

From Kevin Galeaz
President, USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Foundation
Subject: Press Release regarding USS Thresher ANC Memorial Approval
Date: January 28, 2019

The Secretary of the Army, Dr. Mark Esper, has approved the proposed USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Memorial.

The memorial is dedicated to the 129 men lost aboard USS Thresher (SSN-593) on April 10, 1963 while conducting deep dive exercises 220 miles off of Cape Cod.

<https://threshermemorial.org/monument-design.html>

The loss of Thresher was the largest Submarine disaster ever experienced by our Nation, and led to the inception of the Submarine Safety (SUBSAFE) program that has, and continues to protect the men and women who serve on our Nations Submarines.

In the 55 years since the inception of SUBSAFE, we have lost only one Submarine, USS Scorpion in what is believed to be due to a battery explosion. In the 46 years prior, we experienced a non-combat average loss rate of one Submarine every 3 years.

The USS Thresher ANC Memorial Foundation received nearly \$60,000 in donations from USS Thresher family, USS Thresher former crew, Submarine Veterans, current & former Naval Sea Systems & Portsmouth Naval Shipyard employees. This will cover the cost of the memorial and ensure that funding will be in place to replace the monument in perpetuity.

Led by NH Senator Shaheen, a letter of support for the ANC memorial was sent to the Secretary of the Army signed also by NH Senator Hassan, Maine Senators Collins & King , and Massachusetts Senator Warren.

Led by former NH Congresswoman Carol Shea Porter, a letter of support was sent to the Executive Director, ANC signed by 15 members of the House Armed Services Committee.

The ANC commemorative monuments approval process required six level of approvals. The monument is modest in size, and is designed to be placed along a walkway in a area not suitable for burials.

On behalf of the USS Thresher family & former crew, we would like to thank the ANC representatives who conducted the analysis of our proposal, and provided the lower five levels of approval prior to the final approval signature received today from the Secretary of the Army.

See <https://threshermemorial.org> for the story of USS Thresher.

For additional information, please contact Kevin Galeaz, President, USS Thresher ANC Memorial Foundation via email at ThresherMemorial@gmail.com or by phone at 603.785.6464.