews for historic preservation and local environment. I urge the Commission to reject the final site and building plans and protect our capital's historic legacy. [1, 2]
Sincerely,

Mary DAmico
The Villages, Florida

From: Candice Orr
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 2:58 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Arch

I absolutely oppose the building of the arch anywhere. My son was in the Army for 23 years and wants to be buried at Arlington. This arch is totally disrespectful of the sacrifices made by our soldiers . This president has no regard for them at all, only his own aggrandizement.

Candice Orr

From: Susan Levinson
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:06 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed arch in Washington DC

The Trump administration's proposal to plant a 250-foot-tall arch will break the sight line between the Lincoln Memorial and the cemetery. This is just a monument to himself, but more importantly it is entirely inappropriate and borders on sacrilege to the men and women buried there. He has shown over and over that the lives of our vets and those who have given their lives for our country are meaningless to him and he has only shown derision.

The proposal to include an observation deck atop his behemoth structure will allow tourists to overlook the privacy of grieving families' funerals. This could not be more insensitive.

Please do not allow this vanity project to proceed. Our country needs leadership, not unnecessary ridiculous projects that the president fantasizes and obsesses about.
Thank you,
Susan Levinson, Los Angeles CA

From: Libby Joyce
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:10 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The 250' arch

Planners:

You must be getting a huge number of comments like mine so I can keep it brief.

STOP THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS RIDICULOUS AND OFFENSIVE - AND EXPENSIVE! - ARCH. WHATEVER IT TAKES.

Elizabeth Joyce
Glenview IL

-----Original Message-----
From: JACK PEACOCK
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:12 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

I write to express my opposition to the construction of the arch proposed by Donald Trump for several reasons:
1. It is aesthetically unattractive and spoils the current vistas from the Lincoln Memorial, Memorial Bridge, and Arlington Cemetery.
2. Just more taxpayer money to boost the President's poor self-image.
3. It will become a monument to greed, malevolence, and incompetence and will forever be viewed as a monument to Trump and Epstein.
4. The Arch is a slap in the face to American veterans knowing, as we do, that Trump doesn't give a damn about servicemen and women based on a multitude of derogatory statements on his part about them, dead and alive.
Please summon the courage to vote against this project.
Thank you.

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:14 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arlington National Cemetery

As a 26+ year veteran, I disagree with the President's proposal to erect an arch between the Lincoln Memorial and the Arlington National Cemetery. Such a structure will detract from the esthetics and somber atmosphere of the National Cemetery. The National Cemetery is the resting place of some of the nation's most revered and brave citizens and should be respected, not commercialized.

Vincent A. Colacicco. (Lt Col ret)

From: nmerrick
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:29 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Arch

I am writing to express my outrage at the thought of an arch being built between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. It is not wanted, not needed and a terrible waste of taxpayer funds.

Most importantly it sullies the sacred ground of both the cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. Washington DC was thoughtfully laid out in the early 1900's to honor the exceptional men and women who have laid down their lives for this country. This must be maintained at all costs.

Please stop any further discussion of this arch and do not allow any archeological explorations or any disturbance of the grounds to proceed.

This arch must be stopped immediately.

Thank you.

Nancy Merrick
Cary NC

From: Randy Showstack
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:35 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NCPC File No. 8778 — New Monumental Arch, Memorial Circle

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500N
Washington, DC 20004

Re: NCPC File No. 8778 — New Monumental Arch, Memorial Circle

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in the strongest possible terms to oppose the proposed 250-foot "Independence Arch" planned for Memorial Circle, and to urge you to reject final approval outright.

This is a vanity project, not a public necessity. No credible planning process began with "the nation needs a triumphal arch." It began with a single man's preference for a certain kind of monument, and every subsequent justification — the semiquincentennial, a 1920s reference to unbuilt columns, "beautifying the capital" — has been reverse-engineered to fit that preference [1]. Washington has stood for 250 years without a triumphal arch and has never suffered for it. The cost is impossible to justify: estimates for this structure run as high as $100 million, with no serious public accounting of the full price tag, funding source, or long-term maintenance obligations [2]. This is not infrastructure, transit, housing, or flood control. It is a decorative gate.

It destroys one of the capital's most significant cultural and historic landscapes. Memorial Circle sits directly on the axis between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House at Arlington National Cemetery — a sightline the 1901 McMillan Plan deliberately established, and one preserved for nearly a century to symbolize national reconciliation after the Civil War [3]. The National Park Service's own Section 106 Assessment of Effects Report — required because this is a federal undertaking affecting historic properties — found the arch would cause adverse effects on 37 historic sites across Washington, including the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Lyndon B. Johnson Memorial Grove, the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, and Washington National Cathedral [4]. The NPS's own Environmental Assessment for the project acknowledges directly that placing the arch "within the axial alignment between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House" would obstruct that reciprocal view and "alter a defining sightline" [5]. At 250 feet — more than double the height of the Lincoln Memorial — this structure would not "frame" that view. It would dominate and erase it, replacing a century of restraint with a single administration's monument to itself.

The environmental toll on this site is real and has been badly underweighted. By the NPS's own June 2026 Environmental Assessment, this project would create approximately 62,875 square feet of new impervious surface in a landscape that is currently open lawn [6]. The agency's own analysis warns that eliminating that lawn would sharply reduce groundwater recharge, that shallow perched groundwater beneath the site could become pressurized under the new pavement — leading to pavement heave, soft subgrade conditions, and frost damage requiring

"ongoing monitoring and maintenance" — and that rising river salinity from upstream brackish-water encroachment could threaten the integrity of the structure's own concrete foundation piles over time [7]. Surface-water runoff would increase substantially, raising the risk of flash flooding, erosion at drainage outfalls, and sediment transport directly into the Potomac River, with additional risk of backwater flooding during storm surges and high tides given the site's location on a river-adjacent, low-lying, engineered island [8]. Construction itself would run 20 hours a day, year-round, for two to three years, using tower cranes up to 320 feet tall, and would require removing an estimated 1,400 truckloads of excavated soil and importing roughly 400 truckloads of engineered fill — daily trucking of 20 to 30 trucks and 80 to 100 loads [9]. The NPS's own materials also acknowledge "limited vegetation removal" during construction and disruption to the mid-century native plantings designed for Lady Bird Johnson Park by landscape architect Edward D. Stone Jr., a landscape that has defined this stretch of the Potomac shoreline for sixty years [10]. None of this has been meaningfully weighed against a purely decorative purpose.

The public process has been steamrolled, and Congress has been cut out entirely. Of the roughly 1,600 public comments submitted during NCPC's review, only a single one favored the project as designed — near-total public rejection [11]. NPS gave the public just ten days, June 5–15, to comment on the Section 106 historic-preservation assessment for a 250-foot structure the agency's own report concludes would adversely affect dozens of historic properties; ranking members of the Senate and House committees with jurisdiction over D.C. monuments publicly objected that ten days "cannot discharge" the law's heightened duty to minimize harm to National Historic Landmarks [12]. Those same lawmakers have told the Interior Department plainly that Congress has never authorized this commemorative work, as the Commemorative Works Act requires, and that Section 106 consultation "cannot supply that missing authority" [13]. A pending federal lawsuit, Lemmon v. Trump, brought by three Vietnam War veterans and a retired architectural historian, raises exactly these concerns [14].

There is real urgency here. NCPC did not take up the arch at its September 3 meeting despite the Chairman's earlier statement that a final vote could come then [15]. NCPC's next Commission meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2026 — very likely where final review will land, though the Commission had not yet posted a tentative agenda confirming this as of early September [16]. Based on NCPC's usual timeline, the written-comment window for that meeting should open in mid-September, roughly two to three weeks before the meeting, with a hard deadline the day before (noon on September 30, by NCPC's usual pattern). Separately, the Interior Department announced on September 3 that excavation work — described as archaeological test pits — could begin as soon as September 21, before the Commission has granted final approval and before the pending lawsuit has been resolved [17]. The formal public comment windows on the Environmental Assessment and the Section 106 historic-preservation review have already closed, so the October 1 Commission meeting is likely the last formal, scheduled opportunity for public comment before construction could begin.

I am asking the Commission to deny final approval of this project in its current form and location. No amount of gilding or symbolism can substitute for public consent that has never been given, and no rendering can undo the historic, cultural, and environmental damage this structure would cause if built.

Sincerely,
Randy Showstack
Washington, D.C.

Sources

[1] "New Arch Washington DC: Independence Arch & America's 250th"; see also NPS, Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle Environmental Assessment (June 2026), Ch. 1, Background and Purpose and Need. https://npshistory.com/publications/gwmp/triumphal-arch-ea-2026.pdf
[2] Sara Dorn, "Here's How Much Trump's Capital 'Vanity Projects' Will Cost as Crews Prepare for Arch Groundbreaking," Forbes, Sept. 4, 2026. https://www.forbes.com/sites/saradorn/2026/09/04/heres-how-much-trumps-capital-vanity-projects-will-cost-as-crews-prepare-for-arch-groundbreaking/
[3] NPS, Triumphal Arch Environmental Assessment (June 2026), Section 3.3.1, on the 1901 McMillan Plan's Lincoln Memorial–Arlington House axis. https://npshistory.com/publications/gwmp/triumphal-arch-ea-2026.pdf
[4] "National Park Service finds Trump's arch would 'adversely affect' 37 historic sites," Aug. 2026, reporting on the NPS Section 106 Assessment of Effects Report. https://katv.com/news/nation-world/national-park-service-finds-trumps-arch-would-adversely-affect-37-historic-sites-arlington-dc-capitol

Primary document: NPS/parkplanning.nps.gov, "Triumphal Arch – Section 106 Assessment of Effect and Draft Programmatic Agreement." https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=186&projectID=136973&documentID=151576
[5] NPS, Triumphal Arch Environmental Assessment (June 2026), Section 3.3.2.2, "Reciprocal views between Arlington House and Lincoln Memorial." https://npshistory.com/publications/gwmp/triumphal-arch-ea-2026.pdf
[6] NPS, Triumphal Arch Environmental Assessment (June 2026), Section 2.2.5.2, "Long-term Stormwater Management." https://npshistory.com/publications/gwmp/triumphal-arch-ea-2026.pdf
[7] NPS, Triumphal Arch Environmental Assessment (June 2026), Section 3.6.3.2, "Environmental Effects – Water Resources, Groundwater." https://npshistory.com/publications/gwmp/triumphal-arch-ea-2026.pdf
[8] NPS, Triumphal Arch Environmental Assessment (June 2026), Section 3.6.3.2, "Environmental Effects – Water Resources, Surface Water." https://npshistory.com/publications/gwmp/triumphal-arch-ea-2026.pdf
[9] NPS, Triumphal Arch Environmental Assessment (June 2026), Sections 2.2.7 ("Soil Excavation") and 2.2.8 ("Construction Equipment and Work Hours"). https://npshistory.com/publications/gwmp/triumphal-arch-ea-2026.pdf

Corroborating: Associated Press, "Trump administration's plan for DC arch involves year-round work at 20 hours a day," June 2026. https://www.wsmv.com/2026/06/11/trump-administrations-plan-dc-arch-involves-year-round-work-20-hours-day/
[10] NPS, Triumphal Arch Environmental Assessment (June 2026), Sections 2.2.3 and 3.4.2.2, on construction vegetation impacts and Lady Bird Johnson Park's Edward D. Stone Jr. planting design. https://npshistory.com/publications/gwmp/triumphal-arch-ea-2026.pdf
[11] "Work to begin on Trump's 250-foot 'triumphal arch' over the next 2 weeks, administration says," citing The New York Times, Sept. 2026. https://www.yahoo.com/news/politics/article/work-

to-begin-on-trumps-250-foot-triumphal-arch-over-the-next-2-weeks-administration-says-why-is-it-so-big-and-what-comes-next-202216346.html
[12] Sen. Angus King, Sen. Jeff Merkley, et al., letter to Secretary Burgum, "King, Merkley, Colleagues Call to Terminate Illegal Plans for 'Triumphal Arch,'" July 2026. https://www.merkley.senate.gov/?p=24934

NPS notice confirming an additional 20-day comment period, July 10–30, 2026. https://home.nps.gov/orgs/1207/national-park-service-invites-additional-public-comment-of-the-triumphal-arch-assessment-of-effects-report.htm
[13] Sen. Angus King, Sen. Jeff Merkley, et al., letter to Secretary Burgum, July 2026 (same as source 12). https://www.merkley.senate.gov/?p=24934
[14] Public Citizen Litigation Group, "Lemmon v. Trump" case page. https://www.citizen.org/litigation/lemmon-v-trump/

"Trump's arch may break ground without final approval. Veterans are trying to stop it," NPR, Sept. 4, 2026. https://www.npr.org/2026/09/04/nx-s1-5957459/trump-arch-excavation-lawsuit-veterans
[15] "Trump Arch Dig Set to Start as Veterans Seek a Halt," reporting NCPC met Sept. 3, 2026 and the arch was not on the agenda. https://www.planet-today.com/2026/09/trump-arch-dig-set-to-start-as-veterans.html
[16] National Capital Planning Commission homepage, listing "Upcoming Meeting: October 1, 2026 | 1:00 PM," confirmed directly from ncpc.gov (Sept. 8, 2026). https://www.ncpc.gov/
[17] "Work on Trump-backed triumphal arch will start in coming weeks, Burgum says," CBS News, Sept. 2026. https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-triumphal-arch-washington-dc-excavation-burgum/

From: david young
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:54 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] As an army veteran do not build this abysmal arch

Dear ladies and gentlemen,
I just watched a video regarding plans for Trump's Insanity 250 foot arch at Arlington National Cemetery where I was lucky enough to solemnly visit with other cadets while at Virginia Military Institute in 1974.
This planned self-indulgent obnoxious draft dodging moron's plan for a yet another tribute to himself is an abomination and should never ever be allowed by you or any other commission.
I'm sure plans are already in the works to tear down and remove every single item he and his minions have insanely installed so far in his destructive second term.
So don't let this be one more ridiculous clown show which will cost a fortune to remove do not approve anything related to this depraved moron.

Sincerely,
James David Young
United States Army 1977 - 1983
Highlands Ranch, CO

Lynn M. Valeri
St. Louis, MO

September 8, 2026

Attention: National Capital Planning Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in opposition to the U.S. Department of Interior's planned project to build a Triumphal Arch on Memorial Circle.

There are many reasons to oppose it, in particular that it has not been authorized and funded by Congress. More specifically, it is not supported by the majority of veterans and families whose kin are buried at Arlington Cemetery.

I am not a veteran, nor do I have family buried at Arlington. However, I am a preservationist, who sees the value in not only preserving buildings but also in preserving views. As famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted wrote in a letter 110 years ago regarding a proposal to add towers to the Arlington Memorial Bridge, "**Not to eliminate them would be like a slap in the face to the Lincoln Memorial.**"

Please make reference to a history of the Memorial Bridge and Circle by The Cultural Landscape Foundation: https://www.tclf.org/slap-face-lincoln-memorial

Sincerely,
Lynn Valeri

From: Anne Kiske
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 4:09 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] "Arc de Trump"

I am writing to oppose the construction of the "Arc de Trump". It is patently offensive to our military members who are buried in the solemn national grounds of Arlington. It will change the atmosphere from one of solemnity and remembrance to one of tourist attraction and gaudiness. In addition it will negatively impact the purposeful design of the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington in a way that detracts from the solemnity our heroes deserve.

Thank you,

Anne Kiske, Attorney
Kiske Law Office
St. Joseph, MO

From: Bill
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 4:51 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's proposed 250-foot arch

Dear NCPC,

Please do not let Trump build the patently offensive 250-arch in front of the Arlington National Cemetery. My father, Col. Ritchie Clarke, is buried there, and nothing about Trump's arch will honor those buried there. I'm Col. Clarke's son.

Yours,

William H. Clarke
Missoula, MT

From: tlibo
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 4:57 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Proposed Monumental Arch at Arlington

Dear Chairman and Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to urge the NCPC to reject the proposed 250-foot Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

Arlington National Cemetery is sacred ground. For the families who have loved ones buried there, the approach to Arlington is not simply another piece of Washington's landscape. It is part of a solemn place of remembrance. A gigantic triumphal arch, complete with an observation deck, would fundamentally alter that experience and introduce a spectacle where reverence should remain.

The proposed structure would also permanently disrupt one of the nation's most important historic vistas between the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery. Washington's monumental core was deliberately designed around proportion, openness and sightlines. A 250-foot arch would overwhelm that carefully preserved landscape rather than complement it.

The NCPC has recognized that this location requires a careful balance of historic preservation, visitor experience and urban design. I urge you to put those principles ahead of political deadlines and reject the project at final review.

Please protect Arlington, protect the historic character of Washington, and protect the dignity of the Americans who are buried there.

Sincerely,

Tom Libonate

From: Peggy Kraus
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 5:13 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

National Park Service -

I am writing to express that I am totally against the arch that the Trump administration wants to build. I find it obnoxious , gaudy and serves no purpose. It is completely disrespectful to all the veterans. The majority of Americans do not want this built!

Do not build the arch.

I was born in North Dakota, and you can tell Doug Burgum, he DOES NOT make me North Dakota proud. His actions and lies are truly disgusting.

Peggy Kraus

-----Original Message-----
From: Robin Franzoni
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 5:24 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch by Arlington cemetery

I think this desecration of hallowed ground would be horrible. Trump does not know the loss of all these service members. He has never served in the military. He only serves himself. Would someone please put their foot down and have the balls to stand up to him.
I don't recognize my country anymore. Stop this now.
Robin Franzoni

From: M Rado
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 5:31 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Concern: Trump Arch

September 8,2026

National Capital Planning Commission

Dear Commissionaires,

I understand your group will be making a decision on the Trump Arch during your October meeting.

I am an Air Force veteran who served between 1968 and 1972 and have comrades who died for this country and are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

I am appalled at the gall and idea that this Arch might be erected anywhere in our great country, much less close to this sacred space.

I urge you to reject Trump's attempt of self promotion, and instead send a clear message to the people of our country, that you will not be party to approving such an obscene vanity project.

Regards,

Mark A. Rado

-----Original Message-----
From: Mike Kritz
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 5:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Clear view a from Arlington to the Lincoln Memorial

Please do not allow anything or anyone to obstruct and desecrate the clear view from Arlington to the Lincoln Memorial as designed by the original architects to honor our fallen.

Mike Kritz
Sgt
USAF 1973-77

From: Drs. Don & Lynn Siebert
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 5:47 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch construction

Dear NCPC,
I am writing today in strong opposition to the proposed construction of the giant "triumphal" arch near Arlington National Cemetery. The proposed arch must be stopped. The noise, disruption and degradation of the area which would be caused by construction will dramatically and negatively impact funeral services at Arlington, the quietude sought by those visiting loved ones buried there and ultimately the viewscape of the surrounding area which currently reflects dignity and sanctity of this special, sacred place. Arlington is the final resting place for those who have paid the ultimate price to defend our country and we, as a country, owe those buried there our highest respect, dignity and honor - all so dearly earned. This cemetery area should not be defiled by a garish vanity project initiated by one person who happens to sit in the Oval Office at present. Please reject these plans and do everything possible to preserve the sanctity of our national cemetery.
Sincerely,
Dr. Lynn L. Siebert

-----Original Message-----
From: Raye Manuele Robinson
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 6:00 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

Do not allow Trump to build this arch that disrupts the sightline between Arlington National Cemetery & the Lincoln Memorial. It's a disgrace to our American heroes.

Raye Manuele Robinson
West Allis, Wis

From: Tony Briotta
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 7:41 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Arch in Washington DC

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on the proposed 250-foot Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

Washington, D.C. is not simply another city where a large monument can be inserted wherever there is available land. Its monuments, memorials, parks, vistas, and carefully designed sightlines form a unique national landscape that belongs to every American.

The proposed arch would fundamentally alter the historic view between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. That view has meaning far beyond architecture. It connects the nation's memorial to Abraham Lincoln with the cemetery where generations of American service members have been laid to rest. I do not believe that historic relationship should be sacrificed for a new, enormous structure.

I am also deeply concerned about the proposed scale. At approximately 250 feet, the arch would dominate its surroundings rather than complement them. The nation's capital should not become a collection of increasingly large monuments competing for attention.

I respectfully ask the Commission to consider its responsibility as a steward of Washington's historic character—not simply whether this particular design can technically be accommodated.

Please vote against final approval of the Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

If the purpose is to honor America's veterans, there are countless ways to do so without placing a massive new structure in one of the most historically and visually significant locations in the country.

Please protect the historic character of Washington, the dignity of Arlington National Cemetery, and the sightlines that generations of Americans have come to associate with our nation's capital.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony Briotta
Birmingham, Alabama

From: Ron Kelly
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 8:55 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] STOP Trump's 250-foot-tall Arch

As a retired AF officer and current resident of Virginia, I strongly urge your commission to do everything in your power to prohibit Trump and his clowns from building his vainglorious arch on the approach to Arlington Cemetery. As a proud 1970 graduate of the US Air Force Academy I have many of my classmates and friends buried there at Arlington -- one classmate who had been entombed in the Tomb of the Unknown for a few years. It is a blasphemous stain on their service and sacrifice to have an immoral, unethical narcissist build such a monstrosity so close to the hallowed grounds of Arlington. It truly makes me sick to think that such an evil, racist imbecile like Trump, who has expressed his hatred of military service personnel and did not commit to public service of any kind, could disgrace the Memorial Circle. Please stop this idiocy before any ground is disturbed. Thank you.
Ron Kelly
Herndon, VA

From: + <noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 8:59 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

Hello, my name is Wade Foss, in Oregon State. I am calling about the commission is going to vote soon and I wish to leave a public statement that the arch is a terrible idea. It is Just beyond all recognition on why this would want to happen other than Trump's ego. Even generals are, you know, it's going to destroy the view of Arlington where all our heroes are. so many others that should be there that aren't, but like to go there because there is such a wonderful feeling about the place, especially when you're a veteran like I am. And it's hard to imagine that General Bone Spurs put this thing to himself that destroys the view of real American veteran heroes. Need I say more? Please don't let this happen. We need money to replenish the arms that's been blown from the military to fix the Abraham Lincoln and all the other ships that have been overextended and geez, what happened to our military? Please reconsider. The money needs to be spent in other places. We don't need this debacle. of ego of a president that has just gone beyond what reality is really about. And in history, the future, the past of America. I implore you, do not do these arts. Stand up to this guy, please. Yes.

-----Original Message-----
From: Lauri Anderson
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 9:27 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

As a Veteran with my husband in Arlington National Cemetery I am opposed to this massively inappropriate arch. What a slap in the face to us who served and also cared for disabled Veterans. I plan to be interred with my husband and I absolutely do not want our view of my nation's capital to be obstructed by a vile personal monument to this travesty of a president.
Lauri J. Anderson
Vietnam 1974-1978
US Navy

From: M S
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 9:45 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO TRUMP ARCH!

My grandfather didn't fight the Nazis in WWII just to have our own American fascist dictator build himself a monument that overshadows those who actually SERVED and DIED for our country. PLEASE do the right thing and do not build this disgusting arch!

-----Original Message-----
From: Robin Smith
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 10:56 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] I oppose building the Arch

Our country in more debt than it has ever been.
We are also at war.
In the past in times of war, we citizens were asked to sacrifice, pay more taxes and deny ourselves basics but especially luxury items.
Why would we build this momument now? It will only put us deeper in debt. We can't afford it.

Americans are struggling to pay for food and gasoline. The cost of housing has exceeded many citizens capabilities. The government is cutting medicare and medicaid.
We should be addressing the problems in our communities. This would be the best celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States not some pretentious momument that serves no purpose.

Both our fathers were veterans. One was in WWII and the other in the Korean War. The sacrifices of veterans have no better memorials than the Vietnam Memorial which details the thousands of men who gave their lives and the Korean War Memorial which shows a truer image of what war looks like. I understand that many veterans oppose the Arch. Surely these men should have a say in how the structure detracts from the Arlington Memorial Cemetery Please prevent the building of the Arch.

Thank you for considering our thoughts,
Eric McCallum and Robin Smith
Anchorage, Alaska

Ben Jay
Columbus, Ohio

September 8, 2026

Chairman Will Scharf
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Opposition to New Monumental Arch, NCPC File Number 8778

Dear Chairman Scharf and Members of the Commission,

I write in opposition to the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle, NCPC File Number 8778.

Arlington National Cemetery holds more than 400,000 service members and their families. Families bury their dead there every weekday. A 250-foot arch with a tourist observation deck does not honor that ground. It disrupts it.

The arch would block the historic sightline between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. That view represents national unity after the Civil War. No commemorative structure should stand in the way of it.

Construction could run three years, twenty hours a day. That schedule threatens funeral services taking place beside it. Families deserve quiet and respect when they bury their loved ones. They do not deserve construction noise and closed roads.

The estimated cost runs into the hundreds of millions of dollars. That money belongs to veteran services, cemetery maintenance, and existing memorials, not a vanity project.

My father served in World War II. He is not buried at Arlington, but he would object to this arch without hesitation. He and men like him understood sacrifice. They did not build monuments to themselves. They served their country and let history judge that service. A structure this size, in this place, insults everything they stood for.

I ask the Commission to reject this proposal and protect the integrity of Memorial Avenue, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Respectfully,

Ben Jay
Columbus, Ohio

-----Original Message-----
From: Michelle Collopy
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 12:08 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arlington Cemetery.

Sent from my iPhone

Please STOP
the maniac in the WH. We do NOT want a memorial of Nasty Felon Donald Trump ESPECIALLY in the entrance of Arlington Cemetery. It's horrible and can NOT happen. He's too ignorent to know better. He has no empathy or common courtesy or morals. Please STOP Trumpty

-----Original Message-----
From: Ruth Kindrat
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 5:55 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

To Whom It May Concern,

To put up the arch for a person who does not deserve it is disgraceful and unacceptable. I am totally against this. I have an uncle buried in Arlington and this arch is not a tribute to him or the other members buried there. This is despicable in every way. The scenery from Arlington to the Memorial is beautiful. I am firmly convinced that this is an ego trip for someone. I strongly oppose the arch being built period. Arches were built for heroes coming back home. This new arch plan is NOT for a Hero just an egotistical one!
Ruth Kindrat

From: Jim Sullivan
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 6:52 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment for NCPC Project #8778 (Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle)

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am submitting written testimony regarding NCPC Project #8778 (Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle). I urge the Commission to deny final site and building plan approval due to major unresolved transportation, safety, and physical site constraints:

- **Severe Commuter Traffic Delays:** Memorial Circle serves as a critical arterial link connecting I-66, the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and Route 50 to downtown Washington, D.C.. Disrupting a high-capacity traffic circle to accommodate tour buses and heavy foot traffic will cause severe regional gridlock.
- **Pedestrian Hazards and Visual Clutter:** Introducing high volumes of visitors to an island in the middle of a busy traffic circle requires multiple crosswalks and up to 32 new traffic signal poles. This creates severe pedestrian hazards while cluttering a historically open gateway with intrusive traffic infrastructure.
- **Height, Scale, and Airspace Risks:** Standing at 250 feet, the proposed arch far exceeds D.C.'s local scale and introduces airspace navigation risks due to its proximity to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and the Pentagon Helipad. The Commission must not issue final approvals without complete, independent FAA aeronautical clearance and comprehensive traffic modeling.

Memorial Circle is fundamentally a high-speed transportation junction and ceremonial approach, not a suitable site for a high-density tourist attraction. I ask the Commission to vote against this preliminary site approval.

Sincerely,
Jimmie E Sullivan
Tallahassee Fl

From: richard small
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 11:58 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Drumpf's Triumphal Arch

Simple question..:

Q: What kind of sick fuck wants to build a monument to triumph, with an observation deck overlooking a cemetary?...
A: A doddering 80year old narcissist with no empathy for the families of service men and women who have served and died for this country... I'll give you one (1) guess. And maybe a hint: he thinks he has good taste and loves HIS concept of America... but not Americans.

I don't know if Drumpf stacked your commission before engaging in his idiocy. Clearly we will find out.

Respectfully,
Richard Small
citizen and patriot

From: Linda Cornejo
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:01 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

To whom it may concern:

As a member of a military Gold Star family, I find it absolutely abhorent that there is even talk of a triumphal arch being built near Arlington National Cemetery. The noise will drown out somber military funerals, the observation deck will invite leering tourists to look down into Arlington, and the 250 foot height of this unsightly monstrosity will dwarf all other monuments in Washington D.C. The building MUST BE STOPPED! The destruction being wrought on our beloved capitol must be halted. Cherry trees, weeping willows, the rose garden, the East Wing.... when will it end?!

Mrs. Linda D. Cornejo

From: Gary Gilbert
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:24 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The President's Arch

To the Commission on Monuments: Please do not approve the President's Arch project. It stands against long time policies to limit the height of buidings in Washington DC and particularly threatens the view across the river to the Arlington National Cemetery where so many of our brave countrymen lie after making the supreme sacrifice. As a veteran, I am both saddened and offended by this proposed behemoth because I once stood beside some of those put to rest there. Such an obstruction is an afront to their sacrifices and diminishes all of the other monuments to our country's heroes already in place. In America we do not build monuments to brag about military victories but rather to honor those citizen soldiers & their brave leaders who served, many of whom gave their lives for our country.

Gary R. Gilbert
US Army Veteran
Potomac, MD

From: Bertina Richter
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:42 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

This is a rotten project and should be stopped permanently!

Bertina Richter
Fresno, CA 93705

From: Rosemarie Colacino
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 5:12 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch and observation deck at Memorial Circle

TO: The National Capital Planning Commission and the National Park Service

FROM: Rosemarie Colacino, Chicago

I am writing as a concerned citizen from Chicago to express my strong opposition to the proposed 250-foot Triumphal Arch and observation deck at Memorial Circle.

Arlington National Cemetery is hallowed, sacred ground that serves as the final resting place for more than 400,000 service members and their families.

The sheer scale of this 250-foot structure would permanently disrupt historic sightlines between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, altering a landscape designed to honor our nation's shared history and sacrifice.

Furthermore, intensive, multi-year construction running 20 hours a day would profoundly disrespect the daily funeral services held for our nation's veterans and active-duty families.

I urge the commission to reject this project and preserve the solemn, unobstructed dignity of Arlington’s entrance.

From: Sharon Adley
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 5:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Triumphal Arch

I don't much care for the design but what I object to ***strongly*** is the proposed location. I don't think any structure should be erected that impedes the view of Arlington National Cemetery from the Lincoln Memorial. It also seems to me that the observation deck on the proposed arch would provide uninvited tourists with a view of funerals that family members may find intrusive. The fact that many veterans are opposed to the location of the arch should carry significant weight in the decision-making process.

Sharon Adley
Cedar Lake Indiana 46303

From: <noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 8:59 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

Hello, my name is Wade Foss, in Oregon State, my phone number. I am calling about the commission is going to vote soon and I wish to leave a public statement that the arch is a terrible idea. It is Just beyond all recognition on why this would want to happen other than Trump's ego. Even generals are, you know, it's going to destroy the view of Arlington where all our heroes are. so many others that should be there that aren't, but like to go there because there is such a wonderful feeling about the place, especially when you're a veteran like I am. And it's hard to imagine that General Bone Spurs put this thing to himself that destroys the view of real American veteran heroes. Need I say more? Please don't let this happen. We need money to replenish the arms that's been blown from the military to fix the Abraham Lincoln and all the other ships that have been overextended and geez, what happened to our military? Please reconsider. The money needs to be spent in other places. We don't need this debacle. of ego of a president that has just gone beyond what reality is really about. And in history, the future, the past of America. I implore you, do not do these arts. Stand up to this guy, please. Yes.

From: kristy h
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 10:36 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arlington National Cemetary

Dear Commission,

I am writing to you to share my opposition to the proposed archway near the Arlington National Cemetary. I've been to Arlington National Cemetary several times. It is a solemn and breath-taking place of honor and sacrifice.
The Lincoln Memorial was deliberately aligned and linked to Arlington National Cemetary, by the Arlington Memorial Bridge, to create a powerful symbol of national reunification.
The proposed Arch would sever the symbolic sightline between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetary. This arch would be sacrilege and would commercialize a sacred burial grounds for over 400,00 service members. This arch would also be an intrusion on mourners. There are burials everyday at Arlington. From an observation area, tourists would be able to look down into the Cemetary and watch active funerals. This is an intrusion.
The Arch would obstruct a symbolic and historic view and of utmost importance, would disrespect this solemn Memorial space. There is no reason this needs to be erected. These service members gave their lives for our country. We must honor and respect their sacrifice by maintaining the sanctity of this hallowed ground. Please do not approve this violation of the memory, honor and historic nature of the Arlington National Cemetary. Thank you for your consideration.

Kristy Hartman
Grateful for their sacrifice

From: Sally Watts
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 9:29 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Objection to Construction of President Trump's Arch

Dear Commission Members,

Please do not approve the President's Arch project. It stands against long time policies to limit the height of buildings in Washington DC, and it particularly threatens the view across the river to the Arlington National Cemetery, where so many of our brave countrymen lie after making the supreme sacrifice. Such an obstruction is an affront to the sacrifices of our veterans and diminishes all of the other monuments to our country's heroes already in place. In America we do not build monuments to brag about military victories but rather to honor those citizen soldiers & their brave leaders who served, many of whom gave their lives for our country.

In addition, construction of this very tall arch disregards the care and planning given to the appearance of our Nation's Capital. The view of the Custis-Lee Mansion from the Lincoln Memorial was intentional — representing a coming together and healing after the Civil War, presided over by President Lincoln. This symbolism would be destroyed by placing a large, gaudy obstruction in the way.

As a former long-time resident of Washington, DC and environs, I have a particular fondness for the city and have been proud of the mix of preservation of traditional buildings and the newer developments, such as The Wharf. But the city needs to have some standards for what is constructed to stay true to its design and values. The Nation looks to you to preserve what is valuable in the aesthetics of our Capital. Please don't let us down. Please don't disregard the views of our veterans and other ordinary citizens who care very much about our capital city.

Sally Watts
Wellesley, MA

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 9:41 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Kathy Brock

Stop the building of the “Triumphal Arch”. It will be grotesque in scale and style and will be reviled by the majority of Americans. Do your job and represent us!

From: K Greer
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 9:44 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comment on proposed arch for Arlington National Cemetery

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I am opposed to the proposed arch in front of Arlington National Cemetery. The entire proposal is inappropriate in size (out of proportion), placement (destroys the original sight line from the Lincoln Memorial) and design (what do gold African lions have to do with America?).

This is a vanity project that has not been well thought out or the cost approved by Congress, who the Constitution says has the power of the purse. I am contacting my Congresspeople to pass legislation to prevent it breaking ground, or defund the project.

In the meantime, your planning commission should not allow this illegitimate project to break ground.

Thank you,
Kathy Greer
Santa Fe, NM

From: ED MELISKY
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:06 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comments on Trump's Arch

September 9, 2026

To: The National Capital Planning Commission

To Whom This Concerns:

I write as a professional environmental analyst, but more importantly, as a concerned citizen. I oppose strongly the Trump Administration's plan to build a triumphal arch on Memorial Circle in Washington, D.C. I protest this project because I do not believe the President, the applicant, nor the National Capital Planning Commission (the Commission) have complied with the array of Federal environmental laws, executive orders and regulations that apply to the proposed arch.

I have worked with the above requirements for over four decades. I have done so for three Federal agencies and various environmental consulting firms the Federal government has hired. I know the what these requirements mandate. Where are the environmental documents and public comments/hearing transcripts, prepared to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and numerous other applicable requirements? Where do I, as an interested party, find such information? Where has Congress approved this arch project under the Commemorative Works Act?

Countless other environmental professionals and I have devoted our professional lives to ensure that Federal activities would not adversely affect our Nation's natural, historical, architectural, and social environments. We abhor this President's reluctance to follow laws, especially those laws we work tirelessly to uphold. To continue his deliberate refusal to meet applicable legal requirements is unjust, unfair, unethical, and unlawful.

The Commission can no longer ignore the environmental requirements that Congress has passed, that prior presidential administrations have signed, that numerous Federal agencies have implemented, and that the Supreme Court has upheld, simply because Mr. Trump wishes Commission to do so! The Commission and those requirements exist to prevent helter-skelter and unplanned activities, such as Trump's arch.

Everyone in the nation must comply with the applicable Federal requirements before obtaining Federal approval and/or funding. The Commission knows that unless specifically exempted, the President must do likewise. He or she should be the prime example of compliance, of Constitutional adherence.

We citizens are tired of hearing the trite expression, "no man is above the law." The second Trump Administration is living proof that that is an expression without meaning, without enforcement. Plainly stated, the expression is poppycock. The Commission's failure to ensure that the Administration meets the applicable requirements enforces that expression.

As the Commission knows, Mr. Trump has altered: the People's White House with his unapproved ballroom construction; the People's Mall with his unapproved Reflection Pool repairs; and many other unapproved actions that have marred various historic buildings in the District. Those resources belong to the People, not Mr. Trump.

I beseech the Commission to do its job. Ensure that the Commission and all other Federal agencies with jurisdiction over Memorial Circle complete their respective duties. If, after doing so, the Commission and all other responsible entities approve and fund the arch, then so be it. But to allow the arch to proceed simply because the President wants it, while ignoring all applicable requirements, makes a sham of all legal requirements. Ignoring decades-long environmental procedures now will simply encourage others to ignore the efforts we have made to protect our Nation's Capital since its inception. Such activities set a path for future administrations and governments to ruin the environments that sustain our physical, emotional, and cultural well-being.

Arlington Cemetery is the sacred ground the Nation has established to honor those who have served our country bravely and, often, who have made the ultimate sacrifice in doing so. The Commission's failure to comply with all applicable legal and environmental requirements will severely mar that sacred ground.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Ed Melisky, M.Sc.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:22 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Kenneth malkin

This arch should not proceed. It has only one purpose to leave a monument to a living person.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:23 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Carol Luther-Lemmon

Why are you allowing the arch to be built?
This is a waste of taxpayer dollars. You all should be fired.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:24 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Lee Mayer

I strongly oppose the building of the so-called Triumphant arch. This project is a slap in the face to veterans and their families. I know that the comment period has passed but I want you to know how I feel anyway. Despite all of the problems with this project, you have chosen to approve it. Tourists should not be overlooking funerals in Arlington Cemetery. Shame on you.

-----Original Message-----
From: Sam Patellos
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:25 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Monstrosity

My name is Samuel W. Patellos. I retired from the United States Air Force and the Massachusetts Air National Guard after twenty one and a half years of commissioned service. I was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program at Georgia Tech where I earned a degree in aerospace engineering. During my military service I added a masters degree in business administration. I attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. For most of my career I flew the F-15. I also retired from a commercial air line after thirty two years having flown numerous types of airplanes serving as a captain for twenty of those years.
My father retired as a U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel after twenty eight years having served two tours flying helicopters in Vietnam along the way. He had two brothers one of whom served as a U.S. Marine in WW2. The other retired as a Major from the Air Force having served as a weapons system officer also flying a tour in Vietnam.
I recently attended the funeral of Brigadier General Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson at Arlington National Cemetery, a WW2 triple ace who also served in Vietnam. A personal hero. The squadron commander of my first fighter squadron, Colonel George T. Lewis is buried there, he served in Vietnam as well. One of my military mentors.
My service was during, and in the aftermath, of the Cold War including Operation Deny Flight over southern Iraq before the second Gulf War.
And for additional context, I am against the current administration's war with Iran.
I add my voice to the many who want the plans to build this proposed United States Triumphal Arch CANCELLED!!!!
It is disgusting and dishonors the sacrifices of the 400,000 plus military members and spouses buried in the hallowed ground at Arlington.
Do NOT allow the construction to move forward!
Hear our collective voices and stop this Monstrosity!

Samuel W. Patellos

-----Original Message-----
From: Pamela Kolodziej
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 10:58 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

NO I served in the Army for 38 years and I say NO. My husband served in the Army for 39 years and he says NO. NO ARCH NO NO NO. As a citizen and a Soldier I say NO. If you go ahead with this Arch outside Arlington, you will be haunted for the rest of your life. My family is headed to Flanders Field in 2028. You decide now what my prayers will be while I am there. I have been part of a ceremony laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. That gives me the right to a vote on this decision more than most people on your commission. Reflect therefore and see/feel what you are doing. I'm speaking for many souls. May peace be with them.

From: Miriam Blake
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 11:15 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] monumental arch

Good morning.
I do not know if it is too late to provide comments on the Monumental Arch planned for Memorial Circle at Arlington National Cemetery, but I would like to provide the following comments.

1. Construction Interference with Arlington National Cemetery access: Driving to the Cemetery requires the use of Memorial Circle. Construction on the Circle will create traffic issues for funeral attendees, family members visiting graves, and tourists.
2. Noise issues:
    a. While the Cemetery is large and hilly, sounds travel easily throughout the Cemetery.
    b. Noise types:
        i. General construction sounds.
        ii. Due to the soil types along the banks of the Potomac River (silty and clayey) the most likely foundation types will be caissons or piles. While both of these can be loud construction methods, pile driving is particularly loud.
    c. Disturbances due to noise:
        i. Interfering with funerals: There are 24-27 funerals every weekday. Construction noises will interfere with grade side services, including the ability to hear speakers, the playing of taps, and rifle salutes.
        ii. Interfering with the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns: Everyone is expected to be quiet while watching the changing of the guard. Construction noises will overshadow everything from the clicks of the heels of the guards to the instructions and orders given by the guards.
        iii. Interfering with graveside visits: On a daily basis, there are many who come to the Cemetery to visit the graves of family, friends, and comrades in arms. They deserve a quiet place to contemplate their loved ones.
3. Purpose of the arch:
    a. From the application for the arch (copied from the NCPC.gov website): The applicant said the arch would celebrate the triumphs of the American people, inspire patriotism and love of country, and beautify the nation's capital.
        i. The over 400,000 people buried at the Cemetery already celebrate the triumphs of the American people, inspire patriotism, and love of country: They are the military members themselves who fought for both the United States and the World and the spouses who manned the homefront.
        ii. The arch will most definitely NOT beautify the nation's capital. It will disrupt sight lines. It will overshadow the views within the Cemetery.
    b. When asked by CBS reporter Ed O'Keefe during an October 2025 presentation about the arch who it was for, Mr. Trump replied, "me". This is not an adequate reason.

There seems to be exactly one person who really wants this arch. That is not a reason to build it.

Respectfully,
Miriam Blake

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 11:47 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Lois Arnold

How can you possibly believe that building the "New monumental Arch" will fulfill your mission "to preserve and enhance the extraordinary historical, cultural, and natural resources and federal assets"? This arch would be an insult to those resting in Arlington National Cemetery as well as their families and the Lincoln Memorial.

It appears that the current president wants to push this through to honor himself. Disgusting. If you must "honor" this living president, build it somewhere else. Shame on you for even considering it!

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 12:03 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] PLEASE DO NOT LET IT STAND AS A CONTINUAL MONUMENT OF OUR SHAME

The unbridled and unrivaled Narcissism of a would-be god with a child-like intellect, a Vietnam draft dodger, and a shameless robber of the citizens, and traitor to our allies must not be allowed to desecrate the hallowed ground that honors those who fought and died defending our country, making it great among the nations of the world, and a bastion of hope and democracy.

Indulging his self-adoring ego is complicity with the destruction and greed that defines his presidency.

It will take decades to undo what damage that can be fixed, when he is gone, providing he does not proclaim himself king for life.

Our tax-payer money is paying homage to his self-imagined godhood. Please do not let this stand and be a continual monument to Our Shame.

Paul J, USAF(Ret.)

From: Kathleen Hall
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 12:40 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Do not allow the "triumphal" arch

To the Commission:
Do not allow the "triumphal" arch to be constructed without full public input. Do not destroy the sightline between Lincoln Memorial and Arlington without considering the significance of our nation's sacred spaces.

The arch is not intended to be a harmonious part of a respectful, reverent landscape. As has been stated, it is intended to be the largest object of its kind. Architectural decor competitions have no meaningful place in our homage to patriots who protected this country. The design has no historical significance to the United States. It is banal, outdated, irreverent and a waste of taxpayers' -- or anybody's -- money. It speaks only of conspicuous contempt of sacrifices made by the people of this country.

If a "triumphal" monument is desired, please put it in a place that is appropriate for overly broad gestures that seek to mimic those of European governments. If such a place exists perhaps it will welcome a behemoth arch.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.
K. Hall

-----Original Message-----
From: Karen Macauley
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 12:40 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The big ugly arch

I think there are many more important things to spend our tax money on rather than this unnecessary, ridiculous arch. There is no point to it at all.
Its impacts to the hallowed ground of Arlington cemetery are vast and totally wrong.
Please do the right thing and stop this project.

From: Dawn Ashment
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 1:00 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch at Arlington

Thank you for allowing me to express my extreme displeasure and outrage at the proposed arch that President Trump wants to build. The size of the proposed arch is obscene. It does not, in any way, add to the serenity and beauty of the area. PLEASE STOP THIS! It does not belong here. Thank you. - Dawn Ashment. Utah

From: Giovanni Diviacchi
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 3:54 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposing the arch to the National Capital Planning Commission

Good afternoon, the purpose of this email is to send along my public comment to oppose the proposed arch in Arlington VA at the entrance to the Arlington cemetery. It would not be a good look for Washington DC to have such a monument in such a sacred place. Thanks, Giovanni

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 4:27 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Charles Cadigan

No Arch! This will desecrate the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. Stop this craziness!!

From: Charles Cadigan
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 4:30 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Arch!!!

Please stop the insanity of desecrating Arlington National Cemetery. This is an expensive and unnecessary ego driven lark by Trump. Grow a set and say no!!

Charles Cadigan
Austin, TX

From: Andy Larson
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 5:28 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comment on the proposed arch in front of Arlington

A 250-foot arch in front of Arlington National Cemetery is a terrible idea.
As a US veteran, I strongly oppose this arch. This arch would not complement the existing features in Washington, D.C. and would be a distraction from why people visit this area. This area is supposed to solemn and the arch does nothing to contribute to this feeling.

Andrew Larson
Rochester, MN

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 5:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Barbara Stern

There is no way an arch should be built at all. We don’t need a monument that honors the worst president who only wants vanity projects built for himself rather than investing in Americans. Such a waste of time money and trying to divert attention from the problems we are facing Enough!

From: Larry Reid >
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 6:24 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch construction near Arlington National Cemetery

Thank you for accepting comments from American citizens. I oppose this arch because it is a vanity project to promote a man who requested and received 5 deferments from the draft to avoid serving in the US military. He should have no influence on a sacred place like Arlington National Cemetery. I was wounded in combat (after being drafted) while serving with the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam during 1968-69. If we need another monument in Washington, DC it should follow a logical process like all previous projects. This is how the system works in case no one has read it lately:

https://www.ncpc.gov/docs/NCPC_Memorial_Trends_Practice_Report.pdf

Our Revolutionary War determined that we are not governed by kings who can make projects happen on a whim. I read that there are already some preliminary approvals but the process takes time before construction begins. If you let this happen without the approval of the American public, you may expect reactions which are not in keeping with the traditions of the past, in the same way that the current administration takes actions which are not in keeping with the traditions of the past. That is merely an observation from a person who actually did served my country when I was called. We don't need another botched project like the failed repair of the reflecting pool. And we don't need vanity projects rushed through because of fear among federal employees.

Please remember that the President is supposed to serve the American people, even those who didn't vote for him. He is an employee, not a king.

Larry Reid
Smyrna, TN 37167

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 8:01 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Chris Blackmor

I urge you... PLEASE do NOT destroy the graves of our heros with the arch. Can't our fallen brave have one spot that isn't desecrated by the vanity of one man.

-----Original Message-----
From: Carol Jack
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 9:44 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

I'm opposed to this because it will cause harm to the symmetry of our nation's capital and will desecrate the area near and around Arlington National Cemetery which is for our war dead. Stop this desecration now! The US does not need an arch or monument anywhere in the area.

Carol Hack
Omaha

-----Original Message-----
From: Jeanne Schmidt
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 12:19 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

NO ARCH

Jeanne Schmidt
KC, KS

-----Original Message-----
From: William ONeill
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 12:54 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump arch

Committee,

Please do not approve this construction. This is a disgrace from a person that does not respect those that gave up the ultimate sacrifice for this Country including my father who is buried at Arlington National Cemetery along with my Mother. Trump is a mockery to this Country and it's time take a stance against him by not allowing this arch to be built Thank you William F O'Neill III US NAVY Veteran

From: Jane Broussard
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 5:57 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Triumphal Arch near Arlington Cemetery

To Whom It May Concern:

Arlington Cemetery is a somber, quiet place with military funerals nearly every day. There are so many things wrong with building a 250 foot structure near Arlington cemetery:

-Construction will take around 3 years, which will be noisy and disruptive for the funerals of soldiers who fought for this country. These soldiers and their families deserve respect and a proper funeral.
-Memorial Drive connects the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery and was designed that way for scenic and symbolic reasons. The Arch will block the sight line between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery.
-The 250 foot Arch will have an observation deck. This is horrendous. As one Gold Star parent said, “We don’t need tourists overlooking funerals. I’m appalled.”
-It is a vanity project that has not even been funded by Congress.
-It will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build, all while the people lose health care, and can’t afford groceries. This is not how I want my tax dollars spent.

Please stop the construction of the Arch.

Sincerely,

Jane Broussard
Montz, LA

-----Original Message-----
From: Doree Baker
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:08 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The tacky Arch Project and my family members buried at Arlington

I am very opposed to this project and how it will affect not only me and my family, but hundreds and thousands of families. This is supposed to be the final resting place of our dignified military- this arch would create an eyesore, a tourist attraction that would directly interfere with funerals and mourners. This is just another disgusting display of this Administrations destruction of our beautiful country.

-----Original Message-----
From: Bob Jacobs
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:40 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

I feel the construction of the proposed Triumphant Arch should be stopped , I feel that it is disrespectful to all buried at Arlington National Cemetery. America does not need or want a vanity arch .

From: <noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 10:02 AM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Project Call Queue)

Hi, my name is Chris Smalley. I didn't know which option to choose. I was calling to express my deepest concern about this proposed arch that Trump is so laser focused on building. It's a disgrace. I have been looking online at the comments and the American public, the majority do not want our taxpayer dollars spent on this. It's disgusting. Arlington Cemetery, you might as well start spraying graffiti to put something that disgusting and gaudy and unwanted at such a sacred place. I am praying that you all put aside politics and really think about why are we spending our taxpayer dollars on this that nobody wants except him and his MAGA group. November is coming. Things will change. Do the right thing and stand behind the American people, not this crazy administration that is so laser focused on narcissism and grandiose decorations around him at our expense. American children are going hungry under this administration. Please get your priorities straight. Please, and someone call me back if this isn't the right number to leave this kind of reply. Thank you so much. Have a good day.

From: Benjamin Bolton
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 10:28 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO ARC DE TRUMP

Good morning,

I am writing to you as a concerned Veteran who lost ten buddies in the Iraq War. No President should EVER be allowed to break up hallowed ground, especially nearby such sacred hallowed ground as the Arlington Cemetery. I am asking you to PLEASE VOTE NO on this horrendous and completely disrespectful project. No funeral should be viewed upon by any tourists. SHAME on this President for having the audacity to even think of such a project!

Respectfully,
Ben Bolton
OIF Veteran

From:
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 11:14 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The proposed Presidential Arch Project

September 10, 2026

Commission on Monuments,

Please do not approve the President's Arch project. It stands against long time policies to limit the height of buildings in Washington DC and particularly threatens the view across the river to the Arlington National Cemetery where so many of our brave countrymen lie after making the supreme sacrifice. As a veteran, I am both saddened and offended by this proposed behemoth because I once stood beside some of those put to rest there. Such an obstruction is an afront to their sacrifices and diminishes all other monuments to our country's heroes already in place. In America we do not build monuments to brag about military victories but rather to honor those citizen soldiers & their brave leaders who served, many of whom gave their lives for our country.

Robert E Gilbert
Glenwood, NY

-----Original Message-----
From: Sherri Kasow
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 11:49 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Stop the Trump Arch

I am hopeful the mega Arch monstrosity is rejected by NCPC as it has been rejected by Veteran families and the American public. It is a disrespectful gesture to our heroes and warriors laying in Arlington Cemetery, the families that visit to pay their respects, and to American taxpayers who are paying for Trump's relentless, egotistical, tacky pet projects without consent. Please, stop this project, out of respect to us all.

Sherri Kasow

From: Thomas Oakley
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 12:49 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposition to the arch at Arlington.

As a veteran and an American, I oppose the building of Trumps proposed arch. If that much money is available for vanity projects, it should be used for disabled, homeless, or medical needs of veteran's instead. The arch is not wanted, needed, or appropriate. I speak for the veterans in my family, myself, my deceased wife, my two brothers, my father, and stepfather. There are no veterans in the Trump family.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 3:37 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Steve. Kay

No to. Memorial on cicle outside Arlingon. Natl. Cemetery. I am a veteran and vote. No!

From: Lisa Shelley
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2026 6:17 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch near Arlington National Cemetery

Dear Sirs:

Please don't allow the building of a 250 foot tall arch that would overshadow the sacred space that is Arlington National Cemetery. The building of this grand arch would be disrespectful to the memory of all those who are buried at Arlington and their families. It would also be a giant waste of my tax dollars at a time when the national debt is monumentally high. Thank you for hearing me out.

Lisa Shelley
Woodland, CA

From: Louise Williams
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 9:10 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Oppose the Arch

I adamently oppose the Arch that will block the view of Arlington National cemetery and the reverence that those buried there deserve. It does nothing to honor the fallen and just another vanity project for President Trump.

Louise Williams

-----Original Message-----
From: Hillsman Jackson
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 4:41 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump’s arch

Dear Sir or Madame,
Is it too late to register a complaint about that eyesore being built between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery? I am a veteran and I strongly oppose it!
Sincerely,
Hillsman Jackson

From: Audrey SB
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 10:56 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please vote against the arch

Hello,

I understand approval of the arch project is slated to be on a future meeting agenda.

I am asking you to vote NO on that project.

If we cannot afford public surveillance of our national blood supply to be sure Americans don't get blood borne infection, then we can't afford an arch.

Thank you.

From: George Beckwith
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 1:40 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Objection to Proposed Triumphal Arch in Washington, D.C.

To Whom It May Concern,
I am writing to formally object to the proposed construction of a triumphal arch in Washington, D.C.
As an architect, I find the proposal fundamentally misaligned with the planning principles that have long governed the capital. The monumental core of Washington is defined by clarity, balance, and a disciplined relationship between built form and open space. This proposal introduces an object that is not only symbolically incongruous, but markedly out of scale with its surroundings. The arch's size and visual dominance would disrupt the carefully calibrated proportions of the existing plan, competing with established landmarks rather than reinforcing their presence. Washington's civic landscape derives its power from restraint and spatial coherence; inserting an oversized, triumphalist form undermines both.
From a planning perspective, this raises serious concerns about precedent and cumulative impact. Introducing a structure of this scale and character risks eroding the integrity of the capital's framework and opens the door to further interventions that privilege spectacle over continuity and public meaning.
There are also unresolved questions regarding cost, necessity, and the absence of clear, broad-based civic support for such a project. Veterans have raised strong objections regarding the obscuration of the sightlines from the Lincoln Memorial to the Arlington National Cemetery where our war heros, who sacrificed their lives for our country, are buried. The arch as proposed would be a desecration to their memory.
Washington, D.C. does not benefit from the addition of an oversized symbolic gesture of this kind. It requires thoughtful stewardship of its existing assets and guiding principles.
I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject this proposal.
Sincerely,
George Beckwith
George Beckwith Architect, RA

From: Benjamin Pople
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2026 4:45 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposal for a Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle (File Number 8778)

Dear Commission members:

I am writing in opposition to the subject proposed arch. In addition to the brevity of the review process, which is inappropriate for the proposed project, I object for the following primary reasons:
1.) The monolithic scale of the proposed structure is out of character with the overall urban design and height patterns of the built environment of Washington D.C.
2.)The location and size of the arch would detract from nearby gateway structures (the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials) and the historic importance of the leaders they memorialize.
3.) The location, combined with the size and mass of the proposed arch, will segregate Arlington National Cemetery from its current connection to Washington D.C. and eliminate the significance of the current unobstructed views between the Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.

In addition to the above, I urge you to consider the following collateral effects of approving the current proposal:

I am sure it is not necessary to remind you of the natural and important link between Arlington National Cemetery, which was established during the Civil War, and the monument and memorial for President Lincoln, who led our republic through that war. In addition to obstructing this visual link, the construction and associated noise and other disturbance for the arch itself would affect the peace and dignity needed for interments that occur regularly at Arlington. The long timeline for construction would affect many families of those who have served -- and are currently serving -- our country.

My paternal grand-uncle is buried at Arlington. Many others who did not survive their service and live to an old age -- instead giving their youth, health, and lives to our country -- have found their final resting place there before and since. It is a mistake to reduce the view of the cemetery from our nation's capital. We must not forget the sacrifices our armed service members have made to sustain our nation. Placing a massive arch purported to celebrate our nation's triumph in this location would diminish and distract from the view of the cemetery (and the sacrifice it reflects), not enhance it.

The abbreviated timeline for the project overall has not been long enough for its applicant and proponents to seek public buy-in and has been drastically shorter than other recent projects that have taken decades from conception to completion. I do not believe that permanent public monuments on our public lands should be constructed on a whim and without proper consideration. I can only imagine what precedent you would be setting for future projects if you approve this one as proposed.

Finally -- although this is likely outside the scope of your authority and review -- I am unaware of any Congressional approval for this project. Your approval would be premature without approval by Congress and appropriation of adequate funds to erect it.

Another location would be appropriate; another design may be acceptable; the current combination of location, size, and design is neither. As members of the National Capital Planning Commission, I urge you to take your public trust seriously and not to fast-track a project unsuitable for this location. At the very least, you should defer any further or final approval until after the project has been approved by our Congress.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Price Pople

From: s.dawson
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2026 11:04 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] new arch in DC

Dear NCPC,
Please do not authorize building the arch in DC. This is a vanity project of the president and disrespects current service members and the service of those buried at Arlington National Cemetery. It should tell you everything you need to know that veteran groups DO NOT WANT THE ARCH. Please oppose! When I visit my father's grave at Arlington, I want to be thinking about his service to our country and how lucky I was to be his daughter. I DO NOT want to be staring at a tacky arch looming over sacred ground.

Thank you,
Susan Dawson

From:
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 2:32 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] "Arc de Trump"
September 14, 2026

RE: The "Arc de Trump"

Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

There are not enough words to describe how egregious it would be to allow the Trump administration to go forward with construction of his arch –

Disrespectful Offensive Appalling
Sacrilegious Enraging Indecent

Illegal and Unconstitutional! (Yes, there is that.)

Arlington National Cemetery is a sacred, holy place; a place of honor and respect for those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the ideals and freedoms for which America stands. The Cemetery is a place that brings peace and solace to those left behind. Our national monuments are symbols of integrity and principle. They have NEVER been intended to stand for a president.

It is time to put a stop to this arrogance and unconstitutional lawlessness. Trump has destroyed the East Wing, the Reflecting Pool and the White House grounds – none of which he had the right or authority to do. He has paved over the beloved Kennedy Rose Garden; cheapened the White House with his phony, gauche gold; installed his "Trump" helipad. This behavior is borderline sociopathic. (...and very much a waste of my taxpayer dollars)

To allow this man to go forward with his desecration of Arlington National Cemetery would be shameful and grossly negligent in the performance of your duties as NCPC commissioners. It is time to end this despoliation. Thank you for your courage and character.

Thank you for your timely attention to this request.

From: Julia Kung
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 4:01 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's arch over Arlington

Afternoon,

I recently found out President Trump wants to build an archway over Arlington Cemetery. I wanted to write in and say I oppose this. That cemetery is for the brave, loyal women and men who gave their lives defending our democracy. It should be preserved as a place for them to rest after all their hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. We do not need an arch that blocks the path to the cemetery and constantly disrupts the funeral services of all those amazing soldiers.

This arch is not only unnecessary but it just looks like a sad attempt to rival the Arc De Triomphe of Paris, France. Washington D.C is not Paris, the proud United States of America is not France, and we do not need to imitate the architecture of other countries to show how amazing we are as a nation. We already have our own amazing monument to the land of the free, giving rest to its brave at Arlington Cemetery. I urge you as a concerned citizen to preserve our great monument and deny construction of this arch.

For our American Soldiers,
Julia Kung

From: paul wells
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 4:35 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Prohibit Triumphal Arch

I understand that a decision will be made at the October 1, 2026 meeting regarding the Triumph Arch. I did not see this project listed on the commission website so I have submitted this comment via email. Please notify me if it must be submitted on the website.

Triumphal Arch should not be approved.

Donald Trump knows no bounds for elevating his brand. He does so at the expense of public property, legal statutes, taxpayer money and honorable citizens. He circumvents the law, the constitution and all government norms. His republican minions in congress are as morally corrupt as Trump and have absolutely no interest in reining him in. Similar to the white house ballroom, he revels in the possibility of construction of his arch as nothing more than a testament to his legacy. Contrary to his hollow claims, he does not honor the military and no appreciation of the unique status of the United States government including 250 years of independence.

- He has absolutely no appreciation, knowledge or interest in the sacred nature of Arlington National Cemetery and has made clear on multiple occasions that his honor for the military is non-existent.
- Unlike similar arches that have been erected in other countries, there is no “triumph” to celebrate as the Iran war rages on, the economy and our very democracy are at risk.
- He has no issue with circumventing established building codes to dramatically exceed established height restrictions and to destroy the well crafted, pleasant cityscape of Washington D.C.

The country does not need or want a memorial to Trump.
Construction of the arch should be unequivocally prohibited.

Sincerely,
Paul Wells

From: Stephen Harb
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 6:16 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please Stop the Arch

To whom it may concern,

As an American citizen with family in the armed services (although none buried at Arlington) I am appalled by the eyesore "Triumphal Arch" that is being planned for Memorial Circle.

Construction of this arch would disrupt many funeral services in Arlington over the coming years. Also, it would block the eyeline from the cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial, a deliberate symbolism that represents our nation's reconciliation after the Civil War.

In America, we do not need to produce vain moments to celebrate our success or have pride in our country. Please do everything in your power to stop the construction of the arch.

Thank you,
Stephen Harb
Illinois Resident

-----Original Message-----
From: Greg Christopulos <
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 9:53 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Proposed Arlington Arch

My name is Greg Christopulos. I'm a Vietnam vet and I'm adamantly opposed to the construction of this hideous arch which will diminish the splendor of the other memorials on the mall.

In addition, I oppose this monstrosity because the solemnity of visiting Arlington National Cemetery would be destroyed by this gaudy arch.
There are warriors buried at Arlington who gave their "last full measure of devotion."
That is what should be honored & not the triumphalism that the arch represents.

From: Wayne Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 8:34 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment — NCPC File #8778 — New Monumental Arch

Dear NCPC Staff and Commissioners,
Please accept the attached/below public comment concerning NCPC File #8778, the proposed New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.
I attempted to submit this comment through the NCPC online written-comment form, but NCPC File #8778 / New Monumental Arch is not currently available in the project's selection menu. I am therefore submitting my comment directly to info@ncpc.gov, as instructed on NCPC's public-comment guidelines page.
Please include this correspondence in the public record for NCPC File #8778 and provide it to the Commissioners for consideration when the project returns for final review.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Wayne Thompson, RN, USMC Veteran
Canandaigua, New York

Re: NCPC File #8778 — New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing to respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission to withhold final approval of the proposed 250-foot New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

I support appropriate ways of commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence. My concern is not with commemorating our nation, but with whether this particular structure, at this particular location and scale, is compatible with one of the most historically significant landscapes in the United States.

The National Park Service's Section 106 Assessment of Effects provides particularly important information that I believe NCPC should consider carefully before granting final approval.

NPS has determined that the proposed undertaking would result in adverse effects to numerous historic properties. According to the assessment, the project would alter characteristics including setting, design, feeling and association through changes to character-defining views, reciprocal vistas, circulation patterns and designed landscape relationships.

Among the properties identified by NPS as experiencing the most substantial effects are the Arlington National Cemetery Historic District, Arlington Memorial Bridge, the Memorial Avenue Corridor Cultural Landscape, the Lincoln Memorial and its cultural landscape, the National Mall Historic District, the Mall Cultural Landscape, Arlington House and its cultural landscape, and the Lady Bird Johnson Park Cultural Landscape.

These are not incidental historic resources. They are components of a deliberately designed monumental landscape whose significance depends in substantial part upon their visual and spatial relationships with one another.

Memorial Circle occupies an especially important position in that system. NPS describes the surrounding historic properties as deriving significance from axial alignment, reciprocal views, monumental scale, formal landscape organization and carefully framed transitions between the civic landscapes of Washington and the commemorative landscape of Arlington National Cemetery.

Placing a structure approximately 250 feet high directly within this ceremonial framework deserves extraordinary scrutiny.

I am therefore particularly concerned that the Commission has not yet resolved the legal and planning questions surrounding the proposed height. At its July 9, 2026 meeting, NCPC approved only the project's preliminary site and building plans and specifically requested that the applicant provide a justification for the proposed height before final review. The Commission also noted that it is continuing to consider the applicability of the Height of Buildings Act to this project.

I respectfully ask that NCPC resolve that issue fully before granting final approval.

I also ask the Commission to consider whether the proposed design can be substantially modified to avoid or minimize the adverse effects that NPS has identified.

The NPS assessment itself states that the project would adversely affect historic properties by altering character-defining views and spatial relationships. It further identifies viewshed and visual minimization as an appropriate potential mitigation measure.

Mitigation should not simply mean making an already approved 250-foot structure somewhat less visually intrusive. Given the magnitude and location of the proposed structure, I believe NCPC should require serious consideration of alternatives that substantially reduce its visual dominance before concluding that the adverse effects can be adequately mitigated.

I am also concerned about the additional matters NCPC itself has identified for further review, including:

• justification for the 250-foot height;

• potential off-site effects on the surrounding transportation network;

• pickup, drop-off and loading arrangements;

• FAA navigational and safety lighting;

• pedestrian circulation and safety; and

• the final architectural and granite-cladding treatment.

These issues should be resolved transparently and considered together with the historic-preservation impacts rather than evaluated in isolation.

The National Capital Planning Commission has an important responsibility to consider not only whether a proposed structure can be constructed, but whether it belongs in the historic landscape of the nation's capital.

Memorial Circle is part of a carefully conceived relationship among Washington, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery. That relationship represents generations of American history and sacrifice.

Once a 250-foot monument is constructed in the middle of that composition, its impact cannot realistically be reversed.

I therefore respectfully request that the National Capital Planning Commission:

1. Withhold final approval of NCPC File #8778 at this time;
2. Resolve the Height of Buildings Act issue before taking final action;
3. Require a thorough evaluation of alternatives that would substantially reduce the proposed structure's visual and historic impact;
4. Give full consideration to NPS's finding of adverse effects on the historic properties identified in its Section 106 assessment; and
5. Ensure that the public has an adequate opportunity to review and comment on the revised design and supporting analyses before final approval.

Commemorating 250 years of American history should not require compromising one of the nation's most important historic landscapes.

I respectfully ask the Commission to protect the historic character, views and commemorative relationships of Memorial Circle, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Memorial Bridge and the National Mall for future generations.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Wayne Thompson,RN, USMC Veteran
Canandaigua, New York

From: Kevin H. Souza
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 10:39 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment—Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle

I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to withhold approval of the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle. The proposal would permanently harm the nationally significant visual and commemorative relationship among Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington House, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the Lincoln Memorial.

The Section 106 process must consider avoidance—including not building the project at this site—and reasonable alternatives, rather than treating the location and design as predetermined. The cited 1924 bridge-commission concept called for elements that would frame, not interfere with, the Lincoln Memorial view. Please require a transparent, lawful review and reject approval unless the adverse effects can be avoided.

_____

Kevin H. Souza, MS
Sam Francisco CA

From: Donna Ascalon
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2026 2:19 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Trump Arch

I am vehemently opposed to the building of a 250 feet tall Trump arch being erected between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Monument. As a Navy veteran I feel it would desecrate and dishonor the thousands of military members who have given their lives in defense of the United States in many wars, and the families who will, in the future, hold funerals there for their loved ones. There should be no groundbreaking or site preparation as a prelude to construction. This arch is merely a vanity project to enhance the ego of a vain and narcisstic president who has no qualms about what this self-agrandizing project will do to the atmosphere and environment surrounding the hallowed and sacred spaces of Arlington and Lincoln's monument.

I implore you, do not be a misguided rubber stamp on this president's absurd ambitions to glorify himself.

Respectfully,
Donna Ascalon
Bellingham, WA
14 September 2026

From: rjginn
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 4:47 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

PLEASE, do not approve the arch. It stands for nothing but an expensive ego project for Trump and harmful to many sites. Be strong. Do the right thing. Refuse approval.
Judy Ginn
Mercer Island, Washington -- Yes, the other Washington. I care about Washington, DC, too.

From: Amanda Griffeth
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 5:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Arch

Dear Protectors of the Historical Integrity of The US Capitol:

I come to you as citizen of this Great Nation. I have lived in the greater DC area. My husband was working at the NNMC (now Walter Reed Medical Center) on 911. He spent weeks in Manhattan giving Psychiatric support to the first responders working at Ground Zero through his attachment to the USNS Comfort. My brother-in-law was inside The Pentagon that day as it was his Air Force duty station. My other Brother-in-law was stationed at Norfolk and ended up patrolling the air space above DC post 911. So my family has deep respect for this country, those who have defended it, and the culture represented by the monuments within Washington DC.

The statues and monuments have traditionally been thoughtfully planned to evoke thought and feelings on the conscience and subconscious levels. It is one of the things that makes a trip to our Capitol City such a unique experience. In all of the research on the proposed Arch I do not see evidence of the same intentionality and enhancing characteristics which define this city. In fact, I have read several accounts of how the edifice will actually detract from and harm some the city's most iconic structures and memorials.

I see absolutely no reason why an arch must be built at all much less why it can only and therefore must go in the proposed location. As I see evidence that this structure would provide any benefit to the city, country, or US citizens I implore you to not sign off on approving its construction.

This is not about a political stance or opposition to any political figure. This is about preserving the culture of the Capitol and the integrity of design with which the Lincoln Memorial, National Mall, and Arlington National Cemetery were originally structured. I do not think a massive arch especially at this location would be an asset to the city even if it could built overnight and be given completely free.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I know that I am only one person, but I know many people who feel the same as I do.

Sincerely,
Amanda Griffeth

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 September 2026 18:05:17
To: Acosta, Marcel
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: David Halwig

Your commission is listed as a potential party to the agreement to proceed with the triumphal arch at memorial circle in Arlington. I am a Virginian and a veteran. Along with many, many people, I believe this project to be an afront to the capital area for the following reasons:

- The placement and size of the monument will dominate the space and substantially block one of the most iconic and reverential views of the Arlington National Cemetery. Currently, from the Lincon Memorial, the view offers a peaceful, respectful and almost sacred view of the place where so many of our veterans lay in eternal rest. That vista across Memorial Bridge which goes to the dignity of Arlington would be completely obscured and the war dead disrespected.

- The Arch is of a garish design, offensive to many, including me. It is oversized for the location and when compared to other similar arches, grotesquely oversized to the purpose. The height will not only dwarf other monuments but will inevitably factor onto the approach and departure routes for planes in and out of DCA and noise issues for adjacent neighborhoods

- The proposed location is in the middle of one of the busiest access and egress routes between Virginia and DC. The construction period will be a traffic nightmare. After construction, the proposed access to the arch using crosswalks suggests a substantial lack of understanding of the traffic patterns. When a half dozen buses disgorge volumes of tourists, traffic will come to a halt.

- Beyond the basic aesthetics and apparent disregard for the dignity of the DC skyline, the Arch seems to have virtually no supporting constituency other than the President and his close circle. I have a fairly diverse circle of friends and I have yet to one – not even one -- who think this anything but a bad idea. This makes me wonder how one person, President or not, could single-handedly commission such a drastic, controversial and irreversible change to the city's iconic skyline without substantial public support.

The National Parks Service's demand for your concurrence by Monday is nothing less than coercive bullying. I strongly hope that you and your organization can resist this and steadfastly refuse to comply with their demand.

Thank you,

From NCPC System info@ncpc.gov
Date Wed 9/16/2026 8:02 PM
From: Tamara G Prince

To Chair and Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I cannot find the space to submit a comment on this site so I am submitting it here hoping it will find away to a reader or appropriate submission point.

I am writing regarding NCPC File 8778, the proposed 250-foot Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

I have reviewed the NCPC project materials, including the draft Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. I am deeply concerned that the proposed project has been found to have adverse effects on historic properties in one of the most significant historic landscapes in the nation.

The National Park Service has identified 261 historic properties within the project's area of potential effects, including 31 National Historic Landmarks, and has determined that six of those National Historic Landmarks would experience adverse effects. The effects are not limited to the physical footprint of the arch; they include changes to historic views, spatial relationships, and the visual character of the monumental landscape.

These findings raise serious questions about whether the project has adequately addressed the fundamental Section 106 obligation to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects before final approval.

I respectfully ask the Commission to address the following questions before granting final approval:

- What specific alternatives to the proposed location and 250-foot height were meaningfully evaluated for their ability to avoid adverse effects?
- Why has the possibility of avoiding these historic impacts by changing the scale, height, location, or design of the structure been rejected or ruled out?
- How will the Commission determine that adverse visual and spatial effects on National Historic Landmarks have actually been minimized "to the maximum extent feasible," as contemplated by the draft Programmatic Agreement?
- Will the public be given an opportunity to review the final visual simulations and other documentation showing the project's effects on significant historic views before final approval?
- How will the Commission ensure that mitigation measures do not simply document or memorialize damage that could instead have been avoided?

The draft Programmatic Agreement itself states that NPS will continue consultation during design development, will consider comments from consulting parties, and will document how those comments are addressed. It also provides for continued refinement of the design to minimize visual intrusion and for updated visual simulations from significant viewpoints.

I therefore respectfully request that NCPC not treat the preliminary approval granted in July as resolving these issues. The Commission's own July action states that comments must be addressed before final review and that additional information concerning the project's height, transportation impacts, lighting, and other matters remains outstanding.

This location is not an ordinary development site. Memorial Circle, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Avenue, Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, and the surrounding monumental landscape form an interconnected historic composition in which views and spatial relationships are themselves historically significant.

I ask the Commission to ensure that the final decision demonstrates, in the public record, that reasonable measures to avoid and minimize the identified adverse effects were actually considered before the project is approved.

Please include this letter in the public record for NCPC File 8778.Thank you for your consideration.

From: Louise Anderson
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:16 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comment on Triumphal Arch

Dear Commission Members,

This proposed structure should not be approved. Military funerals and grieving friends and families are not casual spectator events, to be gazed upon by tourists on an observation deck towering over everything else.

This proposed structure is an abomination, a slap in the face, to all those who have served their country. These people are not “Losers”, or “Small Potatoes”, or any of the other insulting phrases aimed at our active military and veterans. They are the reason we have our country.

I don’t think you want your legacy to be this desecration of sacred ground. And, yes, throwing a shadow over the cemetery is a desecration.

Sincerely,

Louise Anderson
Gig Harbor, WA
Proud wife of a Vietnam War era veteran

From: William Smith
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:36 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] [ATTACHED PDF] Public Comment: Memorial Circle Arch Construction Project

I am writing to submit formal public testimony regarding the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle. Please find my detailed feedback in the attached PDF document that outlines my specific concerns regarding:

- Desecration of a Historic, Sacred Vista:
- Misuse of Taxpayer Funds
- Disrespectful Construction and Logistical Chaos

I respectfully request that the attached statement be distributed to all commissioners and entered into the official administrative record for the project.

Sincerely,

William H. Smith Jr
Kila, MT

++++++++++++++

September 16, 2026

Dear Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the
National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)

Re: Strong Opposition to the Proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle

To the Members of the Commission,

My name is William Smith Jr, and I am writing to express my strong, unyielding opposition to the construction of the proposed 250-foot Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle near Arlington National Cemetery. As the proud son of a World War II veteran, I hold the sacred grounds of Arlington and its surrounding monumental landscape in the highest regard. This project does not honor our veterans; instead, it disrupts the solemnity of their final resting place and violates the public trust.

I urge the Commission to reject this proposal based on the following critical concerns:

• Desecration of a Historic, Sacred Vista: The proposed arch stands more than double the height of the Lincoln Memorial. It will completely block the historic, uninterrupted sightline that connects the Lincoln Memorial, the Memorial Bridge, and the Arlington House. The National Park Service's own Section 106 review explicitly warns of "direct adverse effects" to this historic core. Furthermore, surrounding this sacred space with dozens of new traffic signal poles introduces jarring visual clutter to a landscape meant for quiet reflection.

• **Misuse of Taxpayer Funds:** Diverting millions of dollars in public funds—including money reportedly diverted from federal endowments—to a massive vanity project is fiscally irresponsible. This project has bypassed standard Congressional budget appropriations. If the federal government wishes to honor veterans, these millions should be directed toward veterans' healthcare, family support services, or the upkeep of existing military cemeteries, not a redundant and disruptive concrete structure.
• **Disrespectful Construction and Logistical Chaos:** The entrance to Arlington National Cemetery is hallowed ground. Forcing mourning families, veterans, and visitors to navigate years of heavy construction equipment, gridlock, and dust at Memorial Circle is deeply disrespectful. Furthermore, the Department of the Interior's push to begin excavation before receiving final regulatory approval from this Commission shows a flagrant disregard for both the law and the public planning process.

Arlington National Cemetery and its approach should remain a place of healing, unity, and quiet gratitude. A massive, towering arch shifts the tone of this landscape away from somber reflection toward loud celebration.

As a veteran's son, I ask the Commission to stand up for the integrity of our national portals of remembrance, respect our taxpayers, and vote to reject this project.
Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our nation's capital.

Sincerely,
William H. Smith Jr
Kila, MT

From: <noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:15 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

Hey, I'll say good morning. It is Wednesday afternoon, September, what's today? I don't know, the 16th, from Southern California. I am so disgusted each and every day by this administration and the abuse of power of Donald Trump and all his little flunkies capitulating to do anything that he wants. You know what? Look at what is happening to people and what we are being asked to spend every day at the grocery store, gas prices, you name it, utilities, all of it. And the majority of the problem is Donald Trump and his policies and the fact that he goes and spends money willy-nilly to do all this crap. It's And to put his name on anything that stands still and he's not happy until he gets to do it, build it bigger and better and faster and fuck all of you. know what? He deserves no one's support. He is building this arch because he saw one in France. I mean, give me a break. He is out of control. And when are people going to get a backbone and do the right thing? It is unnecessary. It is outrageous. It is gaudy. It is extravagant. He can go and build his little model over in fucking Mar-a-Lago when he leaves office, which can't come soon enough. I mean, and had the Senate had the courage to do their job a long time ago, Mitch McConnell, who gave a scathing speech after January 6th. But no, he was more worried with packing the Supreme Court with the assholes that we have there right now in the majority. But for you people, you need to stand up to this because it's not right. And I just, I mean. It is such an abuse of power, fraud, waste and abuse. It starts in the Oval Office and it started on day one. And here we are. He gets to do anything he wants. His son had a wedding, Mr. 300 times a millionaire over, and he has a Russian oligarch with best friends with Vladimir Putin, buy, wrench not only one island in the Bahamas, but two, so they can have a little fucking wedding. I'm sorry, but you know what? All of it is just out of control. And all that we the people see is that we are getting the shaft and he does anything he wants without any restraint. It's not okay. So please, whatever authority people have, get with your groups, shut this the fuck down. It does not deserve anyone's support. Thank you very much. Have a lovely day. Don't forget to fucking vote. Go to the schools that are office who do not give a shit about us. Isn't it painfully obvious? What more do you need? Have a nice day.

From: Alan
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 8:04 AM
To: NCPC General Information
Subject: [External] Comment about Article

https://www.npr.org/2026/09/17/nx-s1-5950462/trump-arch-dca-planes-safety-concerns-faa

The significance of Trump's proposed monument near the airspace of the White House despite conventional defense logic is national security

When New York City was attacked 9-11, the World Trade Center was the most prominent target for national damage. The attack on the World Trade Center spared many other assets and infrastructure as a local disaster and international catastrophe

The proposed monument according to the article will decrease the likelihood of international attacks against the White House but increase the local security costs around the White House

The proposed monument will also provoke public thought of White House infrastructure in the District of Columbia outside the White House, increasing the costs of a meaningful attack against the District of Columbia altogether

The recent movie "Pressure" has profound implications on airspace, however, as the projected air port routes will create a firmament which attack vectors could be tunnelled forward into. This should pressure national infrastructure and greater distributive response command. If the scientific logical sequence were to occur, the military will be more likely to rationalize communism and/or socialism philosophy that is expected to spread into the workforce and civilization. Contrast to centralized command with special access privileges

Dr. Alan J Pan, PhD, MSc, CPA

From: Robbie Carter
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:52 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Testimony Against the United States Triumphal Arch

Hello,

This is Robbie Carter and I live in Pennsylvania. I am emailing you to oppose the proposed construction of the Triumphal Arch in the Memorial Circle. The proposed arch would be almost half as tall as the Washington Monument. Sitting in the oval office on October 15, President Donald Trump was asked "who is [the arch] for?" The President replied: "Me." The arch would sit on the Memorial Circle, named for its connection to the Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington Memorial Bridge. The "Arc de Trump" would block the view between the Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial, construction would take three years while daily funeral services are held, and visitors would be able to stand on top of the arch creating an observation point overlooking the cemetery. It is disgraceful that this has even been proposed since the Memorial Circle linking the Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington Memorial Bridge is not meant to honor Donald Trump. Rather, it was deliberately designed to connect the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle, Memorial Avenue, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington House as a unified monumental landscape.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

With Best Regards,
Robbie Carter

From: Lyrysa Smith
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:01 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] STOP the Arch

To all members of NCPC,

Please. Please, I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to deny final approval for the proposed 250-foot arch at Memorial Circle. DO NOT let the Trump administration break ground or move one blade of grass to start this horrendous arch. Without explicit congressional authorization, final planning approval, and completed legal review, there should not be one moment of construction. That would be against the law. The arch project is abhorrent and extremely damaging to the spirit and soul of our Capital and our entire country.

It would permanently alter the historic visual and commemorative relationship among the Lincoln Memorial, Memorial Bridge, Arlington House, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Again, a project like this and of this scale should NOT proceed without explicit congressional authorization, completed preservation review, and full consideration of aviation, traffic, visitor-access, and cemetery impacts. Americans care about this issue and we will not allow this vanity, greedy, heinous arch project to occur.

Thank you for hearing my great concern.

Sincerely,

Lyrysa Smith
Boulder, CO

From: Karen Taylor
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:55 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] New Monumental Arch – NCPC Project #8778".

I write in opposition to the proposed arch. I feel that it is a waste of taxpayer money and would negatively impact the design of the area in which it is placed. In particular, I feel that it serves only the ego of one man who never served in the military, detracting from the solemnity and dignity of Arlington National Cemetery, where those who served with honor are buried. Please vote no and protect our historic landmarks from this monstrosity.

Karen Colligan-Taylor
Gustavus, AK

From: John Weeks
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 9:39 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Proposed Arch at Arlington

I am a Vietnam veteran, having served 30 months "in country" in Vietnam. I lost my brother in a night ambush operation in IV Corps Vietnam in January 1969. We gave a lot and put a lot on the line when we were called. We did not look for a way out, like many of our politicians did, on both sides of the isle. We were not "too busy doing other things with our lives" as one politician said.

I am very strongly opposed to this proposal to build an Arch. This is not about partisanship or the height of the Arch or how ugly it looks. Though it is ugly and has the look of something straight out of Nazi Germany. It is hideous.

This is about the extreme emotion that we veterans feel. It is very personal to those of us who served during war. I was at the dedication of the Vietnam Wall, where my brother's name is on Panel 34W. I remember how angry I felt when the politicians showed up, edging out us veterans. We vets were still trying to get our heads around our time in Vietnam; it still dominated our thoughts almost continuously. I considered that wall **our hallowed ground; I still do.**

I feel the same way when I visit Arlington Cemetery. It is hallowed ground for us vets. Unless you are a vet, especially a war vet, you simply cannot understand the emotion that we feel when we visit the Wall, the Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers, and the thousands of rows of headstones. It is very personal for us; I always cry when I visit. I've got friends there.

The Arch is a terrible idea. And it must be stopped. The public overwhelmingly does not want it. Veterans do not want it. Only one man wants it.

Please do as the people ask and stop it. Please vote no. **Please be on the side of we war veterans**.

Respectfully, John Weeks

From: Carole Mccann
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:13 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Tentative Agenda - NCPC October 1, 2026 Meeting

NO ARCH
NO BALLROOM
NO TRUMP

-----Original Message-----
From: John Lemley
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:41 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

Dear Members of the Committee:

Please allow me to express my respectful opposition to the construction of the proposed monumental arch at Memorial Circle. The issue is not whether America's 250th anniversary deserves commemoration, but whether this particular structure belongs in this particular place.

At 250 feet, the arch would fundamentally alter the scale and character of one of the nation's most important historic landscapes. Memorial Circle and Arlington Memorial Bridge form part of the carefully composed connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery—a landscape whose power comes from its openness, dignity, and symbolism. A structure of this size would become the dominant element rather than complement what is already there.

Washington's monumental core has evolved over generations, and additions of this magnitude should strengthen its historic composition rather than compete with it. Once such a structure is built, its effect on these nationally significant views and spaces will be effectively permanent.

I respectfully ask the Commission to preserve the integrity of this historic landscape and not approve the proposed arch.

Sincerely,

John

John S. Lemley
Atlanta, GA

From: Gregory Bailey
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 12:43 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] AMENDED Public Comment Submission: Project 8778 - Updated America 250 Unity Arch Portfolio

Dear NCPC Secretariat and Commissioners,

I am writing to submit an **amended and fully updated** public comment package regarding **Project 8778 – New Monumental Arch Proposal at Memorial Circle**, which supersedes my previous submission.

Following further review of public safety guidelines, universal access parameters, and historic civic traditions for the Memorial Circle workspace, I have significantly refined the alternative concept. The attached, finalized portfolio introduces critical civil engineering and layout enhancements to the **America 250 Unity Arch**, including:

- **Anti-Climb Safety Infrastructure & Holiday Ritual Integration:** Integration of smooth, solid champagne-anodized base sheathing on the lower 12 feet of the arch spans to entirely eliminate pedestrian climbing liabilities. The panels house flush-mounted structural hooks enabling the National Park Service to hang large ceremonial holiday wreaths designed to perfectly ring and frame the deep-cut bas-relief **1776** and **2026** historical markers.
- **Full ADA Compliance & Spatial Optimization:** Recalculation of the interior plaza workspace to a precise 79.6-foot outer perimeter (yielding a perfect 250-foot symbolic circumference) and an independent 46.6-foot inner diameter.
- **Integrated War Memorial Ring:** A layered layout of four 26.6-foot-long, 3.5-foot-high semi-circular walls holding 12 universally accessible angled bronze plaques to honor the nation's 11 declared wars and all undeclared historical conflicts.
- **Central Constitutional Epicenter:** Vertical stacking of the co-equal branches **50-inch tripartite bronze government medallion** and the 24" x 18" master dedication plaque along the front-facing, 30-degree angled slope of the central 3.5-foot stela.

I kindly request that the review staff **replace my previous submission drafts with this finalized PDF portfolio** to ensure the Commissioners evaluate the most accurate, safe, and universally accessible version of this design during the upcoming October 1st deliberations.
Thank you for your continued time, assistance, and flexibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory F. Bailey
Private Citizen / Resident of Arizona

From: SANDEE DUMMITT
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 8:45 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [External] New Monument Arch

I'm writing to urge you to reject the New Monument Arch proposal for the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. That ground is dedicated as the final resting place for service members and their families. It doesn't require a monument - it already is a monument.
I don't believe the majority of Americans support this project. Please reject it!

Thank you.

Sandra Dummitt
Blanchard, OK

From: Makayla Rossi
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 4:10 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Support Vets and Stop the Arch

Hello, I am Makayla Rossi of Deltona Florida. I am reaching out because Donald Trump is planning to destroy the land between the Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington National Monument with a 250ft Arch for his own personal self-interest. Americans are tired of watching our sitting president decimate our country's capital with his cult of personality and we do not wish to see any more national monuments ruined by Donald Trump. It is disgusting, grossly inappropriate, and extremely disrespectful to the 400,000+ veterans who are buried at the memorial.

Please stand with all of the American veterans fighting against Trump's personal arch and help stop Trump from interfering with the Veteran Cemetery and Memorial in the upcoming vote. Do not disappoint our beautiful country by aiding in its destruction.

From: pi0921
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 11:49 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal arch

I am writing to express my deep opposition to building the arch. History is very important to me and blocking the well planned views is very upsetting to me. Please consider my thoughts. Thank you

From: Wayland Smith
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 12:35 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment Project #8778

I write in strong opposition to the proposed "Monumental Arch" NCPC #8778.

This project serves no purpose, is a huge waste of taxpayer dollars, and will endanger other important sites.

The most unacceptable part of this is that it will cast a literal shadow over Arlington National Cemetery. The hallowed ground for those who have served this country should not be infringed on by a vanity project.

Please honor the fallen, and prevent this travesty.

Charles Beeghly
Alexandria, VA

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----
From: Patricia Purkey
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 2:33 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch at Arlington National Cemetery

I am a citizen of Tennessee and do not want this arch built. It takes away the dignity of those hallowed grounds and no arch is needed. It will spoil the views and serenity surrounding the grounds. President Trump wants this for his own personal gain. He wants his name on it even though he never served in the military. I think it is totally unnecessary to the heroes buried there.
Thank you
Patricia Purkey
Maryville Tennessee

From: neansai
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 2:50 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] New Monumental Arch, Project #8778

New Monumental Arch, Project #8778
NCPC Project #8778
The so-called Triumphal Arch should never, ever be built. It would destroy the sight lines between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery. Further, monuments to living presidents are not acceptable. In addition, claiming it will hold drones, ammunition, and snipers makes it an atrocity waiting to happen.

Nancy Barth
Fresno Ca

"I need a time-out! Please send me to the beach and don't let me come back until my attitude changes." ~~unknown

From: Steve B
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 2:58 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's desecration of the People's House and of other monuments

Please, please stop the president from changing or building anything that spoils the monuments and buildings that belong to all of us. He should not be building his Arch. He should not be tearing down any part of the People's House. He should not be vandalizing or tearing down any of OUR property as he has been doing. This simply must be stopped.

Thank you.

--
Steven M. Brunnlehrman, Esq.
Hartsdale, NY

From: Cindy Pierce
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 3:41 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc De Trump

REJECT ARC DE TRUMP!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: Beverly Sorrells
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 3:48 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Just say NO to the Arch

Hello,

I proudly grew up in the Washington, D.C., suburbs and am aghast at what has been going on in my hometown area.

First, the West portico of the White House is knocked down without any approvals, then the Reflection Pool is hastily "repaired", leaving it in far worse condition than it had been. The Kennedy Center is under assault due to one man's ego, and there has been preliminary approval to build a 250-foot arch -- which, like the ballroom, started as one thing (a visual celebration) and looks like it is morphing into something entirely different (a military repository and sniper lookout).

It's bad enough that the proposed arch is interrupting a historic sightline between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. The arch's height will add an unnecessary -- and dangerous -- obstacle course in an already narrow flight path in and out of the Reagan International Airport. And the fact that it is now being considered for drone and sniper activity? To be used on who, exactly? The people who come out and protest this administration? That is a frightening and sickening thought, and something I would not rule out with this administration -- especially after Speaker Johnson said at the recent RNC convention that "we will not allow them (Democrats) to take the majority in the Congress." Makes you wonder what might happen in 2028 if the people protest because Republicans don't want to give up their power?

Bottom line: three veterans have already filed lawsuits to stop this. The American public didn't ask for this, approve of this, or want this. This is unecessary spending at a time when we are feeling unfavorable economic headwinds and slowly being cemented into a long, unwanted war.

The solution? YOU. YOU have the power to stop this insane project. Just say NO.

Thank you,

Beverly Sorrells

-----Original Message-----
From: Cheryl Mjehovich
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 3:51 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

I am against the The Trump Arch. Arlington Cemetery is sacred ground and this would be a desecration of that space. Do not allow it to be built.

Cheryl Mjehovich

-----Original Message-----
From: KAREN WALLER
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 3:54 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO TO TRUMPS VANITY ARCH

That arch is an affront to our war heroes in Arlington. Trump has no approvals for it. No construction should be allowed to proceed!

—-Karen Waller
Elkridge, MD

-----Original Message-----
From: Jim Bartlett
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:05 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No to Arch

My dad is buried in Arlington. KIA Vietnam, May 1966. I do NOT want an Arch anywhere near Arlington National Cemetary.

Thank you,

Jim Bartlett

-----Original Message-----
From: Diana Goldy
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:08 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Someone needs to grow a spine to stop the plunder and rape of our nation's capital. One man, trying to build a false legacy, should not be allowed to desecrate our country's historic city and structures. The world knows this president is more likely to be impeached and imprisoned rather than respectfully remembered. Don't let him do further damage to our country's treasured monuments and buildings. No Arch!

-----Original Message-----
From: Georgia Girl
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:16 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject Trumps Arc

REJECT the "ARC DE TRUMP."

From: Margie
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:18 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] That Arch

Please, please use your common sense and realize that Trump does not need a Trump Arch. Please don't humor this thing that wants to call himself a leader.

He has made us a world joke.

Thank you for your consideration.

Margie Burris, Madison WI

-----Original Message-----
From: Pete Collins
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:19 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] REJECT the TRIUMPHAL ARCH

An “arch” is not needed or wanted in Washington DC. It would block a beautiful view between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery. It’s also an obscene waste of taxpayers money.

No Triumphal arch!

Peter Collins
La Porte, Indiana

-----Original Message-----
From: Nancy Trent
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:22 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] PLEASE PLEASE, reject the Arc de Trump. Just another way for him to cause chaos and to further destroy this country TRYING to convince the American people and the world that he's the most intelligent, best president EVER. He's causing dama...

From: Lewanne Ray
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:31 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] REJECT THE ARC DE TRUMP

REJECT THE ARC DE TRUMP!

-----Original Message-----
From: Karen Bartig
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:31 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the 250 ft arch!!!

Please, please do not allow the 250 ft arch that Trump insists on building to be approved and built, since Federal officials have acknowledged that the ‘triumphal arch’ will ==>unavoidably harm historic sites if built as planned.

Thank you -
Karen Bartig

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:32 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc de Trump

No arc, no, a thousand times no. Absolutely no. Not now, not later. No. Do not permit this monstrosity to blight the entrance to Arlington. Please, no.

From A daughter whose father is at Arlington

Marilyn Mackey

From: Diana M. Hendry
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:35 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Arc de Trump

Waste of money,
Unsightly,
Blocks sightline of real monuments.
We are against building this monstrosity!

From: Diana Schafer
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

I am asking that you REJECT the "Arc de Trump" plans as President Trump has described. Please don't disturb the beauty of Arlington Cemetery and surrounding area. As the widow of a Navy veteran, I urge you to stop this construction.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 4:39 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Brenda marshall

No question but a comment. I am married to a vet, my son is a vet, my grandson is a vet, my father served in two worl wars, I have uncles who have served, nieces and nephews. I have also served. several months ago Trump when asked by a reporter who the arch was for, he answered; " It is for me."
HAving this monstrosity erected in front of our most solemn ground dedicated to those who have given their all for this country cheapens their lives and their sacrifice. It is disrespectful to the families of the fallen and to the nation as a whole. ONe man's ginormous egotistical ego should not be allowed to desecrate our dead for any of his so called reasons. ARming this monstrocity with military grade weapons makes it even worse. YOu have an obligation to the American people to stop this. DO IT!

From: erwin.delgado
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:00 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump arch

As an American, as a veteran, I urge you to definitely and unequivocally deny the Trump administration or Trump-delegated authorities from
building the proposed structure. It is an affront to every patriot buried at Arlington Cemetery and a gross display of self aggrandizement by a little, pathetic, draft dodger, let alone criminal and convicted felon.

Vr,
Erwin Delgado

From: Stacey Allbritton
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:07 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] REJECT THE ARC De trump

No one wants this giant piece of garbage. WE WANT HEALTHCARE AND FOOD THATS NOT POISONOUS!

From: ProtectStandproton
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:07 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The atrocious and degrading triumphal arch proposed must not be approved

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,

I am a disabled veteran who served in two conflicts and at least one member of my family had served in every armed conflict this nation has had since the Revolutionary War. I am beyond appalled and disgusted at this proposed authoritarian vanity project. This arch will literally throw shade on the graves of our nation's fallen at the sacred Arlington Cemetery at the behest of a man who refused five times to serve when called to duty. A man who daily violates his oath to uphold the Constitution and has made a constant and concerted effort to strip the very rights from the people of this nation that the fallen have sacrificed their lives to ensure.

Every day there are burials in Arlington Cemetery. The fallen deserve respect and honor. These are solemn occasions where the loved ones of the fallen equally deserve respect and the ability to lay their loved ones to rest in peace and tranquility after the chaos and loss of war. These are not performances for tourists and there is no justification to make these solemn burials honoring those who sacrificed for the nation into a tacky gilded tourist attraction and viewing platform. The fallen who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation and our freedoms should never have real or proverbial shade of an authoritarian monument, or a viewing platform and certainly not under the newly announced sniper platform as announced on social media by this shameful excuse for a president.

This planned gilded monstrosity has no place in a nation built and defended as a nation of the people, by the people and for the people. There is no national security need for a sniper nest over Arlington Cemetery at the heart of our nation. This entire project is an insult to every person who has ever served and sacrificed for our nation and I call on you to reject this authoritarian vanity project of a man who embraces our nation's enemies as they work in concert to kill our service members in an unjustified war he launched. Stand with the people and most especially for the fallen who reside in the Arlington Cemetery reject this disgrace.

Sincerely,
Symonne Ford

From: Ed T.
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:12 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] REJECT the ARC DE TRUMP

You must REJECT the ARC DE TRUMP.

Trump is mad. He will spent 2 or 3 years of the U.S. treasury on useless vanity projects. He is about to destroy the Kennedy Center.

Realize every president since Washington could have done what Trump is doing, but DIDN'T.

Ed Tootill

Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:26 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch in DC

I am a USAF Veteran. I urge you to reject Trump's monstrosity of an arch. It does not belong anywhere near Arlington Cemetary.

Regards,
Jeffrey M. Klem, Lt Col, USAF, Retired

From: Carol Grayson
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:32 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Trump Arch

What an ungodly ego that man has!

Don't desecrate the grounds of Arlington National Cemetary and Washington DC as a whole with any more "monuments" to Trump's ego, please.

Trump's done more than enough damage to the White House (the crass proliferation of cheap golden embellishments in the Oval Office) and its grounds (the Cage Matches on the lawn), the Federal Buildings with his Dictator-like massive Banners, the Golf Course "renovations" that destroyed century old trees gifted from Japan, his name despoiling the Kennedy Center (as if the idiot knows anything at all about the arts).

Enough already! It will take years and massive $$$ to fix the mess he's already made!

From: Datha Harrison
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 5:43 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Arch

Please stop any construction of an arch that this administration is planning on DC!

Datha Harrison
American Solutions for Business

-----Original Message-----
From: Dorothy Throgmorton
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 6:00 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch for DC

Trump's idea of a heavily armed military platform on the streets of Washington DC is pure madness

From: Frances Tinney
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 6:13 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc de trump

Good day,
I respectfully request as a citizen and veteran that you reject any plans to build the Arc de trump.

Regards,
Frances Tinney

-----Original Message-----
From: Mike Buchanan
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 6:25 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump arch

No one wants this foolish vanity project. Quit wasting our tax money.

Citizen;
Michael Buchanan

From: Mark Freeman
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:00 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please stand up to Trump!

Dear National Capital Planning Commission,
Please stand up to Trump. The American people don't want him wasting tax dollars on his vanity projects. He has no right to touch any of these buildings or to add his name to anything. And we sure don't want an "Arc de Trump"!
Sincerely,
Mark Freeman

-----Original Message-----
From: Bruce Jones
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:01 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Arc De Trump

It’s a waste of money and frankly a distraction from important issues like the national debt.

Thank you!
Bruce Jones
Orlando, FL

From: justin mullins
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:05 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the “ARC DE TRUMP”

The president is a pedophile he doesn’t deserve and arc of any short.

From: Kyle Cooney
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:05 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Please do not allow this childish vanity project to move forward. America is sick of wasting tax money on things we dont need and this man putting his name on everything. History will judge you.

-----Original Message-----
From: karen
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:07 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

I don’t want this arch to be built!

From: Karen hanners
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:08 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arc

Please reject the ARC DE TRUMP...it is a disgrace. My dad fought in WW2, the Trump's..fought in no wars. Please don't build that arc, why is he posting it would have snipers and ammunition? That is scary and please don't let it happen.
Sincerely
Karen

-----Original Message-----
From: Clarese Walker
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:18 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc de Trump

Please REJECT the "ARC DE TRUMP. We don’t want this arch ever.

From: Chris Holm
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:40 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the “Arc de Trump” in DC

Dear National Capitol Planning Commission-

What a disastrous idea Arch in DC is, especially for the pride of one man and his cult. Not only is it disrespectful to the soldiers, sailors & airmen (including a few of my friends & classmates, and many other honored Americans buried in Alrington) to consider this plan, but it’s also illegal and inappropriate. And also safety issue for National Airport in DC as well. Now hearing our president claiming it’s a national defense & security facility is simply a ruse; we just don’t believe it, for good cause.

The American People cannot and must not allow this project to proceed.

Respectfully, reject this concept outright, now.

Chris H - Veteran and proud American

From: Karen Lynch
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 7:42 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; Karen Lynch [redacted]
Subject: [External] REJECT ARC DE TRUMP

There is not an American, who is hungry because groceries are too expensive, gas unaffordable, and healthcare lost, that wants this.

We are at war. The president in his incompetent and demented mental capacity Should not be undertaking or using expenses for marble relics.

Karen Lynch

Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 8:43 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please reject the Arc de Trump

In case you don't know, Trump is planning to build a huse Arc at the Arlington National Memorial Cemetary. Please stop him! Do not allow him to start another huge project that We The People DO NOT WANT!

Thank you fo yor attention to this very important matter!

Carol Backues
Snow Camp, NC 27349

-----Original Message-----
From: G.N. Monica
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 8:49 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc De Trump

Please reject this idiotic plan and leave things as they are.

Thank you,
Gemma Monica

From: janicefcoble
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 8:58 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Arc de Trump

Fascism must be halted in this administration and this country.

The arch is illegal and disrespectful to our true heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The latest scam of turning it into a military installation is both ridiculous and terrifying.

This is our hour. We will all be remembered for what we did during these perilous times.

Thank you for serving your nation.

Janice Coble
Des Moines, Iowa

-----Original Message-----
From: Eric Woolf
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 9:15 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] REJECT THE “ARC DE TRUMP”

From: Lori Patotzka
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 9:20 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Please please REJECT that awful looking and oversized arch that you are involved in deciding on. There are too many negatives about its existence. And now I'm reading about having military drones and weapons being stored inside it?? Why all the paranoia??

I cannot believe something that huge and overstated could even be considered. It's an absolute embarrassment to this country. With the calamities of the reflecting pool, the oval room, the Kennedy Center with Trump's name (hopefully won't and SHOULD NOT happen), the burying of the Rose Garden, the supposed ballroom after illegally destroying the east end of the WH (and its history), and the enhanced underground military building under the WH is just too much. And for what? To appease his ego and self-worshiping? Where is all the money coming from for all these changes?? No one seems to clarify that.

Call a spade a spade--Trump's antics, warmongering, lies, and wild spending, etc, etc, etc should be put to a halt immediately! The grounds around DC are beautiful already without our white trash, so-called president's opinions!

Where's the government's backbone??

Lori Patotzka
Clearlake, CA

From: Glenn Muske
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 9:25 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Stop Trump's arch.

Stop Trump' proposed arch. It is the desire of a vain child and destroys the history of the city

Glenn

-----Original Message-----
From: Tammy Trachtenberg
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 9:35 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc de trump

Please know that as an American citizen, I am directly opposed to the arc that Donald Trump is planning on building filled with drones and snipers. Firstly, this is incredibly delusional and second if it is going to be built, it is horrific that that would even be allowed. Please do not allow this. America is headed in the absolutely wrong direction with this building please do not allow it

From: Kathleen Arnold
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] felon47s stupid arch!!

There is absolutely NO need for this arch in any form! Nothing to house drones, snipers, NOTHING!!
This entrance to Arlington needs to remain as it is!!

-----Original Message-----
From: Barbara Maya
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:13 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External]

REJECT THE ARC DE TRUMP

-----Original Message-----
From: Cheri ADELMAN
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:29 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump arch

Please don’t let him

From: Hunter
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc Project

Hello,

Please reject the plans to build this arch.

This is getting out of hand.

Thank you,
Hunter Sibille

Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:50 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please REJECT the Abomination "ARC DE TRUMP"

The ballroom is vile enough!
Respect our honored war dead and reject this latest vanity project from this narcissistic draft dodger who shows hostility to our armed forces and veterans. Don't force the American people to pay multiple millions for this too!

Thank you.

From: DARLENE GJELSTEEN <
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; Darlene Gjelsteen
Subject: [External] Reject the ARC De Trump

I wish to formally submit my request that our entire government reject the vanity project now claimed to be for security purposes called the Arc De Trump.

Voters do not want this additional expense paid from our tax dollars. We need affordable food, gas, healthcare, housing and utilities. When is enough our his endless wasteful spending going to stop.

Reject the ARC De Trump.

T

Thank you for listening.

Darlene Gjelsteen
Olympia, Washington

-----Original Message-----
From: Jeff Barr
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 11:10 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject Trump's Arch

Do everything in your power to reject the building of the monument to the current President. It is undeserved and unwanted by the American people.

Sincerely

Jeff Barr

-----Original Message-----
From: Jerryconnolly
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 11:35 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Please reject any proposal to build an arch. It will be too big, block views of other monuments , is totally unnecessary, copies other country's and is obnoxious looking.

Jeremiah P. Connolly
Lagrange Park , Il

-----Original Message-----
From: Stephanie Tingley
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 11:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject Trumps arch

Add me to the voices opposing this vanity project overshadowing sacred Arlington. And now Trump says it will be a military installation? Makes no sense with the Pentagon less than 3 miles away. Fight this.

From: Lisa Lyons Wright
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 12:00 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject POTUS Trump's 250 ft. Arch

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I vehemently, totally oppose andburge you to reject President Trump's proposed arch in Washington, DC.

It is abhorrent to our USA's founding, purpose and history.

It isn't authorized by our Congress as required by law.

It will visually vandalize, overwhelm and desecrate the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery and its link to the Lincoln Memorial. It will desecrate the sightlines of 35 other existing memorials, buildings and historic sites, including our Capitol.

It will endanger planes flying in and out of Ronald Reagan National Airport.

It is monstrously ugly.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lyons Wright
Centreville, VA

-----Original Message-----
From: Cynthia Boyer
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 12:16 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Arc De Trump

There is no need for this monstrosity. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Cynthia Boyer, PhD

From: Boni Tom
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 12:18 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Against the United States Triumphal Arch

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a 66 year old citizen of the United States and the proud daughter of two U.S. Air Force veterans. Both of my parents are buried at a Veterans Cemetery in Hawaii.

I am vehemently against the building of the United States Triumphal Arch. Arlington National Cemetery is a sacred burial site for the men and women who served our country and it deserves our country's utmost respect.
A 250 foot structure will cast shadows on our deceased soldiers and their visiting families, and this will forever symbolize a darkened sadness. It will be the opposite of showing our respect.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Boni Tom

-----Original Message-----
From: Nancy Mull
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 12:40 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc de Trump

Reject this travesty! It is completely disrespectful to the Arlington national Cemetery and the veterans buried there. It is completely disrespectful to the citizens of America who do not want this hideous architectural disaster that is completely unnecessary. Tell Trump, no!

From: Gerry
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:35 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] REJECT that arch and all the other disastrous destruction of our Capitol buildings.

Gerry Fuller
Morro Bay, California

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 7:08 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Stop the madness! When soldiers and families protest the desecration of their loved ones graves and architecture overshadows historic monuments and the board still thinks it's a good idea, something is wrong. I watched architects protest, soldiers protest, people protest, and the law protects this hallowed place. Why is this still a debate? It is not lawful.

From: Evelyn Hanna
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 7:17 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

I stongly deplore you to use all necessary means at your disposal to REFUSE any and all plans for and efforts toward construction of the Arch that Trump and his administration are proposing to build in Washington D.C. It is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money and must be stopped immediately.

Thank you.
E. F. Hanna

-----Original Message-----
From: Cathy Curtis
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 8:19 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

Dear NCPC Administration,
At a time when American people are worried about their health insurannce, food insecurity , the war in Iran and every day expense of living, the wasteful building of an arch, and the ballroom, and all of the renovations around DC, are truly superfluous. Please do not approve the construction of this arch. It is unnecessary, ungainly, tacky, and disrespectful to the veterans at Arlington cemetery.

Thank you for considering this letter from an ordinary American citizen.

Sincerely,
Cathy Curtis

From: Mark Pifer
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 9:07 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] DON'T BE STUPID

NO ARCH!!!

-----Original Message-----
From: Mary Pertzborn
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 9:41 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Objection to Trump's Proposed Arch

As an American Citizen, I strongly object to Trump's plan to build an unnecessary arch with taxpayer money. I also object to the sham rationales Trump uses to justify his personal vanity projects, i.e.. national security concerns to push forward his ballroom and now his arch.

As a reputable government agency, you have the responsibility to rein in vanity projects of one individual and think more broadly about the actual needs of the American people - you are a deciding agency for 343 million of us. Please do your duty and stand up against the whims of one vain, self-centered and misguided man.

Respectfully,
Mary Pertzborn
Belleville, Illinois

From: Kevin
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 10:03 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Arc de Trump

I am writing today as a totally and permanently disabled Army veteran who proudly served this country from 2008-2012 (during the height of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan). I read that this agency is in charge of determining the plans and projects in the National Capital Region, so I wanted to express my concern about a potential project.

The Arc de Trump that the President has proposed is a disgraceful slap in the face of every single veteran and their families. Additionally, it should disgust every American citizen, and I honestly cannot understand how it is being seriously considered as a monument.

The 250-foot arch structure will obstruct historic sightlines between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, disrespect hallowed ground, and construction is due to proceed without required congressional approval. Regarding the last objection, we are a representative democracy, NOT a monarchy subject solely to the whim of one person.

I have many friends who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, and some of them are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. My son and I went to DC 4 years ago, and the sight of Arlington National Cemetery from the Lincoln Memorial was breathtaking. That sightline 100% absolutely should NOT be impaired by a gaudy arch. We are not a monarchy, period, so we should not be building monuments to current leaders.

I can’t continue to list all of the reasons why this arch is an insult to every American citizen, as there are far too many reasons to elaborate on here.

I thank you for your time and I sincerely hope that you will take my objections seriously.

Thank you,

Kevin E Carroll, 1LT USA (Ret.)

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in that grey twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat." - President Theodore Roosevelt

From: Susan Smith Habel
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 10:12 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject this monstrosity

Hello,
Please do everything in your power to stop the construction of this Arch.
We have enough 'golden arches' in our country. They've served our nation far better than this one ever will. At least they have fed people.
This is nothing more than a disgraceful stain upon the hallowed ground it would stand on. You know it will be torn down as soon as possible once he's gone anyway. What a repugnant waste of our tax dollars.
Sincerely,
Susan Habel

From: Kyle Biggs
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 10:26 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: REJECT the Arc de Trump

Hello,

I am a US Army veteran and have been called to action to voice my opinion on this unnecessary, unwarranted and unwanted Arc.

All members of this commission should vote no to reject the construction of this monstrosity.

Remember, just like the president should but has not, you have a responsibility to the American public to do what is in the best interest of everyone. Not what is in the best interest of the president.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kyle A. Biggs
Forsyth, IL

From: John Rohrbeck
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 10:45 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

I do not want Trump to build his arch! It's too big, too gaudy and totally inappropriate for its location near Arlington National Cemetery.

This is another example of Trump's tasteless projects in DC and you need to stop him.

Now the Arch is suddenly being pitched as 'national security' when every thinking person knows that's just not true. It's even less appropriate if he wants to use it as a military outpost!

Just Stop Him, PLEASE.

--
John Rohrbeck
Birmingham, Mi

From: Leon Hopkins
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 11:21 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] REJECT THE ARC DE TRUMP

To whom it may concern,

The ARC DE TRUMP is an abomination and has no place in Washington DC.

An ARC DE TRUMP full of explosives and munitions will eventually blow up killing thousands and destroying Washington DC.
It always happens.

Leon Hopkins

From: Katharine Martin
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 11:31 AM
To: Hottel-Cox, Meghan <meghan.hottel-cox@ncpc.gov>; NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] "Military Complex/Triumphal Arch"

Please forward to Chair Mark Paoletta. Thank you.

Please respond to the President's surprise announcement that he wants to convert his proposed Memorial Circle arch into a "Military Complex/Triumphal Arch" by expecting an entirely new review process for the revised project. I can list a few questions, and I'm sure you have many more: How secure will drone technology and stored ammunitions be at a site open to the general public? If the arch is to become more military complex than tourist attraction, shouldn't the whole project be located somewhere less vulnerable than a traffic circle? Are there specific threat assessments or military reports calling for a *guard tower* over the landscape where Americans now celebrate their freedom and the nation's founding principles?

You are aware public comments are mostly against the original plan. You are aware Americans with deep vested interests are fighting the original plan in court. The Park Service detailed adverse effects of the original project on existing historic properties. Agencies "approving" the old plans have not made good cases for the expense of the project or for the loss of common national identity it would cause. The US is an achievement, not a triumph; the US is a nation, not an empire. Forcing an unpopular project with an amorphous purpose on the people is unAmerican, a negation of the very principles the arch is supposed to highlight. (The Fine Arts Commission suggested removing "a gilded, winged allegorical figure and flanking eagles" to make the project "more compatible with Washington's monumental context." A less diplomatic way to say this is that one leader's preference for the coarse and garish must not overwhelm tradition, aesthetics, or what our buildings say to us and about us.)

Thank you for your work at the NCPC on behalf of US citizens, and thank you for recognizing that the President's latest arch proposal must be given all due diligence.

Katharine Martin
San Antonio, TX

From: Kevin IceManic Lane
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 12:15 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Do your jobs!

When r ya'll going to do your jobs instead of kissing Trump's ass? I previously had respect for y'all...now I'm dismayed, sickened and angry! And, I'm quite sure, I'll get some sort of remonstrance from the government for daring to disagree with Trump. If so - I'll treasure it. May even have it framed. Oh yeah, I'm referencing the bawlroom (sp. intended), the arch and the lions. Is NOTHING sacred? I honestly believe that if Trump planned on tearing up Arlington Cemetery ya'll would be ok with that. Why? Again - nothing is sacred. Y'all are Pah-thet-ick.

-----Original Message-----
From: THEODORE MAYBERRY
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 12:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Stop the arch

Please reject this unnecessary structure that will impede the view of our beloved Arlington National Cemetery. We did not need a sniper and ammo storage facility with a bunch of drones! Please show some respect for our veterans and the citizens of this country.

Thanks,

Ted Mayberry

From: J Glaspie
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:03 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO ARCH, please!

I do not see the arch on the agenda at this time, but I must comment:

Please do not approve or even permit continued discussion on the proposed arch. I am so weary of our tax dollars being fed into the shredder--which is the equivalent of what Trump is doing solely to boost his ever-so-fragile ego. His actions while holding the office, though he is the opposite of presidential, are unprecedented.

I don't want that man's name on anything. As soon as he is ousted, there will be actions to remove his name from everything on which it appears, as there has been no president who has wreaked this much havoc on our country. There is a cost to add it, and there will be a cost to remove it--in time, money and effort. His aim is to destroy all that others hold dear--and that includes the connection between Arlington Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial. His hatred of American history and heritage is epic.

I am aware that lawsuits are pending regarding the arch project. It is another travesty that untold numbers of lawsuits have had to be filed to oppose this [illegal] administration, on so many levels. The greatest irony: this administration is replete with waste, fraud and abuse.

I beg you to hold onto your principles, do not cave to a man who is irrational and seriously unwell.

Janet Glaspie

From: Kathy Ojeda
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:16 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Triumphal Arch

NCPC members:

Speaking for my deceased WW II veteran parents, I strongly oppose Trump's Triumphal Arch that would obstruct the view to Arlington National Cemetery.What a desecration of so many military members who have served,fought and died protecting our (now faltering)democracy!

Regards,
Kathy Ojeda

From: Jean Birbilis
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:17 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO ARCH

No arch. It's an obscenity to even suggest it. It would desecrate the sacred oath that the U.S. owes to our fallen service members. Trump is the sucker and loser. NO to his arch.

From: Jack Skidmore
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:22 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] SAY NO TO THE ARCH DE TRUMP

You know it's wrong. You know it shouldn't be there.

RESIST

Jack Skidmore
No Kings. Since 1776

From: Sarina Rohr
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:25 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comment for the Arc de Trump

This arch is nothing but a glorification of a dark time in Germanys past and this arch will also be raised to the ground when he is lay‘d six feet deep

Sincerely

Sarina Rohr

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:28 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Please reject the gawd awful arch and or complex! He has ruined the reflecting pool, rose garden, east wing, south lawn, parks, cherry trees - he cheaps out and doesn't finish projects and is horrible at this!!

From: Peter Falvey
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:43 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External]

No to the Arc. Embarrassing all around.

From: Steve Morgan
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:45 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Arch!!

Leave Arlington National Cemetery alone! No Arch!!
I am a veteran, my son, my Dad, my Stepdad, we're all veterans and Do Not want an Arch.
NO ARCH, EVER!!!

Steve Morgan

From: Kathleen Schrader
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:49 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External]

Donald Trump is planning a monstrous 250-foot arch to be built near Arlington National Cemetery. Veterans have a message for him: and I'm telling you--$ELL NO. The "Arc De Trump" is no monument, it's a middle finger to those buried at Arlington. Don't dishonor our militarywho died for this country.

From: Michelle McEntire
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:51 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Plans for an arch in D.C.

I'm writing to urge you to say No to the planned building of an arch in Washington D.C. due to the cost of the project. Stop spending The People's money on fluff and bring our fuel prices down, instead.

Michelle McEntire
MSgt, USAF-RET

From: Ken Neely
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:06 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

As a concerned citizen, I would like to voice my opinion on the plans to build an Arch. I find it an assault on our rights that this is being planned without going through the right channels for permission. Adding military weapons to the Arch does Not make it better! Where is 'the rule of law'!
Do Not Allow the Arch.
Nancy Neely

Susan works all day holding our spices, and twirling around whenever we need her, and yet we have the audacity to call her lazy.

From: Anthony Coney
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:11 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Arc DeTrump

We are living in unprecedented times when the sitting President in more interested in outting his names on buildings and monuments tan serving the people that elected him. Squandering billions on war that congress has not approved, billions on destroying then rebuilding the Whitehouse and reflecting pool...

The planned trump memorial should not be funded by tax payers Anthony Coney

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:19 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed arch in DC

Do not build that monstrous eyesore (the proposed arch) in our nation's capital! Anyone with taste knows that it would be gaudy and out of place. More importantly, it would detract from the solemnity of Arlington National Cemetery. Our veterans, gold star families, and all Americans deserve better. TEAR UP THE PLANS FOR THAT ARCH!

Sincerely,
Julie Bruska

From: Tracy Miller
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:30 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Arc de Trump

For so many reasons, which I expect you've already received in mass, the plan to build an "Arc de Trump" must be denied. Tell this administration, "NO".

Kindest Regards,

Tracy Miller
Stafford, Virginia

From: Kimberly Fontanilla
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:33 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] DC Arch

Dear NCPC,
I am emailing to voice my absolute opposition to President Trump's plan for a 250 foot arch, which is, in his own words, about honoring himself. This monstrosity will block sight lines between our beloved Lincoln Memorial and solemn Arlington National Cemetery. As a US Army veteran and American citizen, it disgusts me that this project is even a consideration. No sitting president should be allowed to use private dollars or taxpayer dollars to fund national capital monuments to himself or herself, period. Nor should any national monument under consideration be one that diminishes or detracts from those already approved by the people and beloved by the people of this country.

We the People will remember what you do, and we expect you to do the right thing for all of us.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Fontanilla

Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 2:53 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; ncr_planning@nps.gov
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch October 1 Commission Meeting

Triumphal Arch
October 1 Commission Meeting

From: Jill Lewis
Westminster, CO

The comment period expired 7/30, but as President Trump changed the purpose last week, I hope the comment period will be reopened.

The Triumphal Arch should not be approved.

1. It dwarfs the historic monuments around it. It is completely out of proportion to the buildings and to the subjects of the of those buildings. Those monuments have greater historic significance.

Triumphal Arch 250 ft, Jefferson Monument 99ft, Lincoln Memorial 129ft. (Washington Monument is 555ft tall but only 55 feet wide . The Trump Arch is 55 ft wide).
It affects sightlines. There is currently a symbolic line of sight between the Lincoln Memorial and the Robert E. Lee Memorial.
It diminishes the gravitas of Arlington National Cemetery. It is too close and obscures the view of the cemetery.

2. It is inappropriate to mark the 250th anniversary of the country in this way, in this space. There are no monuments to the 100th or 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in DC. The 250th anniversary should not be marked with a giant monument. There will be anniversaries in perpetuity. A monument every 50 years?

3. The design, based on the Arc de Triomphe, except bigger and more gilded, is inappropriate. The Triumphal arch is 100 feet taller than the Arc de Triomphe.

That Arch was dictated by the **emperor** Napoleon, to mark his military victories. Trump is a US president, not an emperor. Copying this design is not appropriate for a democratic nation.

4. This is not his decision to make. The Commemorative Works Act requires congressional approval for new monuments.

One man should not be able to dictate a national monument be built. (Using a faux, hand-picked committee does not count). I understand this to be illegal.
One man should not be able dictate the design of a national monument. I understand this to be illegal.

5. It is venal. Based on the gilded ballroom, the gilded oval office, attempting to recolor the reflecting pool, plans to redesign Lincoln Center and his many other unapproved projects, this is only a monument to his grandiose vision of himself.

6. Past actions show that Mr. Trump goes ahead with projects without approval, even when courts issue stays. This needs to be stopped, now. He excels at powering things through instead of letting them follow set procedure.

7. Changing horses in the middle of the stream; trying to get more support by declaring it a military facility, is not only ridiculous, but it dishonors the supposed original point of the monument.

In addition, as with other actions he is building a huge militarization of our country. Changing its purpose should reopen the comment period.

Please do not approve this crass, oversized, inappropriate structure.

From: Gabe Kind
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 3:32 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] trump arc
Dear Sir or Madam,

Please do not allow the construction of any structure in Washington DC without proper evaluation and approval.

Sincerely,

From: nancy allen harkins
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 4:22 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trumps Arch

Do not allow this

From: Wayne Crear
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 4:36 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Arch!

As a Marine Corps veteran, I am disgusted that the POTUS is so determined to leave his “legacy “ all over Washington DC. The Arlington Graveyard is supposed to be a place to show our respect for the ones that paid the ultimate sacrifice. Our POTUS would not know about that since HE never served. Please reconsider building that eye sore.

Thank you
Wayne D. Crear Sergeant USMC

From: Paul Smith
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 4:45 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch de trump - NO

For the public record, I do NOT support this project, it would disrupt the views from Arlington cemetery and is a waste of taxpayer money.
Paul smith
[redacted]

Paul W. Smith

From: Becky Whittenburg
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 4:47 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

The Arch de Trump must be rejected. You know why! So do we! Don't allow this travesty to go forward. Both my parents served and are buried in a military cemetary. This desecration of that space cannot be allowed. First it was adding tourist viewing of solumn funerals, now sniper nests to make a mockery of those killed in the line of duty - especially those killed by sniper fire. He has NO idea what he's doing, it's like throwing spaghetti against the wall to see what sticks. His reign of terror has been nothing triumphant, nothing to build a monument to.
Respectfully submitted.

-----Original Message-----
From: Katy Budge
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 4:53 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Arc de Trump!

The proposed arch/munitions bunker, or whatever he is wanting to call it, has NO place anywhere near our nation's mall, let alone the hallowed grounds of Arlington. Please put a halt to this abomination!
—Katy Budge, DC native

From: Ruth Robarts
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 4:58 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Arch for tourists or snipers

You must not permit Trump to build his ugly arch as a tribute to himself or as a place to post snipers and launch drones.

My husband died of throat cancer from serving 2 tours in Vietnam while our military doused troops with Agent Orange, along with Vietnamese people. More than 15 years after his exposures, the Army finally admitted that his cancer and that of many others was likely caused by Agent Orange.

Arlington Cemetery is sacred to families of those who served their country.

Trump lied his way through many deferments. There is no one less worthy of a arch in his honor overshadowing the cemetary. There is no military leader urging him to add snipers and drones.

Ruth Robarts
Madison, WI

From: Linda Miller
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 5:36 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [External] Arch de Trump

To Whom it May Concern:
I am writing to demand that Trumps gaudy, inappropriate ARCH de TRUMP be permanently blocked.
It is a horrible eyesore to put in DC, on the mall, and disrespectful & insulting to the fallen soldiers and their families. Arlington Cemetery is a hallowed, solemn place and this ugly monument to a wanna-be dictator is extremely rude and horrific.
Please DO NOT allow this travesty to occur. We do not have dictators and kings in the USA and monuments to them are not allowed! Especially in this location.
Thank you for your cooperation.
Sincerely,
Linda Miller
St Paul, Minnesota

-----Original Message-----
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 5:47 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc de Trump - STOP

This is a message two-fold.
Please do not allow the Arc De Trump, or whatever it is to be called. It is an insult to those who served and are buried Arlington Cemetery. We the People do not need or want this replication creating an unsightly abomination in DC and to interrupt the beauty of the current openness of the view into and out of the city.
There has already been enough desecration with the Cherry Treea that have been removed, against a court order. It was another place for everyone to use each and every day. The park is for We the People, not the few who golf. Please stop the destruction and allow the beauty of the city to shine for all.
I have been to DC multiple times and I hate to see the lovely ambiance destroyed for We the People and those who visit from around the world to see our beautiful city.

Thank you, and I hope you take this seriously and stand up to tyranny of an egotistical man.

Thank you again,

Cindy L. McCabe
Cincinnati, Ohio

-----Original Message-----
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 6:09 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Stop the Arch!

It’s an abomination and insult to all the heroes buried at Arlington (including some of my family members).

Stop this!
Kathy McCoy
Julian, California

From: Nancy Hann
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 6:22 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Stop the Arch!!!

It is absolutely absurd to consider storing explosive ammunition within the nation's capital, which will only make it a terrorist target.

Don't turn the sacred space adjacent to Arlington Cemetery into a place where construction noise drowns out memorial services and quiet contemplation. The potential to have drones buzzing and snipers shooting here is also a travesty.

This vanity project is a massive waste of time and money and an insult to the revered military personnel and leaders buried at Arlington. This president, or anything representing him doesn't belong anywhere near the resting place of those who risked their lives in service to our country.

A deeply concerned citizen,
Nancy Hann
Sun City, Arizona

From: Jeannine Tree
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 6:29 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

I am writing to express my opposition to Trump's proposed 250 FT arch.

It will dwarf the nearby monuments. It will surely impede air traffic. But the most heinous result of this monument is that it will interfere with solemn buries at nearby Arlington Cemetery. Imagine burying your beloved while tourists look on from above in the Arch. Disgraceful.

From: Rita Hodges
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 7:11 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External]

I am writing to say that there is no way that that fricking arch needs to be built. Especially near our national cemetery to honor a freaking draft. Dodging loser, who hates our military? And he's doing it to denigrate them, and it is patently ridiculous. And I'm sorry if you don't like me calling the guy who's sitting in the oval office a loser. But anybody who freaking lies to get out of service during a time of war, it is, in my opinion a loser. I come from a family of military people. I wish I could have served, but my physical limitations kept me from doing it. This is a sick and disgusting use of art freaking land to glorify, a man who has nothing to glorify. He's done nothing to help our nation, except give more money to rich people. And hurt the low-income and the poor people and disabled people, and the elderly people. And anybody who needs services? If he feels so enamored with the Arc de Triomphe in France then he can go live there, but I don't think they would have him. This is a sick and disgusting display of a person who wants to be a freaking dictator and it must be stopped.

-----Original Message-----
From: Lisa Eastwood
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 6:23 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] I oppose the trump arch

It should not be built. Especially since the veterans don't want it. It will be an eyesore.

-----Original Message-----
From: Julie Heyer
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 7:50 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please- no arch!

Keep the reverence, respect and aura for the Arlington Cemetery Vets!

Julie Heyer - Arkansas

In memory of many military relatives.

From: Serena Evans Beeks
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 8:28 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Arch

Dear National Capitol Planning Commission,

I have tried to submit this online at your website, but the project does not com up on the dropdown menu. I write to urge that you reject the proposed arch near Arlington National Cemetery.

My grandfather, Brig. Gen. Sereno E. Brett, my grandmother, 2nd Lt. Elizabeth March Brett, and my uncle, Capt. James Sereno Brett are interred at Arlington National Cemetery, having served variously in the Pancho Villa Expedition, both World Wars, and Korea. I am horrified at the thought of their graves being desecrated by the view of a hideous erection to one man's ego instead of the view of the Lincoln Memorial. This gilded monument has no place in the landscape which honors the sacrifice of so many, from Arlington itself to the Lincoln Memorial to the other war memorials in the immediate area. A landscape of memory, reverence, and gratitude would be turned into yet another spectacle honoring one man's greed for power, money, and approval. Please, please do not allow this abomination to go forward. You have seen how well the other projects have gone -- the cheap job on the reflecting pool, the destruction for the ballroom which is nowhere in sight physically or financially at this point, and so many other projects which take away the dignity of Washington, DC. Please, please stand up for my family and the thousands of others in Arlington, on the Vietnam Memorial Wall, represented by the Korea and WWII memorials, and so many others, and do not allow this monstrosity of distasteful architecture to go forward.

Thank you for considering my input.

Very truly yours,

Serena (named for my grandfather) Evans Beeks

From: Marni Fylling
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 8:33 PM
Subject: [External] No Triumphal Arch

Dear NCPC,
Washington DC is such an important city for our whole country. I have visited many times and love that there is so much history, so many monuments, and amazing museums to visit- and they are free to the public and available to everyone.

I'm very troubled by the proposal to build a "triumphal arch" between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House. The placement of these monuments, connected by the Arlington Memorial Bridge, is symbolic of the history of our country, a reminder of the Civil War and all the lives lost to unite our country. My grandmother's husband was a Gold Star General, and was buried in Arlington Cemetery. While I wasn't able to attend, my grandmother and my mom both commented on the solemnity and power of the location. This impressive sightline is irreplaceable. Having an arch that towers over everything else only draws attention to itself, and does not allow for the sanctity and integrity of the property as it exists.

It's disturbing to think that tourists will be able to climb up the arch and take selfies, view solemn funerals, and who knows what else. Our service members and their families deserve respect during their grieving. They have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and shouldn't be ogled by the public.

As a biologist, I'm curious if a full environmental impact report has been conducted on the proposed site of the arch. I think the scale and height of the arch warrants an actual EIS to see what the impact of the construction will be on the site and its surroundings.

Has there even been proper authorization? The CRS found under the Commemorative Works Act that no previous president sought to build an arch here, and that an authorization for two 166-foot columns cannot lawfully cover a single 250-foot arch that is fundamentally different in scale, form, and purpose.

I understand that I am not the only one who is concerned about this proposal, and that the vast majority of public opinion has been negative towards the idea of this huge arch, especially in this location. Most DC construction is capped at 130 feet as per the 1910 Height of Buildings Act.

If this arch is somehow a monument to Donald Trump, that makes it even more offensive. There is a reason we aren't supposed to have coinage, stamps, or monuments built for living people, and especially not for current leaders. Their leadership has to withstand the test of time, and prove to deserve being honored.

Please don't build a towering arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House. If there must be an arch, please consider something smaller and in a location where it can be enjoyed on its own, instead of being a blight on one of our treasured historical monuments.

Sincerely, Marni Fylling-Ellison

From: Myra Donnelley
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2026 6:50 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] TYRANT-TRUMPHAL ARCH

People - The sight line from the confiscated plantation of the Confederate traitor and defender of slavery, Robert E. Lee, now the final resting place for our country's patriotic war dead, was meant to be unobstructed from Lee House across the Potomac, to the Lincoln Memorial which honors the work and life of the man who held the Union together and was murdered for his steadfast courage.
And draft dodger Donald wants to insert a monument to HIMSELF in the midst of all that suffering, sacrifice and history? What greater cause did HE ever suffer or sacrifice for? Not catching herpes during the 70s and 80s?
Shame on you all for even considering permitting
a selfish, grandiose obscenity like the "Arch de Trump".

Myra Donnelley

From: Caroline Hanson
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 10:03 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Citizen Comments regarding Project 8778 – New Monumental Arch

Dear National Capital Planning Commission:

Please find attached my formal letter containing public comments regarding the proposed New Monumental Arch project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Caroline Hanson

September 21, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
Attn: Public Comment / File Reference
401 9th Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Public Comment on Project 8778 – New Monumental Arch (United States Triumphal Arch)

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Project 8778 – New Monumental Arch (United States Triumphal Arch).

Protect sacred space
I stand with the many members of our military who oppose this project. The arch will tower over Arlington National Cemetery and disrupt this hallowed space. A 250-foot arch, with a tourist observation deck that would look over the cemetery where funerals take place, is completely inappropriate.

Cost concerns
The cost for this project is also an appalling $100 million currently, and that figure will likely only rise, as the price tag has for other projects the president has championed. With a costly war going on and prices rising at the pump and the grocery store, this project should be shut down immediately.

Thank you.

Caroline Hanson
West Des Moines Iowa

-----Original Message-----
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 4:55 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment: OPPOSE New Monumental Arch – NCPC File Number 8778

Dear Chairman Scharf and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed 250-foot Monumental Arch project (NCPC File Number 8778).

In particular, I am deeply concerned that a structure of this height and scale will obscure, disrupt and visually intrude upon Arlington National Cemetery. This sacred ground demands the utmost respect, and its historic, panoramic sightlines to and from the National Capital must be preserved. Placing a massive 250-foot arch in a position that blocks or clashes with the backdrop of the cemetery compromises the solemnity, dignity and reflective atmosphere of our nation's most honored resting place.

Furthermore, the substantial financial cost required to construct and maintain a project of this magnitude is entirely misplaced given current economic realities. These significant public and civic resources would be far better spent on critical programs that directly support struggling Americans, such as affordable housing, food security, veteran assistance and local community infrastructure. Funding a massive aesthetic structure while everyday citizens face financial hardship is an irresponsible use of resources.I respectfully urge the Commission to reject the current proposal to protect the sacred landscape of Arlington National Cemetery and prioritize the real, pressing needs of the American people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Risher
Former DC resident
US taxpayer

From: Sally Pazdalski
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:26 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Say NO to the Arc de T-rump

NO NO NO to the absurd, distasteful, and disrespectful T-rump arch. PLEASE.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:52 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Michele Polvere

Please reject that horrible arch near Arlington National Cemetery. It is a very bad idea. Thank you

From: Marysha Sarris
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 7:23 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Anti-arch

I am against the Trump Arch. It's disrespectful to the fallen soldiers at Arlington. It will literally overshadow them. I'm the granddaughter of a Marine. It is sickening and must not go forward. Everyone buried there gave their lives to prevent something like this. Do not build the arch.

Marysha Sarris

From: Jeff Master
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 8:11 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Arc is not for the people

As a veteran who served from 1986 to 1997 this proposed arch is not for us and would ruin the sacred nature of Arlington.

Do not allow this to be built.

Sincerely,
Jeff Master

If you choose not to decide you still have made a choice…RUSH

From: Pete Kazeck
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 8:42 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] proposed arch near Arlington cemetary

I am a Veteran and I am AGAINST this proposed arch near Arlington National Cemetery !!!!

This is an offense to EVERY SINGLE service member and Veteran. Not just to those that have family members buried there but to ALL of us that served.

The arch would bring more tourists to that area and they do not need to be there possibly watching veterans funerals, causing undue traffic for those that should be visiting there or anything else tourists might be doing in that area.

Please stop this arch from being built, honor our veterans that gave their lives for this country that are buried there.

Peter Kazeck
Veteran US ARMY

-----Original Message-----
From: Jayne Louise
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 9:17 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

Hello,
I am voicing my opposition to trumps arch to be built near Arlington National Cemetary. This is just another one of his vanity projects and it is disrespectful to military men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice to defend democracy, which is on the chopping block with this administration! Please do not allow it!

From: Janine DeCook
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:08 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No to President Trump's Arch

I am writing to express my concern for President Trump's plans to build the Arch monument by the entrance to Arlington Cemetery. Please do not allow this to go forward. Arlington is monument to thousands of heroes who have represented, fought and some have died for our country since 1864. It was not intended to honor a living person, especially one who was never even in the military in service to our country. To allow the Arch to be built is to devalue the service of all who are buried there just to please a man whose ego can never be satisfied. Again, please do not allow President Trump to build this monument to himself. It is just wrong.
Thank you.
Janine A. DeCook
Western NY, USA
--
Sincerely
Janine

From: Brandy Shireman
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 11:43 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public Comment | New Monumental Arch, NCPC File No. 8778

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle, NCPC File No. 8778.

I am a two-time Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. Like far too many veterans, I have lost friends both overseas and here at home to the lasting effects of war and PTSD. I have also had the privilege of visiting Arlington National Cemetery, and it remains one of the most profoundly moving experiences I have had as a veteran.

Arlington and the ceremonial approach to it carry a weight that is difficult to put into words. They are places of remembrance, reverence, grief, sacrifice, and honor. Families continue to bury their loved ones there, and visitors come from across the country to pay their respects to those who gave so much in service to our nation.

I am very concerned about placing a 250 foot visitor attraction with an observation deck directly along this ceremonial axis. I ask the Commission to carefully consider how increased tourism, pedestrian activity, traffic, security requirements, and the presence of an observation deck could affect the solemn character of the approach to Arlington National Cemetery and the experience of grieving military families.

I am also concerned about the effects that construction of a project of this magnitude could have on funerals, visitors traveling to Arlington, and the ceremonial environment surrounding the cemetery, including ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Those activities deserve extraordinary consideration before introducing years of construction and a permanent new visitor destination immediately adjacent to this historically significant landscape.

I deeply value patriotism and believe our nation should honor its history and celebrate the American people. But I do not believe every location is appropriate for every monument. In my view, preserving the dignity, solemnity, and historic character of the approach to Arlington National Cemetery should take precedence over constructing an additional monumental visitor attraction at Memorial Circle.

As a veteran who has personally experienced both the cost of military service and the extraordinary significance of Arlington, I respectfully ask the Commission and the Department of the Interior to reconsider this location and the necessity of this project.

Thank you for considering my perspective. We the people are trusting you to protect the significance of this uniquely sacred place in our nation’s capital.

Respectfully,

Brandy F. Shireman
Two-Time OIF Veteran

Your passion will propel you!

Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 12:22 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Project Call Queue)

Hi, this is Brenda Davenport from South Carolina. My interest is in the proposed Memorial Arch. My question is, I'm wondering if the the function of the arch that President Trump described over the weekend of being a munitions center and a location for drones, if that change in purpose is substantial enough to warrant additional review, I know that particular suggestion comes along with not just changing the purpose, but the design, the security, public access, and possibly funding. So I'd like answers to those questions. I'd also like to know a timeline for review and possible ways to let my concerns be known. Thank you.

From: Kristi Gabriel
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 12:25 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump’s arch

I OPPOSE the building of any arch especially in the location as "demanded" by the president. None of this property is HIS. He is wasting money for himself while he continues to create more debt. Observe his trail of bankruptcies. He has clearly shown his disdain for America and the American people.
Kristi Gabriel
Mandan North Dakota

From: Brenda Davenport
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 1:19 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Project 8778: New Military Function for the Proposed Memorial Arch

National Capital Planning Commission
Subject: NCPC Project No. 8778 — New Military Function of Proposed Monumental Arch

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing regarding NCPC Project No. 8778, the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle.

Since the Commission granted preliminary approval, President Trump has announced that the Arch would also function as a military facility housing drones and ammunition and providing positions for snipers. I am attaching a brief summary of questions raised by this newly announced function.

Before final approval, I respectfully ask the Commission to determine whether this represents a material change in the purpose, operation, security requirements, public access, or design of the project previously reviewed and, if so, what additional review is required.

Given the possibility of irreversible construction, I hope these questions can be resolved before any site work begins.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Brenda Davenport

From: Brenda Davenport
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 1:24 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Project 7887: Memorial_Arch_Military_Conversion_Briefing

This information supplements the recently emailed letter concerning the military function of the proposed Memorial Arch sent by Brenda Davenport. Thank you.

MEMORIAL ARCH: QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE NEW MILITARY FUNCTION

One-page factual briefing | September 20, 2026

What has changed

The project reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) was presented as a 250-foot commemorative monument and visitor destination at Memorial Circle. NCPC's July preliminary approval emphasized visitors' experience, transportation, historic preservation, pedestrian safety, security features, FAA coordination, and information still required before final review.

On September 20, President Trump announced that the proposed arch would also serve as a military complex able to house and rapidly deploy large numbers of drones, accommodate snipers on the roof and plaza, and store large quantities of sniper ammunition. The Pentagon told reporters it had no information to add beyond the President's statement. AP and The Washington Post reported that this military function had not previously been part of the federal review.

Central procedural question

Before irreversible construction begins, should federal reviewers determine whether adding an operational military function materially changes the project previously reviewed - and, if so, what additional safety, aviation, security, transportation, historic-preservation, environmental, and public-access review is required?

Questions for federal reviewers and Congress

1. Project scope. Does the military function constitute a material change in purpose, design, operation, or security requirements requiring supplemental or renewed review?
2. Public access. Will the observation deck and public plaza remain open? Would ammunition storage, sniper positions, drone operations, fencing, checkpoints, setbacks, or other security measures alter the visitor experience or pedestrian circulation evaluated by NCPC?
3. Aviation and drones. The FAA's September 18 determination addressed the 250-foot structure and required visibility measures. Did that review evaluate operation or rapid deployment of large numbers of drones from the site, which lies near Reagan National Airport and within its approach/departure environment?
4. Ammunition and site safety. What quantity and type of ammunition are contemplated, what storage standards would apply, and would those requirements alter the site plan or required separation from visitors and traffic?

5. Military need. Which military component requested the facility? Has the Department of Defense prepared a formal operational-needs, security, logistics, or site-selection assessment, and will it be made available to reviewing agencies?
6. Historic-preservation review. Does the newly announced function change the effects evaluated under Section 106, including impacts on the Memorial Avenue corridor, Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial/National Mall setting, circulation, security infrastructure, and historic sightlines?

Why timing matters
The Arch has preliminary, not final, NCPC approval. NCPC states that additional information must be addressed before final review. The FAA's September 18 determination is subject to reconsideration if petitioned by October 18. Separately, Judge Tanya Chutkan has ordered advance notice before most activity at the Arch site while litigation proceeds.

Primary sources / current reporting
NCPC Project 8778, New Monumental Arch (June-July 2026); National Park Service Section 106 materials and July 16 public-comment notice;

-----Original Message-----
From: GAIL REID
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 5:15 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>; cfa@cfastaff.gov
Subject: [External] The “Triumphal” Arch, (along with snipers and munitions!?!) Arlington Cemetery

This idea is ludicrous. It is an insult to every soldier buried at Arlington Cemetery. There is no sane reason to build an arch at the sole demand of inarguably the most polarizing president in recent history. The cost alone during a time when folks are struggling due to his ego is outrageous. Take note, allowing this monstrosity to proceed, and allowing his vanity to outweigh your common sense will be the cause of backlash, protests and even vandalism because a majority of citizens do not like the man or this ideas. He, laughably, wants to say it’s a Peace Arch? We already have one of those at our friendly CANADIAN border crossing at Blaine, WA.

I am a natural born US citizen. I will also speak with my vote.

Gail Reid
Gig Harbor WA

From: Linda Caruthers
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 7:28 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Proposed Arch

Hi,

I thought the proposed Arch was going to be on your upcoming agenda but didn't see it on your drop-down menu for written comments so am sending this email instead.

I oppose the proposed Arch as being too large, too gaudy and too costly. It should not overshadow Arlington National Cemetery, or be a vantage from which to watch revered burials there.

I understand that Mr Trump is now contending that it will house drones, snipers and ammunition. What a great target for our enemies! There is an Army base within a mile of the proposed Arch and the Pentagon is about two miles away, so using the Arch for "national security" is absurd.

With our national debt in excess of $40 trillion, there are much better uses for our tax dollars than a vanity project for this president.

Sincerely,
Linda Caruthers
Anaheim, CA

-----Original Message-----
From: anne barnett
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 8:00 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Question

Has Trump followed the process for changes in Washington?
. Destruction of East Wing at White House . To tear down Lincoln Center . To build massive arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery

How can this be done? Is this planning commission ignoring all of this destruction? Come on, this is not his property. Is all of Washington just allowing him to continue with his insane crazy ideas? Stop him.

Anne Barnett

From: Whit Warthin
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:59 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trumpful arch at Arlington memorial cemetery

My father, Army Brigadier General Thomas A. Warthin, and my brother, Naval Commander Jonathan C. Warthin, are buried with their wives just behind the Women's World War II Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The proposed gargantuan Triumphal Arch would be interposed between their final resting places and the Memorial Bridge and the Lincoln Memorial and would desecrate the solemnity and grandeur of that area with which they chose to associate themselves. To have a President who would not serve build such a gaudy structure does grave disservice to those who did serve. Please let them rest as they wished.

Should the Arch be built, I, as a decorated Vietnam War Veteran, will not seek to be buried in Arlington with my family and may explore having them removed.

-----Original Message-----
From: Greg Christopulos
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 9:44 PM
To: Whit Warthin
Cc: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Trumpful arch at Arlington memorial cemetery

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 22, 2026, at 9:29 PM, Whit Warthin wrote:
>
>
> My father, Army Brigadier General Thomas A. Warthin, and my brother, Naval Commander Jonathan C. Warthin, are buried with their wives just behind the Women's World War II Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The proposed gargantuan Triumphal Arch would be interposed between their final resting places and the Memorial Bridge and the Lincoln Memorial and would desecrate the solemnity and grandeur of that area with which they chose to associate themselves. To have a President who would not serve build such a gaudy structure does grave disservice to those who did serve. Please let them rest as they wished.
>
> Should the Arch be built, I, as a decorated Vietnam War Veteran, will not seek to be buried in Arlington with my family and may explore having them removed.

-----Original Message-----
From: Amy Doucette
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 6:21 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] THE ARCH

To whom it may concern:

Trump has absolutely no right to build a monument TO HIMSELF at the footsteps of a MILITARY CEMETERY. He has destroyed enough of Washington DC already. Military families burying their brave loved ones don't need to see a gaudy monument to a wannabe king who sent the military to die for a war he said he wouldn't start.

Trump has never respected the military and this is the latest in his blatant narcissism and disregard for anyone but himself. It is going to take decades to undo the damage he has done.

DO NOT LET HIM DISRESPECT ALL OF US, BUT ESPECIALLY GRIEVING FAMILIES, WITH THIS RIDICULOUS ARCH.

Signed in absolute fury and disgust,
Amy Coley
Hellertown, PA

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:15 PM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

Hey, I'll say good morning. It is Wednesday afternoon, September, what's today? I don't know, the 16th, from Southern California. I am so disgusted each and every day by this administration and the abuse of power of Donald Trump and all his little flunkies capitulating to do anything that he wants. You know what? Look at what is happening to people and what we are being asked to spend every day at the grocery store, gas prices, you name it, utilities, all of it. And the majority of the problem is Donald Trump and his policies and the fact that he goes and spends money willy-nilly to do all this crap. It's And to put his name on anything that stands still and he's not happy until he gets to do it, build it bigger and better and faster and fuck all of you. know what? He deserves no one's support. He is building this arch because he saw one in France. I mean, give me a break. He is out of control. And when are people going to get a backbone and do the right thing? It is unnecessary. It is outrageous. It is gaudy. It is extravagant. He can go and build his little model over in fucking Mar-a-Lago when he leaves office, which can't come soon enough. I mean, and had the Senate had the courage to do their job a long time ago, Mitch McConnell, who gave a scathing speech after January 6th. But no, he was more worried with packing the Supreme Court with the assholes that we have there right now in the majority. But for you people, you need to stand up to

this because it's not right. And I just, I mean. It is such an abuse of power, fraud, waste and abuse. It starts in the Oval Office and it started on day one. And here we are. He gets to do anything he wants. His son had a wedding, Mr. 300 times a millionaire over, and he has a Russian oligarch with best friends with Vladimir Putin, buy, wrench not only one island in the Bahamas, but two, so they can have a little fucking wedding. I'm sorry, but you know what? All of it is just out of control. And all that we the people see is that we are getting the shaft and he does anything he wants without any restraint. It's not okay. So please, whatever authority people have, get with your groups, shut this the fuck down. It does not deserve anyone's support. Thank you very much. Have a lovely day. Don't forget to fucking vote. Go to the schools that are office who do not give a shit about us. Isn't it painfully obvious? What more do you need? Have a nice day.

From: Marcus Parker
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 2:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch of d RUMP

PLease do not allow the arch to trump to be built, this is not the time or the place for sucha spectacle. The sacred ground of Arlington should not be towered over by a narcissists monument to himself.

LETS STOP THIS NOW.
please add my name to any list that will help prevent the tragedy from taking place.

Marcus T. Parker
(Veteran US Army)
Anchorage, AK

From: Lou Ann Prosack
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 2:47 PM
To: Thomas Luebke; NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The Arch

So let me get this straight. The president, who is causing death and destruction not only in this country but the entire world because of his heartless cruelty as a result of his irresponsible policies, needs among the other edifices dedicated to his self-serving, greedy, narcissist self, an arch. And, such a structure must be a military complex with drones, snipers and ammunition.

Now, why does he need this in addition to the bunker in the White House? Probably because he wants a safe place to hide in case his shenanigans in the mid-terms and/or 2028 election cause riots, i.e., another January 6.

The only thing more alarming than his seeking such armaments is the people who bow to the wishes of such a lawless, revenge seeking, greedy felon.

Although Trump is trying to “white” wash history, these times are being documented and those who are complicit will also be noted for their complicity and will have to live with themselves as to what they did or did not do to save democracy.

Thank you for listening.

Lou Ann

cc: Marcel Acosta, National Capital Planning Commission

From: Solveig Nesset
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 3:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External]

Reject the arch. It will wreck the carefully designed and preserved historic center of DC, while minimizing the presence of Lincoln, Arlington and Kennedy.

Trump's latest brainstorm, to have the arch serve as a "top grade military complex" with weapons storage and a surface perfect for surveillance and sniper positioning, suggests to me preparation for war in the streets, control of domestic unrest, more than foreign invasion.

UNACCEPTABLE ON BOTH COUNTS.

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 3:40 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Website comment from Leslie Cossitt

I oppose building an “Arch de Trump” on government land. No tax dollars should be spend on this vain glorious project.

From: Josh Ramirez
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 7:52 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Complaint regarding Trump's arc

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing to express my strong disapproval regarding the proposed arc project that would obstruct Arlington National Cemetery.

As an Army veteran, I find this plan deeply concerning and respectful consideration of the cemetery's sacred grounds must be maintained. I urge you to reconsider this direction and protect the integrity of the site.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joshua Ramirez

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 6:25 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Proposed "Triumphal" arch destroying the connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington

National Capital Planning Commission Members-

I sent the below missive to my Florida Congressman, with copies to my Senators. This was on 9/14, and just 10 days later I have to write them again because what was a "just" desecration of places sacred to our country's history has now turned in to insanity!!

How many tourists will be comfortable touring in the area, thinking snipers are watching them from the arch. And snipers can watch the sacred burials that take place at Arlington? Who will try to steal the drones it was announced will be stored there??? And worst of all, now it has been announced this will be an ammunition storage building? What an invitation to terrorists to blow up the arch and the ammunition, causing how much damage to that beautiful area? Truly an insane proposal!!!! Please read my initial write up below and REFUSE permission to build this arch!!!!

Congressman Mast –

First, thank you for your service, and for almost making the ultimate sacrifice in that service to our country. Your campaign website's heading is "service before self." I would guess that no matter what positions you will hold in your career as a politician, you will always consider your military service and veteran status as the epitome of your career. And rightfully so.

I am writing today from my heart, as an American and a historian.

I am writing to beg you to work to pass a bill in Congress which will block construction of the proposed "Triumphal Arch" on Memorial Circle.

There are some historic objects and places that are sacred. The Lincoln Memorial, the eternal flame at the grave of John F. Kennedy, and Arlington National Cemetery, are three sacred places for America's history.

I have read that some veterans are suing to stop construction of the arch. I thank God for their continuing service to our country! Therefore, I probably don't have to belabor the points of what the arch would destroy.

But as a historian, with ancestors who served in the Northern army, including one buried at the Vicksburg battlefield, I will tell you that destroying the symbolism would break my heart.

The symbolism of the sight line between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery, property taken from a Confederate Loyalist, where even Confederate soldiers are buried, is the perfect symbolism of this great country uniting after the Civil War. IF THE ARCH IS BUILT, AND THIS SIGHT

LINE IS BROKEN, THE SYMBOLISM WILL INSTEAD BE OF A COUNTRY THAT ONCE AGAIN IS TORN APART AND DIVIDED IN TWO.

Also, the ability to see the President Kennedy eternal flame from the Lincoln Memorial is another poignant symbol with deep significance. You can see the connection between two Commanders in Chief who both gave the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America.

Please preserve this meaningful sightline and pass legislation blocking the construction of the arch!!!

In closing, I would ask that you share these words with President Trump the next time you meet with him. They are paraphrased by Thucydides from Pericles, spoken circa 400 BC. “What you leave behind is not what is engraved on stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

I have no hope that President Trump would ever understand or feel these sentiments. I can only hope that YOU feel them and stop the desecration of Memorial Circle.

PS I have lived in Martin County since long before you were my congressman; I relocated to St. Lucie County recently after the death of my husband. So, I am your constituent.

Robin Potvin
Port St. Lucie Fl.

From: gary sampliner
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 12:07 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comment on the "Victory Arch"

As a longtime resident of the capital area who has always revered the lines of sight along the Potomac River in the area of the Memorial Bridge in particular, I am writing to strongly oppose this arch as an eyesore, a complete waste of money, and a grossly offensive insult to the families of the heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery who would have tourists leering down on them from the observation deck. The NCPC needs to have the spine to shut down this travesty.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Sampliner
Rockville, MD

From: Zane Tomlinson
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 11:39 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc De Trump

Army veteran here,

nobody wants a draft dodger who calls veterans suckers and losers or a war he started resulting in hundreds of casualties "small potatoes" to have a vanity project overlooking Arlington national cemetery.

FDT.

From: Allyson Heisey
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 11:50 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Formal Public Comment – Opposition to President Trump's Proposed Triumphal Arch and Request for Congressional Oversight and Public Participation

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing as a Virginia resident to formally express my strong opposition to President Trump's proposed triumphal arch in Washington, D.C., and to request that my concerns be included in the Commission's official public record concerning this project.

I firmly believe that our nation's monuments should honor those who have sacrificed, served, and dedicated their lives to the United States. Our nation's capital should commemorate the individuals and ideals that have shaped our democracy, rather than serve as a monument to a sitting president whose administration and legacy have yet to be fully evaluated by history.

I strongly oppose any proposal to associate this arch with President Trump's name or personal legacy. Regardless of whether the project is funded publicly or privately, I do not believe a sitting president should be directing the creation of monumental structures intended to celebrate his own presidency.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed arch's impact on the historic character, architectural integrity, and visual landscape surrounding Arlington Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery. This nationally significant landscape deserves careful preservation, and I question whether a monumental structure of this scale is appropriate for its proposed location.

These are the American people's monuments, buildings, and public spaces. They do not belong to any one president.

The American people deserve meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions about major changes to nationally significant places. Public hearings, transparent architectural competitions, independent design review, and congressional oversight should be essential parts of the process.

I am especially concerned that, as of September 24, 2026, it appears that work on the proposed arch may already have begun. If construction or site preparation is proceeding before all required reviews and approvals have been completed, I find that deeply troubling. I respectfully request clarification regarding whether work has begun, who authorized it, and whether final project approval has been granted.

My concerns also extend to what I perceive as a broader pattern of presidentially directed changes to historically significant public spaces, including the White House. The White House is known as the People's House for a reason. These places belong to the American people and represent our collective history, not the personal legacy of an individual president.

I strongly oppose the use of taxpayer funds for the proposed arch, including construction, infrastructure, site preparation, security, and future maintenance. However, even if private donations finance this project, I remain opposed to its construction. Private funding does not eliminate the public's legitimate interest in protecting federal land and nationally significant historic landscapes.

I respectfully request that the National Capital Planning Commission:

1. Reconsider the proposed arch in light of its potential effects on the historic landscape, significant sightlines, and architectural character of Washington, D.C.
2. Ensure that meaningful public participation occurs before any final approval or additional construction activity.
3. Clarify whether construction or site preparation has begun and whether all required federal reviews and approvals have been completed.
4. Ensure that the project's full construction, infrastructure, security, and long-term maintenance costs are publicly disclosed, including any anticipated federal expenditures.
5. Give serious consideration to alternatives, including preserving the existing historic landscape without constructing the proposed arch.

Our nation's capital should reflect our shared history, collective sacrifices, and enduring democratic principles. It should honor those who have served this country and helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy—not serve as an expression of an individual president's personal legacy.

I strongly oppose the proposed triumphal arch, regardless of whether it is financed through public or private funds, and respectfully request that my comments be entered into the official public record.

I would appreciate a written response addressing these concerns, particularly the project's approval status, public participation opportunities, and whether any construction activity has already begun.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for your responsibility in protecting the historic character and integrity of our nation's capital.

Sincerely,
Dr. Allyson Heisey, Ph.D.
Spotsylvania, VA

-----Original Message-----
From: Martha Beals
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 2:03 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump's Arch

This project offends so many veterans and citizens of DC. Besides the fact that trump thinks he can go ahead with building this ugly huge arch without the permission of congress and the architectural laws of DC is WRONG.

From: Ruth Robarts
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 2:14 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No arch, no snipers & drones

Arlington Cemetery is sacred ground to family and friends of service members that gave their lives for our country. New families and friends will bury loved ones there as our stupid, pointless war in the Middle East goes on and on and spreads, despite the president's lies.

Do not let Trump destroy the solemn nature of Arlington Cemetery.

Ruth Robarts
Madison, WI

From: Kirk Hotelling
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 9:50 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trump Arch

I am writing to strongly urge you not to approve this ridiculous arch. I'm an Army vet and I do not support this kind of wasteful spending. Use the money to improve some of our bases. This President is a disaster and we don't need ridiculous memorials like this at a time when there are SO many better uses for our tax payer dollars.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kirk Hotelling
USMA '88
Army veteran

From: Carole Mccann
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2026 12:56 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Final Agenda for NCPC's October 1, 2026 Meeting

NO BALLROOM
NO ARCH
NO TRUMP

STOP THIS IGNORANT CON MAN !!!

From: Carol Webster
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 4:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

I am writing to express my thoughts on the Triumphal Arch which is being discussed for Arlington/DC. I have a number of concerns.

- The placement of the building will disrupt historic sight lines from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington Cemetery.
- The scale of the proposed arch would dwarf other monuments in the DC area.
- Recent plans show an observation deck at the top, which possibly would allow viewing of family funerals at Arlington.
- Recent changes to the D.C. arch design aim to convert it into a "military complex" equipped for drones, snipers, and ammunition storage. This is absolute sacrilege - to place such a structure by the hallowed grounds of Arlington Cemetery is unconscionable, and desecrated the memory of those buried there who served their country so valiantly (including my father Col. Russell E. Baugh and my mother, who served as a military spouse).
- There are also concerns over potential hazards related to its location near a runway at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Please, please, please consider these issues as you look at approval, and veto this project.

Carol B. Webster

“Live in the sunshine, swim in the sea, drink the wild air.” ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

From: Herb and Laura Loudenslager
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2026 9:56 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

You know this is wrong - in your heart - you KNOW it. Have the courage to say so. USMC . VietNam. Combat wounded. Disabled veteran

-----Original Message-----
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 12:47 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Oppose this arch

To whom it may concern;
As a veteran and American taxpayer, I am adamantly opposing the building of this arch. It is a vanity project that has no value and will add additional cost to our already ballooning deficit. I object to where it is being located and really question the safety to aircraft taking off and landing in the Washington DC area.

I appreciate any actions you can take to halt this needless arch.

Thank you,
KAthryn Adams

From: Diane van Os
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2026 1:18 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] ARCH

Trump's arch is absolutely inappropriate and must NOT be built. Besides the reasons various experts have provided, the condition of the country makes this a slap in the taxpayer's face. It also looks like Hitlers arch. Disgusting.

From: Carole Mccann
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 11:14 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Lafayette Park Security Improvements, Executive Director Retirement, & More News

NO BALLROOM
NO ARCH
NO TRUMP

Please, stand up to this blatant attempt to deface our city!

From: Tim Shanahan
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 11:24 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Trump Arch

I don't want Trump's Arch.

Tim Shanahan
Aviation Ordnanceman Second Class
U.S. Navy
1997-2001

From: carson.maxted
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 11:27 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Arc de Trump

Please don't let him get away with this insult to veterans and the American people.

Best,
Carson

-----Original Message-----
From: anne earhart
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 2:33 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comment re the Arch

Hello,

The view that the Arch will obstruct is an important view made to be seen as a long view. Besides obstructing that view the Arch is being pushed through with little to no oversight by the governing bodies.
The “national security” function of the arch is totally ridiculous as we all know.

Please vote against this vanity project.

Thank you, Anne Earhart

From: Terri Masters
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 6:07 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle

Sept. 28, 2026

I would like to submit a comment re: the Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle. I tried to use the comment section on NCPC's website but it did not list this structure under the "projects" section. I am one of the millions of Amwericans opposed to building this Monumental Arch. In my opinion, the opposition expressed by Veterans should be all that is needed to stop any further discussion. But for the record I will list my objections as well, which I assume are likely similar to other comments submitted. One main objection is the gigantic size of this structure. I believe it was proposed to be 250' in height. It is my understanding, according to the 1910 Height of Buildings Act, that no structure should be built over 130' in height in the D.C. area. As an American citizen, I am astounded and extremely disappointed that NCPC took it upon themselves to reinterpret the 1910 Act as not referring to federal buildings or monuments that might be built in the future. They wrote the act knowing the careful planning and overall consideration that had gone into designing Washington D.C. as our nation's capital and the historical significance of its planning and design. It is absolutely without question why this "reinterpretation" was proposed and voted for on **JULY 9, 2026**, just the same as all the historical and logistical facts were ignored when it was presented to NCPC, why this enormous, oversized and unneeded "ballroom" should not be constructed for the East Wing. Frankly, that size structure would dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument and other structures nearby. It would also interfere with symbolic and physical alignment that connects the Lincoln Memorial to the Arlington National Cemetery. Even by the National Park Service assessment, this structure would diminish the "character-defining visual and spatial relationships across 37 historic locations." According to historical accounts, it would negate the Post-Civil War Reconciliation Axis. Architects in times past, designed the gateway to the Arlington National Cemetery to be solemn and respectful. This gigantic structure proposed to be built at the cemetery's entrance, disrupts the intended balance that was designed with the composition of the capital in mind. Many Veterans Groups and architectural historians are in full agreement that this Arch disrespects all these carefully planned features that were considered when these historical structures and buildings were designed.

I won't go on any further re: the interference of Reagan National Airport, the lack of respect and privacy for military funerals, making the arch into a "military complex", and last but certainly not least, bypassing Congress's Commenorative Works Act signed into law on **Nov. 14, 1986,** that strictly mandates explicit congressional authorization for building monuments on federal parkland. The "arch" has also bypassed routine funding requirements and instead, has relied on unauthorized ploys, DOJ's manipulation of language to make wording appear legal, instead of the legally required approval of Congress. This president has bypassed the law on every project he has managed to bully his way through, with the help of associates and allies willing to do his bidding for him, against the wishes of the American people. In addition, the U.S. is over $40 trillion dollars in National Debt, with two more years to go before this decimation of the U.S. is finished. The American taxpayer cannot afford any more unneeded and unwanted "beautifications". Thank you for your consideration. ~Terri Masters

From: Karen Jean Leventhal
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 7:23 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comments on the Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle - "A Bloated Arch for All Seasons"

The foundation for any memorial has to be justified by the reason for it. If the reason for it is speculative, unwarranted, fabricated, illegal, perverse, perilous,
disingenuous,
narcissistic,and unjustified, then why do it? Just to blemish a pristine and historical environment (and readily become a further dangerous threat to already challenged flight patterns in the area) just to reinforce a mad man's
ballooning sense of himself ? Just so that his countrymen and women
can automatically gag on the nausea inducing spectacle of it all! Touching it up with 'fake' gold is only putting lipstick on a pig. I say 'oink'
to the entire illegal project
solicited by a craven repulsive little man with too much time on his hands and a decaying deplorable evil view of the world and its' citizens. And especially his and his sycophants non-stop continuous shameful destruction of the
real, integral underlying magnificent beauty of the precepts - a guiding maxim for moral conduct and behavior, of this country.

As a former 'born there and raised there' resident of our nation's capital, I can personally attest to the the glorious feeling of freedom and wistful
abandonment of riding my bicycle over the scenic unobstructed glorious Arlington Memorial Bridge on a summer weekend afternoon; always paying silent homage and grateful tribute to the fallen heroes of a multicultural mosaic of a diverse spectrum of people resting peacefully at Arlington National Cemetery, permanently affixed since 1864 at the end of this glorious bridge, beginning with the revered
Lincoln Memorial. A memorable moving.and visual post card cherished for all time.

Anna Flora

From: Jayne Bonnette
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 12:06 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Written Comments

White House Visitor Screening Facility Comments
Name: Jayne Bonnette
Project Name: White House Visitor Screening Facility
Project Number: 8763

I don't want to see anything else with Trump's name on it. I don't mind improvements, if it is truly needed, but not another vanity project for the current president. The whole "get my name on everything" agenda is embarrassing.

From: Christopher Deren
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 12:17 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: Written Comments

White House Visitor Screening Facility Comments
Name: Christopher Deren
Project Name: White House Visitor Screening Facility
Project Number: 8763

I oppose the idea of the arch trump is planning. It is a violation of the people's wishes and destroys the capitol's design.

-----Original Message-----
From: Quinn W
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 3:17 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] REJECT TRUMP ARCH

As a disabled combat veteran of Afghanistan, this arch trump wants is something a fascist dictator would demand. How about we put this money towards our veterans? The ones suffering? What about towards better healthcare for our service members? What about ending veteran homelessness? This is thoroughly unAmerican, unpatriotic and disgusting. Grow a spine and stand up to this wannabe fascist king.

From: Barbara Statas
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 3:53 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch Project Turning into Military Complex

RE: Draft Agenda for the October 1, 2026 meeting of the National Capital Planning Commission agenda item "Projects Anticipated for Review Over the Next Six Months", file number 8778 - New Monumental Arch

Dear NCPC,
I would like to comment on the fact that recent announced changes to the proposed Monumental Arch to turn it into a military outpost, complete with snipers, drones, and ammunition storage should send this whole project straight back to the drawing board. Yet you removed the Arch from the draft agenda for tomorrow's meeting; so, I am emailing the following comments.

With the Pentagon less than a mile away, why would we need such a "top grade military complex" at this location? Why would you send drones up into the flight path of Reagan National Airport? Is it a good idea to store ammunition in a structure with propane gas tanks underneath to fuel the eternal flame given that it was determined during the construction of the Memorial Bridge that there was unstable ground underneath the Circle area? Remember the earthquake in 2011 -- what could go wrong? Will we need to pay to have guards posted 24/7? Will it need security fencing -- how attractive would that be? Why will snipers be needed – to aim at peaceful protestors crossing the Memorial Bridge? Is it still going to be a tourist attraction/restaurant despite the military presence? Why is the person who originally suggested an arch (Catesby Leigh) now calling it too big/tall? Why is the Administration flouting height restriction regulations in Washington? What about the negative impact it will have on traffic?

I suspect the new "national security" concerns are really just an excuse to ram a project through even though the majority of public comments received were negative. Also, the National Park Service's Memorandum of Agreement stipulates that it is aware that the "Memorial Circle is located within a highly sensitive historic and commemorative landscape and that the Undertaking's location contributes to adverse effects to historic properties whose significance is associated with setting, design, feeling, association, spatial organization, circulation, and contributing views and vistas."

So, why is the Administration so determined to knowingly ruin the look and feel of Washington, D.C,? In fact, the NPS's own document noted approximately 37 historic sites/landmarks that could be negatively affected by the Arch, including Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, the National Mall, the Washington Monument, the Pentagon, the US Capitol, etc. Most importantly the Arch will block the historic sightline along Arlington Memorial Bridge as it serves to connect the Lee family house at Arlington National Cemetery with the Lincoln Memorial, which are positioned to represent the reunification of the country after the Civil War.

Again, where is the Congressional approval for such a construction project? I understand that the Administration is claiming it has the right to construct an Arch without Congressional approval due to a 1925 regulation that allowed for the construction of a pair of slender 166-foot-tall columns that were never built (they were deemed to be too tall for aviation safety by President Hoover). So, build the columns instead. They were envisioned to further represent the North and the South. They can serve as an appropriate "welcome to Washington" symbol and won't be nearly as obtrusive as the currently planned Arch.

Thank you for your consideration!
Barbara Statas
Maryland

From: Kelnran Piper
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 7:51 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Stop the madness - No more Trump destruction

Please stop the madness. Do not approve or support this administration in any way.

-----Original Message-----
From: Lynn Fayard
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 12:46 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] REJECT the “Triumphal Arch”

From: Sharon Sullivan
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2026 8:04 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Reject the Arc de Trump

PLEASE REJECT THE ARC DE TRUMP! What a disastrous, insane idea!

From: NewScott
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 1:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] ?

to Whom

As a veteran, I am writing to express my strong frustration regarding how government funds are being prioritized.

It is deeply concerning to see money spent on projects like building an arch, rather than on essential needs like funding public school lunches for children. This type of wasteful spending is unacceptable when critical social needs remain unmet.

I urge you to advocate for better fiscal responsibility and reprioritize funding toward initiatives that directly support our community and its children.

Sincerely,

Scott

-----Original Message-----
From: Lynn Fayard
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2026 5:07 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO TRIUMPHAL ARCH

Please do not allow this preposterous project!!
Why??

- The size and location of the project. It will be amazingly disrespectful to our incredibly brave military members and their families. Our national cemetery should remain a peaceful place of refuge for still grieving families and also visitors wishing to pay their respects.
Future burial services for military members should not be conducted in the shadow of a vulgar monstrosity.
The visual and auditory disturbances created by this proposed structure would ruin the somber and respectful setting of Arlington National Cemetery.
- Bypassing Congress and violating the Commemorative Works Act by building a structure on federal land without explicit legislative approval is ILLEGAL.
- The symbolic and historic view between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial must never be obstructed.
Many other historic sites would also be negatively affected.
- Serious safety issues will be created. The structure would be far too close to the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.
Aviation safety would be compromised. Likewise, traffic gridlock around major thoroughfares would adversely worsen.
- This administration has walked all over Federal Reviews.
Environmental impact concerns have been ignored as well as community and national feedback.

Again, please DO NOT allow this to happen.
Thank you.

Lynn Fayard

From: Becky Miller
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 7:30 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] arch

Please reconsider the placement of Trump's arch. Review agencies are to consult the policies in the "Memorials and Museums Master Plan," when evaluating proposals for new works within the Nation's Capital. They apparently failed to do that as the proposal violates many of the guidelines.

1. Sites are to preserve the integrity of the Monumental Core by retaining open spaces and they are to be respectful of their immediate surroundings. The proposed arch destructs the visual corridor connecting the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery. That destruction says that the patriots buried there were of no importance to our country.
2. New memorials are not to encroach on neighboring memorials and open spaces. This arch will encroach upon both the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery and the view between them that was designed to offer unification after the Civil War. The arch at this location violates that solemnity.
3. Memorials in Area 1 should not contain buildings or interior spaces housing exhibits, displays, or collections. The existing plan is to have the landmark open to tourist. To interpret the arch, exhibits and displays will be needed. If it is to be used for National Security by housing drones, snipers, and ammunition you need to realize that storing ammunition can be considered a collection so that violates the guidelines. It is not smart to launch drones in the flight path of Reagan National Airport as that presents a great risk the drone and a plane crashing into each other. This is a threat to public safety not an aid.
4. The District government and neighborhood organizations must be consulted in planning museums and memorials. I understand there has been very little, if any, interaction with any neighborhood groups or area government units so the arch's proponents don't care about the impact the arch will have on the region.
5. The structure is subject to the Heights of Buildings Act, which limits buildings to 130 feet in height. 250 feet is almost twice that.

Once the arch has a sponsor, a bill needs to be submitted through Congress. This sponsor is then responsible for its erection at no cost to the federal government. Once Congress passes the bill and the President signs it, construction can begin once funds are raised. In the meantime, alternate site study and environmental analysis is done before a site is approved. None of this has been done.

All entities involved need to follow the rules in existence for a new monument. Jumping in at Step 9 is illegal. This process needs to go back to Step 1. Once that has happened, here are a few other more appropriate sites to consider:

Site 8. It is in line with the Capitol and would further enhance both the L'Enfant and McMillan plans. The arch here would enhance the economic development of this area.

Site 16. It is nearly in line with the Capitol and is highly visible nearby roadways and Washington Navy Yard. There is low noise at this location which would enhance the visitor experience.

Site 23. It has direct visual linkage to both the Capitol and the Washington Monument.

All three of these sites are along the southern entrance to L'Enfant City and are along the Anacostia River, one of the framework components. They are near both Fort McNair and Washington Navy Yard--military installations that could quickly supply the drone operators and snipers. They are also within view of Nationals' stadium, so there would be great television exposure at each home game. Some games are broadcast across the country so this exposure would be country-wide.

I urge you to follow the current rules for new monuments and listen to public input. That is the proper way of doing thing in our republic.

Thank you,
Becky Miller

From: Cindy Greer
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 11:16 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc de Trump

To whom it may concern:

Please reject any and all funds for the Arc de Trump. What a colossal waste of money for such a vanity project.

I ask that you defund or reject any money requested from the current administration for this farce.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cindy Greer

-----Original Message-----
From: Comcast
Sent: Saturday, October 3, 2026 2:26 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arc de Trump

Please do not allow this poorly planned, unauthorized vanity project to move forward. This is an incredible waste of money that benefits absolutely no one except the “president“. Who would the snipers be for? I’ll tell you who, US CITIZENS!! Drones launching in the flight path of the local airport?! It is utter lunacy to even consider approving this. And if he decides to do it without permission (East Wing, Kennedy Center) then it should be immediately demolished and he should be held accountable.

Stand up for the people in this country. Do kit kneel to this wannabe dictator.

From: Sarah Sonenberg
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:13 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Opposition to New Monumental Arch — NCPC File No. 8778

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,
I am writing to oppose the proposed New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle (NCPC File No. 8778).

My grandfather, a lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery beside my grandmother. We buried them there together six years ago, in October. The quiet dignity of that service is something I will treasure for the rest of my life.

Arlington is not merely a landmark or a view corridor. It is an active cemetery and a sacred place where families gather in grief, gratitude, and remembrance. A 250-foot arch and its years of associated construction so close to the cemetery would impose noise, traffic disruption, visual intrusion, and an unacceptable burden on families arriving to bury or honor loved ones.

The project would also compromise the historic alignment among Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the Lincoln Memorial. That landscape carries profound meaning: national service, sacrifice, remembrance, and reconciliation. It should not be subordinated to a monumental construction project.

Please do not grant final approval. At a minimum, require a genuinely independent and transparent assessment of construction impacts on funeral services and cemetery operations, preservation of historic views and landscapes, traffic and pedestrian safety, and alternatives outside this sacred setting.

The families of those buried at Arlington deserve peace and dignity. Please protect it.

Sincerely,

Sarah Vincent Sonenberg
Athens, GA

From: NCPC System
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 5:26 PM
Subject: Website comment from Gail Williams

Why are you using a non-standard, abbreviated review and approval process for the construction of the Independence Arch? How will this process adequately address all of the concerns usually considered? As an American, I am embarrassed by this planned process and the lack of consideration given to key issues, like airline safety. Additionally, I am aghast by the idea of using the arch as what I refer to as a military platform. I pray this is a joke, yet I fear I know better. Please explain

From: Brenda Davenport
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:05 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Questions_to_NCPC_Chairman_Paoletta_Memorial_Arch

QUESTIONS REGARDING STATEMENTS IN YOUR OCTOBER 5
MEMORIAL ARCH ESSAY

Dear Chairman Paoletta,
I read with interest your October 5 essay supporting the proposed Memorial Arch. I would appreciate clarification of several statements that appear difficult to reconcile with the public record.

1925 Congressional Authorization
You state that Congress authorized this project in 1925. How do you reach that conclusion with such certainty when the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service reached a different conclusion in its January 23 legal analysis?
CRS examined the 1925 authorization but nevertheless concluded that the proposed Arch appears to require congressional authorization under both the Commemorative Works Act and 40 U.S.C. § 8106. What legal analysis leads you to a different interpretation?

Commemorative Monument or Military Facility?
The project reviewed by NCPC has been presented as a commemorative monument and visitor destination. President Trump subsequently announced that the Arch would also serve military purposes involving drones, ammunition storage and sniper positions, stating that he had agreed to the conversion "at the strong request" of the United States military and "for National Security purposes."
More recent reports indicate that reviewing agencies have not received revised military plans and have continued reviewing the original commemorative design. Yet your essay cites the Arch's defensive military function as an important reason for supporting it.
Which project will NCPC consider at final review—the commemorative project previously submitted or a revised project incorporating military functions? If military functions are now part of the project, when will those plans be submitted for appropriate planning, aviation, historic-preservation, environmental, security and public-access review?

The Military Determination
You state that the military has determined that the Arch is needed as a platform for advanced defensive capabilities. What Department of Defense determination are you referring to?
Which military component made that determination, when was it made, and is there a written requirements document, threat assessment, study or other record supporting it?

Has that determination been provided to NCPC? The only publicly available source I have found identifying a military request is President Trump's September 20 statement that he agreed to the conversion "at the
strong request" of the military. The Pentagon subsequently said it had nothing additional to provide beyond the President's statement. If there is a separate Department of Defense determination supporting the assertion in your essay, would you identify it or make it available to the public?

Thank you for considering these questions. I would greatly appreciate either your response or direction to the public records that answer them.

Sincerely,
Brenda Davenport

From: Hannah (Bonnie) Dana
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 12:04 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No on Arch

PLEASE VOTE NO ON BUILDING THE ARCH IN WASHINGTON D.C.!!!!!

Bonnie Dana
Arbor Vitae, WI

From: Carole Mccann
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 5:29 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Tentative Agenda - NCPC November 5, 2026 Meeting

NO BALLROOM
NO ARCH
NO TRUMP

STOP THIS NARCISSISTIC CON MAN FROM RUINING OUR CITY!

-----Original Message-----
From: Rita Burdo
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2026 9:29 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No Arc de Trump

We don’t want it. We don’t need it. It’s a big middle finger to our soldiers. No more vanity projects for Trump.

From: Arthur Viente
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2026 8:31 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] National disgrace

That is what your organization is, a national disgrace as you schedule a meeting to approve the ludicrous and completely unnecessary arch Trump wants to build. You're supporting a dictator not a president and we the people will make sure if you allow this to be built will be torn down in the future as we rid the country of people like you who worship money and power over our constitution and law.

From: Brenda Davenport
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2026 7:38 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NCPC_Memorial_Arch_Final_Written_Questions_October_2026

I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns about the proposed Memorial Arch project. The attached letter presents my questions for the Review Committee. Thank you, Brenda Davenport

Written Questions for November 5 Review

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

Re: New Monumental Arch — NCPC File 8778
November 5, 2026 — Final Site and Building Plan Review

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments concerning the proposed Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle. I also appreciate the responsiveness of NCPC staff to my earlier inquiries.

My central concern is whether the Commission has sufficient documented information to evaluate the complete undertaking before considering final approval.

The questions below address the project's purpose, its proposed functions, statutory authority, funding, and the criteria by which the Commission will reach its decision.

1. Definition and Scope of the Undertaking
The submitted plans describe a monumental arch with visitor facilities, observation areas, and related improvements. Subsequent public statements have introduced possible military and national-security functions.

Questions:
• What is the complete, officially approved description of the undertaking currently before the Commission?
• Does that description include all functions now contemplated for the structure?
• If additional functions have been proposed since the environmental and historic-preservation reviews, how will NCPC determine whether those changes require revised documentation or further review?

2. Military Purpose and Supporting Documentation
Public statements have described the Arch as a potential military observation facility and national-security asset.
On October 5, NCPC Chairman Mark Paoletta reportedly asserted that the military had determined the structure was necessary for defense capabilities.

Questions:
• Has the Department of Defense formally requested or endorsed military functions for the Arch?
• What written determination, operational requirement, authorization, or other documentation supports the assertion of military necessity?
• Have any proposed military functions been incorporated into the final plans submitted for NCPC review?
• If such functions are contemplated but not yet documented, how can the Commission evaluate their implications for public access, security, transportation, historic resources, and the surrounding federal landscape?

3. Statutory Authority and Required Approvals
Questions have been raised concerning the legal authority for constructing the Arch, including the applicability of the 1925 legislation, the Commemorative Works Act, and the Height of Buildings Act.

Questions:
• What specific statutory authority does the applicant identify as authorizing construction of this project?
• Has NCPC received a written legal analysis explaining how that authority applies to the structure and its proposed functions?
• How will the Commission resolve the applicability of the Height of Buildings Act before taking final action, as contemplated in its July 9 review?
• What responsibility does NCPC have to determine whether necessary congressional or other statutory authorizations have been obtained before approving final plans?

4. Funding and Project Readiness
I have been unable to identify public documentation establishing the complete funding arrangements for the proposed construction.

Questions:
• Has the applicant provided NCPC with a documented total project cost, identified funding sources, and evidence of available or committed funds?
• Does the Commission require verification of funding or financial feasibility before approving final site and building plans?
• If funding remains uncertain, how does NCPC account for the possibility of incomplete construction, subsequent design changes, or additional impacts on federal property?

5. Evaluation Criteria and Decision-Making
My final questions concern the Commission's own review process.
• What written evaluation criteria, staff findings, or other assessment instruments will commissioners use to determine whether the final plans satisfy applicable requirements?
• How are outstanding deficiencies, unresolved questions, and conditions from earlier reviews identified and tracked?
• How will commissioners be informed of significant public questions that remain unanswered when the project comes before them?

• Will the Commission's final action identify the documentary basis for its conclusions and explain how unresolved issues were addressed?

Central Question for the Commission
How can the Commission determine that it is approving the project actually intended for construction unless the applicant has established, in authoritative and publicly identifiable documentation, the project's current purpose, operational uses, and associated impacts?

Closing Request
I respectfully ask that these questions be included in the public record and provided to the commissioners before the November 5 meeting.

Where relevant documentation exists, I would appreciate references to the specific documents. Where information has not been submitted or a determination has not been made, I ask that this also be made clear.

The Commission's responsibility to evaluate a project of this significance depends upon an adequately defined undertaking and a review record sufficient to support its decision.

Thank you for your consideration and for the assistance your staff has provided in response to my earlier inquiries.

Respectfully,
Brenda Davenport

From: NCPC System
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 12:10 PM
Subject: Website comment from Kim Echert

I am 100% opposed to the arch plans as they would disrupt the sanctity of this important area of our capital. Please, I beseech you, to do what is right for the American people.

Thank you for considering my message.

Kim Echert
U.S. Citizen

From: Jim Griffo
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 9:08 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] D.C. Arch

I'm opposed to the proposed 250' arch in Washington D.C.

It's out of proportion with the city, commemorates nothing and blocks view to and out of Arlington National Cemetery.

In addition, its grandiose style, scale and detailing is out of character for D.C. and the United States of America.

Thank you,

Jim Griffo
Emeritus AIA & IIDA

-----Original Message-----
From: S Herman
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 10:13 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Comment on the proposed arch

Hello!
Please add my comment to the others regarding the upcoming meeting on Nov. 5. I just read Joel's brilliant piece in the Washington Post regarding Trump's proposed arch. Please do not approve this as it would be detrimental to anyone flying, during the build because of the very tall cranes needed, and going forward because of the obstacle it would put in the sight lines for all those flying in and out of this airport.
You must risk Trump's ire and possible loss of your positions to save countless lives. Or another option is to close the airport. Then you can approve Trump's arch!

Thank you for reading my comments.

Sincerely,
Rev. Susan Herman, retired
Presbytery of Chicago

From: Evan Phillips
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 1:02 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] No to Arch

Please do not approve the proposed 250ft arch monument at Memorial Circle. DC has become my second city with my frequent work travel there, and the beauty of the capital belongs to all Americans. This proposed monument has no purpose. There is nothing commemorated here. The proposal is simply to alter the landscape for the sake of altering the landscape. This is not filling any need.

Thank you,
Evan Phillips

-----Original Message-----
From: William M
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 1:31 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Do not approve the Arch

Vote no on the Arch for the following reasons:

1. Unnecessary use of public funds at a time of domestic economic crisis.
2. Invasive architecture that is disrespectful of Arlington and the souls who rest there in defense of our country's unique fundamental principles.
3. Congress should represent the will of the people in making this decision process, not a single elected authority, regardless of position.
4. Think of your family before you cast your vote. Don't etch your legacy into the wall of a project that will forever attach your name to the wrong side of history.

Sincerely,
William Marks

From: samira
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 1:35 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] wait, what? An arch....

Dear NCPC,

As a proud native Washingtonian, a Classicist, and someone who is actually open minded to change, I am dismayed that our nation's capital is becoming a folly. **Please.** Please **r**econsider such an intrusive change to the classical beauty of this city - which I will refer to as the Impending Arch. The Impending Arch is a vanity project; it does not warrant further consideration; it is not a serious proposal to further your mission of monument creation that celebrates our shared history, our nation and its people.

I don't understand the why. Why should we create a construction and cost nightmare for residents, visitors, and members of congress alike? Why in the world is this arch taking time and attention from really important issues and needs facing our city, our nation's capital, and our country?

I just returned from the Theodore Roosevelt Library in North Dakota. I drove 2,000 miles for it. It was a magnificent monument and museum to a leader and President who was truly exceptional, and a patriot. The architecture was integrated with the breath-taking landscape of the Badlands. I beg you to reconsider, and if this project goes forward, then think of how you can at least make the Impending Arch into something better for the people of this great nation, who deserve better.

Thank you.

Samira Farmer | Managing Director

From: randy wall
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 1:44 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] NO TO THE TRUMP ARCH!

No, no, absolutely not!! Please vote down the self grandizing Trump monstrosity!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randy Wall

-----Original Message-----
From: Richard Giannotti
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 1:50 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

Dear Planning Commission Member,

I am writing to urge the NCPC to cast a NO vote on the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. There are several reasons behind this request; suffice it to say I strongly oppose the construction of this proposed monument.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Richard Giannotti, P.E., IntPE

From: Jason Weber
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 1:58 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] File 8778

I'm highly in favor of the triumphal arch at Memorial Circle. Seems like it will be a beautiful addition to our capital.

Jason Weber

-----Original Message-----
From: Chris Marks
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 2:09 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Trumps Arch

Please vote no.
This is one of the worst ideas! It will block our views and change a beautiful memorial landscape for no good reason.
Please, the nation is counting on you to control this narcissistic madness!
Thanks,
Chris Marks
Bellevue, WA

-----Original Message-----
From: Cathryn Barrett
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 2:09 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Just say NO

The arch will prove to be an infamous scar in city planning textbooks inflicted by an infamous president. If built, it will need to either be torn down or draped in a black shroud of shame for the damage done to the great experiment of American Democracy during the Trump presidencies.

Please be brave and vote “NO-ABSOLUTELY NOT GOING TO BE BUILT”

Sincerely,
Cathryn Barrett

From: Bruce Wilson
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 2:18 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] The proposed triumphal arch at Memorial Circle

Memorials are built to commemorate a leader who has passed on, not a living leader. I have done some research and there are as yet no memorials in Washington DC that were built to commemorate someone who was still living when they were proposed. This is an ego drive project to praise a leader who is not worthy of any praise.

Donald Trump is not a leader that deserves any commemoration so this arch should not be approved. What triumph is it supposed to commemorate?

If you were going to build something to commemorate the Presidency of Donald Trump it should be representative of the gross incompetence which his administration has displayed and the gross misuse of his office to enrich himself, his family and his supporters.

This would be a more fitting memorial to Donald Trump!

-----Original Message-----
From: Jones Elliot V
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 2:32 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] File 8778 - proposed triumphal arch

Please,

Do not allow this to proceed. It completely disrespects all the honored dead in Arlington and destroys the harmony of the solemn memorials across from it.

Too big, too gaudy, too
Inappropriate.

Elliot V Jones
San Diego CA

From: John Glanville
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 3:10 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] FILE 8778; VOTE NO on THE ARCH de TRUMP
Importance: High

Dear National Capital Planning Commission:

As a resident of the United States of America and visitor to our nation's capital, I strongly request the National Capital Planning Commission vote "NO" on the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle, on the axis between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House (File 8778).

Poorly conceived, inappropriate, and really ugly are terms that come to mind. At a time this nation faces serious threats to its survival, the idea of an arch of this size and location is inconceivable.

As individuals and as a Commission, you will not want to be on the wrong side of history with this vote.

Thank you,

John Glanville
Olympia, WA

A builder can name a monument. The public decides what to call it. The National Capital Planning Commission votes on final approval Nov. 5. Written comments are due by noon Nov. 4 at info@ncpc.gov (File 8778). If you care about Washington's ceremonial landscape, now is the time to say so.

The proposed 250-toot triumphal arch at Memorial Circle, on the axis between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House, reminds me of a lesson from my student days in Rome. The Vittoriano, the blinding white monument to Italy's first king, was built to proclaim national greatness. It mostly proclaimed itself. It crushes the ancient city around it, and Romans have mocked it for a century as "the wedding cake" and "the typewriter." Our professors held it up as a cautionary tale: a monument that mistakes size for greatness. The Vittoriano stands roughly 230 feet tall. The arch proposed for Washington would be 250. Romans needed years to come up with their nicknames. Washingtonians may need less time.

John Glanville

From: Patti Mascone
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2026 6:10 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Despicable Arch

Dear committee:

I am the goddaughter of a Navy nurse who is buried at Arlington. My father, a POW, could have been buried there, but chose instead to be buried with my mother at a Catholic cemetery in Maryland. My father, with my family, attended ceremonies at Arlington to remember POWs and MIAs.

President and Mrs. Kennedy are buried there, along with three unknown soldiers. Our nation seeks to remember and honor both the reasons the burial grounds are there — on the land of the losing confederacy -- and the men and women, famous and every day, whose final resting places sit in solitude on gently rolling hills. Decision-makers at the nearby Pentagon can grab a view to remind them what military sacrifices mean for families, democracy, the world.

The United States used to be the shining example on the hill. But no longer.

The arch is the opposite of democracy, the opposite of solitude, the destruction of our history. Regularly, the horse-drawn carriages, folded flags, honorary canon fire, and bugles will be drowned out under the dishonorable shadow of construction and then the arch. Across the bridge, Lincoln sits as the leader who saved the Union and emancipated slaves; he will dwarfed by our government's modern depravity.

Yet you offer no voice to the families of Veterans to stop the atrocity. You proceed as a dictatorship, determining what our experiences with our monuments and Arlington will be. An interruption of a nation's peace for a draft dodger who carelessly creates war.

Open up the comment period and let us speak.

Regards,
Patricia Mascone

From: Thomas
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2026 7:42 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Please reject "The Arch"

Dear Commissioners,

Please register my profound disdain for this proposed monument to vainglory.
Many citizens join me in the fervent hope that this ridiculous and profane project will not go forward.

If ever a place deserved being called "hallowed ground," it is this unspoiled circle between the Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery.
Please do *not* approve desecration of this iconic view with a crude imitation enshrining pomposity and boastfulness.

Sincerely,

Thomas VONIER
Washington DC

From: <noreply@skype.voicemail.microsoft.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2026 8:22 AM
To: Main Attendant Voice Mail <mainattendantvm@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Shared Voicemail (Main Attendant)

Hi, good morning. You know, each and every day, I see how the president manipulates the system as much as he can to be in his favor of whatever his little pet projects are. Don't we have more important things to worry about, you know, like ending the war in Ukraine. Remember, he was going to do that on day one, this war of choice in Iran that has sent the world's economy into a spiral. You know, we're not stupid. We know what we see and hear every single day, and we know- how much everything is costing us. everywhere we go. And top of that list is the price of gas. This arch is obnoxious. You know, he just is authoritarian leaning towards everything, whether it's his abuse of power towards illegal searches of people trying to get voting districts to get hand over their ballots, carte blanche, just because he says, puts more people of his choosing on this little national planning commission. Give me a break, you know. People don't want it. Get a clue, Donald Trump. Do you think we're ever going to forget this moment in history? This 100 years, it's just never ending. It's the bad movie Groundhog Day with a horrible day every day. But you know what? You guys all have a nice day. And when you look in the mirror and know that you did not do right by the American people, I hope it gives you pause because we don't need an arch. We don't need any of this crap. It's obnoxious. It's just this is last time I checked, this was still America. he's turning it into some perverse version of himself. It's disgusting, but you have a lovely day. Thank you so much.

-----Original Message-----
From: Douglas Donatelli
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2026 8:33 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Triumphal Arch

I am writing to strongly oppose the constriction of the Triumphal Arch, as currently proposed, near Arlington Cemetery in Virginia.

As a native Washingtonian, having been born in DC and lived in the area my entire life, I have passed the area countless times and flown over it dozens more. The entrance to Arlington is supposed to be solemn and the size of the arch and its triumphal nature would not be solemn at all I'm not even sure what triumph it is supposed to commemorate. It seems like a vanity project that is being pushed through the approval process to appease one person.

I am not opposed to something being added to the empty circle where the arch is proposed to go. Even an arch, while the design is far from original, could be fine, but the scale would have to be dramatically reduced. 250 feet is ludicrous and distasteful, not matching the understated grace of most structures in Washington (with the Lincoln Memorial at 99 feet in height and the Jefferson at 129 feet). It would not even fit well into the circle, which is only about 300 feet in diameter. If you have to stick to an arch as the design, it should be 120-130 feet max.

I hope the Commission will reconsider the arch approval. Thank you.

Douglas Donatelli
Washington, DC

From: Gary Smith
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2026 3:09 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Fw: The Trump Arch.

This arch seems to be truly unwanted by most Americans. It is an eyesore and a completely ego project that should not be considered. Do the right thing and stop the nonsense of building something so unnecessary to All Americans. Gary

From: Bilbeisi, Suzanne
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2026 8:12 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Public comment for reference file 8778

Hello,
PLEASE do not allow the vista and the symbolic connection between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery to be destroyed by the enormous, ill-conceived, "Arch" in the traffic circle. It is the product of unchecked ego and will forever leave a scar on this important site. You must not have your name associated with it, as one who approved of it and allowed it to happen.

Stand up for what is right. It is your civic duty to do so. Our nation is counting on you.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Bilbeisi - architect, retired Professor of Architecture, and citizen of Washington DC.

From: Jonathan Landis
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2026 2:25 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Project #8778 — Request to Restore Four Golden Lions

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing regarding the proposed New Monumental Arch (NCPC Project #8778).

I would like to respectfully request that the four golden lion sculptures shown in earlier architectural renderings be restored to the final design.

In my opinion, the lions would provide important visual balance, architectural grandeur, and classical character to the monument, particularly at its base.

Given the monumental scale of the proposed arch, I believe these sculptures would significantly enhance its appearance and complement the golden ornamentation at the top.

Thank you for considering this design recommendation before final approval.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Landis

-----Original Message-----
From: Robert Good
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2026 3:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Objection to final approval of New Monumental Arch, Project 8778

Dear Commissioners,

I urge the Commission to withhold final approval of Project 8778 unless the Department of the Interior establishes valid statutory authority for this specific monument. The central issue is lawful authorization, not the identity or political party of the president proposing it.

The 1925 act authorized a defined Memorial Bridge project according to plans submitted to Congress. Its design discretion was tied to that project, its cost limit and its implementation framework. The Commission should require a documented explanation of how that authority extends to a new 250-foot arch, rather than assume that permission for bridge approaches and landscaping supplies continuing authority for materially different monuments.

I recognize that 40 U.S.C. §8902(b) exempts commemorative works authorized before January 3, 1985. That provision makes the scope of the original authorization decisive. It does not establish that the present arch was authorized. Section 8903 and the separate express-authorization requirement in section 8106 must be addressed on their terms.

Please require a public explanation of the claimed legal authority, funding sources and applicable statutory limits, and a reasoned response to the project's effects on the historic landscape and views connecting Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.

The rule of law loses practical meaning if officials can stretch a narrow authorization beyond recognition because they possess the power to proceed. The same standard should apply to every administration.

Please include this objection in the public record for Project 8778 and address these concerns before final action.

Respectfully,
Robert H Good

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2026 9:01 AM
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Michael A Gresko

The dessicration of the DC has to stop somewhere. Copying Hitler's plan for an arch in our democratic republic is a horror. Especially near our national military cemetery.

From: Jen Peck
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2026 12:26 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch question

Hi I read that you are voting on Trump's Arch next week, and I'm just wondering how in this economy and with the national debt passing 40 trillion dollars, this is even something to be considered right now.
Thank you. -Jen Peck

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2026 11:51 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: File No. 8778, Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle

To the Members of the National Capital Planning Commission

I urge the Commission not to approve the Monumental Arch.

The view from the Lincoln Memorial across Memorial Bridge to Arlington was designed to unite North and South; the living and the dead. A 250-foot arch would interrupt that view, tower over the Lincoln Memorial, and crowd the entrance to a cemetery where reverence and quiet is the truest honor. The National Park Service found in the section 106 review that it would have adverse effects on 37 historic properties.

Our best memorials earn their place through proportion and humility, not size and shining gold. The 250th anniversary deserves a tribute every American can claim and not one that future generations have to explain.

I ask the Commission to decline the approval.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelly Henderson
Celina, Texas

From: Stacie Grove
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2026 9:50 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Oppose Final Approval: New Monumental Arch, NCPC File No. 8778

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a U.S. Army veteran, Certified Wildlife Biologist and concerned taxpayer to urge the National Capital Planning Commission to deny final approval of the proposed New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle, or at minimum postpone its decision until the project's significant unanswered questions have been fully addressed.

As a veteran, I regard the landscape connecting Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial as a place of remembrance, reflection and national meaning. Its carefully planned sight lines connect the sacrifice of those buried at Arlington with the ideals represented by the Lincoln Memorial. A 250-foot arch at Memorial Circle would permanently alter that relationship and change the character of a place that should remain solemn and respectful. The National Park Service has identified adverse effects on 42 historic properties, including six National Historic Landmarks. Those effects deserve more than acknowledgment; they deserve serious consideration of whether the project belongs at this location at all.

As a wildlife biologist, I understand that environmental review and permitting can be complex and sometimes inefficient. But moving a project quickly should never come at the expense of a thorough, transparent analysis. I urge the commission to closely examine the project's environmental, historic, visual, transportation and aviation impacts; the effects of construction and lighting; and reasonable alternatives, including a different location or a smaller design. Mitigation measures may reduce some impacts, but they cannot necessarily restore an altered historic view or undo permanent changes to a nationally significant landscape.

I am also concerned about the discrepancy between the plans before the commission and President Trump's statements that the arch would serve as a military complex involving drones, snipers and ammunition. The public should know what is actually being proposed. Before any final vote, the commission should require a clear, written explanation of the intended uses and ensure that the plans and reviews address them. If military operations are part of the project, their safety, environmental, aviation and historic impacts should be evaluated and made available for public review.

Finally, a project of this magnitude, with permanent consequences for public land and a potential cost to taxpayers, deserves transparent congressional debate and a recorded vote. The question of whether separate congressional authorization is required is now before the courts. I urge the commission to respect that process and avoid a decision that could allow irreversible work to begin before the legal questions are resolved.

Americans have submitted substantial public opposition and raised legitimate concerns. Please give those concerns meaningful consideration and explain publicly how they informed your decision. I ask you to deny final approval, or postpone it until the outstanding legal, design and review issues have been addressed.

Respectfully,
Stacie Grove
U.S. Army veteran
Certified Wildlife Biologist
The Villages, Florida

From: Felice Nord
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2026 7:10 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] President Trump's arch

I am writing to say I am completely opposed to the building of this arch. It would ruin the design of the national mall. There are appropriate steps that have not been taken in the decision to build this monstrosity. It's a vain project and misuses public funds. The National Park system has been paying the price. Their budget is being taken for these various projects that have no place in our country and our National parks are suffering. So, I am asking that this whole project be abandoned. Congress should be involved and should be speaking up.
Felice Nord - NC 28787

From: Joe Lama
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2026 10:35 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] AGAINST Trump Monument

I hope this gets recorded for your Nov. 5th meeting.

From: Linda Hauanio
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2026 11:53 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] ARCH

Don't "we the people" have any say in the arch the man in the White House wants built???

Being an 80+ year old US citizen I am violently opposed to such a thing being built in the Nation's capital or in Virginia in front of the National Cemetery. If there was a logical need for such a thing, "we the people" should be told. The White House has already been destroyed, let's stop this madness now.

Linda Hauanio
Palm Coast, FL

From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2026 12:22 PM
To: Herr, Jamie
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Diane Gainer

You MUST NOT approve Trump's offensive vanity arch. Correct oversight and investigation has NOT been made. This disrespectful monstrosity would block the sunlight from over 50,000 graves across 29 sections of Arlington and two memorial areas.
Over 100 cumulative acres would be shadowed; at any single moment, the shadow would cover 8 acres of graves of the fallen -- those who served our country and earned this ground with their ultimate sacrifice. Trump, who took 5 draft deferments during the Vietnam War and never served a day, is appallingly seeking to put a monument to himself on the approach to the cemetery where the people who did serve are buried, and let it fall across their graves.
I am the family member of many veterans and the fact that you are even CONSIDERING this arch is horrendous and offensive to me.
Please STOP the construction of this arch and make the proper study and review including a certified solar study, a field survey of trees, and direct contact and input from EVERY veteran family affected.
Due diligence must be met!
The overshadowing of American heroes by Trump's vile vanity arch would be PERMANENT.
Sincerely,
Diane Gainer

++++++++++++++

From: john clarke
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2026 6:54 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>

Subject: [External] Opposition to the Triumphal Arch (Project #8778)

As an Army officer for 29 years I am very disturbed by and opposed to the proposed new Trumphal Arch. My father and mother are buried in Arlington cemetary and my wife and I plan to be buried there and do not want an Arch built that will adversely impact the cemetary and its close connection to Lincoln Memorial. The size and location of the Arch would dramatically and significantly alter and damage the unique and iconic landscape of existing monuments and memorials. The National Park Service itself has found that the proposed Arch would have adverse impacts on 37 historic sites, including the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial (which it dwarfs in size), the Jefferson Memorial and the Arlington Cemetary. Additionally, as recognized by NPS, it is no surprise that a majority of Americans (as recent polling indicates) and numerous veterans organizations oppose the Arch. Finally, Congress has neither approved the Arch nor appropriated any funds for its construction. Accordingly I urge the Commission to withhold its approval.
COL (Retired) John Clarke

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 2:38 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Robert M Brock Jr

I am a Vietnam veteran, having served on a repair ship supporting the Mobile Riverine Force in the Mekong Delta. My father was a Navy pilot in WWII. My grandfather was an Army artillery officer in WWI. I was raised to respect the service of our armed forces and to honor those who died defending our country.

I have made several pilgrimages to the Vietnam Memorial and have been moved by the modest respect accorded by the simple design. I have been moved by the rows of crosses in the Arlington National Cemetery and in the fields of grass in Europe and Hawai'i. The somber silences induce prayer and reverence.

I strongly believe that the presence of a massive arch at the entrance of Arlington and in the heart of Washington would disrespect the fallen. Let them rest in peace and let us honor their lives with respect, not cast them in the shade of an ill-conceived and counterfeit tourist attraction.

Respectfully (but with determination),

Lt Robert M Brock Jr
Hailey, Idaho

From: Mark Armstrong
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 5:22 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] STOP THE ARCH

Good afternoon. I urge you to take all steps necessary to stop authorization or construction of the proposed arch between Arlington and the National Mall.

The proposed arch is a ugly monstrosity that would desecrate the historic and solemn atmosphere of the National Cemetery and the National Mall.

As a 26 year Army veteran and a citizen who has had the privilege of serving at Ft. Detrick, giving me the chance to finally visit the area, I have to personally speak up. There is no way the proposal should go any further. Your best course of action is to decisively stop any progress in planning or construction.

Thank you very much.

--
Very respectfully,

Mark Armstrong, PMP
Albuquerque NM

From: Laurie Eckblad Anderson
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2026 10:40 AM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Monumental Arch comment

The photo you included on your website says it all: beautiful, historic, and a tasteful mix of nature and the work of skilled humans.

What trump wants to do is connected to none of these.

- First, he has no respect for the natural world and its fragility; he throws the environment under the bus for a buck or his ego every time he gets a chance.
- Of any president in my fairly long lifetime, he is the only one who must have been sleeping through history class or just skipping school a lot as he is generally not intellectually curious or talented. He cannot grasp how his irrational and self-serving actions have negatives on people and things down the line. And even if he did grasp it, he wouldn't give a damn. It's all about glorifying himself via white-trash projects that any sane person wouldn't give a second thought.
- Money is another concern. It is shocking how much taxpayer money he has wasted via bad planning, ego trips, miscalculations, greed and grift, etc. trump cannot be trusted with our money. We need someone we can trust to properly disperse it for food, education, housing, medical care, etc.
- trump is also aesthetically challenged. One key example is his gilding of the Oval Office. OMG, tacky as hell. Everything he touches turns to fool's gold.

I am so sorry that he is keeping you so busy during his second reign of terror. I'm pretty sure the majority of the citizenry of the U.S. agrees with me.

All the best,
Laurie Anderson
Mpls, MN

From: Janel Leppin
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 12:23 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Arch

Why are you approving this arch at record speed?

Who is making money off of rushing the project through.

You are taking decisions out of the public's hands by doing this.

I saw a report that the Smithsonian had to go through over 1,600 days for approval of a project and this arch is going to be 154.

Who do you think you are?

Janel Leppin

Cellist, Composer, Weaver

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2026 1:08 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Mary Kinnick

Please do not approve the go ahead for the new Arch. The claim that it's needed for national security is bogus. As a former resident of D.C., I've marveled at the layout of D.C. including its vistas including across the bridge toward the cemetery. I know most of the Commissioners were appointed by Pres. Trump, but I implore you to do the right thing and NOT APPOVE this abomination that is all about Trump's ego, The time has come to stop his madness as he rips things down and proposes to build up very very bad things. Thank you.

-----Original Message-----
From: NCPC System <info@ncpc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2026 1:19 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: NCPC Website Email

From: Mary Kinnick

I implore you to say NO to the new Arch. Not needed for national security, a bogus gas has been made by Trump loyalists. Blocks beautiful landscape that has been so carefully and purposefully designed and executed in D.C, the people's city, not Trumps. Say a resounding NO. Please do the right thing.

September 5, 2026

The National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street NW
Ste 500 N
Washington DC, 20004

To Whom it may concern:

What in the holy hell are you thinking? Or are you thinking at all? America does not need a 250 ft. arch to memorialize Trump. America does not need a gigantic ballroom. America does not need his name on the Kennedy Center. America does not need bronze statues painted gold. America does not need a "blue" Reflecting Pool. America does not need his face on our passports or our money. America does not need a golf course instead of cherry trees. America needs people to come to their senses and put a stop to all these UGLY vanity projects, draining our resources for healthcare, education, public safety, housing, and general welfare. Is everyone in Washington drinking the Kool-Aid? Americans are taking names. We will remember those who aided in our country's downfall. The corruption is staggering.

I urge you to consider the impact your decisions will have on our capital. Trump does not deserve any kind of praise or tributes. He is a felon, a fraud, a liar, and a cheat. Do you really believe he represents the good in America?

There will be a day of reckoning. His house of cards will fall. He will go to prison, as will his family. Who else is Washington will go to prison? Who else has taken money from the taxpayers? Who else sat by quietly and watched him pilfer America? Was it you?

America is the laughing stock of the world. We have lost the respect we once held dear.

No to the arch. No to painting statues gold. No to the golf course. No to the ballroom. Remove all the gold crap disgracing the White House. STOP ALL OF IT!

Respectfully,

Diane Diamond

Diane Diamond
Grand Blanc, Michigan

cc: US Commission of Fine Arts
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Park Service

September 8, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th St. NW
Washington, DC 20004

Subject: **Comment on proposed arch.**

Dear members of the Commission,

I understand that President Trump wants an Arch built between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery. My reasons for opposing this project are:

1. It is unnecessary.
2. It will disturb the sight lines between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery, which are sacred to many people, including me.
3. The preliminary images of it are ugly and lacking proportion.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Setter
[redacted]
Arlington, VA 22202

11 September, 2026

National Capitol Planning Committee
401 9th Street NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Sir or Madame:

I find President Trump's plan to build an immense "Victory Arch" between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery extremely repugnant. Its placement in the Memorial Circle would site it directly between those two culturally linked important sites. Inserting this architectural monstrosity with a design reminiscent of the third Reich would sever that connection between Lincoln, R.E Lee, Arlington and the Civil War. The war in which Lincoln praised the dead on the fields of Gettysburg as "have given the last full measure of devotion".

The location for this vanity arch in not the only issue. This president has cut veterans benefits, deported honorably discharged veterans, abandoned nationals who helped us in foreign wars and has a history of insulting American veterans who have essentially made his privileged life possible…..calling them "losers" and "suckers". I will never forget (or forgive) his insult to John McCain, a real American hero when Trump said he preferred heroes that had not been captured. This from one who never served!!!

The proposed arch is being promoted by someone who has stated that he always wanted a Purple Heart (but for those bone spur deferments!) and speculates on awarding himself the Congressional Medal of Honor. Talks about "his" Generals and claims he knows more than they do. Now America at and the world are paying for his arrogance after having ordered the "Department of War" at Israel's urging to inflict itself upon Iran. All while indifferently watching Ukraine's bloody and existential war with Russia proceed. I can't understand how any veteran or any American (even if they voted for him) can not be insulted and outraged by such behavior.

There is a saying about veterans: "Some gave all. All gave some"

Donald Trump gave none….and then bragged about it.

Veterans don't want Trump's Victory Arch. It would be an insult to all those who gave their lives, limbs, health and years in service to our county…."suckers" and "losers" to him.

Please don't let this arch proceed.

Thomas B Lykens

T - B Lyk

DD-214 and corrected DD-215 attached.

9/18/2026

Members of the National Capital Planning Commission,

Plans have been submitted for the construction of a Triumphal Arch in Washington, D.C. One main reason to oppose this, is that it would impact the view from Arlington National Cemetery, the sacred burial site for our fallen military members, who have honorably served our nation. Also, it would damage the view from the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House. The planned site, Memorial Circle, is registered with the National Register of Historical Places. It would stand taller than the Lincoln Memorial and with the gold statue of Lady Liberty and four golden lions (these would detract from the solemnity of Arlington National Cemetery.

Please do not be part of a plan that does not preserve the natural scenery and our historical sites.

Thank you all.

Sincerely,
W. S. Gerichten II
W. S. GERICHTEN II

[redacted]
Jacksonville, NC 28540
[redacted]

18 September 2026

National Capital Planning Commission

401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500N
Washington DC 20004

Reference: **United States Triumphal Arch**

Commission Members:

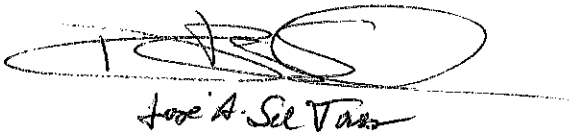
On behalf of myself and my husband, both retired US Army disabled veterans I am writing to strenuously oppose the building of this arch location between Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial.

Our rational is:

1. The length of construction time and the noise the builders will make will detract from the solemnity of the daily funerals held at Arlington National Cemetery.
2. If it were to be built the height of the structure and its garishness will undermine the iconic views from Arlington to the Lincoln Memorial.
3. $100 million of our taxpayer dollars, which we know will not be enough will be squandered. Please witness his other follies: The East Wing, The Kennedy Center, his personal Qatar Airplane.
4. As veterans we are appalled that an arch is being built by a man who could not be bothered to serve his country other than to build a travesty to his own hubris.

In closing, please consider veterans of the past, present and future. We are the brave men and women who proudly serve(d) this country and our buried across this land. This man will be gone from office, and his legacy will not be remembered fondly but your decisions will be. We request that you side with those who proudly gave all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Debra Brletic Sol, US Army Retired
Jose Antonio Sol Torres, US Army Retired

9-22-26

I understand your organization is "the last ok for Trump on his Triumphal Arch. I am asking with every bone in my body to <u>not</u> approve!. He's now trying to throw something about military in the fix, but you know as well as I that's just for approval like he did on the ballroom. This arch will obstruct the view between the Lincoln Memorial & Arlington National Cemetary. He's also saying it must be taller than the Arch in Paris, celebrate 250 anniversary & most important himself! Don't we have enough of the Trump label & always the biggest. Golden angels on top doesn't do looke very American 250 celebration. How about flag, E, W & B? Please!

Hopefully
Mary Naumann

Official Public
Comment: Opposition to the
Proposed Triumphal Arch
(September 2026 Review)

Dear Commissioners,

As a 74- year- old widow and the daughter of World War II veterans, I am writing to express my formal opposition to the proposed 250-foot triumphal arch. Furthermore, my late husband's father, Earl Marks, was a Purple Heart recipient who was personally decorated by General Omar Bradley-a framed photograph of which hangs proudly in my home. My objection to this project is not political; it is deeply rooted in my family's legacy of military service and a profound reverence for our nation's sacred civic spaces.

General Bradley, the "GI's General", epitomized a military tradition of humility and collective sacrifice. The proposed 250-foot arch, by virtue of its massive scale and individual focus, fundamentally clashes with the quiet, reflective dignity that honors our wounded and fallen service members.

Structurally, this arch on Columbia Island would severely obstruct the historic, symbolic line of sight between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery—where General Bradley himself is buried. A monument of this scale disrupts the intentional, peaceful landscape designed to reflect national unity and solemn remembrance.

I urge the Commission to uphold the Height Act of 1910, protect the integrity of our military vistas, and deny final approval for this disruptive project.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Marks

Damascus, Oregon

[redacted]
Sodus Point NY 14555
September 22, 2026

Dear National Capital Planning Commission:

I spent much of my adult life working in Washington DC and living in Arlington, Virgina. I brought dozens of visiting relatives and friends to the Nation's capital, walking over the Memorial Bridge to Arlington Cemetery to pay homage to our fallen service members who gave their lives to protect this country and our allies. Those who reside at the Arlington Cemetery paid dearly to defend Americans and the world.

When you walk across Memorial Bridge, you are on a path to hallowed ground. You see the result of American commitment to the world that we Americans have honored for generations. This hallowed ground displays our respect for those who gave their lives to allow our freedom to continue.

The proposed arch is not only a physical danger to planes landing at and taking off from National Airport but also an affront to those who gave their lives, to those who are defending us today, and to the entire American populace. At 250 feet tall, it will eclipse the 99 ft high Lincoln Memorial. It will be a garish symbol of something we are not – of authoritarian power acquiescing to one man, not the American people. It will dwarf the Lincoln Memorial and ruin the historic, solemn landscape. We are not China, Russia, or North Korea, and we don't want to be. And now he wants to make this a site to station snipers and drones. For what purpose? To pick off protesters?

This arch and its pedestrian viewpoint will impinge on sacred ground, making a spectator sport of grieving relatives and friends who come to Arlington Cemetery almost daily to bury our heroes. This arch will not represent the American people.

Please do not spend our tax dollars on a fake monument that dirties our nation's capital. We the People DO NOT WANT IT!

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Hayden

Laurie A. Hayden

Harold Walker
[redacted]
Washington, DC 20002

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street. NW
Suite 500N
Washington, DC 20004

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed for your review and consideration is a copy of my statement regarding the proposed construction of an arch by the Trump administration.

Please know that I am available to discuss these matters. I can be reached by email at [redacted]

Sincerely.

Harold Walker

STATEMENT OF HAROLD WALKER
IN SUPPORT OF THE NCPC DECLINING
THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ARCH

My name is Harold Walker. I was privileged to serve and be honorably discharged from the United States Army. My service from August 1960 to August 1963 included sixteen months in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division and seven months in Germany with the 1st Infantry Division.

I am writing to recommend to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) that a permit not be issued for the construction of an arch in the District of Columbia. It is my understanding that the subject arch would severely impact the sight lines between the Lincoln Memorial and the Arlington Cemetery, both of which have long military histories. I believe these military histories far outweigh any consideration for the construction of the proposed arch. Further to this, as a veteran, I believe the current configuration should not be altered to satisfy the ego of a person who did not serve one day in the military.

Please know that I am available to discuss these matters further. I can be reached by email at [redacted] Thank you kindly.

National Capital Planning Commission

401 9th St. NW

Suite 500 N

Washington, DC 20004

To whom it may concern:

I think I saw somewhere that the commission will have a meeting in early October to talk about Trump's arch. I've been to DC once to visit the sites. The most spectacular site was Arlington National Cemetery. Every one that can should express their dismay that there is even a slight chance that this could be built. The cemetery is sacred ground. It can't be allowed. Trump never served a day in the service and still says it will be built to honor him.

It honors people who gave their lives for a chance to be buried there. Please say no to Trump.

Very truly yours,

Dennis Rohwer

Dennis Rohwer, a Vietnam Vetern, USN

[redacted]

Mankato, MN 56001

September 9, 2026

Roberta S. O'Brien
[redacted]
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Public Comment Opposing the Proposed Triumphal Arch

Dear National Planning Commission Members:

I am submitting this comment in absolute and blistering opposition to the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle. This project is dishonest in its stated purpose, disrespectful to veterans, fiscally reckless, and legally indefensible.

I personally heard President Trump say on television that the arch was being built "for ME." Not "for veterans." Not "for America." For him. The fact that he later tried to rebrand it as a veterans' monument is not just misleading, it is a blatant lie. No federal monument should be built on the basis of deception, ego, or personal glorification.

Veterans and Gold Star families have already said NO, loudly and clearly. They called the project *entirely inappropriate* and *bordering on sacrilege*. They object to tourists overlooking funerals from an observation deck and to the destruction of historic sight lines between Arlington House and the Lincoln Memorial. Yet the administration is plowing ahead anyway, defying the very people this monument supposedly honors. It is sickening.

Noise pollution from 20-hour-per-day construction will desecrate hallowed ground. Arlington holds funerals every weekday, approximately 30 funerals per day. Families burying loved ones will be forced to endure jackhammers, cranes, and construction chaos. This is not honoring veterans, it is violating their final resting place.

And what is the hurry? If this arch is truly not "for Trump," then why the frantic rush? Congress has not approved it. The public has not asked for it. Veterans do not want it. No cost estimate has been released. The National Park Service already faces a massive maintenance backlog and is short-funded. The only explanation for the urgency is Trump's personal desire to see his own triumphal arch rise as fast as possible.

The project is an exorbitant expense that neither Congress nor the American people have authorized. Taxpayers are being asked to shoulder a massive, opaque, vanity-driven construction project with no transparency and no legal foundation under the Commemorative Works Act.

Trump's track record with monuments and federal projects should disqualify him from building anything without strict oversight. His projects have been over budget, behind schedule, destructive to existing historic features, and executed without proper consultation. This arch is no different.

A 250-foot triumphal arch, larger than the Arc de Triomphe, is historically inappropriate, architecturally incompatible, and completely unnecessary. It would overshadow existing monuments, violate long-standing principles of scale and context, and add nothing of value to *we the people*.

For all these reasons: dishonesty, disrespect, fiscal irresponsibility, environmental harm, legal violations, and the desecration of sacred ground, I urge the National Capital Planning Commission to reject final approval of the Triumphal Arch.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta S. O'Brien

Roberta Slanina O'Brien
[redacted]

The Reflecting Pool debacle was probably the least of the horrors, and it was inconscionable. Enough is enough! This man is destruction personified and you must keep the arch from happening. Thank you,

Sincerely,
Jan Taylor

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen, 9/9

As guardians of the precious trust our capital's sacred spaces represent, please do not allow the travesty of President Trump's plans for the giant arch (not to mention the horrifying destruction of the East Wing of the White House, the desecration of the White House grounds and gardens, the unbelievable threat of the overpowering ballroom, and the possible demolition of the Kennedy Center). Please protect us from this demented monster currently leading this excuse for an administration! Washington was beautiful and can be again. You must stop the Trump Arch!

JACKSONVILLE FPDC 320
24 SEP 2025 PM 3

Washington's monuments, landscapes, and public buildings are our shared national heritage — NOT a president's personal canvas.

You have a duty to protect the dignity of the capital.

Thank you! Prevent alterations that compromise the historic character or aesthetic integrity of our capital.

Mr. Paoletta,

Washington's monuments, landscapes, & public buildings are our shared national heritage — not a president's personal canvas. You have a duty (not to Trump) to protect the dignity of the capital. Prevent alterations that compromise the historic character or aesthetic integrity of our capital. Your legacy & decision-making stand in the balance. Are you with the American people or kissing Trump's rong?

Claudia 32344

Chair, Nat'l Capital Planning Commission

Washington's monuments, landscapes, and public buildings are our shared national heritage - not a president's personal canvas. You ~~have~~ have a duty to protect the dignity of the capital. Prevent alterations that compromise the historic character or aesthetic integrity of our Capital!

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Dany Allen

32301

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In Glacier National Park
Photograph by Ansel Adams
From *Ansel Adams: The National Park Service Photographs*,
a TINY FOLIO™ available from Abbeville Press.

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8 SEP 2026 PM 12 L

Mail a smile.
Thinking of You
USA postcard

Will-
Stop Construction of this Arch! Please! No one wants it- that money needs to be spent elsewhere Like in OUR North. Parks!

Will Schaaf
National Cap. Planning Comm.
401 9th St. NW
#500N
Washington DC
20009

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I oppose the construction of an "Arc de Trump" on Memorial Circle. Do not deface our capital with this project. Please vote "no". We do not need to spend tax dollars on this!
Leslie Cossitt, Seattle WA 98103

clover

Content and balanced, people find you calming to be around. You are happiest when helping others and often find yourself playing the role of peacemaker.

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OAK

Arrington Dixon c/o
NCPC
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I oppose the construction of an "Arc de Trump" or Memorial Circle. Do not deface our Capital with this project. Please vote "NO!" We do not need to spend tax dollars on this!

Leslie Cossitt, Seattle, WA 98103

SEATTLE WA 980
24 SEP 2026 PM 3 L

Thinking of You

SWEETGUM

Muriel Bowser, NCPC
401 - 9th St. NW
Suite 500 N
Washington DC
20004

sunshine

Highly imaginative, your positive energy is magnetic. You have a great sense of humor, fueled by your bright mind and spontaneous nature.

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I oppose the construction of an "Arc de Trump" on Memorial Circle. Please vote "no". We do not need to spend tax dollars on this.

Leslie Cossitt
Seattle WA 98103

SEATTLE WA 980
24 SEP 2026 PM 3 L

Thinking of You

SWEETGUM

Rand Paul NCPC
401 - 9th St. NW
Suite 500 N
Washington DC
20004

papaya

A great champion of the helpless and defender of the underdog, you have an amazing ability to get things done and to fix anything that is broken.

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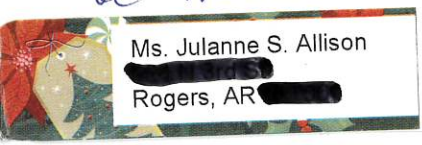
September 5, 2026

NCPC ——

Please STOP this Arch!!
I have friends who are buried at Arlington — It is a historical memorial.

The Arch, a vanity project, will be mocked.

Julie Allison



Dr. Allyson Heisey, Ph.D.
[redacted]
Spotsylvania, VA 22551

September 25, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Formal Opposition to President Trump's Proposed Triumphal Arch — Protection of Federal Land, Historic Preservation, Public Participation, and Taxpayer Accountability

Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

I am writing as a Virginia resident to formally express my strong opposition to President Trump's proposed triumphal arch in Washington, D.C., and to request that my concerns be included in the Commission's official record concerning this project.

I firmly believe that our nation's monuments should honor the people who have sacrificed, served, and dedicated their lives to the United States. Our nation's capital should commemorate the individuals and ideals that have shaped our democracy, rather than serve as a monument to a sitting president whose administration and legacy have yet to be fully evaluated by history.

I strongly oppose any proposal to associate this arch with President Trump's name or personal legacy. Regardless of whether the project is funded publicly or privately, I do not believe a sitting president should be directing the creation of monumental structures intended to celebrate his own presidency.

My concerns extend beyond the purpose of the arch itself. I am deeply troubled by the potential impact of this massive structure on the historic character, architectural integrity, and visual landscape of our nation's capital.

The area surrounding Arlington Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery is among the most historically significant landscapes in the United States. Its monuments, memorials, and carefully planned sightlines serve important commemorative purposes. A new monumental arch of this scale could substantially alter the character of this historic setting and compete visually with existing memorials that honor generations of Americans who served and sacrificed for our country.

I question whether a structure of this magnitude is consistent with the careful planning, historic preservation, and public stewardship that should guide development in our nation's capital.

These are the American people's monuments, buildings, and public spaces. They do not belong to any one president.

I am particularly concerned that the proposed structure appears to reflect the personal aesthetic preferences of the sitting president rather than a design developed through an open, independent, and publicly accountable process.

The American people deserve meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions about major changes to nationally significant places. Public hearings, transparent architectural competitions, independent design review, and serious consideration of public concerns should be essential parts of the process.

I am especially troubled that, as of September 24, 2026, it appears that work on the proposed arch may already have begun. If construction or site preparation is proceeding before all required reviews and approvals have been completed, I believe the public deserves an explanation of what work has been authorized, who authorized it, and whether the historic, environmental, and architectural consequences have been fully considered.

I respectfully request that the Commission clarify whether any work has begun, whether final project approval has been granted, and whether the public has been afforded all opportunities for participation required under applicable federal planning and historic-preservation procedures.

My concerns also extend to what I perceive as a broader pattern of presidentially directed changes and construction projects involving some of our nation's most historically significant public spaces, including the White House.

The White House is known as the People's House for a reason. It belongs to the American people, as do the nationally significant monuments, memorials, and public spaces in our nation's capital. These places represent our collective history, democratic institutions, and generations of Americans who have contributed to this country.

I am deeply concerned that decisions involving these public spaces appear to be driven by the personal preferences of one individual rather than by meaningful consultation with the American people.

I also strongly oppose the use of taxpayer funds for the proposed arch, including construction, infrastructure, site preparation, security, and future maintenance. At a time when Americans face rising costs of living, healthcare expenses, housing challenges, and

other financial pressures, I object to federal funds being directed toward monuments intended to commemorate a sitting president.

However, even if private donations finance this project, I remain opposed to its construction. Private funding does not eliminate the public's legitimate interest in protecting federal land, historic landscapes, and nationally significant public spaces. Nor should private financing allow a president to bypass meaningful public participation or established planning and preservation standards.

I respectfully request that the National Capital Planning Commission give serious consideration to the following concerns:

1. The proposed arch's scale and potential adverse effects on the historic landscape surrounding Arlington Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery.
2. The preservation of significant views, sightlines, open spaces, and the architectural integrity of the existing memorial landscape.
3. Whether the proposed structure is consistent with the long-term planning principles and historic character of Washington, D.C.
4. Whether meaningful public participation has occurred and whether the views of the American people have been adequately considered.
5. Whether alternatives have been thoroughly evaluated, including preserving the existing historic landscape without constructing the proposed arch.
6. Whether construction or site preparation has begun before completion of all required reviews and final approvals.
7. Whether the project's full construction, infrastructure, security, and long-term maintenance costs have been disclosed, including any anticipated federal expenditures.
8. Whether sufficient safeguards exist to prevent nationally significant public spaces from being transformed according to the personal preferences of a sitting president without appropriate public consultation and independent review.

I believe the National Capital Planning Commission has an important responsibility to protect the long-term integrity of our nation's capital and to ensure that decisions affecting federal land and historic public spaces serve the interests of the American people, both now and for generations to come.

Our national monuments should reflect our shared history, collective sacrifices, and enduring democratic principles. They should honor those who have served this country and helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy—not serve as expressions of an individual president's personal legacy.

I strongly oppose the proposed triumphal arch, regardless of whether it is financed through public or private funds, and I urge the Commission to reconsider the project in light of its potential effects on the historic landscape, the concerns of the American public, and the importance of preserving our nation's capital for future generations.

I respectfully request that my comments be entered into the official public record and would appreciate a written response addressing the concerns raised in this letter.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and responsibility in protecting the historic character and integrity of our nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Dr. Allyson Heisey, Ph.D.

I oppose the construction of an "Arc de Trump" on Memorial Circle. Please vote "no". We do not need to spend tax dollars on this.

Leslie Cossitt,
Seattle, WA 98103

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MAPLE

Linda Argo, NCPC
401 - 9th St. NW
Suite 500N
Washington DC
20004

peacock

You are a visionary and do not let the expectations of others confine you. Bold and passionate, you let your true personality shine.

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I oppose the construction of an "Arc de Trump" on Memorial Circle. Do not deface our Capital with this project. Please vote "No" We do not need to spend tax dollars on this!

Leslie Cossitt, Seattle WA 98103

SEATTLE WA 980
24 SEP 2026 PM 3 L

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MAPLE

James Comer, NCPC
401 - 9th St. NW
Suite 500 N.
Washington DC
20004

blossom

Friends flock to you for advice and support. You are sweet and kind, but also know how to say what needs to be said.

20004-2155

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We warn you not to knuckle under to President Trump's expensive arch in this time of war and hungry citizens. Vote Vets and Gold Star Moms do not want it distracting from Arlington and the Lincoln Memorial.

Mr. Paoletta, Levenbach, Blair - your names will be "mud", although you will never go hungry. Get a backbone. He's almost gone and so unpopular. He doesn't deserve a monument to himself. Linda Hartner, sec. for Silver Lake Neighbors, Livingston County, Michigan

JACKSONVILLE RPDC 320
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Washington's monuments, landscapes & public buildings are our shared nat'l heritage - not a president's personal canvas. You have a duty to protect the dignity of the capital. Please prevent alterations that compromise the historic character or aesthetic integrity of our capital.

Thank you, Emily 32312

Chair, Nat'l Capital Planning Commission
401 9th St NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC
20004

Jill Doran Public Comment
Seattle, WA

I appreciate the desire to commemorate America's 250th anniversary with a meaningful monument. However, I have significant concerns about the proposed Triumphal Arch that warrant careful consideration before construction proceeds.

First, I want to raise questions about compliance with the Commemorative Works Act. The planned location at Memorial Circle sits within Lady Bird Johnson Park, a National Park Service site designated under "Area I" of the Act, which carries strict requirements for placement and design in the nation's capital . The administration should clarify what specific statutory exemptions allow proceeding without full Congressional authorization, as required for monuments on such protected land. Beyond the legal questions, I'm deeply concerned about what this structure would do to the historic integrity of our nation's most sacred spaces.

The proposed arch's unprecedented height and scale will overwhelm the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery—the arch would be double the size of the Lincoln Memorial and would risk disrespecting this powerful and beloved monument .These locations carry profound meaning for our nation, and the careful balance of sightlines between them has been preserved for generations.

I'm also troubled that the required environmental and public process appears to be moving faster than the law allows. While 100% of public comments submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts opposed the project, required environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act have not been completed, and affected stakeholders including Arlington National Cemetery, the National Park Service and the DC State Historic Preservation Office must still be formally consulted.

When I look at the sheer scale of what's being proposed, the numbers speak for themselves. The approved design would tower more than twice as tall as the Lincoln Memorial, which is 99 feet tall, and close to half the height of the Washington Monument . That's an enormous structure for a location that's already defined by monuments of historical significance.

This level of proportionality in the nation's memorial landscape deserves more rigorous justification than timeline pressures allow. I believe we can honor America's history without compromising the integrity of the spaces we've already dedicated to that history. Before groundbreaking, the administration should complete all required environmental and historic preservation assessments with genuine stakeholder input, including from Arlington National Cemetery leadership and the preservation community. That's not about delaying progress—it's about getting this right.

Edith J. Beauchamp

Greenbelt, MD

July 8, 2026

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500,
Washington, DC 20004

IN RE: Hearing on the "Triumphal Arch" for July 9, 2026

Dear Commission Members:

I know in your roles you understand and appreciate the necessity of zoning and planning cooperation in large-scale building projects. I am attaching a "Letter to the Editor" I wrote some months ago to the *Washington Post*. For space and other considerations my letter was not printed, but nonetheless my comments and past experience may raise concerns for the safety of Maryland residents and visitors coming into our area via National Airport (versus using BWI or Dulles) if the President's plan to put a 250 foot arch right at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery is allowed. In particular, a 250 ft height structure, built right against the Potomac River, has never been approved before.

For example, when the Air Force erected its 270ft height memorial near Arlington National Cemetery, it was set considerably back from the river and the airplane approach for landing at Reagan National Airport. Many years ago, the original development team planning to develop what is now the National Harbor development in Prince George's County (led by the late Peter O'Malley at the time) requested permission to erect a tall high-rise building near the river, and was turned down for similar height concerns for the Reagan National traffic (at that time called National Airport) 45 years ago. I believe this may be one of the reasons that the MGM National Harbor building is also set back from the river.

There was just a catastrophic loss of life near the Maryland side by Joint Base Bolling which was a collision between a helicopter and commercial aircraft on approach to Reagan National Airport at a height of 250 feet. At 250 feet, the proposed arch would equate to a 22-story tall building! Common sense would suggest the President's plan is potentially dangerous. However, I am suggesting you and your colleagues urgently convene a joint FAA and NTSB review process to inform your own processes, which might ask the FAA to then direct the NTSB to conduct a simulator-enhanced review of what the proposed "Triumphal Arch" might do to the airport approach for commercial air traffic (on approach or takeoff) from Reagan National Airport.

In particular, large building height projects close to a major Metropolitan airport have a specific review process, mandated in law, that they receive approval from the FAA.

This morning, I learned that <u>there has been no public comment process opened by the FAA in its mandated "obstruction evaluation group" process</u> for tall structure construction projects, through

which affected communities may comment on the proposed "Triumphal Arch" that the President plans to build on the Memorial Circle land which is technically within the DC boundaries, although on the Virginia side of Memorial Bridge. **Without such a proper FAA review process to invite public comments, the Airline Pilots Association, for example, cannot formally publicly add its concerns.**

The NTSB notes that the airplanes approaching Reagan National to land on Runway #33 must make a "dogleg" turn to the right, as they come South along the river, right about where the arch is proposed to be built, a difficult maneuver requiring considerable pilot experience. Further, that **that runway at Reagan National is the single busiest runway in use in the entire US in terms of the volumes of incoming commercial landings.**

At a minimum, there MUST be a "Notice of Proposed Rule-Making" or ADVANCED NPRM process on this Arch!

Your own "architectural review" of the blueprints for the proposed arch therefore are premature, as the safety process which has not yet been scheduled, I believe, will demonstrate that this arch CANNOT be built in that location.

Sincerely,

Edith J. Beauchamp

(consider this signed electronically)

Dear Commission, Chairman Scharf, Members,

I write in strong support of the proposed Washington Triumphal Arch.

Furthermore, where a silent majority of Americans who look forward to seeing this inspiring arch built will not be writing in to these public comments, and I could have been among them, I do write for a further purpose too, which I believe an equally large and silent majority will also feel.

I urge reconsideration of the recent decision to remove the raised platform and four lions from the design.

The revised version may be simpler. It may be easier. It may even be more fashionably humble & streamline elegant by contemporary standards now so distant from the McKim Mead & White era with their intended Lions at the Lincoln Memorial.

Yet it is unquestionably less memorable, less distinctive, and less inspiring.

The original proposal possessed something rare in modern civic design: the ambition to create an astonishingly uplifting amazing landmark across many dimensions.

The lions and raised platform were not decorative embellishments attached to an otherwise complete monument. They were the elements that transformed the Arch from an object into a place.

Without them, visitors arrive at a large structure standing on a traffic island.

With them, visitors arrive at a destination.

That distinction matters.

Great monuments are not experienced only when standing directly beneath them or on top of them. They begin working long before one arrives. They appear in the distance. They announce themselves. They create anticipation.

The raised platform and lions accomplished precisely this, and at the right eye level.

The platform lifted the monument above the surrounding roadway and gave it dignity. It established a clear threshold between the everyday world of traffic and movement and the ceremonial world of commemoration. Visitors did not simply walk over to where the Arch starts rising from the same ground that the cars are

driving on; they approached a visible ascent and then eventually upon arrival - engaged it, rising upwards to enter and stand within the sanctuary of its own magnificent world.

The lions strengthened this experience further. They marked the entrance to the monument's domain. They grounded the composition visually, balancing the soaring winged figures above with forms of equal confidence below. They provided the sense that one was approaching somewhere massively important, and then in passing between them on the way up the steps one distinctly shifts through a boundary and is now inside somewhere safe, sanctified, into which one has now arrived.

This becomes especially true when considering how far the Arch is from anywhere else and people set off on long pilgrimages to it.

Without the lions or platform, the Arch in this location feels less like a destination and more like an object placed in space.

If the argument against them is that the arch rooted in the traffic at ground level works well in Paris, one needs to recall that the site in Paris is a massive flattened hill top and is much wider.

If resolving the proposed tunnel removal with keeping the raised platform and lions seemed unworkable, please urge further exploration. For it is easily possible, and the two should not be seen as mutually exclusive.
Drivers at the lights can see something other than an 8 foot wall, easily replaceable with curving steps or ramps that can both support security and accessibility features and incorporate scope for processions.

There has been discussion within the advisory Commission of Fine Arts that lions are somehow inappropriate here apparently derived from an observation they are not natural to North America.

This is a curious standard for a triumphal arch.

Neither triumphal arches, nor classical geometry, nor Palladian architecture, nor the broader architectural language from which this monument draws its inspiration are native or natural to North America. The English words proposed for the monument's inscriptions are also not native to North America. The name Abraham and the name Lincoln are each themselves from different continents.

Civilizations are not built by limiting themselves to what originated locally. They are built by adopting worthy ideas and transforming them into something uniquely their own.

The question is not whether lions originated here.

The question is whether they belong here.

I believe they do.

For thousands of years lions have stood at the entrances to palaces, libraries, memorials, civic buildings, and public squares because they communicate something immediately understandable: ability, vigilance, confidence, dignity, endurance, security, and protection. Their corollary signal broadcast with equal strength; 'something here worthy of protecting'.

We should ask if there is anything under the golden sun more deserving and worth the signal protection of four magnificent golden lions than quarter of a millennia of America.

They are among the most successful sculptural forms ever devised because people instinctively respond to them.

Children love them. Visitors photograph them. Residents adopt them as symbols of their city. They become familiar companions to public life. Over time they become inseparable from the places they inhabit.

The proposed golden lions had precisely that potential.

A newly designed form of Golden lion, iconic and recognisable, like the very American MGM roaring Lion, or the stylish and powerful Patience and Fortitude outside New York's Public Library, will be a new great American creation to bring joy recognition and affection in the hearts and imaginations of future generations when they think of their Capital city.

Lion statuaries also need not be laying down but can be alert, upright on all fours, forward leaning, prepared to jump, or carefully standing, watchfully like soldiers ready and present. Columbus Monument Barcelona and Vienna's Hofberg and Palace of Justice demonstrate this with both dignity and environmental power.

Washington DC should not aspire merely to construct another arch.

It should aspire to construct the arch.

A monument commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States should not be content to be a diminished echo of Paris.

It should strive to become something that visitors from Paris come to see.

The lions and platform gave the design that possibility.

Compared to all other arches, they made it distinctive.

They made it unmistakable.

They made it memorable.

Most importantly, they made it American.

Not because lions are American by origin, but because America has always excelled at taking inherited traditions and reimagining them with greater confidence, greater scale, and greater optimism.

This monument stands near Arlington National Cemetery, one of the most solemn landscapes in the nation. Arlington speaks powerfully of sacrifice. The Arch should speak just as powerfully of what those sacrifices preserved.

It should not merely commemorate endurance. It should celebrate achievement.

It should announce, with confidence and visible splendour, that the Republic survived, that the Union endured, and that nearly two hundred and fifty years after its founding the American experiment remains radiantly alive.

The original design understood this.

The raised platform elevated the monument physically and symbolically.

The lions gave it presence, character, and warmth.

Together they transformed the proposal from a competent monument into an extraordinary one, balancing the winged radiant heavens of the monument with an equally radiant grounded earth at the level of human approach.

Future generations will live with whatever is built here being part of their reality. They will largely not remember today's arguments. They will simply inherit the result and make good sense of something that already exists.

If this monument is to stand for centuries, let it be built with sufficient ambition that future generations look upon it and wonder why anyone ever considered settling for anything less.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the National Capital Planning Commission and any interested reader to support reinstatement of the four lions and the raised platform.

It is the gift of America that our life on Earth can always improve and life itself can get bigger and better, when we have the wish and the will to make it so.

Let this monument fearlessly re-state the fact of this gift.

That is not achieved in half measures or in a slightly modified apologetic measure of now carefully toned-down splendour.

Surely, let this monument both soar and roar through an irrepressibly happy and confidently elevated palette of firmly fulsome splendour worthy of the amazing phenomenon it rightly commemorates.

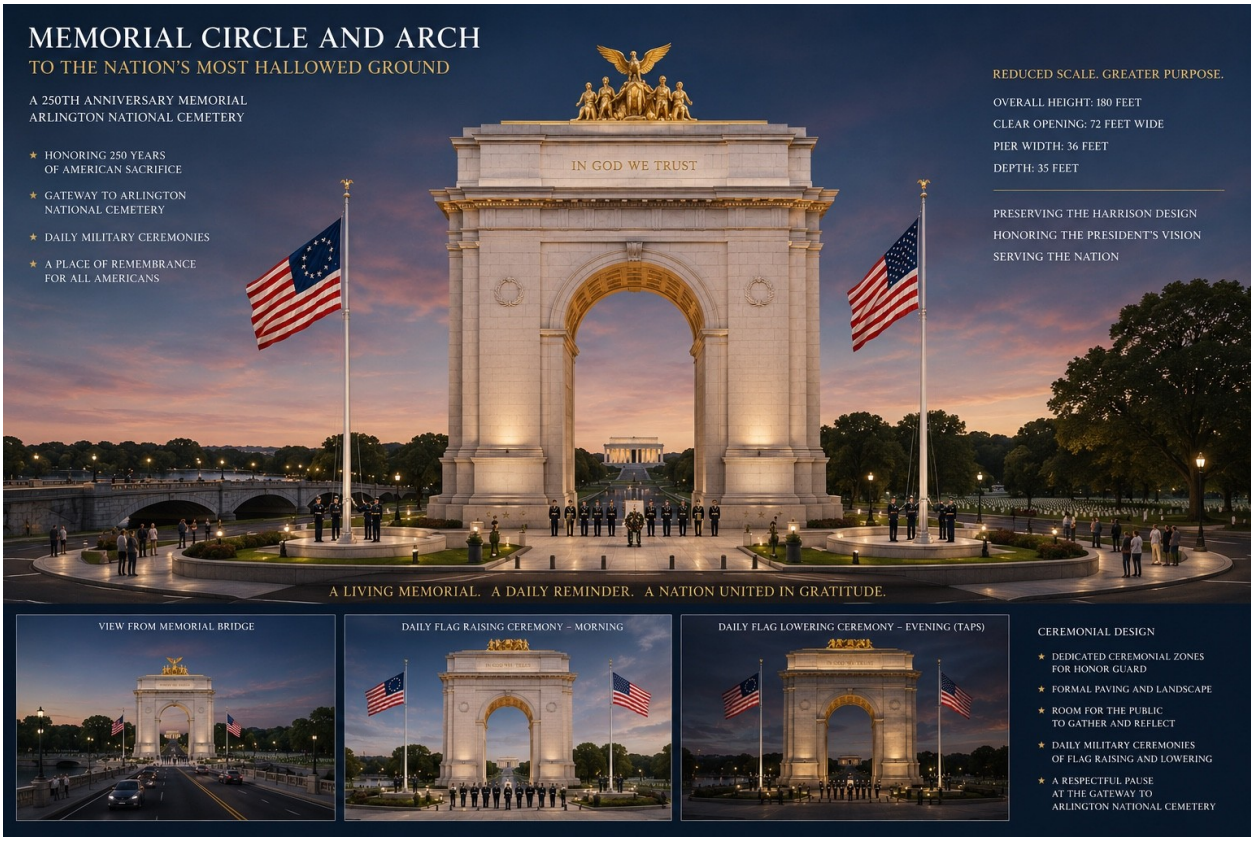
In hope,

Respectfully submitted,

Tristan Teller

Memorial Circle and Arch
To the Nation's Most Hallowed Ground

Updated Submission to Chairman Mark Paoletta
and the National Capital Planning Commission
September 3, 2026
NCPC File No. 8778



Concept rendering illustrating the proposed memorial arch, ceremonial circle, flag ceremonies, and public remembrance at Arlington National Cemetery.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

To: Chairman Mark Paoletta and Members of the National Capital Planning Commission
From: James Snyder
Date: September 3, 2026
Reference: NCPC File No. 8778
Subject: Memorial Circle and Arch — A Constructive Alternative for Continued Study
Purpose. Please accept the attached concept as a constructive alternative to the current New Monumental Arch proposal. It supports a major commemorative gateway and retains the strength of the Harrison design, while offering a lower 180-foot scale, a 72-foot clear opening, and a stronger relationship to Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Bridge, and the surrounding landscape.

A permanent entrance under unified stewardship. This alternative proposes transferring Memorial Circle, the memorial site, and Memorial Avenue west of Arlington Memorial Bridge from National Park Service administration to the Department of the Army for incorporation into Arlington National Cemetery. The circle and avenue would become the cemetery's permanent ceremonial entrance, with unified responsibility for security, visitor management, landscaping, ceremonies, and long-term maintenance, subject to the necessary legal, transportation, and historic-preservation reviews.

Cemetery-facing flags and public viewing. The two principal flag installations would be oriented toward the cemetery entrance and coordinated with accessible gathering areas, allowing people entering or leaving Arlington to observe flag ceremonies directly. The thirteen-star and fifty-star flags would frame the nation's 250-year journey while connecting the gateway to the cemetery and its visitors.

A permanent Medal of Honor roll. The memorial would incorporate a complete national register naming every Medal of Honor recipient in the nation's history. Unlike the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes inside a secured federal complex, this permanent roll would occupy an outdoor ceremonial landscape readily accessible to Arlington visitors. Dignified space would be reserved for future recipients, and an accessible digital resource could present each recipient's citation and story.

A ceremonial capability, not an unsupported promise. A full formal ceremony every day should not be assumed until staffing, security, traffic control, and maintenance are shown to be sustainable. The place should support routine flag protocol and full public ceremonies on a workable schedule — including Memorial Day, National Medal of Honor Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, and other national occasions. If a daily program later proves practical, the design could accommodate it; the memorial's meaning would not depend upon it.

Request to the Commission. I respectfully ask NCPC to study this alternative alongside the current proposal before final action, including the proposed jurisdictional transfer, scale, views, visitor experience, pedestrian and traffic safety, operations, and consultation with the Medal of Honor community. This approach can preserve monumentality while giving the gateway a clear, enduring public purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
James Snyder

Historic Context: McClellan Gate



Historic McClellan Gate at Arlington National Cemetery, completed in 1879.

Updated Statement to the National Capital Planning Commission

Chairman Paoletta and members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

My name is James Snyder, and I respectfully submit this updated statement in support of a memorial arch and ceremonial gateway at Arlington National Cemetery, with careful refinement of its scale, proportion, and ceremonial setting, as part of the nation's 250th anniversary.

I also want to acknowledge at the outset that refinement and careful study of the concept are both appropriate and necessary. This is one of the most important symbolic landscapes in the United States, and any intervention here must aspire to dignity, restraint, permanence, and ceremonial purpose.

When McClellan Gate was completed in 1879 — little more than one hundred years after the American Revolution — it clearly established the ceremonial entrance to the original Arlington Cemetery grounds of its era.

At that time Arlington primarily commemorated the dead of the Civil War and the

preservation of the Union itself.

The gate records:

“Here rest 15,585 of the 315,555 citizens who died in defense of our country from 1861 to 1865.”

And inscribed below are the words:

“On fame’s eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead.”

Since then Arlington National Cemetery has expanded dramatically in both size and national meaning. Today more than 400,000 Americans are buried there, representing generations who defended the republic across every major conflict since the Civil War.

Yet despite this extraordinary evolution, the principal approach from Memorial Bridge still lacks a clearly defined ceremonial gateway appropriate to the nation’s foremost military cemetery as America marks its 250th anniversary.

Instead, Memorial Circle functions primarily as a large traffic rotary divided among roadway, transportation, and park-management functions rather than as a unified ceremonial entrance precinct associated directly with Arlington National Cemetery and the traditions of military honor observed there throughout the year.

This alternative proposes transferring Memorial Circle, the memorial site, and Memorial Avenue west of Arlington Memorial Bridge from National Park Service administration to the Department of the Army for incorporation into Arlington National Cemetery. Together they would become the cemetery’s permanent ceremonial entrance under unified stewardship.

And the symbolic composition already exists:

- Lincoln Memorial
- Memorial Bridge
- Memorial Avenue
- Joint Base Myer–Henderson Hall
- The Old Guard
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- The nearby Netherlands Carillon
- And Arlington Cemetery itself

This proposal simply asks that we thoughtfully complete that composition during the 250th anniversary of the republic.

The memorial gateway should be grand yet disciplined in form — scaled to create a dignified ceremonial threshold within the Memorial Bridge composition while remaining subordinate to the great memorials and landscape of Washington and Arlington.

The 180-foot scale illustrated in this submission is offered as a serious alternative for study. It would retain monumentality and a generous 72-foot clear opening while better balancing the arch with the Lincoln Memorial, Memorial Bridge, Arlington House, and the cemetery landscape.

Flanking the great archway would stand two monumental American flags:

- The thirteen-star flag of the Revolution
- The fifty-star flag of the United States today

Together they symbolize the full 250-year journey of the republic:
from a fragile revolutionary experiment to the enduring constitutional nation of today.

The heart of this idea is not merely the arch. It is the opportunity for public ceremony and remembrance.

Throughout the year at Arlington:

- Rifle salutes are fired
- Taps is sounded
- American flags are folded and presented to grieving families
- And the republic renews its covenant with those who preserved it

These ceremonies are among the last great shared civic rituals in American life.

Ceremonial raising and lowering of the flags, on a schedule determined by the responsible agencies, could transform this place into a living memorial — not only to the honored dead, but to the enduring idea of constitutional self-government.

This proposal would also help establish a true ceremonial entrance sequence associated directly with Arlington National Cemetery, the Army, and the traditions of military honor observed there throughout the year.

The frequency and staffing of formal ceremonies, as well as flag sizes and ceremonial displays, could vary according to operational capacity, weather conditions, ceremonial requirements, and national occasions.

Benjamin Franklin was asked what kind of government the Constitutional Convention had created. His answer was simple:

“A republic, if you can keep it.”

We have kept it for 250 years. The United States remains the world’s oldest continuing constitutional republic operating under the same written Constitution. That continuity did not happen by accident. It was preserved by generations willing to serve, sacrifice, and, when necessary, die for it.

That sacrifice must be honored.

President Lincoln never crossed Memorial Bridge. He never saw Arlington become what it is today — the resting place of generations who defended the Union and constitutional government. Yet the symbolic journey from Lincoln to Arlington already exists. This memorial gateway would finally provide that journey with a ceremonial civic culmination worthy of its setting.

George Washington and Pierre L’Enfant planned this capital for centuries, not election cycles. They understood that a great republic requires a great capital capable of expressing national ideals through ceremony, memory, landscape, and monumental public space.

At this anniversary moment, we have an opportunity to create not simply another structure, but a lasting place of honor — where future generations may gather to remember the sacrifices required to preserve free government.

And perhaps, during scheduled flag ceremonies, even traffic, cyclists, visitors, and hurried commuters might pause together in shared remembrance. Americans already stop for school buses and funeral processions. Surely at the nation’s most hallowed ground, we can pause briefly to honor those who preserved the republic itself.

As the project advances toward final review, I respectfully ask the Commission to preserve the strength of the Harrison design while refining its scale and proportion; pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic circulation; safety; landscape; the proposed jurisdictional transfer; the Medal of Honor roll; and ceremonial function.

Thank you.

Ceremonial Organization and Memorial Circle Concept



Illustrative ceremonial organization of Memorial Circle and the Arlington memorial gateway; ceremony frequency and operating protocols would be determined with the responsible agencies.

Key Conceptual Themes

- Transfer of Memorial Circle and Memorial Avenue to Arlington National Cemetery as its permanent ceremonial entrance.
- Evolution of McClellan Gate's historic role into a modern national ceremonial gateway.
- Cemetery-facing flags and viewing areas connecting visitors with scheduled flag ceremonies.
- Strengthening of the symbolic Lincoln Memorial–Memorial Bridge–Arlington sequence.
- A complete Medal of Honor roll and a flexible program of military ceremony and public remembrance.
- Architectural restraint and compatibility with the monumental core landscape.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alternate Design Proposal: **The American Sentinels Monument (Revised 10/19/2026)**
NCPC Project File: #8778
Siting Location: Memorial Circle Corridor / Memorial Avenue, Washington, D.C.
Submitted By: Gregory F. Bailey (Private U.S. citizen and Arizona Resident)
Date: November 4, 2026
Project Budget: Approximately $948,200 (Including Contingency)



I. VISION & SIGNIFICANCE

The American Sentinels Monument is a proposed public monument complex designed to stand as a solemn tribute to the service, bravery, and sacrifice of United States veterans laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Positioned strategically within Memorial Circle, the monument creates a powerful narrative and architectural bridge over the Potomac River, directly linking the historic expanse of the National Mall with the sacred grounds of Arlington.

The twin obelisks are deliberately designed to emerge as miniature architectural mirrors of the Washington Monument, honoring the historical lineage of America's defenders. By positioning the 30-foot-tall obelisks 120 feet apart they beautifully frame the line of sight between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery without obstructing it. The monument acts as a perpetual visual guardian—a pair of American Sentinels watching over those who served.

II. COMMEMORATING OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY AND MILESTONES

The obelisks would be able to proudly commemorate our nation's birthday every July 4th. Commemorative wreaths could be hung on each side of both obelisks with 1776 on one side and the current year on the other. For example, 1776-2027 and so on. **This feature would also eliminate the perceived need to construct larger monuments to mark future milestones in our nation's history.** However, if so desired, a special commemorative bronze plaque could be added to the plaza to mark our nation's 250th birthday or future milestone birthdays.

III. ARCHITECTURAL & DESIGN PROFILE

1. Miniature Washington Monument Obelisks & Aprons

The monument features twin 30-foot-tall obelisks with a 3' x 3' base profile, replicating the classic 10:1 proportional geometry of the iconic Washington Monument. The shafts are wrapped in premium, 2-inch-thick White Honed Granite Cladding, delivering a timeless marble aesthetic while utilizing a non-reflective honed finish to minimize glare for roundabout motorists. The base of each obelisk is encircled by a protective 9-foot radius circular apron composed of interlocking grey granite pavers, bordered by a sloped, angled concrete safety curb that prevents vehicular mounting.

2. Gilded Pyramidal Caps & Lightning Protection

Evoking the famous aluminum apex of the original monument, the pyramidal caps of the American Sentinels feature a brilliant, gilded gold finish, meticulously layered using authentic, weather-resistant 23.75-Karat exterior gold leaf. To protect the structures from severe Mid-Atlantic storms, a recessed lightning protection system is integrated into the apex. A solid copper or stainless-steel lightning rod emerges subtly from the center of the gold cap, running directly down a hidden central grounding cable through the interior core of the obelisk, safely dissipating electrical surges into the deep foundation pile matrix.

3. Veteran Axis Detailing (Stars & Wreath Cleats)

The Sentinels' Stars: Mounted at a height of 20 feet on the sides of the obelisks facing the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery are 9-inch dual-tone bronze stars. These custom castings utilize a dark statuary patina body accented by a gleaming gold leaf outline.

Commemorative Wreath Cleats: Mounted at a height of 6 feet on the identical historic axes are recessed Type 316 marine-grade stainless steel cleats. They lay flush against the obelisks. These allow ceremonial wreath placements on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Wreaths Across

America. The hardware bypasses the stone cladding, anchoring directly into the concrete core to handle wind loading safely.

4. The Southwest Shoulder Honor Plaza & Access Connectors

Directly abutting the pedestrian sidewalk on the southwest shoulder of Memorial Circle, a formal honor plaza is laid with durable, 3-inch-thick Grey Granite Pavers.

The Seat-Wall Barrier: To shield visitors from active sidewalk traffic and establish a solemn space for reflection, the front of the plaza features an 18-foot-long, 32-inch-high white granite seat-wall. This height was selected to provide ergonomic public seating while preserving open viewsheds.

Symmetrical Side Paths: The plaza is framed by matching entrance and exit walkways on both the left and right sides. These connect smoothly back into existing sidewalks along Memorial Drive, preventing pedestrian bottlenecking and enhancing visitor safety.

Plaza Artworks: The plaza centers around a stately white granite plinth hosting a massive 30" x 60" cast bronze dedication plaque honoring Arlington's veterans. Embedded seamlessly into the plaza ground is the 24-inch bronze American Sentinels Medallion, set on a 45-degree angled plinth to offer perfect readability for standing pedestrians.

IV. SUSTAINABLE GREEN ENERGY MATRIX

To fulfill federal directives for energy independence and minimize the ecological footprint within the National Park system, the monument integrates a self-sustaining microgrid:

Solar Paver Technology: Walkable, high-impact, slip-resistant photovoltaic (PV) solar pavers are embedded flush into specified segments of the grey granite plaza floor. These utilize a textured glass top layer that mimics the color and finish of natural stone, completely hiding traditional solar grids from street-level view.

Subterranean Battery Storage Vaults: Energy generated during daylight hours is funneled into watertight, climate-controlled subterranean utility vaults excavated beneath the plaza sub-slab. These house industrial-grade Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO4) battery banks, sized to provide 48 hours of autonomous backup power.

Solid-State LED Lighting: Low-voltage linear LED light strips are recessed flush inside the inner parameter of the angled curbs surrounding the 9' obelisk aprons, casting a uniform upward architectural wash light. Continuous, dimmable, linear LED strip lights are recessed beneath the cantilevered lip of the 32-inch plaza seat-wall and along the connector pathways for safe evening visitation.

V. SUBSURFACE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

Due to the complex riverfront geology of Columbia Island, standard shallow footings are prohibited. Geotechnical data indicates 10 to 14 feet of loose 20th-century fill dirt overlying a water table sitting just 15 feet below the surface, with solid bedrock plunging to depths exceeding 60 feet.

To guarantee generational stability against intense wind-induced overturning leverage, the monument mandates an Overnight Slurry-Drilled Skin-Friction Pile System:

Crews will drill specialized friction piles 25 to 35 feet deep into the highly compacted native soils beneath the fill layer.

Bentonite/Polymer slurry fluids will be pumped continuously into the shafts during the night drilling cycles to prevent sidewall collapse beneath the water table.

The friction piles will be locked together at grade by a heavy 4-foot-thick reinforced concrete-pile capping mat, providing a completely immovable foundation for the monument towers.

VI. COMPRESSED 4-MONTH LOGISTICAL TIMELINE

To strictly adhere to National Park Service mandates and eliminate daylight traffic delays on the critical Arlington Memorial Bridge commuter corridor, all disruptive on-site work is compressed into strict overnight windows (9:00 PM to 5:00 AM) using heavy prefabrication.

Months 1–2: Off-Site Fabrication Track (Zero Traffic Impact): Complete regulatory archaeological clearing and boring log analysis. Cast concrete cores in modular segments at a precast facility. The bronze foundry casts the plaques, medallion, and stars; master gilder packages are applied to the obelisk caps and star trims. Stone yards precision-cut and kerf-slot all granite panels.

Month 3: Overnight Subsurface Construction (9:00 PM – 5:00 AM): Inner traffic lane closures are implemented at 9:00 PM; drilling rigs mobilize to bore the 25'-35' friction piles using slurry displacement. Subterranean battery storage vaults are excavated, and reinforced concrete pile caps are poured. Site is steel plated by 5:00 AM daily.

Month 4: Rapid Overnight Assembly & Preservation (9:00 PM – 5:00 AM): A mobile crane stacks the precast concrete obelisk cores over a sequence of three nights. Masons mechanically hang the white granite cladding using a 1.5" open-air rainscreen cavity system. Solar pavers, battery systems, LED strips, and grey plaza pavers are permanently installed.

Anti-Vandalism Finishes: Masons apply an invisible, breathable sacrificial microcrystalline wax-polymer coating to the stone (fully compliant with NPS Preservation Brief 38) and advanced satin-finish self-annealing polymers to the bronze to ensure any future graffiti can be cleanly remediated with hot water or mild solvents without degrading the monument.

VII. FINANCIAL BLUEPRINT SUMMARY

1. Initial Capital Outlay

Phase 1: Pre-construction, Boring Logs & Archeological Surveys: $12,000 – $20,000

Phase 2: Overnight Slurry-Drilled Friction Pile Foundation: $75,000 – $130,000

Phase 3: Subsurface Concrete Pile Caps, Footings & Wall Substructures: $28,000 – $50,500

Phase 4: Structural Precast Concrete Cores & Wall Core Pour: $94,000 – $177,500

Phase 5: Twin 9' Aprons & Angled Safety Curbs: $18,000 – $34,000

Phase 6: White Granite Facade, Cladding & Coping System: $59,000 – $124,500

Phase 7: Southwest Plaza, Symmetrical Side Connectors & Pavers: $16,500 – $33,000

Phase 8: Solar PV Matrix, Battery Vaults & LED Electronics: $42,000 – $88,000

Phase 9: Custom Bronze Artwork, Lightning Rig & Gilded Apex Pkg: $16,500 – $38,500

Phase 10: D.C. Logistics, Night Shift Labor Premiums, Cranes & Permits: $32,000 – $68,000

Phase 11: Professional Architecture & Civil/Electrical Engineering (A/E): $48,000 – $98,500

TOTAL INITIAL ESTIMATED HARD & SOFT CAPITAL INVESTMENT: $451,000 – $862,000

2. Annual Lifecycle Preservation Fund

To ensure the American Sentinels Monument retains its pristine appearance indefinitely in a dense urban environment, a recurring annual preservation budget is established:

Bi-Annual Bronze & Gold Leaf Conservation Treatment: $2,500 – $5,000

Annual Anti-Graffiti Coating Inspection, Local Refresh & Biocidal Wash: $3,200 – $7,500

Annual Solar Grid, Micro-Inverter & LED Systems Diagnostic: $2,200 – $4,800

Biennial Joint Sealant Audit & Structural Caulking Integrity Check: $1,800 – $3,500

TOTAL PROJECTED ANNUAL RECURRING MAINTENANCE FUND: $9,700 – $20,800 / year

VIII. COMPARATIVE SITE FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

Evaluation Criteria	The American Sentinels Monument	The U.S. Triumphal Arch Proposal
Site Appropriateness & Context	**Exemplary.** Conforms precisely to the solemn, classical aesthetic of the historic Potomac riverfront. Complements neighboring memorials through architectural restraint.	**Incongruous for D.C. / Better Suited for the Vegas Strip.** The theatrical scale and multi-use tourist-hub design conflicts with a sacred commemorative space. Better suited for high-density entertainment corridors.
Estimated Overall Capital Cost	**Highly Economical** ($451k – $862k). Utilizes targeted off-site prefabrication, modest structural cores, and highly optimized skin-friction pile groups to minimize	**Astronomical (~$100 million).** High-profile multi-year commercial budget backed by extensive private donor fundraising to finance a massive, heavily carved structural frame.

	heavy structural overhead.	
Line-of-Sight (Viewshed) Impact	**Compliant & preserved.** The slender 3-foot profile of the twin obelisks and the low 32-inch plaza seat-wall conform neatly to historic vistas, maintaining the open monumental axis between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington.	**Severely Obstructive**. Lawsuits and federal reports note that the hulking base blocks and massive upper framing physically cut into and disrupt the L'Enfant Plan's primary historic sightline across Arlington Memorial Bridge.
Height Issues Aviation & Safety Hazards	**Zero Risk (30 Feet High).** Comfortably clears all local municipal limits. Does not intersect local airspace profiles or require federal navigation reviews or unduly raise	**High Risk / Regulatory Conflict (250 Feet High).** Gratuitously exceeds D.C.'s strict 130-foot building height limit. Siting less than a mile from Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA) requires a

	special safety concerns.	mandatory FAA obstruction assessment and the attachment of flashing red aviation warning lights. Becomes a high-profile target for potential terrorist attacks.
Traffic & Pedestrian Safety	**Mitigated Buffer Design**. Features an 18-foot-long seat-wall to protect visitors from sidewalk traffic, flanked by side pathways to eliminate bottlenecks. No permanent changes to existing traffic patterns are required.	**Severe Congestion / Bottlenecks.** The insertion of a multi-tiered tourist destination inside a major commuter roundabout introduces gridlock. The proposal requires permanent alterations of existing traffic flows.
Veterans' Privacy & Reverence	**Enhanced Sanctuary.** The 32-inch-high seat-wall forms an intentional	**Compromised Privacy.** Designed as a high-density commercial tourist hub

psychological boundary. This creates a quiet, reflective oasis for families and wreath-laying away from the noise of the road.	featuring an open-air observation deck and internal visitor screening lobbies. The administration's possible plan to utilize the upper decks as a "military complex" for drone and sniper defense nodes heavily conflict with a traditional reverent atmosphere.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL (Revised 10/19/2026)

Alternate Design Proposal: **The American Sentinels Monument**
NCPC Project File: #8778
Siting Location: Memorial Circle Corridor / Memorial Avenue, Washington, D.C.
Submitted By: Gregory F. Bailey (Private U.S. citizen and Arizona Resident)
Date: November 4, 2026

SECTION 1: SYSTEM PARAMETERS & FOOTPRINT

Twin Obelisks: Two 30' (Height) x 3' (Width) x 3' (Depth) structures positioned symmetrically 120 feet apart from each other, (60 feet from the center pin of Memorial Circle).

Obelisk Aprons: Each obelisk base is surrounded by a 9-foot (9') radius circular apron composed of interlocking grey granite pavers, bordered by an angled concrete safety curb.

Southwest Shoulder Plaza: A 12' x 30' pedestrian plaza situated outside the active traffic loop, featuring an 18-foot-long, 32-inch-high integrated white granite seat-wall.

Pedestrian Access Corridors: Symmetrical, matching connector sidewalks are positioned on both the left and right sides of the plaza to facilitate optimal traffic flow off the main trail system.

SECTION 2: MATERIAL & METALLURGICAL GRADES

2.1 Substructure, Aprons & Precast Cores

Concrete Core: 5,000 PSI high-early-strength, air-entrained concrete mix. Precast off-site in interlocking, modular structural segments.

Angled Apron Curbs: Cast-in-place concrete curbs featuring a sloped, angled profile to prevent vehicular mounting while ensuring clean water shedding away from the obelisk bases.

Reinforcement: ASTM A615 Grade 60 weather-resistant galvanized or epoxy-coated steel rebar to prevent concrete spalling.

2.2 Natural Stone Cladding & Finishes

Obelisk/Plinth Cladding: 2-inch-thick architectural White Honed Granite. Honed finish required to eliminate direct sun glare.

Plaza & Apron Pavers: 2-inch to 3-inch-thick Grey Granite Pavers set over a durable, flexible bitumen bedding course.

2.3 Cast Bronze Elements & Detailing

Alloy Standard: Industry-standard Statuary Silicon Bronze Alloy (Cu 95%, Si 4%, Mn 1%).

Components: One 24" back-stud mounted medallion, one 30" x 60" Veteran's dedication plaque, and four 9" decorative stars.

Star Detailing: Two stars mounted at 20' high on each obelisk. Features a deep dark-statuary patina center with a raised outline layered in 23.75-Karat exterior-grade gold leaf (gilded).

SECTION 3: GREEN ENERGY & LIGHTING INFRASTRUCTURE

3.1 Solar PV Matrix Integration

Solar Paver Technology: Walkable, high-impact, slip-resistant photovoltaic (PV) solar pavers are embedded flush directly into specified segments of the grey granite plaza paver floor.

Aesthetic Preservation: Photovoltaic units utilize a textured glass top layer that mimics the color and finish of natural grey granite, satisfying strict historic viewshed requirements by completely hiding traditional blue/black silicon grids from street-level view.

3.2 Subterranean Battery Storage Vaults

Enclosure: NEMA 4X-rated, watertight, climate-controlled subterranean utility vaults excavated beneath the plaza sub-slab.

Battery System: Industrial-grade Lithium Iron Phosphate ($LiFePO_4$) battery banks, sized to provide 48 hours of autonomous backup power. Includes automated fire-suppression modules and smart charge controllers.

3.3 Solid-State Architectural LED Lighting

Obelisk Illumination: Low-voltage, high-efficiency linear LED light strips are recessed flush inside the inner parameter of the angled curbs surrounding the 9' aprons. These provide uniform, upward architectural wash light highlighting the white granite shafts.

Plaza Accent Lighting: Continuous, dimmable, linear LED strip lights are recessed beneath the cantilevered lip of the 32-inch white granite plaza seat-wall and along the edges of the connector sidewalks to safely guide evening visitors.

SECTION 4: ENGINEERING, HARDWARE & SUBSURFACE FOUNDATION

4.1 Cladding Integration & Wreath Mounts

Fastener Specification: Type 316 Marine-Grade Stainless Steel Z-anchors and split-tail load-bearing brackets supporting a 1.5-inch open-air drainage cavity behind the granite.

Wreath Cleats: Flush-mounted, recessed Type 316 stainless steel cleats mounted at 6' high on the sides of the obelisks facing the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.

4.2 Deep Foundation / Geotechnical Slurry & Friction Pile Mandate

Subsurface Condition Criteria: Geotechnical data for the Potomac riverbank corridor confirms that solid bedrock sits at an extreme depth of 60 feet or deeper below the surface level of Memorial Circle. The upper stratum consists of 10 to 14 feet of loose 20th-century urban fill dirt, while the active groundwater table sits highly elevated at approximately 15 feet below grade.

Structural Pile Specification: The foundation must utilize an Overnight Slurry-Drilled Skin-Friction Pile System extending 25 to 35 feet deep. Piles rely on the continuous lateral surface friction of the deeply compacted native soil strata beneath the fill layer to permanently suspend the monument's load.

4.3 Integrated Lightning Protection

Apex Rod: A solid copper or stainless-steel lightning rod emerges subtly from the center pin of each gilded pyramidal cap.

Down-Conductor: A heavy-gauge braided copper grounding cable runs internally through the precast concrete core of each obelisk, bypassing all stone cladding and connecting directly to the steel subterranean pile matrix to safely ground electrical strikes.

SECTION 5: 4-MONTH COMPRESSED CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

To adhere to strict NPS rules and eliminate daylight traffic delays along the critical commuting corridor, the project utilizes a dual-track overnight execution system (9:00 PM to 5:00 AM).

[MONTH 1] — Off-Site Fabrication & Casting / Geotechnical Boring Log Analysis

[MONTH 2] — Pre-cutting Granite / Completing Foundry Castings / Electrical Pre-Wiring

[MONTH 3] — Overnight Slurry Drilling & Friction Pile Driving / Battery Vault Excavation

[MONTH 4] — Core Erection / Stone Cladding / Solar Paver & LED Integration / Protective Sealing

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SECTION 6: VANDALISM & PRESERVATION TREATMENTS

Granite Shielding: Invisible, water-based, breathable sacrificial microcrystalline wax-polymer coating (NPS Preservation Brief 38 Compliant) protecting the obelisks, aprons, and seat-wall against graffiti and organic staining.

Bronze Shielding: Clear, self-annealing satin-finish advanced polymer barrier coating sealing out UV light and preventing green copper tracking.

SECTION 7: CAPITAL & LIFECYCLE BUDGET ESTIMATE

7.1 Initial Capital Cost Outlay

Project Element / Scope	Updated Cost Range (Low)	Updated Cost Range (High)
1. Site Prep, Geotechnical Boring & Archaeological Survey **Overnight boring drills, utility lines verification, historical clearing**	$12,000	$20,000
2. Overnight Slurry-Drilled Friction Pile Foundation **Mobilization of specialized slurry drilling rigs, boring 25'-35' deep friction piles, polymer slurry management, steel pile casings**	$75,000	$130,000
3. Structural Concrete Pile Caps, Footings & Substructures **Pouring the 4-foot capping mats over friction piles and extending footings for the plaza wall**	$28,000	$50,500
4. Structural Precast Concrete Cores & Wall Core Pour **Twin 30' modular internal obelisk cores + reinforced concrete core for the 18' plaza wall**	$94,000	$177,500
5. Twin 9' Aprons & Angled Safety Curbs (NEW) **Excavation, sloped concrete safety curb forming, and laying grey granite pavers around both obelisks**	$18,000	$34,000

6. White Granite Facade, Cladding & Coping System **1,200 sq. ft. of obelisk cladding + ~160 sq. ft. of wall cladding and solid stone top coping caps**	$59,000	$124,500
7. Southwest Plaza, Symmetrical Side Connectors & Pavers **Sub-slab pour, twin side connector pathways layout, bitumen setting bed, and granite paving units**	$16,500	$33,000
8. Solar PV Matrix, Battery Vaults & LED Electronics (NEW) **Walkable solar pavers, NEMA 4X subterranean utility vaults, industrial LiFePO4 batteries, charge controllers, smart conduits, and architectural LED strip fixtures**	$42,000	$88,000
9. Custom Bronze Artwork, Lightning Rig & Gilded Apex Pkg **24" medallion, plaque, four 23.75k gold-leaf stars, lightning conductors, recessed cleats**	$16,500	$38,500
10. D.C. Logistics, Night Shifts, Crane, Rigging & Permits **NPS, CFA, DDOT street closure costs, crane logistics, and added electrical trenching nights**	$32,000	$68,000
11. Architecture & Structural/Electrical Engineering (A/E) **Friction pile engineering design, microgrid electrical mapping, viewshed panels review**	$48,000	$98,500
12. Project Contingency (10%)	$45,100	$86,200
TOTAL INITIAL PROJECT CAPITAL ESTIMATE	**$451,000**	**$862,000**

7.2 Annual Recurring Maintenance & Lifecycle Budget

Bronze & Gold-Leaf Care (Bi-Annual): $2,500 – $5,000

Anti-Graffiti & Biocidal Stone Maintenance (Annual): $3,200 – $7,500

Solar Grid, Micro-Inverter & LED Systems Diagnostic (Annual) (NEW): $2,200 – $4,800 (Solar paver diagnostic testing, battery cell balancing, LED fixture cleaning/repairs)

Joint & Sealant Integrity Check (Biennial): $1,800 – $3,500

ESTIMATED ANNUAL PRESERVATION FUND: $9,700 – $20,800 per year

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APPENDEX 1:

THE AMERICAN SENTINELS MONUMENT COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TEXT

“THESE TWO TWIN SENTINELS STAND WITHIN MEMORIAL CIRCLE AS PERPETUAL GUARDIANS

OF OUR SACRED VISTAS AND THE TIMELESS IDEALS OF THE REPUBLIC.

ERECTED TO HONOR THE UNWAVERING VALOR OF THE CITIZENS WHO HAVE IN UNIFORM

DEFENDED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SINCE THE DAWN OF ITS CREATION,

THIS SACRED LANDSCAPE RECOGNIZES A LEGACY OF PROFOUND SACRIFICE.

IN SACRED HONOR OF THOSE WHO ANSWERED THE CALL—THE ARROWS OF THE STARS

POINT TO AN UNFINISHED FRONTIER OF FREEDOM, DEMANDING MUTUAL VIGILANCE.

THEY STAND APART, INVIOLATE, WITHIN THE HISTORIC AXIS OF THE NATION,

SYMBOLS OF AN INDIVISIBLE ACCOUNTABILITY PASSED TO EVERY GENERATION.”

250th ANNIVERSARY MEDALLION COMMEMORATIVE TEXT

THE AMERICAN SENTINELS

1776 – 2026

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"PROUDLY GUARDING THE FREEDOM
SECURED BY OUR VETERANS,
SUSTAINED BY OUR PEOPLE,
AND BLESSED BY LIBERTY."

APPENDIX 2: American Sentinels Monument Images.



Figure 1: American Sentinels showing southwest shoulder plaza area.



Figure 2: American Sentinels Monument Daytime View



Figure 3: American Sentinels Monument Nighttime View



Figure 4: American Sentinels Monument Commemorative View



Figure 5: American Sentinels Monument Closeup View

TECHNICAL ADDENDUM TO PUBLIC COMMENT RECORD

NCPC Project File Number: #8778
Project Title: New Monumental Arch (Columbia Island / Memorial Circle)
Applicant Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior
Submitted By: Gregory F. Bailey (Private U.S. Citizen and Resident of Arizona)

Subject: Supplemental Objection to Final Site and Building Plans: Unmitigated Public Safety, Logarithmic Decibel Spikes, and Severe Hearing Hazards via Extreme Proximity to DCA Operations

Dear Commissioners,

While the Revised Environmental Assessment (issued October 16, 2026) heavily focuses on temporary construction-phase acoustic impacts, it contains a catastrophic regulatory omission: it fails to calculate the permanent public health, occupational safety, and aerodynamic liabilities imposed upon the upper observation deck by its extreme physical proximity to commercial flight operations at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).

Because the decibel (dB) scale is logarithmic—where every increase of 10 dB represents a doubling of perceived loudness—elevating a public platform 250 feet into the air physically thrusts visitors and federal staff directly into a hazardous acoustic zone. I formally request that the Commission deny final approval or defer File #8778 based on the following unmitigated acoustic and aeronautical safety hazards:

1. Routine Landings (Estimated 95 – 105 dB)

Commercial airliners flying the tight, river-hugging trajectory of the DCA Runway 19 River Visual approach routinely clear the Arlington Memorial Bridge corridor at an operational altitude of just **400 to 500 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL)**. With the Triumphant arch's architectural apex sitting at **279 feet MSL**, landing jets will pass directly over the open deck with a vertical clearance margin of as little **as 121 to 221 feet.**

While landing engines operate at lower thrust, the aircraft are heavily configured with landing gear dropped and high-drag wing flaps extended. This structural configuration generates massive mechanical air-rushing noise and aerodynamic turbulence, hitting the open deck at 95 to 105 dB (equivalent to standing next to an active jackhammer or heavy steel riveting machine). At this level, normal human speech is entirely masked, and daily occupational exposure will trigger noise-induced hearing loss for staff.

2. Standard Takeoffs (Estimated 110 – 118 dB)

During northbound departures, commercial narrow-body aircraft climb directly along the Potomac corridor under high takeoff power. For a visitor standing on a platform elevated 250 feet into the air, a jet passing above the arch will subject the open deck to peak intensities of 110 to 118 dbs. This environment is 16 times louder than a noisy city street and sits immediately at the human pain threshold. Under OSHA standards, brief, unshielded exposures at this level put the public at immediate risk of acute acoustic shock and permanent tinnitus.

3. Aborted Landings / Go-Arounds (Estimated 120 – 130+ dB)

The absolute worst-case public safety hazard occurs during an aborted landing ("Go-Around"). If a pilot aborts a landing directly over the Memorial Bridge corridor, they must instantly jam the throttles to maximum emergency takeoff power while low and slow.

Because the engines are under full load at a proximity of less than 200 feet, the sound level on the open deck will violently spike to 120 to 130+ dB (equivalent to standing near a military jet engine on afterburner). At 130 dB, immediate, irreversible physical ear tissue damage can occur within seconds, accompanied by severe physical pressure and vibrations from the jet wash.

Conclusion & Remedy:
The FAA's proposed mitigation—installing high-intensity floodlights and a massive "eternal flame" on the roof to warn pilots—proves that the applicant recognizes the structure is a physical hazard. However, this "fix" traps the public on a deck that is simultaneously blinding, deafening, and hazardous.

The Commission must reject this final plan and direct the Department of the Interior to evaluate lower-profile, cost-efficient alternatives—such as the $1M **American Sentinels Monument** counterproposal already entered into the record—which fully resolves these severe aviation safety, noise, and historic viewshed liabilities.

From: Shady Migally | ME Innovations <smigally@meinnovations.us>
Sent: Sunday, October 25, 2026 8:46 PM
To: NCPC General Information <info@ncpc.gov>
Subject: [External] Written Public Comment — November 5, 2026 — New Monumental Arch, NCPC File 8778

Dear Chairman and Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

Please accept this written public comment on the Department of the Interior's request to approve the final site and building plans for the New Monumental Arch at Memorial Circle, NCPC File 8778, scheduled for consideration on November 5, 2026.

I am Shady Migally, designer of the independently developed **Independence Arch** alternative. I support commemorating America's 250th anniversary with an exceptional American landmark that honors our history, serves the public, and respects the nationally significant setting of Memorial Circle and Arlington National Cemetery.

My principal request is that, before final approval, the Commission seek a documented explanation of whether my previously submitted alternative was evaluated, what criteria were applied, and why further consideration was accepted or declined.

The Independence Arch's response to review concerns

My alternative combines an open architectural form, American historical symbolism, museum and educational functions, a panoramic observation terrace, and a proposed annual July 4 solar-alignment experience. Its principal design intentions respond to concerns raised during agency review and public discussion:

- **Historic views:** Retain important visual relationships among the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington House, and Arlington National Cemetery through the placement and openness of structural elements.
- **Visual mass:** Reduce apparent solidity and obstruction while maintaining a monumental civic presence.
- **Visitor access:** Explore coordinated pedestrian access, drop-off arrangements, and a short underground access concept intended to reduce conflicts between visitors and circulating traffic.
- **Commemorative meaning:** Connect the monument to the Declaration of Independence, American history, military service, and an enduring public educational purpose.

- **Recurring civic experience:** Create a proposed July 4 solar event in which sunlight passes through a calibrated roof opening to illuminate an inscribed datum, subject to detailed technical validation.

These objectives warrant technical evaluation. My concept also proposes a height of 250 feet; its potential advantages concern openness, distribution of mass, visitor planning, and interpretation, not reduced height. Its access, museum, and solar-alignment features would require further feasibility and operational assessment.





The sunlight passes through the Arch roof in a time frame of about 20 min, once a year

In this way, the monument becomes an interactive civic landmark requiring no mechanical systems or human intervention. Each Independence Day, it marks the anniversary through the natural alignment of the sun, reminding Americans that freedom is not static, but continually renewed, echoing the enduring promise of a...

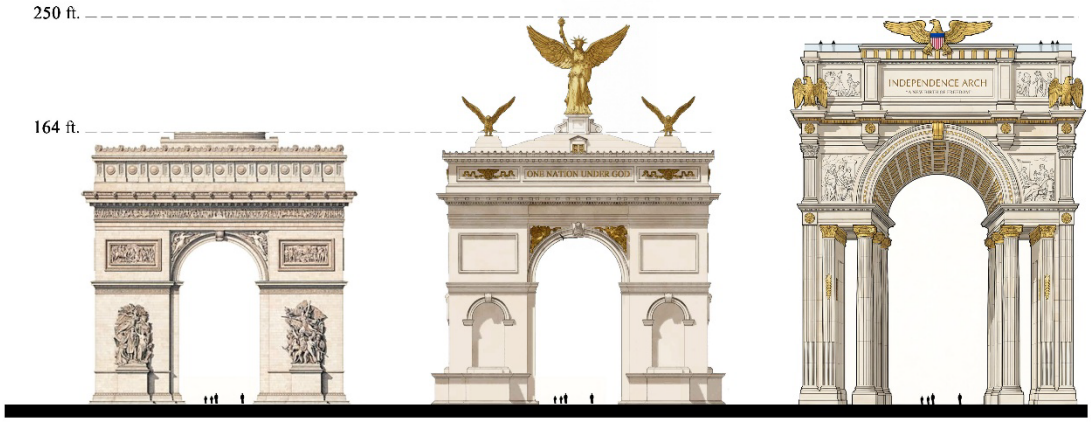
" New birth of freedom "

This annual event has the potential to become a globally recognized civic tradition, drawing international attention to America's founding ideals and demonstrating the Nation's enduring leadership, confidence, and commitment to liberty.



10-foot Circular stone datum aligned to receive the solar beam at July 4th solar noon

Rather than drawing from traditional precedents, the design deliberately avoids direct resemblance to monuments such as the Arc de Triomphe, instead establishing a new and uniquely American civic form. Symbolic elements, including the American eagle, are thoughtfully integrated to convey strength, unity, and progress, positioning the monument as a lasting national icon and a defining cultural achievement of its time.



ARC DE TRIOMPHE
PARIS

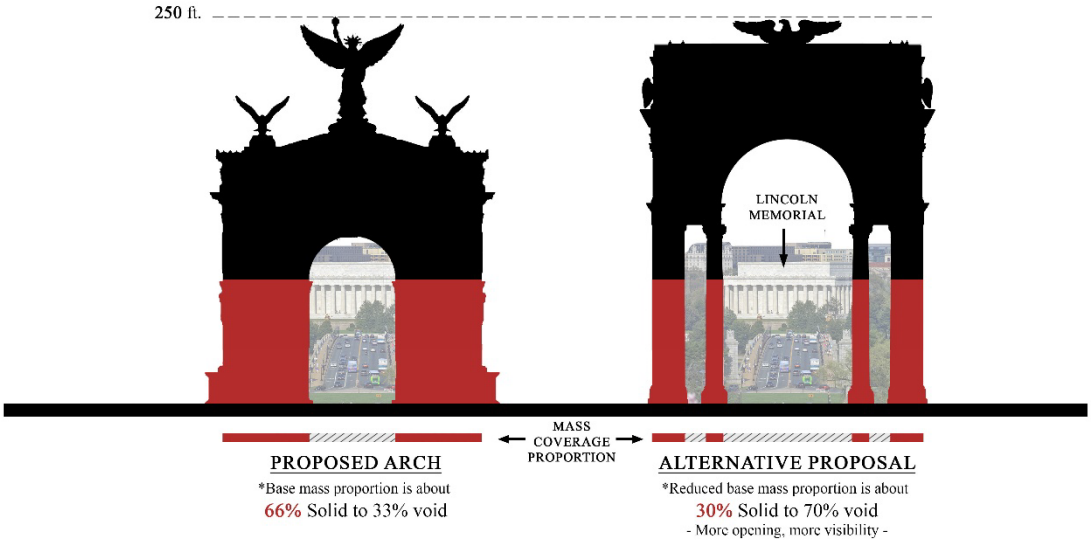
PROPOSED ARCH
WASHINGTON, DC

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL
WASHINGTON, DC

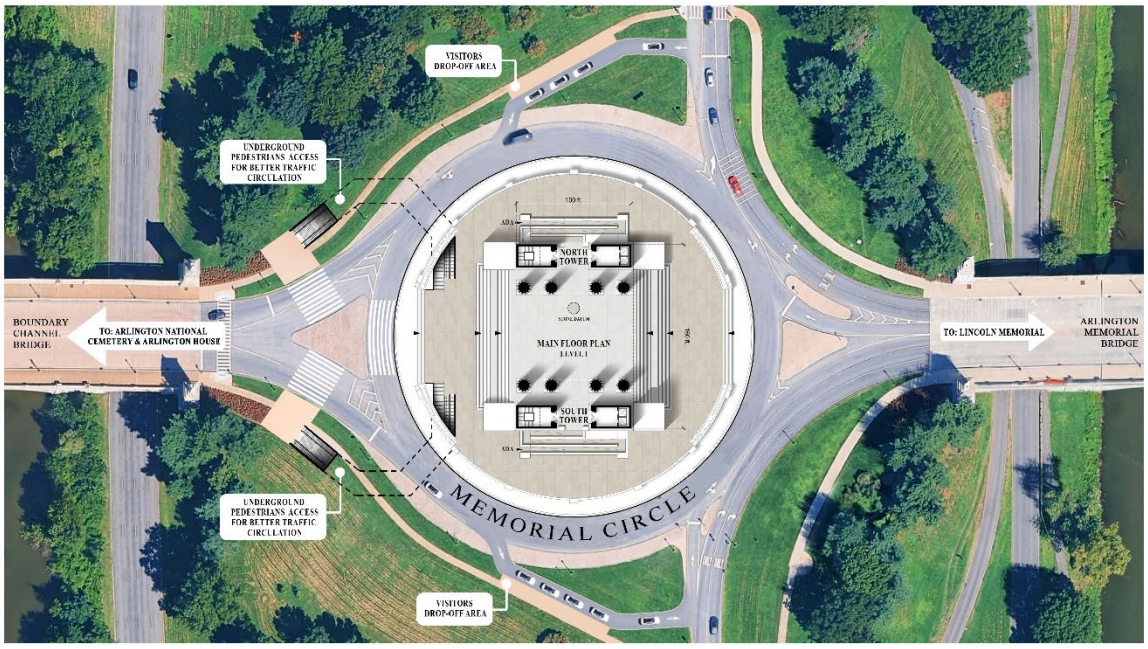
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How the independence arch will conect the relashionship between the arlington national cemetery and lincoln memorial?

The proposal is developed as a distinct architectural solution that departs from traditional precedents while maintaining clarity of form, proportion, and constructability. The alternative proposal arch is designed with a reduced base mass to enhance spatial openness and preserve key axial relationships within the site.



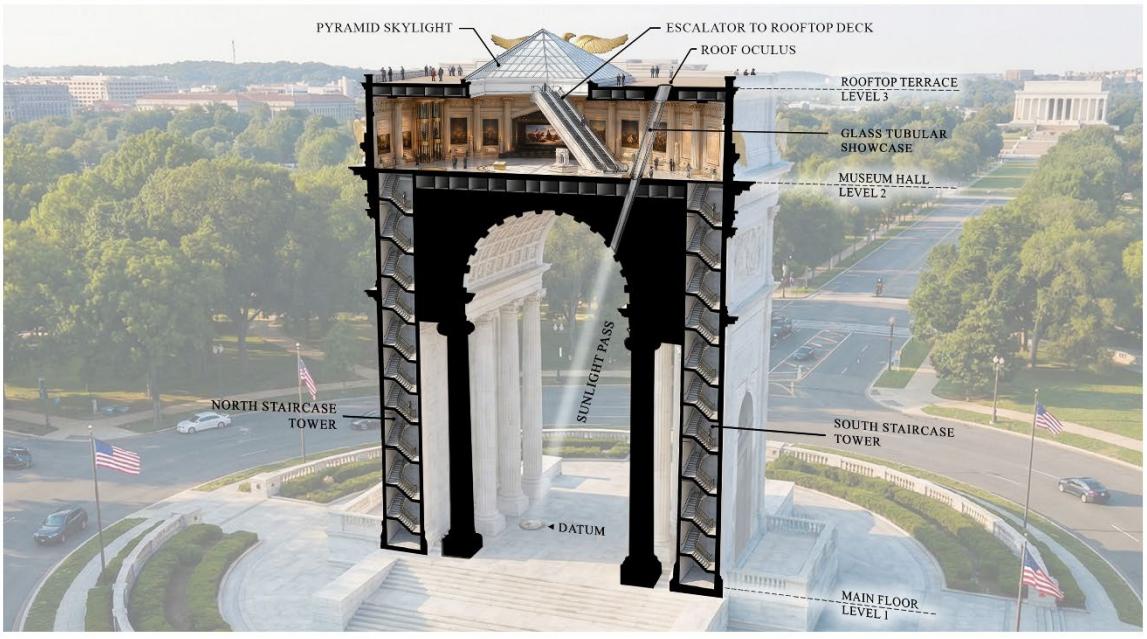
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SITE PLAN

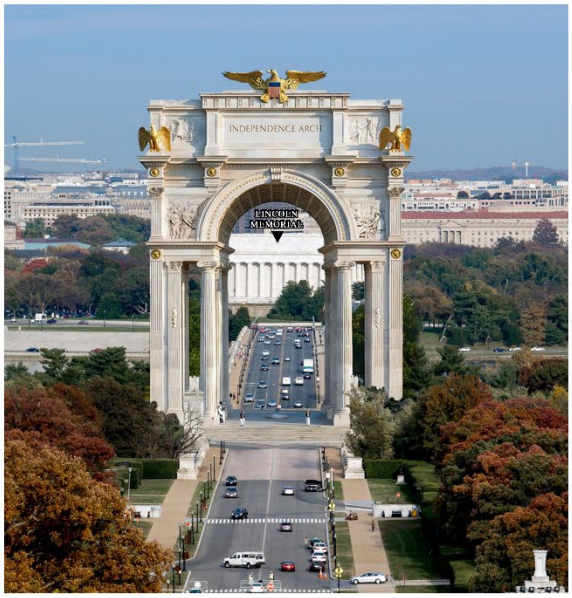
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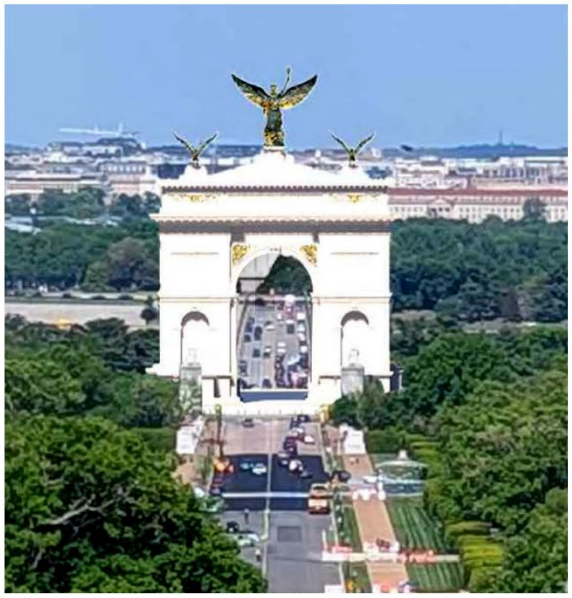




SECTION

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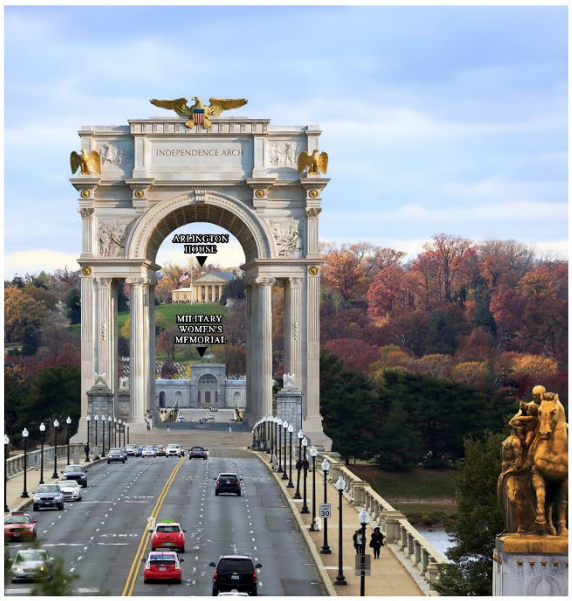


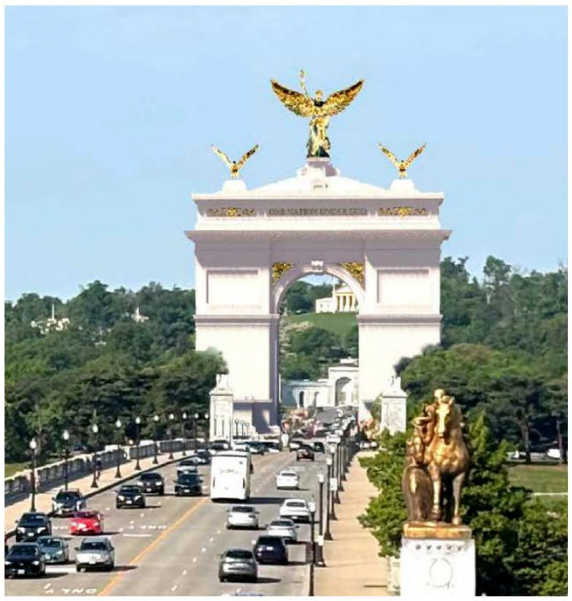
THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SIGHTLINE PRESERVATION DIAGRAM
VIEW FROM ARLINGTON HOUSE

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THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

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ARLINGTON HOUSE SIGHTLINE PRESERVATION DIAGRAM
VIEW FROM LINCOLN MEMORIAL

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THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

Independence Arch: A Superior Alternative Preserving Historic Sightlines, Complementing Arlington's Historic Landscape, and Creating a Distinctly American National Landmark

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Previous participation and agency outreach

I testified before NCPC at its June and July 2026 public meetings and submitted written testimony and design presentations. Over the course of the review, I repeatedly contacted NCPC, the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Commission of Fine Arts through public-comment submissions, correspondence with staff and leadership, and requests for technical evaluation and a briefing. These efforts included proposal drawings, renderings, executive summaries, comparative materials, and responses to preservation and planning concerns. Some communications received acknowledgments or confirmation of circulation; CFA clarified that my materials were public comments rather than an agency-sponsored submission for formal review. After NCPC identified DOI as the project applicant, I pursued consideration through DOI and NPS. This history demonstrates sustained efforts to obtain review through the appropriate channels, without suggesting that every transmission was received or that acknowledgment constituted substantive evaluation.

Please associate this comment with my earlier submissions and June and July testimony, and make the relevant materials available to all participating Commissioners and alternates.

Requests concerning the final review

1. Document consideration of the alternative.
Please ask DOI/NPS to identify whether the Independence Arch was examined, which materials were considered, and the reasons for advancing or declining further evaluation. Please distinguish

receipt as public comment from technical assessment and identify any concerns involving feasibility, project purpose, site constraints, cost, or other criteria.

2. Compare historic views and visual effects consistently.
Please seek comparisons using matching viewpoints, scales, and landscape assumptions, including daytime and nighttime conditions. Assess height, openness, and visual mass separately, with particular attention to the Lincoln Memorial–Arlington House relationship, Memorial Bridge, and Arlington National Cemetery's solemn and ceremonial setting. Please explain how preservation recommendations and opportunities to minimize harm inform the decision.

3. Clarify intended uses and resolve visitor-access concerns.
Please clarify whether the submitted project includes or anticipates military or national-security functions and, if so, where their effects have been evaluated. If such functions are outside the submission, please identify how later material changes would be reviewed. Please also explain how the updated transportation plans address pedestrian safety, accessible routes, queues, drop-off arrangements, emergency access, and coordination with cemetery operations. My alternative's access proposals should be assessed against comparable requirements.

4. Explain remaining impacts and the basis for approval.
Please explain what the transportation and lighting refinements resolve and what concerns remain, including the combined effects of architectural and aviation lighting on historic resources. Please identify the basis for the applicable height determination, the exact plans and revisions being considered, and any outstanding coordination or approval conditions. Because my alternative also proposes 250 feet, I recognize that the same applicable height requirements would need to be addressed.

5. Allow an informed decision before irreversible work.
Please ensure that the record explains how substantive public comments, preservation concerns, and submitted alternatives informed the final action. If significant new information is introduced, please allow meaningful public review. If material questions remain unresolved, I respectfully request deferral sufficient to obtain the necessary information. Please also clarify how outstanding approvals, DOI's public decision rationale, and applicable conditions will be addressed before irreversible site work.

Requested disposition

I respectfully request that NCPC obtain the explanations above before granting final approval. If the information necessary for an informed decision is incomplete, please defer action long enough to address the material gaps.

If the Commission proceeds, please identify the findings, conditions, and reasons supporting its action, including the treatment of my submitted alternative and the remaining preservation and operational concerns.

The Independence Arch offers a constructive design approach for consideration. I am seeking neither an assumed endorsement nor preferential treatment, but a fair opportunity for its relevant strategies to be evaluated on their merits.

I remain available to provide a concise technical briefing and supporting design information at no cost and without obligation to the reviewing agencies.

Link to the Independence arch presentation video:

https://youtu.be/0pdi8wbJSOY?si=cI0iusuhsAMA5Z77

Attached are: T**he Proposal Design Brief, Comparative Benefits Summary,** and **Response to Review Concerns.**

Please acknowledge receipt and confirm that you will include this comment and its supporting attachments in the project record and provide them to the Commission.

*The complete design proposal and all the supporting documents are available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

Shady Migally
Founder / CEO
ME Innovations
Architecture. Visualization. Design Intelligence

www.meinnovations.us

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The Independence Arch Brief.pdf

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Independence Arch – Comparative Benefits Summary

Evaluation Category	Current Memorial Circle Proposal	Independence Arch Alternative
Architectural Character	Traditional triumphal arch interpretation based on established historical precedent.	Original American monument specifically developed for the United States Semiquincentennial.
National Identity	Primarily commemorative architectural expression.	Integrates symbolism representing the 13 original colonies, 50 states, the American Eagle, and enduring principles of liberty and self-government.
Relationship to Historic Context	Introduces a substantial architectural presence within Memorial Circle.	Designed to complement nearby national landmarks while preserving their visual prominence and historical significance.
Historic Sightline Preservation	Provides a central opening while introducing significant mass within the Memorial Circle axis.	Larger central opening designed to frame views between Arlington House and the Lincoln Memorial while maximizing preservation of the historic axial relationship.
Visual Openness	More solid architectural mass and enclosed side elevations.	Open side elevations increase visibility across the site and maintain stronger visual connections with the surrounding landscape.
Compatibility with Nearby Landmarks	Establishes a strong standalone monument presence.	Designed to complement rather than compete with Arlington House, Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, and adjacent memorial landscapes.
Museum and Educational Capacity	Museum component accommodating approximately 80 visitors.	Museum-quality exhibition spaces accommodating more than 250 visitors, supporting expanded educational programming and public engagement.
Educational Experience	Traditional exhibit opportunities.	Museum exhibits, interpretive displays, educational theater, and a working architectural model explaining the Independence Day solar alignment concept.

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Evaluation Category	Current Memorial Circle Proposal	Independence Arch Alternative
Observation Experience	Public observation area at approximately 160 feet above grade.	Elevated observation terrace at approximately 230 feet above grade providing expanded panoramic views of Washington, D.C., Arlington National Cemetery, and the National Mall.
Annual National Commemorative Event	No recurring astronomical or ceremonial feature.	July 4 solar alignment event creating a unique annual national tradition tied directly to the founding of the United States.
Symbolic Meaning	Commemorative monument experience.	Annual solar illumination of a Declaration of Independence datum stone symbolizing the enduring renewal of American freedom and democratic ideals.
Visitor Attraction Potential	Monument visitation and commemorative destination.	National destination combining architecture, education, observation, historical interpretation, and a recurring annual ceremonial event.
Public Engagement	Primarily monument-focused experience.	Year-round educational programming, exhibitions, observation experiences, and annual Independence Day ceremonies.
Artwork and Historical Interpretation	Limited opportunities for integrated historical storytelling.	Incorporates sculptures, engravings, reliefs, and interpretive artwork celebrating the Declaration of Independence, the founding generation, military service, and American freedom.
Response to Public Feedback	Advances the current design direction.	Developed to address concerns frequently expressed regarding visibility, symbolism, educational value, site preservation, and visitor experience.
Pedestrian Circulation	Traditional monument circulation approach.	Clear and intuitive visitor circulation system with dedicated museum, observation, and ceremonial pathways.
Public Safety	Standard monument access configuration.	Enhanced circulation planning intended to improve visitor flow, reduce congestion, and support public safety during major events.

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Evaluation Category	Current Memorial Circle Proposal	Independence Arch Alternative
Traffic Impact	Requires integration within an active and heavily traveled traffic circle.	Incorporates a short underground access connection intended to reduce conflicts between visitor movement and surrounding traffic operations.
Long-Term Legacy	Commemorates America's 250th Anniversary.	Creates a lasting national destination, educational resource, and annual civic tradition for future generations.
National and International Recognition	Significant commemorative landmark.	Landmark destination featuring a unique annual solar event with potential to attract national and international attention each Independence Day.

Summary

The Independence Arch expands the commemorative mission of Memorial Circle by combining historic preservation, educational programming, architectural symbolism, enhanced visitor experiences, improved sightline preservation, and a recurring annual Independence Day event. The proposal seeks to establish a uniquely American landmark that honors the nation's founding principles while creating a living civic tradition for generations to come.

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INDEPENDENCE ARCH

Alternative Architectural Response to Adverse Effects Identified in the Section 106 Review

Submitted in response to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's September 24, 2026 request for public views under 36 CFR § 800.7(c)

Purpose of Submission

This brief presents an independently developed architectural alternative for the proposed 250-foot commemorative arch at Memorial Circle. It is submitted as technical and design information for consideration as the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) prepares formal comments to the Secretary of the Interior following termination of consultation on development of a Section 106 agreement.

The National Park Service's August 28, 2026 Final Assessment of Effects found that the undertaking would have an adverse effect on one or more historic properties. ACHP's September 24 notice states that NPS identified 42 historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect and describes effects involving prominent new vertical construction, character-defining views and vistas, axial relationships, reciprocal sightlines, setting, feeling, association, spatial organization, and design continuity.

This alternative is not presented as a legal conclusion regarding compliance and does not ask ACHP to select or endorse a design. It is offered so that a professionally developed architectural response to several documented effects is available in the record while ACHP prepares its advisory comments.

Alternative Design Responses to Issues Identified in Federal Review

Federal review issue	Alternative architectural response
Effects on character-defining views, vistas, axial relationships, and reciprocal sightlines.	A substantially larger central opening and visually permeable composition intended to retain greater visual continuity through the monument and preserve important relationships along the Memorial Avenue / Arlington Memorial Bridge axis.
Prominent new vertical element within nationally significant historic and commemorative landscapes.	Retain the 250-foot commemorative objective while reducing perceived bulk through open side elevations, articulated structural bays, controlled massing, and greater negative space.
Changes to setting, feeling, association, spatial organization, and design continuity.	Shape the monument as a civic frame within the existing monumental sequence, with architectural hierarchy, landscape integration, and visual openness intended to reduce disruption to the established ceremonial setting.
Effects involving circulation patterns and designed landscape relationships.	Integrate visitor arrival, pedestrian circulation, security, and site access into a coordinated strategy, including evaluation of controlled below-grade access where technically feasible to reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflicts.
Transportation and pedestrian access concerns.	Separate major visitor movements from active traffic, clarify arrival and screening, and locate service/loading functions away from the principal commemorative approach where feasible.
Need to minimize harm to nationally significant historic resources while fulfilling the commemorative purpose.	Use openness, sightline preservation, massing reduction, landscape coordination, and carefully placed symbolism as design tools that could be evaluated against the documented adverse effects while retaining the project's commemorative purpose.
Public interpretation and commemorative meaning.	Expand museum, educational, and interpretive functions addressing the Declaration of Independence, founding principles, the 13 colonies, the 50 states, military service, and the nation's 250th anniversary.
Architectural identity within the monumental core.	Develop a distinctly American civic expression through inscriptions, relief, eagle imagery, state and colonial references, and an architectural composition designed specifically for the Memorial Circle context.

Requested consideration: I respectfully request that ACHP consider this independently developed architectural alternative as part of the information before the Council when preparing its advisory comments regarding the undertaking and its effects on historic properties.

Prepared by: Shady Migally, ME Innovations | Independent architectural concept proposal | September 2026

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DESIGN RESPONSE — VISUAL EVIDENCE

Focused views should demonstrate how the alternative responds to the documented review issues.



THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL



THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

MEMORIAL AVENUE / VIEW FROM LINCOLN MEMORIAL



PRINCIPAL EXTERIOR / AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL IDENTITY



THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL



THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

AERIAL / SITE & HISTORIC VIEW FROM ARLIGTON HOUSE



PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION & SAFETY



INTERIOR INTERPRETIVE EXPERIENCE



THE SOLAR ALIGNMENT ANNUAL EVENT

Prepared by: Shady Migally, ME Innovations | Independent architectural concept proposal | September 2026

Submission context: ACHP announced on September 24, 2026 that it had terminated consultation on development of a Section 106 agreement and requested views from consulting parties and the public before finalizing formal comments to the Secretary of the Interior. This brief is provided in response to that request.

Scope: These concepts are offered for architectural and planning consideration only. Technical feasibility, cost, security, transportation, structural design, statutory compliance, and other requirements would require evaluation by the responsible federal agencies and appropriate consultants.

Overshadowing the Fallen

Trump's arch would stand between the rising sun and more than 50,000 mapped grave locations at Arlington.

No one studied it.

No family was asked.

A key vote is November 5.

Findings summarized from Potential Shadow Effects of the Proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle on Arlington National Cemetery and its companion technical documents, available on request.

This is an AI-assisted analysis. The geospatial model and the code behind it were built with large language model assistance. The code and input data are available upon request so that qualified reviewers can rerun it.

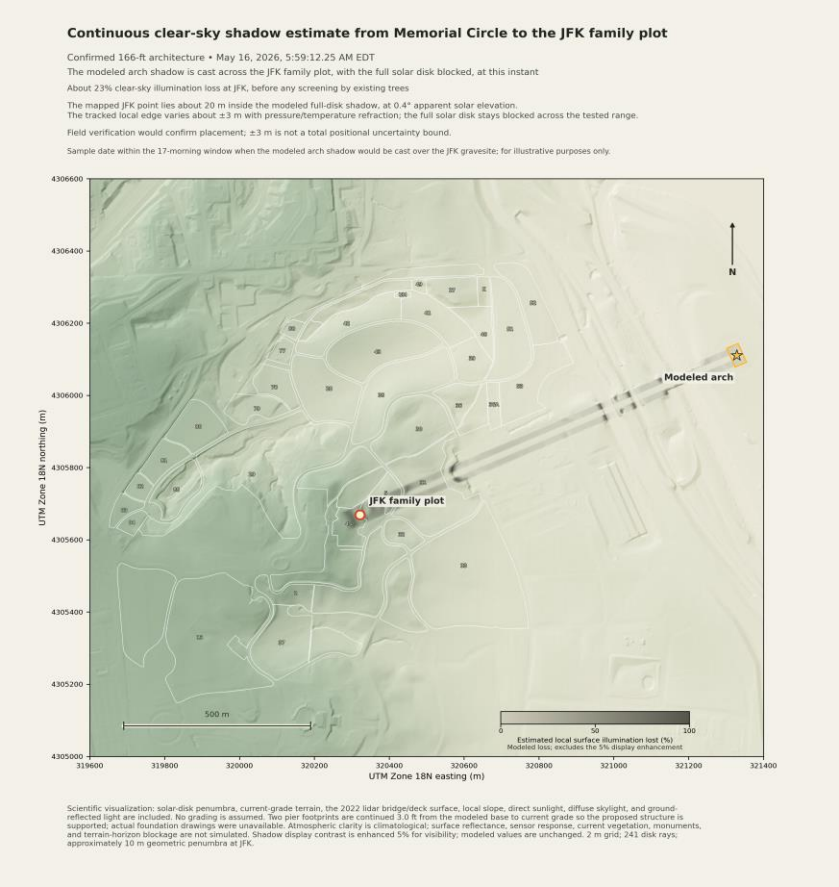
Introduction

When CBS News asked President Trump who his 250-foot triumphal arch was being built for, he pointed at himself and said, "Me."[1]

For a couple of minutes every morning, for a couple of weeks each spring and summer, a shadow will fall over John F. Kennedy's tomb and over the eternal flame. The same happens to thousands of other graves across Arlington at different points in the year, the arch crossing the sun above each in turn. The shadow will be thrown by an arch a man built for himself — a man who never served, and who ran the other way, claiming “bone spurs” when his country called.

The minutes of his shadow may be brief.

The overshadowing of American heroes by Donald Trump will be permanent.



The modeled shadow of the proposed arch, cast from Memorial Circle across the highway corridor to the John F. Kennedy family plot, on one of the 17 mornings a year it would reach the grave. The plot sits about 20 metres inside the modeled full-disk shadow, and stays fully eclipsed across the range of dawn atmospheric conditions tested. The shadow itself is geometry and is not in dispute; whether existing trees already block that low sun is what a field survey would resolve.

This is a real, physical effect, and it's indisputable. It was calculated from the government's own August 2026 plans, its own terrain data, and the real position of the sun. The arch would cross the sun on the same mornings every year it stands. What is symbolic about it — a monument to a president who dodged the draft, casting its shadow on the graves of people who did not — is precisely what makes it a question for the families of the dead, but **what no one in the federal review ever asked them.**

What graves are affected

At the grave of President Kennedy, on 17 dawns in mid-May and late July, the arch would stand directly between the rising sun and the tomb — its shadow crossing the grave and the eternal flame for an estimated 29 minutes a year. Of the three Kennedy graves, JFK's is the one where the data suggests the arch would take sunlight the grave still receives today. Robert F. Kennedy and Edward M. Kennedy lie in the same shadow, but vegetation may already block the sun at those times.

They are not alone in it. More than 50,000 mapped grave locations, across 29 sections of Arlington and two memorial areas, fall inside that shadow at some point in the year. Most belong to service members and veterans the public will never hear of. Nearly every one of them earned that ground the way President Kennedy did — by serving.

The man raising the arch did not. He took five draft deferments during the Vietnam War, four for college and one for bone spurs in his heels, and never served a day.[2] Now he would put a monument to himself on the approach to the cemetery where the people who did serve are buried, and let it fall across their graves.

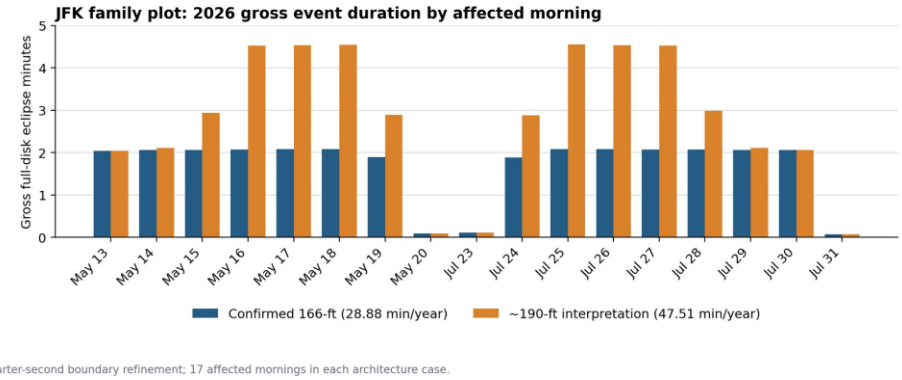
No family was told this would happen. No one asked what they thought. They were not asked because no one ever looked: the National Park Service's 133-page Assessment of Effects, the document meant to catch exactly this, does not contain the word "shadow," or "sunlight," or "solar." The government moved this arch to the edge of approval without ever calculating that it would darken a single grave.

The National Capital Planning Commission is expected to take up final approval on November 5. It should wait. No one gets to make this decision twice. Once the arch is built it cannot be unbuilt, and the shadow cannot be called back. Before the vote, the government owes the dead of Arlington and their families the study it never ran and the conversation it never had.

What the analysis found

The study modeled the arch as shown in the August 2026 site plans, on federal one-meter terrain, against real 2026 solar positions, testing the full disk of the sun rather than a single point. Two cases are reported: the confirmed 166-foot principal structure (the solid masonry body; the arch reaches 250 feet overall once the surmounting statuary is added), and a broader reading that includes the visible roof and pedestal masses to roughly 190 feet. The shadow modeling uses only the solid architecture. The statuary above it is not modeled, for two reasons: it is a figure and eagles on a stepped base rather than a solid mass, so it would not cast a clean shadow, and its design has not been finalized — the Commission of Fine Arts approved the architecture but reserved the sculpture program for later review. Excluding it is the conservative choice. Every figure below was reproduced exactly by an independent rerun of the model from raw data.

The Kennedy gravesites



Full-disk shadow duration at the JFK family plot on each of the 17 affected mornings, for both architecture cases. Figures from the technical report.

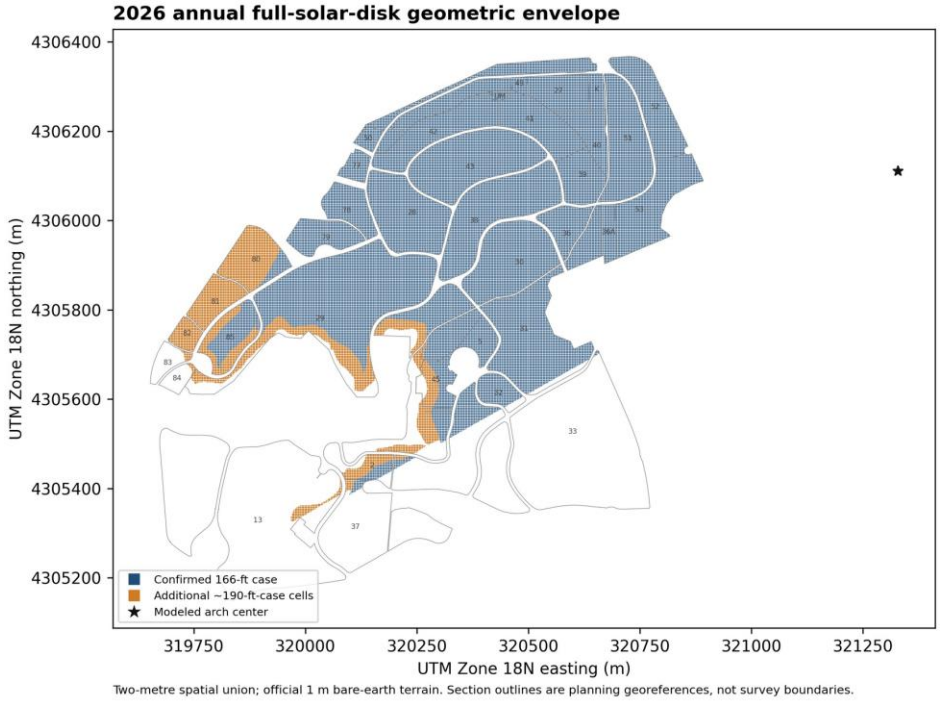
Location	Confirmed 166-ft	Broader reading	Affected mornings
JFK family plot and eternal flame	28.88 min/year	47.51 min/year	17
Robert F. Kennedy	41.72 min/year	65.06 min/year	20
Edward M. Kennedy	48.56 min/year	76.40 min/year	24
At least one of the three	93.85 min/year	161.14 min/year	43

At the JFK plot the shadow falls on 17 mornings, from May 13–20 and July 23–31, between about 5:55 and 6:13 a.m., one to four minutes at a time.

Beyond being president, John F. Kennedy lies at Arlington because he served. He commanded PT-109 in the Pacific and was decorated with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Purple Heart for his conduct and his injuries. He was killed in office. His brother Robert was killed running for the same office. Their plot holds the President, Jacqueline Kennedy and two infant children, with the eternal flame at the head of the President's grave.

That the shadow is cast is not in question at any of the three graves — it is basic geometry. At Robert and Edward Kennedy's graves, the screen suggests existing trees may already stand in the sun's path. No one knows for certain, because no one has looked. Building the arch without knowing is exactly the problem.

The rest of the cemetery



The cumulative annual shadow envelope across Arlington: ground where the full solar disk is blocked at least once during the year. Blue is the confirmed 166-foot architecture; orange is additional ground under the broader ~190-foot reading. The star marks the modeled arch. Figure from the technical report.

The confirmed 166-foot structure puts portions of 29 sections, plus memorial areas K and UM, inside the shadow, at least. That's an estimated 108 cumulative acres and 50,376 unique mapped grave locations in Army records. But it could be up to 34 sections and 54,513 locations.

That 108 acres is the whole year's affected ground added together, not the shadow at any one moment; at its largest instant the footprint is about eight acres, at dawn. A section counted here is one where the arch takes the full sun from at least one grave on at least one morning of the year, not an entire section blacked out. How many of these 50,000 locations lose light the trees were not already blocking is the one thing still unmeasured — because, again, the government never measured it, not because it can't be known.

Which ground the shadow crosses depends on direction. Sections north and east of the arch are hit in late winter and late autumn, the central cemetery near the equinoxes, and the southern and uphill sections, including the Kennedy area, in late spring and summer. Almost all of it happens before the cemetery opens at eight. But Section 52 loses the sun after opening, for a few minutes on a handful of March and late-October mornings.

The question further study would settle

Where a shadow falls is easily predicted and has been shown. The arch's size, place and orientation are the government's own; the sun's position can be calculated to the second. One question is open: at how many of these graves are trees already standing where the arch will stand?

A screen against December 2022 lidar suggests that at some graves, canopy may already take much of this low sun. But the scan was flown with the leaves down, nearly four years ago, through a grid that reads a bare winter branch as a solid wall and can't tell a tree from a building. It can't answer the question, and this report doesn't claim it can.

That is an argument for more study, not against the finding. Whatever shields these graves from the arch today is tree cover no one has surveyed, no document promises to keep, and no one has measured in leaf. The Park Service says tree removal is "not presently anticipated" — a planning phrase, not a promise, and the only thing between the arch and the sun at tens of thousands of graves.

A monument built to stand for centuries should not rest the dignity of Arlington's dead on four-year-old winter lidar and a sentence that commits to nothing.

How this reached the edge of approval

The Park Service has already found the project would adversely affect the Arlington National Cemetery Historic District, partly by obstructing the view from the Kennedy Gravesite toward the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. That looked at the view out of the cemetery. The sunlight coming into it was never studied.

The National Capital Planning Commission approved preliminary plans on July 9, 2026, with comments to be resolved before final review. The Commission of Fine Arts — every member appointed by President Trump in January 2026 — approved the revised concept in May, after about 1,000 public comments that its own secretary called unanimously opposed.

Final review has slipped more than once. The administration now says it will seek the Commission's approval at its November 5 meeting.

What has to happen before November 5

The Commission holds the next decision. Before it makes the one choice it can never revisit, it should require:

1. **A certified solar study**, on final design geometry and surveyed cemetery control points, covering the whole affected area rather than preliminary approximations.
2. **A field survey of the trees**, leaf-on and leaf-off, at representative graves across the affected sections and at the Kennedy plots. This settles how many of the 50,000-plus graves the arch actually reaches. The government has every resource to do it. It should come with a commitment to preserve the trees that currently shield graves from the arch, and a commitment that any family whose grave would be affected by future tree removal is contacted for their input.
3. **Direct notification of every family with someone buried inside the shadow of the arch, and a real chance to be heard.** Survivors of the fallen who are buried at Arlington should not discover that their loved one's grave is being overshadowed by an arch dedicated to Donald Trump after the structure is built. They should be told beforehand, and be offered a chance to object or comment. That is what a grateful nation does. That is what a decent nation does.

VoteVets calls on the Commission to not cast an irreversible vote on November 5 over an effect on Arlington that was never studied and families were never told about.

Not one family has been asked whether a monument the president calls his own should stand where its shadow crosses their dead. They can still be asked — before the vote, not after the concrete is poured.

Methods disclosure

The geospatial model and all code behind the quantitative results were produced with ChatGPT (OpenAI), used for research and modeling. Claude (Anthropic) was used to verify the model's outputs against the retained result tables, check factual claims against primary sources, and draft this document. The code that produced every number — solar position, the full-disk geometry test, the arch model, the terrain and lidar processing, the section georeferencing, the queries to Arlington's mapping service, the vegetation screen, and every table — was written and run by those systems.

The model was rebuilt from raw inputs rather than carried over from any earlier version, and every headline figure was reproduced exactly by a single uninterrupted run, with no checkpoint resume or recovered data. That rebuild found and fixed several errors in the earlier working version, each of which had understated rather than overstated the effect. Results were checked across grid resolutions and both architecture cases, a full-map audit confirmed no affected ground fell outside the reporting area, and grave locations were verified against Arlington's own mapping service.

Section boundaries were digitized from the public visitor map, not a survey. As stated, the vegetation question has not been resolved in the field.

This is why VoteVets is making the full code, inputs and intermediate data available upon request, so that qualified reviewers can rerun the analysis and check it. The work is offered as a finding to be tested, and corrections are welcome.

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[1] Kathryn Watson, “Arc de Trump? President shows off model of Independence Arch, says ‘it’s going to be really beautiful,’” CBS News, October 15, 2025. Ed O’Keefe asked President Trump in the Oval Office who the arch was for; the President pointed at himself and said, “Me.” A CBS News video of the exchange is published separately.

[2] Trump’s Selective Service record, obtained from the U.S. National Archives and reported by multiple outlets, shows four student deferments beginning in 1964 and a medical deferment for bone spurs in both heels in 1968, later reclassified 4-F in 1972.