

Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Inside this issue:

The Gavel	2
A Message from our Honorary President	3
Greetings from Sunny Kabul	4
Member Celebrations	5
An Invitation	6
The Capitol Connection	7
Engineer History	8
Essayons Award	9
Castle Boutique	10
Membership Application	11



George Washington appointed the first engineer officers of the Army on June 16, 1775, during the American Revolution, and engineers have served in combat in all subsequent American wars. The Army established the Corps of Engineers as a separate, permanent branch on March 16, 1802, and gave the engineers responsibility for founding and operating the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

We have a rich history we should be proud of. The Corps of Engineers today is comprised of combat soldiers, civilians, civil engineers and their families.

10 Combat Brigades (active, guard and reserve)
52 Engineer Combat Battalions
118 Engineer Combat Companies
71 Engineer Combat Detachments
9 Corps of Engineers Divisions
45 Corps of Engineers Districts

A Message from Membership:

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club mission for 2010-2011 continues over 50 years of fellowship, service and scholarship to army Engineer families.

We have expanded membership outreach to acknowledge the service of Engineer spouses worldwide as we focus our efforts on keeping engineer families connected through the years and across the miles.

Our membership application is available on page 9 or online at armyengineerspouses.com

Come join us as we make this a memorable new year.

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



Roz Riley
President

“Our membership is open not just to officer and civilian spouses, but also spouses of Senior NCOs. It is a delight to expand our Engineer family.”

The Gavel ...a note from our President

Dearest friends,

A few months ago as we entered the year 2010, much was said about it being a NEW DECADE! Seems just like yesterday that much was said about it being a new millennium! Truth be told, it is a NEW DECADE! And, with that new decade, we are becoming a NEW CLUB! If you read our June 2010 Castle Gram, you were alerted to the fact that our club is changing with the times, the NEW DECADE. We are moving forward with a NEW NAME: The Army Engineer Spouses' Club (AESC). You remember that we were established in 1953 as The Army Engineer Officers Wives' Club (AEOWC). In the 57 years of our existence, we have grown over the years to include more than just Engineer wives. Our membership includes spouses (male and female), civilians, spouses of civilians, spouses of foreign engineers serving in the U.S. With the changing of our name, came the changing of our crest...we have a NEW CREST.

We are moving forward with NEW MEMBERSHIP: Our membership is open not just to officers and civilian spouses, but also spouses of senior NCOs. It is a delight to expand our engineer family. Help us to spread the word of this opportunity! Give a gift membership to a friend, to a special NCO spouse, to a male spouse who is not yet involved with us, to a retired spouse you know.

We are moving forward with NEW BENEFITS: Fellowship*Service*Scholarship

Fellowship: While we are located across the US and the globe, our Redbook (Castle Directory) helps us to stay connected. The Castle Gram provides information about outings and happenings within our engineer communities.

Service: As a service oriented group, we are able to support engineer communities, the Army Distaff Foundation/Knollwood, and respond to community welfare requests. Our Castle Boutique offers a member discount for shopping online! Those of you in the DC/VA/MD area, please join us for the AEA Envelope Stuffing days or for the Army Ten Miler Tee Shirt Handout.

Scholarship: A larger purpose of our club, we are able to distribute scholarships annually to deserving children of our engineer family. The Army Engineer Memorial Awards and the Geraldine K. Morris Award presentations end our club year by recognizing deserving young students.

Last year, our focus was on history: Enjoying our history, Living our History, Designing our History. Join with us now as we continue to make history in this NEW DECADE.

As always, thank you, each of you, for your support, your participation, your part in our history, past, present, and future. Our Membership Chairman has developed a catchy phrase for our club: Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected through the years and across the miles! Get out and savor the last few weeks of summer!

Until next time, gratefully,

Roz

...a note from our Honorary President

Greetings Engineer friends,

We are soon to kick off the 2010-11 year with a new name: Army Engineer Spouses' Club (AESC) and an expanded eligibility for membership! Our mission remains the same.....to connect and serve our Engineer family! Our hope is to broaden our reach, to grow our club membership and gain participation by our emerging younger Engineer families! We are hopeful that many of our Engineer spouses at Ft. Leonard Wood and other installations will see the value of joining and partnering with us to strengthen the impact of our AESC mission!

We have an exciting year planned. We will kick-off with our annual Cocktail Party on September 25th at Quarters 9. It's hard to believe that this will be the last one Van and I host! Our time as the 52nd Chief team has gone soooo quickly!! The Cocktail Party is always a joyful event.....seeing old friends and meeting new ones.....enjoying amazing food and drink overlooking the sunset on the water. We would love to have you join us in person; but if you can't attend....you can still participate in the most important part of the evening: donating to our scholarship fund!! We have the privilege each Spring of awarding scholarships to several amazing young people; sons and daughters of Engineer officers! With our expanded membership, we will be looking to set up another scholarship to recognize deserving Engineer NCO families. Last spring a group of us met at Quarters 9 to go through our historical records and archive them for the future. It was such rewarding work to read through the old Castle Grams and newspaper articles; to see pictures of some of our current members 30 to 40 years ago! It dawned on us.....and we commented that one day30 to 40 years from now others will be looking at our participation in our club's history. Let's give them something to talk about!!!! Come make a difference with us!

Building Strong!

Essayons,

Paula

...a note from our Honorary Vice President

Hi fellow Army Engineer Spouses,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer. It has been really hot here in the Greater Washington DC area.

We are looking forward to the 2010-2011 year with the AESC. I don't know if you all have heard but with the new name change we are expanding our membership. We would love to have your help and have you invite any E-7 and above spouses or USACE GS-7 and above you might know to join our membership and be a part of our club. Even if they don't live in the Greater DC area we would love to have our club grow with members all over the world..

Building Strong!

Bobby



Paula Van Antwerp
Honorary President

“Our hope is to broaden our reach, to grow our club membership and gain participation by our emerging younger Engineer families!”



Bobby Buxbaum
Honorary
Vice-President



**Devorah
Wasche**

“I learned that QALAA House (our part of the Kabul Green Zone) is also known as ‘Camp Cup Cake’ ”

Editor's Note: This page will feature an update from Devorah Waesch, a Resource Manager for the Corps of Engineers' Cincinnati Division, currently deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan.

Greetings from Sunny Kabul...

Friends -- My best greetings from sunny Kabul, where I am now finishing my 3rd day. My week of pre-deployment training at the US Army's Corps of Engineers' Deployment Center (UDC) was well organized, fast-paced and well worth the time. We even had class "crashers" from the Pentagon who managed to wrangle a spot in what has come to be regarded as the premier class, rather than take other pre-deployment classes. Our two training sergeants were classic -- a good combination of gruff, warm, folksy, and gruff again ("Listen up! Next 4th of July! You hear fireworks! Don't be looking up for the pretty display in the sky! Get your fool head DOWN! They don't celebrate 4th of July over there!"). I learned that QALAA House (our part of the Kabul Green Zone) is also known as "Camp Cup Cake" -- partly because the food includes lots of baked goods, partly because, "You get over there, first few days, you pay attention to security. Then you get lazy. You start asking, 'When's Salsa Night?'" For the record: The brisk, armored vehicle drive from Kabul airport to Green Zone is serious business. However, once here, life takes on a more pedestrian feel. PPM celebrated a birthday yesterday with a huge spice cake with cream-cheese frosting; tonight's deserts included cherry pie and pecan pie. And Salsa Dancing is Sunday nights at the K-span, and Tuesday nights at Camp Eggers' gym.

A word about living conditions: I had dreams of being assigned my very own room. Ha Ha Ha. For the indefinite future, I'm in a basement dorm room with three other women. We each have a bed and a tiny closet. The whole set up is so close to an old Girl Scout Camp that I'm wary of falling asleep, for fear that one of my room-mates is going to spray shaving cream into my hand and then tickle my nose. (Revenge will be mine: I am an expert short-sheeter.) Living conditions are also very TIGHT: There are exactly 30 steps (footsteps) from my dorm room to my office, and another 40 to the dining facility (or "DFAC"). I haven't counted the steps to the gym - - probably another 80 and not more. The big hike is to Camp Eggers, still in the Green Zone but next door to QALAA House -- it must be perhaps 3 square city blocks away. Camp Eggers has many exotic draws: The Green Bean coffee house, open 24/7, which serves the MOAC (The Mother of All Coffees, consisting of 4 espresso shots in a cup of coffee -- ouch); the PX (such as it is -- a hole in the wall); and various shops run by Afghans selling electronics, movies, jewelry, clothing, leather goods; etc. After a few 10-12 hour work days, it's all but impossible to escape the lure of exotic Camp Eggers!

Please pass my regards on. Carry on -- do good work and be kind to one another!

Devorah



Birthdays.....

Tyler	Kitty	July	15
Burlin	Kay	July	16
Kam	Cynthia	July	23
Fuhrman	Marjorie	July	31
Suermann	June A	Aug	6
Leketa	Donna Brannon	Aug	7
Walker	Johna	Aug	12
Kirby	Angela	Aug	14
Peck	Mary Ruth (OJ)	Aug	18
Heiberg	Kathryn (Kitty)	Aug	19
Anderson	Kara	Aug	24
Link	Anita	Aug	30
Williams	Patricia (Pat)	Sep	2
Burt	Kimbel Treat Noah	Sep	3
Comiso	Barbara (Barb)	Sep	8
Sullivan	Susan	Sept	22
Gill	Cheryl	Sep	28



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

News from Knollwood:

Mrs. Benjamin B. Talley, Virginia, is doing well. She has not returned to visit Alaska for some years now. She kindly donated her property there to become a park.

The Brownleys, who have been at Knollwood for a number of years, are active there. Mrs. Brownley, a former Army nurse, was instrumental in updating the healthcare facilities at Knollwood. She says that her vision has changed somewhat and she has now reached her nineties! Congratulations to her! She reports that Colonel Brownley has had some health problems; however, he seems to be improving.

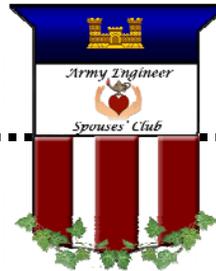
Mrs. Manning and her husband are doing well. He did have some back trouble but is stronger now. She reports that Knollwood has some wonderful activities. As examples, she said that they had many lovely parties; and, at one, a garden party, the female residents were costumed in large, beautiful hats. The new health-facility building has a café which is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and they are enjoying that. A singing group, made up of Knollwood residents and appropriately called the Knollwood Singers, has been performing often. They sing Broadway songs and other well-known ones for the enjoyment of all.

News from The Fairfax:

Mrs. Joyce Rebh and her daughter took the auto train to Florida. We hope that the trip and their stay was as wonderful as they were hoping for prior to their departure.

We want to hear from you, our members!
 Do you have something to share? Special anniversary,
 new baby or grandbaby, deployment, promotion, graduation news???
 Please go to our website and click on "Contact Us". Email us and let
 us know what is going on in your life!





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

You can also RSVP online at our website
armyengineerspouses.com

**RSVP BY
 SEP 18**

AESC Welcome Cocktail Party

*Saturday, September 25, 2010
 5:00 to -7:00 pm*

*At the home of LTG and Mrs. Robert L. Van Antwerp
 Quarters 9
 Ft. McNair, Washington, D. C.*

Coat and Tie

*RSVP by September 18 to:
 Pat O'Neill 703-378-3624 or pponeill6@aol.com (A-M)
 OR
 Sarah Pearce 703-815-7356 or pearcesall@cox.net (N-Z)*

*Members are respectfully asked to bring an appetizer
 or finger dessert for our guests to enjoy*

*Voluntary donations to the
 Army Engineer Memorial Award Fund will be accepted.
 Suggested: \$20 per person or \$35 per couple
 (This donation is tax deductible)*



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 (see below)

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. Information about the DC programs can also be found on our website: armyengineer-spouses.com

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

Tour of the Brewmaster's Castle in Washington DC
Wednesday October 13, 10:30 am
Optional lunch following the tour – TBD



The Brewmaster's Castle, also called the Christian Heurich House, is the most intact late-Victorian house in the country. It is located near Dupont Circle. Cost is a \$5 donation. Meet at the Castle.

RSVP by October 8, 2010

Check out the website: www.brewmasterscastle.com



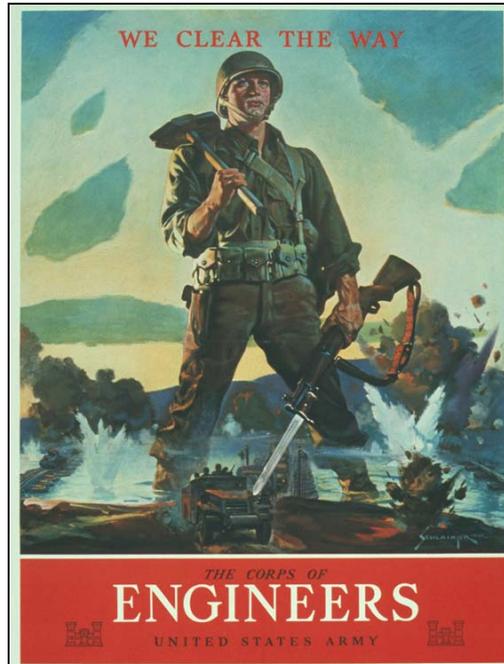
THE CAPITOL CONNECTION

RSVP BY
OCT 8



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

“In fact, until relatively recently, all engineers were military engineers”



The earliest engineer (and architect, and physician) in recorded history was Imhotep of Ancient Egypt, who lived in the 27th century BC and is credited as designer of the very first pyramid, which still stands today, almost 5,000 years later.

No major military operation since the dawn of time has advanced without the help of engineers, even if the term didn't even exist at that time. Any operation where terrain needed to be modified, fortifications built or machines and equipment used, engineers have made their mark.

In fact, until relatively recently, *all* engineers were military engineers. The term "civil engineer" was coined in the late 18th century and originally referred to any engineer who wasn't associated with the military. For a long time Engineers and Artillerymen were the distinctively intellectual types of warfare. Cavalry and Infantry officers thought of themselves as warriors rather than technicians.

As a matter of fact, the earliest heavy artillery, i.e. Catapults and Trebuchets and the like, were referred to as Siege Engines. Engineers were the guys who set up and ran them. Thus, the earliest Artillerymen *WERE* Engineers.

In his *Memoirs*, retired Lieutenant General (and former President of the United States) Ulysses S. Grant gives the lion's share of the credit for America's victory in the Mexican War to the Combat Engineers. Grant himself was technically a Combat Engineer. West Point was the first Engineering School to open in the United States, and most military officers retired to work as engineers for rail road companies.

<http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/TheEngineer>

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



ESSAYONS AWARD

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



Kathy Candido
Services Chairman
(aka the Castle
Boutique Manager)

Shopping in the Castle Boutique

Meet the newest item in our Castle Boutique! This Engineer Faberge-style “egg” pendant is a gorgeous and unique way to show your Sapper spirit!

Available in Red, Red and Black, All Black, & Army Green (chain not included)

\$85.00 (\$20 goes directly into our scholarship fund)



Red



Red/Black



All Black



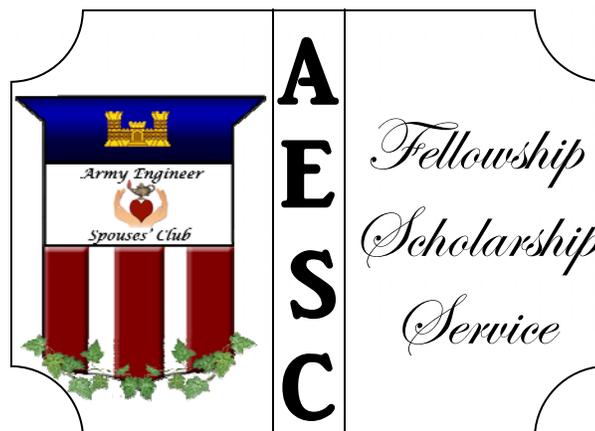
Army Green



Back

“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 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