

USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Foundation  
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October 30, 2012

Ms. Kathryn A. Condon  
Executive Director  
Army National Military Cemeteries  
Arlington VA 22211

Dear Ms. Condon,

On behalf of the USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Foundation, I write to formally begin the process that will lead to your consideration of approval for the building of a USS Thresher commemorative memorial in the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. We are a non-governmental organization per the requirements set forth in the Honoring America's Veterans Act of 2012 (H.R. 1627) Title 6, Section 604 Amendment: **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF MONUMENTS IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.**

The purpose of the USS Thresher Commemorative Memorial is to honor and perpetuate the memories of the 129 men lost in the line of duty on April 10, 1963 some 300 miles off the coast of New England during post-maintenance deep dive sea trials. In addition, the national commemorative memorial will help keep the story of USS Thresher alive in the hearts and minds of all those who contribute to minimizing the likelihood of another similar tragedy from occurring.

The crew members who served aboard USS Thresher were among the best the elite US Naval Submarine Force had to offer. Only six months after the Cuban Missile Crisis, 112 naval personnel and 17 civilians were aboard her during deep diving tests when USS Thresher experienced a mechanical failure from which she could not recover. The boat was lost along with all 129 men aboard.

The loss of USS Thresher and her crew was a devastating event for the submarine community, the Navy and the nation. Three months after the loss, the Navy established the Submarine Safety and Quality Assurance Program (SUBSAFE). Since that time, no SUBSAFE certified submarine has been lost.

USS Thresher's legacy extends beyond our Naval Submarine Force. After the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia, Rear Admiral Paul Sullivan testified before the House Science Committee on the SUBSAFE program and the NASA/Navy Benchmarking Exchange (NNBE). The NNBE was established to share lessons learned in the Navy's submarine and NASA's human space flight programs.

April 10, 2013 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy. I look forward to collaborating with you and your staff in order to fully meet your expectations for approval. Our project volunteers have work to do, and when completed, we will be providing you with the architectural drawings and the results of an independent study on why this commemorative memorial to the men lost aboard USS Thresher belongs in our Nation's preeminent military cemetery.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Galeaz  
Project Director  
USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Project