



Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume I, Issue II

October 2010

Inside this issue:

The Gavel	2
Greetings from Sunny Kabul	3
Essayons Award	4
Member Celebrations	5
October DC Program	6
The Capitol Connection	7
Engineer History	8
Essayons Award	9
Castle Boutique	10
Membership Application	11

-ARMY ENGINEERS HELPED SAVE INAUGURATION DAY FOR JFK-

"Friday will be cold and windy with some sunshine and a high of not more than 35 degrees." That was the Washington, D.C., advanced weather forecast for John F. Kennedy's Inauguration Day, 20 January 1961. "Some rain, possibly changing to light snow," was later predicted for the 19th. Still, inaugural planners remained confident that whatever happened, their plans to cope with adverse weather would surmount anything Mother Nature might have in store. What actually transpired taxed local and federal resources to the maximum. Snow on the afternoon of the 19th became so heavy that federal workers were sent home early. They mixed with scores of inaugural visitors, and a monumental traffic jam ensued. Throughout the region, thousands of vehicles ran out of gas or were abandoned. Pre-Metro public transportation came to a grinding halt. By daybreak, "light" snowfall amounted to nearly 8 inches in the city and much more in outlying areas.

Fortunately, the 87th Engineer Battalion, stationed at Fort Belvoir and commanded by LTC Joseph C. Dyer, was part of the Snow Emergency Plan. At 2 p.m. on the 19th, Dyer ordered into action the nearly 700 troops from the 87th, augmented by elements of the 79th Engineer Group, two other battalions, five companies, and the Engineer School Construction Branch. By 7 p.m. a massive cleanup effort was under way.

District Engineer Commissioner BG Frederick J. Clarke and D.C. Sanitation Director William A. Xanten, joined by Dyer, oversaw the operation from emergency headquarters in the District Building. The Engineers teamed up with more than 1,000 District of Columbia employees to clear the inaugural parade route. Luckily much equipment and some men had been pre-positioned and were ready to go. In the end the task force employed hundreds of dump trucks, front-end loaders, sanders, plows, rotaries, and even flamethrowers to clear the way. District and Army equipment worked side-by-side to move more than 1,400 cars from the inaugural route. Another contingent of troops cleared the reviewing stands and bleachers at the White House and U.S. Capitol. Some 1,700 Boy Scouts joined in similar efforts along the parade route.

As dawn approached, continuing flurries and high winds threatened to undo some of the night's hard work, but within a few hours the parade route was passable. Skies soon cleared and the ceremonies went ahead as planned. Recalling those grueling hours, LTG Clarke, retired Chief of Engineers, still vividly remembers the superb leadership of Xanten and Dyer, and the dedicated teamwork of the District's sanitation workers and Engineer troops. What could have been an inauspicious beginning to John F. Kennedy's presidency turned out to be a memorable success.



An Engineer soldier from the Inaugural Snow Removal Force sizes up the job of moving one of many D.C. cars abandoned after the surprise pre-inaugural snowfall of 1961.

"Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected - through the years and across the miles."



Roz Riley
President

“As we enter this new decade, we are becoming a club relevant to the spouses and families, the Engineer AND Army communities in which we live and are able to serve.”

The Gavel ...a note from our President

As I write this note to you, I am smiling. Last night I was able to experience two of the intents of our club: FELLOWSHIP and SCHOLARSHIP. It was our annual Welcome Cocktail Party at the home of LTG and Mrs. Van Antwerp (Paula).

The event was truly a celebration! We shared with the large group that our club is celebrating. As we enter this new decade, we are becoming a club relevant to the spouses and families, the Engineer AND Army communities in which we live and are able to serve. We have changed from the Army Engineer Officers Wives Club of Washington, D.C. (our name since 1953) to the Army Engineer Spouses Club. Our membership is not just primarily in D.C. and surrounding area, but spans the globe---with one of our newest members being in Kabul, AFG. Our membership is beginning to grow with NCO spouses, whose talents and experience will be invaluable to our club. We are becoming a true TEAM of spouses.

Each of those in attendance was given an opportunity to make a donation to our Army Engineer Memorial Awards which provide scholarships to high school seniors of Engineers. With the great weather, the wonderful location, the variety of food and drink, and the fellowship connection, I am certain that many became donors to our AEMA. Don't forget that YOU may donate from afar. Donations are accepted throughout the year, not only at this event. Planning an event? Consider asking for donations to a charity of your choice (AEMA) rather than a hostess gift. Make a donation in honor of or in memoriam of someone you know/love.

Our board did another wonderful job planning and executing the event and preparing the home for a party. Amy Dorko and Janice Smith our VPs worked in concert with MSG Craig Johnson to make the home welcoming and comfortably accommodate the approximate 100 people attending. Pat O'Neill and Sarah Pearce worked the Welcome tables and made certain that each person had a name tag to facilitate our fellowship. Susan Hill gratefully accepted the donations to our AEMA account. Kathy Candido was there with the full Castle Boutique (set up with new items :-)). Sandra Loew had a Membership table in a convenient location to talk to all interested in our Club. With our local membership providing the food, you know that it was an amazing feast. Thanks to all who made this event memorable and enjoyable. And especially, our gratitude and appreciation to LTG Van and Paula...for their hosting our fellowship opportunity and Paula's tireless support to our Club.

The weather here is predictable to a degree...fall is on the way, but the days vary in temperature and sunshine. Hoping you are finding ways to enjoy the changing of the seasons where you live.

Until next time gratefully,
Roz

Greetings from Sunny Kabul...

Family and Friends --

Soon after I arrived here I was welcomed during the Qalaa House Weekly meeting: A good natured hail and farewell, at which all newcomers are urged to reveal something for which we are famous which no one knows about -- yet. Bragging and outright lying is highly encouraged. I just told the unadulterated truth: I've climbed Toronto's 144-floor CN Tower in 32 minutes, 14 seconds. Bu-yah.

This past Sunday, I sat in the bleachers while a brand new group of fresh, jet-lagged arrivals revealed something for which they were famous, which no one knew about -- yet. For all they knew, I've been here for years. A Qalaa House honeymoon is short.

I'm living in a 4-bed basement bunk-house for women, which has the added advantage of serving as a bunker. Not as bad as the men's "bunkhouse" where I'm told the snoring gets loud. No, we ladies of the women's dorm-bunker are a dainty group. We spend our time trading recipes, buffing our nails, braiding each other's lustrous hair, and embroidering endearing statements into the lining of each other's BDUs (Battle Dress Uniforms) so that we will forever remember our time together.

We are a mixed group. One of my roomies is an immigrant from Leningrad with the improbable name "Svetlana O'Malley" (I could not make this up -- it is absolutely true -- and I write this with great humility, knowing full well that my own name is not exactly "Jane Doe"). Svetlana has been great fun to get to know -- we continuously play a game in which I tell a joke with a purely American cultural reference, watch her face while she puzzles out the meaning, only to realize that, to her, it is not funny even after she understands it (ha ha! no cultural context to put it in!). That's when I start laughing -- it's my personal Howdee Doodee time! Having grown up in an immigrant family myself, and then having lived abroad in a foreign language for many years, I KNOW what this is like ("Why is 'toten hosen' funny? It means 'dead pants'! What's funny about dead pants?"). This must be the genesis of my tremendous amusement -- the shoe is on the other foot now, and it's as easy as shooting fish in a barrel.

More next month...
Stay well!!

-- Devorah



**Devorah
Wasche**

“A Qalaa House
honeymoon is
short.”



ESSAYONS AWARD

"The Engineer Spouse's spirit is unconquerable and overcomes all challenges they may encounter."

The Story of the Essayons Award

The Engineer Regiment presents the Essayons Award to acknowledge our Spouses' outstanding dedication, devotion, and selfless service to the Engineer Regiment. This award honors those who embody the "Let Us Try" spirit and have voluntarily made significant contributions to the morale and welfare of Engineer Soldiers and families.

The Essayons Award is rich with symbolism. The Blue Service Star is representative of Army lineage and represents their Soldier's service to country: A blue star (loyalty, sincerity, justice) upon a white field (hope, purity, truth). The red border represents valor and hardiness. There are three links that connect the castle to the Blue Service Bar, representing the unbreakable bond between the Spouse, the Soldier, and the Regiment.

The medieval castle is inseparably connected with fortifications and architecture. It represents the strong home foundation maintained by Engineer Spouses.

The diamond in the center represents the foundation of support to our Soldier. The diamond represents steadfast love. The word "diamond" comes from the ancient Greek word "adamas," meaning unconquerable. The Engineer Spouse's spirit is unconquerable and overcomes all challenges they may encounter. Most diamonds have 58 facets, to bring out their maximum sparkle, fire, and brilliance. Engineer Spouses are multifaceted as well in supporting the Soldier, their family, their unit, their community, the Corps of Engineers, and our Army.

The Essayons Award is inscribed on the back with "ESSAYONS." This keeps the Essayons motto near the Spouse's heart. The Essayons Award is presented to the Engineer Spouses who embody this award. They represent the sacrifice, commitment, and steadfastness of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Regiment and the United States Army.

Established criteria that must be met in order for a nomination to be approved: (1) The nominee should be the spouse of an engineer Soldier or engineer DOD civilian. (2) The nominee's spouse should be a member of AEA. (3) The nominee should be a spouse who has voluntarily provided significant contributions and support to the Engineer Corps, engineer units, engineer families, and/or multiple communities. (4) Most importantly, the spouse must possess qualities that set the individual apart from other Engineer Corps spouses or their peers. Spouses of military and civilian personnel from the Active Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard are eligible. Spouses of retired individuals are also eligible.

To download the application, visit this link:
http://www.armyengineer.com/aea_awards.html

Birthdays.....

Ginger Hopkins	October 5
Jules Bigelow	October 7
LuAnn Reno	October 8
Joe Dombi	October 9
Harbans Singh	October 10
Gene Villiva	October 13
Michelle Tyler	October 15
Lynn McCallister	October 17
Nancy Suthard	October 20
Judy Castro	October 21
Jane Ryan Van Epps	October 25
Beate Touchette	October 31



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU:

The Castle Directory (Red Book) is published every year in the fall. This year, please let us know what you think:

Do you want birthdays listed in the directory? If so, with month and day or just the month?

Please contact us with your opinions through the website www.armyengineerspouses.com or contact our Membership Chairman (info in the Red Book).

BOARD REPORT:

On 8 Sep your board met at the Hayfield, VA home of Bette Meuleners. It was a pleasure to gather in her home which reflects the many locations to which she has travelled as an Army wife and lover of travel. What an amazing collection of treasures!

Bette, Sandra Loew, and Janice Smith provided the plentiful and tasty dishes for us to enjoy. Military spouses make some of the best food!!!

The primary focus of the meeting was the final plans for the Welcome Cocktail Party. Another important item on the agenda was discussion and board approval of the proposed changes of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Our next board meeting will be on Thursday, 7 October at the Woodbridge home of Cynthia Kam. All board meetings are open to the general membership.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws published in the Sep Castlegram were unanimously approved by the Membership voting at the Welcome Cocktail Party on 25 Sep 2010.

WEBSITE NEW LOOK:

We have a new website address: www.armyengineerspouses.com
The website has a new look! Check it out! Shop! Give us your feedback!



October Program

Reservation Information

Last Names
beginning in

A-M Pat O'Neill
(703) 378-3624
pponeill6@aol.com

N-Z Sarah Pearce
(703) 815-7365
pearcesall@cox.net

RSVP BY
OCT 6

The October program will be a tour of the Christian Heurich House, also known as The Brewmaster's Castle on Wednesday October 13. The tour will begin at 10:30 am so please be at the house by 10:15 am. Built in 1892-1894 of poured concrete & reinforced steel by German immigrant & local brewer, Christian Heurich, it is the city's first fireproof home. The house is a Washington D.C. landmark on the National Register of Historic Places & is D.C.'s most intact late-Victorian house. It features original hand carved fireplace mantles, gilt furniture, an onyx and marble staircase, musician's balcony, a bierstube and more.

It is located at 1307 New Hampshire Ave. NW. (20th & New Hampshire) and is one block west of the Dupont Metro South station. If taking the Metro, use the Red Line. If you drive in, plan on using one of the garages that are listed on the website: www.brewmasterscastle.com (The parking meters in that area cost \$1 an hour and are 2 hour spots.) Directions are also available on the website.

Lunch will follow at 12 noon at Firefly which serves contemporary American food. It is located at 1310 New Hampshire Ave., NW.

RSVP by Wed. October 6th. Please bring \$5.00 for the tour.

Any questions, call Janice Smith 703-383-3970.

See you in October!!



Sneak Peek at This Year's Planned Programs for the DC Area

September - (Sat. Sep. 25) Annual Welcome

Cocktail Party

October - (Wed. Oct. 13) - Tour Brewmaster's Castle, DC
(official name is Christian Heurich Mansion); Lunch at a local
restaurant Tour charge is \$5.00.

November - Couples event –
“Oklahoma” at the Arena Stage

December - White House Tour & Lunch

January - No program

February - Couples' Wine Tasting

March - Knollwood Bake Sale

April - Mt. Vernon National Treasure Tour & Lunch at Mt.
Vernon or a possible tour of the new hospital at Ft. Belvoir

May - AESC Awards Brunch

More details will be provided in future issues of the Castle Gram about each
of our programs, to include RSVP deadlines and any costs.

If you live in the DC area or are visiting—plan to join us!!

Our September program was not only a social event but also our
biggest fundraiser for our Army Engineer Memorial Awards.
Although all the money has not been received, our current total is
\$3925.00!! This will give us the ability to give many awards this
year. Thank you to all of you who attended the Cocktail Party or
made donations!!!

P.S. We accept donations all year long!! Mail your checks to our
AEMA Chairman, P.O. Box 6332, Alexandria, VA 22306



THE CAPITOL CONNECTION



Kathy Candido
Services Chairman
(aka the Castle
Boutique Manager)

Shopping in the Castle Boutique

There's no better way to end the summer than with a SALE in the Castle Boutique!!!

Check out these beautiful pins now only \$9.00 each! Go online right now and stock up for gifts, or to dress up your Fall sweaters.



“A benefit to being a member of the AESC is the 10% discount you receive when you shop online in the Castle Boutique!”

We have many other unique items in the Castle Boutique. To view the Boutique online, go to our website armyengineerspouses.com and click on the Castle Boutique link. You can order online using your credit card (through the Pay Pal gateway) or you can download the order form and pay by check through the mail.



AESC 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from spouses and family members over 18 years of age of the following U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees: military grades E-7 and above and civilian grades GS-07 and above, whether active, retired or deceased; and with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who have been associated with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

PRINT NAME as you want to be listed in the Castle Directory (Redbook)

Last _____ First _____

Nickname _____

If you are in the military, provide rank & job title _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail _____

The Castle Gram (in color) is sent to you via email. If you do not have email, a black and white copy will be sent to your home address.

Your Birthday (month/day only) _____ Anniversary Date _____

Preferred method of contact:

E-mail Home phone Cell phone Do not contact me

Check one:

New member - I was invited by _____

Returning member

Eligibility Information:

Spouse's Name _____

Is Spouse: Active Retired Deceased

Spouse's Rank or Title _____

Spouse's Assignment or job title: _____

If active duty, use official abbreviation. If retired, use current firm, if any.

AESC 2010-2011 Membership Application

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information placed in the Castle Directory and/or Castle Gram --our monthly newsletter. Membership runs from July 1, 2010 until June 30, 2011. Applicant information received by September 15, 2010 will be included in the 2010-2011 Castle Directory. After that date, new members will be announced in the Castle Gram. Thank you.

Annual dues + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$25 _____

Additional Castle Directory(ies) : \$5.00 each _____

Total: _____

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to:

AESC TREASURER

P.O. Box 6332

Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

You may also join online at armyengineerspouses.com.



Sandra Lowe
Membership
Chairman

Dues: \$25.00

Benefits:

Castle Gram monthly;
one copy of the
Castle Directory;
10% discount in the
Castle Boutique; &
being a part of the
only Engineer network
for spouses.

**“Join today
and invite a friend!”**



AEOWC
P.O. Box 6332
Alexandria, VA 22306