

File No. 53271	Last Name SEABURN	Army Serial No. 2335326	First name and Initials John H.	Cablegram No. 312
Rank Pvt.	Organization Co. A, 372nd Inf.		Cause of death DUE TO	Date of Death 10-4-18
Date of Burial 10-4-18	Place of Burial—Unconfirmed			Cemetery Commune No.
Authority File No. D 1731	Place of Burial—Confirmed Grave No. 18, Amer. Plot, Row 1, French Mil. Cty., Aube, Marne.			Cemetery Commune No. 266
Authority File No. D	Disinterred and Reburied: Date In:			Cemetery No.
Emergency Address: Mrs. Annie Seaburn, Mother Brentwood, Md.			Notified Emergency Address 12-23-18	
R. B. Sketch No.	Photograph No.			
Grave Marker	Name Peg	Cross Yes	Head Board	Bottle
			Ident. Tags	Buried with body Yes
REMARKS: Priv. Pvt.—John			7110-40721 46 4 MBB 800	

(Burial card for Private John Henry Seaburn, Jr., honored by the Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial. Photo may be used with credit to, “First Liberty Institute” or “FirstLiberty.org”)

**Descendants of Bladensburg WWI Dead Named on Peace Cross
 Among 38 Briefs Asking U.S. Supreme Court to Save Memorial**

Family members of fallen soldiers honored at Bladensburg WWI Veterans Memorial file brief with the Supreme Court of the United States in support of historic “gravestone”

Washington, DC—Just before Christmas family members of fallen soldiers named on the Bladensburg World War I Veterans memorial filed a “friend-of-the-court” [brief](#) urging the Supreme Court of the United States to save the memorial from bulldozing. First Liberty Institute represents The American Legion in *The American Legion, et al. v. American Humanist Association, et al.*, defending the nearly 90-year-old memorial. An extraordinary number of organizations and individuals also filed briefs in support of maintaining the memorial, including:

- The Veterans of Foreign Wars and National WWI Museum and Memorial
- Medal of Honor Recipients
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Retired military Generals and Admirals
- Major General Patrick Brady and Veterans Groups Erecting and Maintaining War Memorials
- 84 Republican and Democratic Members of Congress
- 30 State Attorneys General
- Maryland Attorney General
- Maryland Elected Officials
- Town of Taos, New Mexico
- International Municipal Lawyers Association and National Association of Counties
- The Islam and Religious Freedom Action Team of the Religious Freedom Institute
- The Jewish Coalition for Religious Liberty

“No one understands why we need to preserve the Bladensburg WWI Veterans Memorial more than the family members whose loved ones are honored there,” said Kelly Shackelford, President, CEO and Chief Counsel for First Liberty Institute. “For nearly 100 years the families of these 49 sons of Prince George’s County have considered the Bladensburg Veterans Memorial their sons’ gravestone. We cannot allow their memory to be bulldozed.”

In the brief, attorneys for descendants of those honored at Bladensburg argue, “Because these soldiers died too young to leave children of their own, amici, their nieces and nephew, seek to preserve their legacies. To that end, amici desire that the Peace Cross be allowed to stand, safeguarding the memory of their family members’ service across generations. Amici would experience pain, distress, and betrayal if the very government for which their family members fought destroys or disfigures the monument that honors their families’ sacrifices.”

The Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial is a cross-shaped memorial erected in 1925 by local Gold-Star mothers and a local post of The American Legion to honor 49 Prince George’s County men who gave their lives while serving in WWI. The memorial was built in a cross shape to recall the cross-shaped grave markers standing over the countless American graves on the Western Front of that war.

Oral arguments in the case will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on February 27, 2019.

To learn more, visit FirstLiberty.org/Bladensburg.

Links to all the briefs are available [here](#).

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About First Liberty Institute

[First Liberty Institute](http://FirstLiberty.org) is a non-profit public interest law firm and the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to defending religious freedom for all Americans.

To arrange an interview, contact Lacey McNiel at media@firstliberty.org or by calling 972-941-4453.