

## **Arlington National Cemetery's Pilot Program Section 60 Mementos**

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) is conducting a pilot program in Section 60 to address families' desires to leave mementos at their loved one's gravesite. The Cemetery continues to ask visitors not to leave items that present a safety or health concern, such as munitions, alcohol, tobacco products, glass objects, electrically powered devices, etc..., these items will be collected and discarded. Additionally, visitors are not allowed to affix items to government furnished markers.

The Army's Center of Military History (CMH) is responsible for conducting the collection effort and they execute it under the following guidelines and procedures:

CMH representatives photograph objects determined to have unusual, artistic, or historical significance during their weekly collection visits. From these materials they select objects worthy of retention in the Army's permanent collection and these objects are accessioned into the Army collection and stored at the Museum Support Facility at Fort Belvoir, VA.

ANC personnel will collect and dispose of items not collected by CMH representatives to facilitate normal cemetery maintenance procedures, such as frequent mowing in order to maintain a neat and orderly appearance and prevent damage to maintenance equipment and adjacent markers.

The CMH conducts weekly collections every Friday morning to ensure the safe-guarding of items of historical significance. ANC personnel will follow behind the CMH collection on the first Friday of each month. If items appear to have been placed recently they will not be collected until the following month; collectors will always err on the side of leaving the item if there is doubt. If family members or visitors wish to keep specific items please collect your items prior to first Friday of the month.

It is important for family members and visitors to understand that the government does not assume any responsibility for damaged or missing items left in the cemetery.

If you questions concerning this information please contact the ANC Operations Officer at (571) 614-0594 or CMH Chief, Museum Division, at (202) 685-2441.