



# Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

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## Inside the Issue:

The Gavel	1
CastleBoutique	2
Around Town	3
Nominations	4
Do you know?	5
Protocol	6
Photo Gallery	7
Keepers of the Castle	9
Engineers in Europe	10
Chit Chat	11
Dollars & Sense	12
Fun & Games	12

## Our Executive Board:

### President

Launa Klimowicz-Brown

### Vice President

Carolyn Hudson

### Treasurer

Jessica Gregris

### Secretary

Laurel-Lee States

### AEMA Chairperson

Erica Shaw

### Honorary President

Connie Semonite

## The Gavel:

It is an honor and privilege for me to serve as the President of the Army Engineer Spouses' Club (AESC) for the upcoming year of 2016/17. I am deeply grateful to each individual member and the executive board for electing me and providing me with such a wonderful opportunity to serve our Engineer Soldiers and their families.



The AESC has a rich history beginning in 1951 by sponsoring a Christmas luncheon at Ft Belvoir, where members donated gifts for wounded Korean War veterans at Walter Reed Hospital. During the past few years, as a member of the club and the Welfare/Service Chair, I was able to witness the commitment of the board members and general membership and I realized the spirit from 1951 still exists in each member of our club. I am looking forward to leading this club in continuing to capture that spirit and serve our Engineer community. -Launa Klimowicz-Brown

**“Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected through the years and across the miles”**



# 2016-2017 Volunteers

## Parliamentarian

Roz Riley

## Membership

Jackie Caldwell

## Hospitality

Terri Stevens

Lynne Jackson

## Historian

Lisa Stevenson

## Castle-Gram

Allison Chamberlayne

## Webmaster

Laura Putnam

## Circulation

Kara Anderson

## Castle Boutique

Sheila Kelly

## Welfare Services

Open

## Retirement Residences

### Liaison

Kay Burlin

## Knollwood Bake Sale

Pricilla Noah

## Nominations

Bette Meuleners

## Scholarship Committee

Marguerite Theissen

# Castle Boutique



The Castle Boutique will be open at the Pre-Command Course at HQ USACE on Wednesday June 15th. We need you to do two things...

1. Volunteer! Join us from 9am until 2pm. We know you have always wanted to run cash register and get an up close look at the Castle Boutique wares. Contact Sheila Kelly at [castleboutique@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:castleboutique@armyengineerspouses.com) to sign up.
2. Shop! Is your spouse is attending PCC? Send him/her in with a wish list and our dedicated volunteers will help make it happen! This also works the other way around ladies! If you give us a hint, we can always do some gentle nudging when we see your engineer at the sale!



This double charm Essayons Necklace is sterling silver and 14k filled. It has a chain that is 16" and extends to 18". Yours for only \$28!

The 5mm link Castle Bracelet is \$24 and is perfect to add more charms to!



# Local Events

**June 10-12**  
Celebrate Fairfax! Festival

**June 10-19**  
DC Jazz Festival

**June 12**  
Celebrate Gaithersburg

**June 17**  
Taste of Reston

**June 18**  
Washington Soap Box Derby

**June 19**  
Manassas Wine and Jazz Festival

**June 25-26**  
National Capital Barbecue Battle

**June 25**  
Alexandria Food and Wine Festival

**June 29-July 4**  
**July 7-10**  
Smithsonian Folklife Festival

**June 30 - July 24**  
UniverSoul Circus, National Harbor

## Around Town

Twilight Tattoo is an hour-long, live-action military pageant featuring Soldiers from The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own." Experience a glimpse into American history through performances by The U.S. Army Blues, vocalists from The U.S. Army Band Downrange and U.S. Army Band Voices, The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, and The U.S. Army Drill Team.

The 2016 Twilight Tattoo showcase began May 4 and runs through August 3, every Wednesday with the exception of July 6 and 13. There will be no Twilight Tattoo scheduled for July 6 and 13.

All Twilight Tattoo performances begin at 7 PM, with pre-ceremony pageantry starting at 6:30 PM.

Twilight Tattoo will be performed on Summerall Field from May through August.

This performance is free and open to the public. For more information on group reservations, contact the U.S. Army Military District of Washington at (202) 685-2888



# Nominations

Congratulations! We have completed our Virtual Voting to elect our 2016-2017 AESC Board. We have made every effort to select the best volunteers for these positions and include the entire membership in our nominations and election process. Here is a recap of the process:

## April 2016:

- CastleGram published the proposed slate of Elected Board (5 positions)
- Call for nominations from the general membership was made with mail-in nominations postmarked by April 28.

## May 8, 2016:

- No additional nominations were received by mail or online.
- Final Slate presented in the CastleGram with instructions for online and mail-in voting.
- An email was sent to the general membership with the ballot and instructions for voting online.
- Voting was open from May 8 - May 20 (PST). Mail In ballots must have been postmarked NLT 20 May.
- Only NAY votes needed to respond.

## June 1, 2016:

- No NAY votes were received by mail or by email.
- RESULTS: Proposed slate of Elected Officers for 2016-2017 has been unanimously approved as follows:

President: Launa Klimowicz-Brown

Vice President: Carolyn Hudson

Secretary: Laurel-Lee States

Treasurer: Jessica Gregris

AEMA Chairperson: Erica Shaw

Thank you all for contributing to the annual proces to fill our elected board!



Thank  
You!

*Roz Riley*

AESC Parliamentarian, 2016-2017

# Do You Know...

Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the change of command for the Chief of Engineers last month witnessed the hand off of the MacArthur's Castles from LTG Bostick to LTG Semonite. For those of us unfamiliar with this tradition, here is a re-print of the history of the MacArthur's Castles from the Change of Command program.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the time he was commissioned at the U.S. Military Academy in 1903 until he transferred to the Infantry in 1917. In early 1945 during the liberation of the Philippines, General MacArthur presented his gold castles to Major General Leif Sverdrup, a close friend, who had served as chief engineer on General MacArthur's staff in the Southwest Pacific Area in World War II. General Sverdrup recalled that General MacArthur told him the castles were a gift from his father and meant very much to him, but they "deserved to be worn by a real engineer." He asked only that General Sverdrup wear them "with pride and distinction" and that they "never end up in a museum somewhere."

The castles remained in General Sverdrup's possession for 30 years. Then on 2 May 1975, the retired general appeared at Fort Belvoir for the Corp's 200th Anniversary Engineer Dinner. Before the banquet, General Sverdrup presented the castles privately to Lieutenant General William C. Gribble, Jr. the serving 43rd Chief of Engineers. Overwhelmed by this unexpected gesture, General Gribble later announced to the banquet of guests this intention for the future: "... to hand the castles over to my successor at the conclusion of my tenure as Chief of Engineers, thus initiating an important tradition as well as discharging my trust to him."

On 25 June 1976, General Gribble passed the coveted insignia to Lieutenant General John W. Morris, the 44th Chief of Engineers. General Gribble remarked that the castles epitomized Esprit de Corps—the spirit of the Corps. Since then, each departing Chief has passed the MacArthur Castles on to his successor.

**Fun Fact** - The Chief of Engineers is one of the few General Officers who wear branch insignia. Army custom is that general officers wear no branch insignia, as they deal with echelons far above the basic branch level. Exceptions, however exist, as with the commandants of the various branches retain the respective insignia and Dean of the U.S. Military Academy wears the Professor, USMA insignia



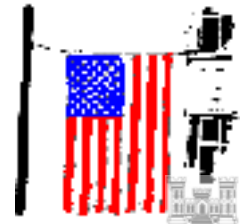
# Protocol Points to Ponder

With Independence Day right around the corner, here are a few tips on how to properly display the American Flag. For more information, please see <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagetiq.html>



When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.



When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way, that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.



When hung in a window where it is viewed from the street, place the union at the head and over the left shoulder.

The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaves in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.



# Photo Gallery

Please enjoy these photos of our recent events!

These are some pictures of our  
May events

Want to see more? check out  
our web site

[www.armyengineerspouses.com](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com)

Or like us on FaceBook

[www.facebook.com/  
ArmyEngineerSpousesClub](http://www.facebook.com/ArmyEngineerSpousesClub)



We hosted a salad bar pot luck for our last board meeting of the year. We thanked Connie for her *service* as president for the past 2 years. The wooden serving tray has our club crest and "Serving Engineer Spouses" etched in the wood. We even had a special guest attend who thanked our exiting board members and welcomed our new ones. He's a pretty good photographer too! (photo credits to the top, group photo go to LTG Todd Semonite)



# Photo Gallery

Please enjoy these photos of our recent events!



<<Here is a picture from this months Greeting the Honor Flight from Ohio in May. It is a special privilege to greet these veterans on the honor flights. We will continue the service throughout the next year. Come join us next time!



These are a few shots from the retirement dinner for LTG Bostick, the promotion ceremony for LTG Semonite, and the Change of Command.







# *Keepers of the Castle*

Connect with the Keeper's Of the Castle on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/KeepersOfTheCastle](http://www.facebook.com/KeepersOfTheCastle) or via email [FLWKeepers@gmail.com](mailto:FLWKeepers@gmail.com).

KOTC hosted their Year End Event on May 20th. They got to tour the U.S. Army Prime Power School and the event included truck and pole climbing operations!!!

After the tour and activities, they moved to Nona's in downtown Waynesville for lunch where they did their End Of Year farewells and appreciations.



# Engineers In Europe

The Engineer Spouses Group - Europe hosts a monthly Lego League, socializes together at monthly coffees, and keeps each other informed about community events and resources through their awesome Facebook group. Contact Michelle Tyler to catch up with this dynamic group! [mt Tyler1015@aol.com](mailto:mt Tyler1015@aol.com)

These engineer spouses are always on the move! Whether it be an unplanned meet up for beer and pretzels, community blood drives or Lego League, you will always find a friend willing to give of time and knowledge in support of their Army Engineer European Adventure!

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
**BLOOD DRIVE**



SUPPORTING OUR  
 MILITARY WITH  
 BLOOD, SWEAT  
 & ENGINEERS

**JUNE 7, 2016**  
**0900 TO 1500** 

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
 (AMELIA EARHART CENTER)  
**39 KONRAD-ADENAUER RING**  
**WIESBADEN, GERMANY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
 THE WIESBADEN RED CROSS  
 0611-143-548-1760 OR  
 WIESBADEN@REDCROSS.ORG



# Chit Chat

## Get to know our members!

This section is all about you! Tell us where summer PCS season is taking you, fun summer plans or vacations.... We'd love to see what you, your Engineer unit or Coffee Group is doing. Send all pictures and submissions to Allison Chamberlayne [newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com).



The spouses of the 249th Engineer Battalion gathered on May 21st to farewell Dominique Wilt and her family as the PCS to Europe this summer. They met at an Alexandria, Indian restaurant called Aditi. Aditi, the name of an ancient goddess, symbolizes the cyclical nature of life. The Sanskrit word, Aditi, denotes abundant, joyful & unbroken creative power that sustains the universe. Colloquially, Aditi means 'distinguished guest'. Very fitting for the occasion!

## **WANTED! Send in pictures of your Coffee group or FRG!**

If you don't want to go to the trouble of sending me pictures, just invite me to join your Facebook Group and I'll snag them myself! You can find me on Facebook as Allison Thorborg Chamberlayne or click <https://www.facebook.com/allison.chamberlayne>

There is always the option to send any submission to:

**[newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com)**

# Dollars and Sense

## From the Treasurer, Jessica L. Gregris

Did you know...pennies buried in a garden will repel slugs, which get electric shocks from touching copper and zinc, and a farm in Delaware mulches more than four tons of U.S. cash into compost every day (in previous eras, worn out bills were pierced or burned). These and more facts about money can be found in Harley J. Spiller's book, *"Keep the Change: A Collector's Tales of Lucky Pennies, Counterfeit C-Notes, and Other Curious Currency."*

It is a busy time for the treasurer as the 2015-2016 year closes out. Please ensure any requests for reimbursement for this past year are submitted to [treasurer@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:treasurer@armyengineerspouses.com) by June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, any recommendations or proposed changes to next year's budget should be submitted to the same email address by June 20<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of the Financial Committee's meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The Committee will finalize the proposed budget for the next year which will be voted on by the new board.

Lastly, please contact anyone on the Executive Board if you or someone you know would be willing to donate a few hours in July assisting with reviewing AESC and AEMA finances.



# Fun & Games



There are multiple copies of this image of a castle throughout the newsletter. Can you find them all? How many are there?



AESC  
P.O. Box 6332  
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

