

# Castle Gram

# Military

MAY 1 - 31  
APPRECIATION MONTH



AESC  
PO Box 332  
Alexandria VA  
22320-6332



VOLUME LXV, ISSUE 9

MAY 2019

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To all members of the AESC:

The nominations process for positions on the Elected Executive Board for 2019-2020 is now complete. No additional nominees have been submitted from the general membership.

This is your complete ballot. The vote is for the board of officers in total.

Voting will be:

- open from Sunday, 12 May to Saturday, 18 May 2019.
- a **consensus** vote. **Only NAY responses need reply.**
- Email *only* to Roz Riley (parliamentarian) at [vote@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:vote@armyengineerspouses.com).
- In emails use subject line:  
AESC: Ballot-Voting - Executive Board 2019-2020
- OR you may mail in your ballot. \*

I vote AYE in favor of the nominees for the AESC 2019-2020 Board:

President—Launa Klimowicz-Brown  
Vice-President—Mary Alice Jakso  
Secretary— Kimberly Gibbs  
Treasurer— Basia Kent  
AEMA Chairman—Laura Putnam

I vote NAY in favor of the nominees for the AESC 2019-2020 Board:

President—Launa Klimowicz-Brown  
Vice-President—Mary Alice Jakso  
Secretary— Kimberly Gibbs  
Treasurer— Basia Kent  
AEMA Chairman—Laura Putnam

Thank you for your participation in this process.

Announcement of the voting results and complete 2019-2020 AESC Board will be sent via email and published in the next Castle Gram.

**AESC Circulation will send a ballot with instructions for voting via email.**

Instructions for MAIL IN ballots:

- Only **NAY** votes need to be mailed. Place the ballot in an envelope with your name and return address on the upper left.
- Cast your vote on this form.
- Your name must appear on the envelope to identify AESC membership.
- Mail in ballots must be postmarked by 18 May 2019. Ballots postmarked after that date will not be counted.

• Mail to: AESC Ballot  
c/o Parliamentarian  
8047 Fairfax Road  
Alexandria, VA 22308-1408



# Castle Gram

## AESC 2018-19 Executive Board

### **ELECTED BOARD:**

#### **President**

Christy Cramer-Preston

#### **Vice President**

Lois Cook

#### **Secretary**

Tricia Murphy

#### **Treasurer**

Kimberly Oborski

#### **AEMA Chairperson**

Kara Anderson

### **Volunteers:**

#### **Castle Boutique**

Sally Beck

#### **Castle Gram Editor**

Susan Wright

#### **Circulation**

Sheila Kelly

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Shannon Luzzatto

#### **Historian**

Michelle Tyler

#### **Hospitality**

Michelle Funkhouser &

Deb Wehr

#### **Knollwood Bake Sale**

Priscilla Noah

#### **Membership**

Jackie Caldwell &

Laura Putnam

#### **Nominations**

Vanessa Joly

#### **Nominations Emeritus**

Bette Meuleners

#### **Parliamentarian**

Roz Riley

#### **Publicity/Facebook:**

Carolyn Hudson

#### **The Fairfax Liaison**

Kay Burlin

#### **Webmaster**

Terri Stevens

#### **Welfare**

Cathy Hansen

*Dear Members,*

*May is here! I have so many favorite childhood memories of May. Cartwheels on freshly cut grass with my sisters. Buttercup bouquets for mom and planting our 4-# vegetable garden. I still love the smell of fresh cut spring grass. Mom still gets bouquets and I still keep a vegetable garden. Some things never change!*

*This month the Castle Gram is dedicated to our military and their spouses.*

*Don't forget this month's local tours of the Hillwood Estate and Gardens, plus a walking tour of Georgetown. Both awesome places to visit. Our AESC Social Club had a great time at MGM, National Harbor. See more info for Mays get together.*

*There is tons of information for us military spouses in this issue. Also, AESC scholarship winners, around town events in DC, plus our district happenings!*

*Happy Mother's Day*

*Love you, Mom!*

*~ Susan*

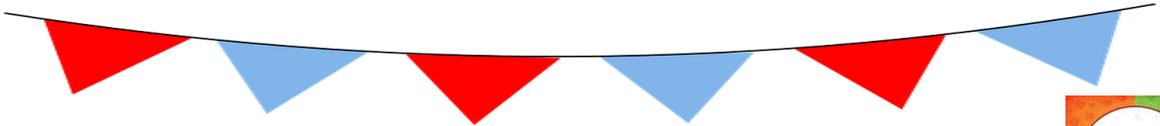
*Castle Gram Editor*



God could not be everywhere, and  
therefore he made mothers.

~ Rudyard Kipling

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



## Military Spouse Appreciation Day 2019 – Honoring Military Spouses

In the United States Military Spouse Day takes place on May 10, 2019, which is the Friday before Mother's Day. The day is celebrated annually and is also known as Military Spouse Appreciation Day. President Ronald Reagan declared this day in 1984 in order to recognize the importance of spouse commitment to the well-being of military members. The day was first observed on May 23, 1984. However, it was Caspar Weinberger, then US Secretary of Defense, who standardized the date by declaring the Friday before Mother's Day as Military Spouse Day. Today the US president holds a ceremonial speech on that special holiday.

*This text has been taken from [www.cute-calendar.com](http://www.cute-calendar.com)*

US Military Veterans have two major holidays devoted to recognizing their bravery and sacrifice. [Memorial Day](#) and [Veterans Day](#) are there to remind us of the millions of Americans who have worn the uniform to defend our country, and in the case of Memorial Day, remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We also frequently celebrate military members and veterans on July 4th. However, there is another important holiday that is frequently overlooked: National Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

It is important that we don't overlook the sacrifices of those who support our military. I'm referring, of course, to the millions of men and women who make daily sacrifices as a military spouse. Perhaps the only thing as difficult as being a military member is loving one.

### National Military Spouse Appreciation Day

The military way of life can be difficult for everyone in the family – for the servicemember, his or her spouse, and their child(ren). Everyone knows how hard it can be on service members – always being on call, long deployments in dangerous situations, and always putting the military first, often ahead of family and personal interests.

But being a military dependent is no easy task either. Spouses and children are often required to frequently move, to change jobs and schools, and hold down the fort while the servicemember is deployed or on temporary duty. Without military spouses and the support they give, military servicemembers wouldn't be able to concentrate on the tasks at hand. Honoring spouses with a day or recognition is just one way to show appreciation.

### Military Spouse Appreciation Day History:

Military Spouse Appreciation Day was created by President Reagan in 1984 to recognize the sacrifices and support of military spouses. The first Military Spouse Appreciation Day was celebrated May 23, 1984. The date has since been standardized as the Friday before Mother's Day. Military Spouse Appreciation Day was formally made part of National Military Appreciation Month in 1999.

### How is Military Spouse Appreciation Day Observed?

This holiday is normally commemorated by a ceremonial speech or proclamation by the President or the First Lady. Many military installations often celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day with local events and ceremonies. Check with your local military installation for more information.



*"She stood in the storm, and when the wind did not blow her way, she adjusted her sails." -- Elizabeth Edwards*

*To all of the military spouses out there, thank you for your commitment to your Soldier and to your family, and for your sacrifice and selfless service to our Army.*

*- Gen. Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army*



## Benefits Available to Military Spouses

Many bases and local military communities have special opportunities for military spouses which are available year round. These can include

[Tuition assistance through the MyCAA Program](#),

· Employment opportunities,

[Free classes offered on base](#),

[Free counseling services](#).

[Programs through the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation \(MWR\) office](#), and [other benefits available to military families](#).

Many installations offer additional services or benefits when the service member is deployed. These can include things such as discounts, assistance with child care or home maintenance, oil changes or vehicle inspections, etc. Be sure to check with your base community center or similar office for more information.

## Military Spouse Tax Benefits

The government also recognizes that military spouses are not always given an option of when or where they are required to move, which was the reason they created the [Military Spouses Residency Relief Act](#), which allows military spouses to claim their original state of residence on their taxes.

This can be a big help if the spouse is originally from a state with a lower tax rate (or no state taxes at all). I wish I had known about the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act when I was newly married (I had already separated from the USAF when my wife and I were married. She was still in the USAF and I could have maintained my Texas residency and avoided paying state income taxes for a year).

## Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses

Employment can be difficult for military spouses, especially when they [frequently move](#). There are many employers who provide excellent employment opportunities for military spouses. Here is a list of the [best employers for military spouses](#).

<https://themilitarywallet.com/military-spouse-appreciation-day/>

### Interesting Books:

[Modern Military Spouse: The Ultimate Military Life Guide for New Spouses and Significant Others](#)  
[You Are Not Alone: Encouragement for the Heart of a Military Spouse](#)

[The 5 Love Languages Military Edition: The Secret to Love That Lasts](#)

[Got Your Six: A 12-Month Journal for Military Spouses](#)

[Married to the Military: A Survival Guide for Military Wives, Girlfriends, and Women in Uniform](#)



*"The greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not our circumstances." -- Martha Washington*



## 10 Military Discounts for Spouses



Military.com | By [Heather Sweeney](#)

Military discounts are all around us. Some offer better deals than others. Some are advertised. Some are little known secrets that are revealed [only when requested](#). Some expire, some are seasonal, and some last forever. And while there are some military discounts that are custom-made for service members, there are some that are perfect for military spouses.

Here's a list of 10 military discounts that spouses love:

### 1. Disney



Have you always wanted to take your family on vacation at Disney World but tossed the idea aside because you thought you couldn't afford it? Well, with a military ID, you can afford it. Through Disney's Armed Forces Salute program, military personnel can get discounted tickets to Disney theme parks, as well as discounts off select rooms at Disney Resort hotels. These deals are good for military spouses of eligible service members even without the member being present.

[Click here](#) for more details.

### 2. Amusement Parks

Who doesn't love taking a family vacation to [LEGOLAND](#) or [Universal Studios](#) or [Colonial Williamsburg](#)? Amusement parks are a fun way for military families to spend time together, whether on vacation, celebrating a homecoming, or heading out for a random day trip. Do you have an amusement park in your area? Make sure you call ahead, check their website, or visit your [local IIT](#) office to ask about military discounts. [Click here](#) to learn more about popular amusement parks that offer discounts to military families.

### 3. BuildASign.com

Deployments are a regular part of military life. And that means homecomings are a regular part too. Ready to celebrate the end of a deployment with a memorable homecoming? [BuildASign](#) offers free homecoming banners to welcome your special service member home.

### 4. Home Depot/Lowes

Owning a house is hard work. There's always something that needs to be done, whether it's the grass that needs mowing or pictures that need hanging or appliances that spontaneously break. Then, once you think you finally have a handle on all those home improvement projects, it's time to PCS and start all over with a different house.

That's why spouses love the 10% year-round military discounts offered at both [Home Depot](#) and [Lowes](#). If your house needs it, Home Depot and Lowes will have it.

### 5. Restaurant

Whether you and your significant other are heading out for date night, or the deployment is leaving you in need of a night off from cooking, going out to eat is even more enjoyable when you're not paying full price for that yummy meal. From Hard Rock Cafe to Ryan's to the Melting Pot, lots of restaurants offer military discounts. Keep in mind that even though some chain restaurants may offer a military appreciation night or a discount in one location, it doesn't mean all of them do.

### 6. Clothing and accessories

Clothes, shoes, accessories. We need them. But putting together a wardrobe sure is expensive. That's why military spouses love the discounts offered at stores like [Kohl's](#), [Old Navy](#), [Banana Republic](#), [New York and Company](#), [Rack Room Shoes](#) and many more. Some stores offer discounts both in-store and online while others may not, so it's best to call or check the website for details.

### 7. Cruises

Cruises are another way to enjoy family vacation time. And thanks to military discounts offered by cruise lines like [MSC Cruises](#) and [Disney Cruise Line](#), it's more affordable than you think.

### 8. Crafts

Maybe you want to try to make that awesome Pinterest project people keep talking about. Maybe the kiddos have school projects due soon. Or maybe you want to put together a care package for a deployed loved one. Spouses can head over to Jo-Ann Fabric, Michaels and A.C. Moore for discounts on just about any crafting needs you can think of.

### 9. Movie theaters

Is it a rainy day and the kids are bored? Take them to the movies. Do you finally get to have a date night and you need something to do after dinner? Go to the movies. But don't forget your military ID because many movie theaters, like Cinemark and Regal offer military discounts on tickets.

### 10. Local discounts

National brands and chains aren't the only businesses that offer military discounts. Local businesses also like to show their support for the military by providing discounts, especially in cities with a large military presence. Don't know what businesses in your area offer military discounts? Your best bet is just to ask, "Do you have a military discount?" It never hurts to ask, and you might end up pleasantly surprised with a great deal.

# AEMA Awards Luncheon



This year was another successful year for the AEMA committee. The AESC received 21 applications in our 53rd year of awarding deserving seniors with scholarship awards. Weighted scoring was placed on grade point averages, national testing, leadership roles, extra-curricular activities, sports, awards and employment. No points were given for sponsor's rank, position, time in service, etc. The number of moves during high school was taken into consideration. Marguerite Theisen diligently put everything together for our evaluation. The essays were scored by three independent individuals.

The 2019 AEMA Scholarship Brunch held on 28 April was the culmination of our year! This year's celebration was back at the Fairfax after their facility was renovated. The food was delicious and atmosphere made for a wonderful day. There were 43 attendees including three award winners and their families, Anna Fenn, John Hansen and Andrew Luzzatto. Additionally, COL (Ret) Steve Cade stood in for his daughter Lillianne who couldn't be there. LTG Todd Semonite shared some inspiring remarks shining a light on the awardees. COL(Ret) Dave Anderson provided a perfect blessing for the event. Thanks to all who attended but most importantly, we would like to thank everyone for their support this year.

Please read a brief summary about our awardees. More information about our awardees can be found on our [website](#).



**Elizabeth Bert** is the daughter of LTC (Ret) Stephen and ThuVan Bert. She attends Leavenworth High School in Leavenworth, Kansas. She will attend Oklahoma State University where she will major in pre-Exercise Science. Elizabeth aspires to work in the Medical Field as an athletic trainer.



**John Hansen** is the son of COL and Mrs. Rick Hansen. John attends Woodson High School in Fairfax, VA. He will attend Missouri University of Science and Technology where he will major in business management. John aspires to find a career and job that is enjoyable to him.



**Lillianne Cade** is the daughter of COL (Ret) and Mrs. Steve Cade, and attends James Madison High School in Vienna, VA. In the fall, she will attend West Virginia University, where she plans to major in Forensic Investigative Science. Lillianne aspires to a position in the federal government in the forensic science field.



**Andrew Luzzatto** is the son of COL and Mrs. Matt Luzzatto, and attends Carlisle High School in Carlisle, PA. Andrew will be attending Norwich University in Northfield, VT where he will double major in major in Computer Science and Information Assurance, and International Studies. John hopes to be commissioned in the Army and serve in the Cyber Branch.



**Grady Jiggs Chapman** is the son of Jeremy and Renee Chapman of Carlisle, PA where he attends Carlisle High School. He will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY where he intends to study systems engineering.



**Arianna Sendmeyer** is the daughter of Scott and Alicia Sendmeyer, and attends Vincenza High School, Vincenza, Italy. She will be attending either Butler, Purdue, or Indiana University where she plans to major in pediatric nursing. Arianna aspires to explore the world and work with children.



**Anna Fenn** is the daughter of LTC (Ret) and Mrs. Mike Fenn of Manassas, VA attends Colgan High School. Anna will attend James Madison University in the fall, where she will determine her major after exploring the many exciting options that are available to her.



*The Geraldine K. Morris Nursing Award* is presented to **Luke Conner**, son of Kevin and Andrea Conner. Luke attends North Brunswick High School in Leland, NC. He will be attending the University of North Carolina – Wilmington where he will pursue a RN to BSN program and eventually earn a Master's Degree in Nursing.



## Don't forget to e-mail or mail your ballot for 2019 - 2020

Check for Circulation email



The Honor Flight has been in full swing this spring! In the past our members and families have gone to the airport to greet our Veterans. If this is something you are interested in doing,

please contact Cathy at [service@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:service@armyengineerspouses.com) for information.

### Memorial Greetings

Volunteers are always welcome and free at their own initiative to greet and welcome veterans directly at the Memorial's!

Veterans arrive not just from Reagan Airport, but from BWI, IAD, the local area, and on their own.

<https://honorflightdca.com/volunteering/greeting/memorials/>

This is a fantastic chance for your Boy Scout to plan an Eagle Scout project!

The Honor Flight Network flies Veterans from 140 hubs to Washington, DC to visit their Memorials at no cost to the Veterans. The easiest way to volunteer here is to greet our Veterans as their flight arrives at the airport or as their buses arrive at the WWII Memorial.

TO View schedule and REQUEST GATE PASS  
<https://honorflightdca.com/schedule/>

Info regarding volunteering  
<https://honorflightdca.com/volunteering/>

Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/honorflightdca/>



AEA has commissioned a Commemorative Engineer Print to celebrate the 150th Years that the Corps of Engineers has been a part of the National Capital Region, our Nation and the Army. The print portrays the Engineer Regiment in the Past, Present and Future. We are offering presales of this Commemorative Print that is 12x15 inches in size. Each print is signed and numbered print by the artist and comes with certificate of authenticity. The size of this limited production print will be largely based on the presales of the print. The expectation is that the final number will be between 500-750 for this print.

[Army Engineer Association](http://ArmyEngineerAssociation.com)



### Engineer Commemorative Print

( \$85 each copy and \$15 shipping)

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

Update 28 July 2018: AEA has received the first shipments of Prints from the artist. We will begin shipping them on 30 July The prints are numbered 1 to 750. We have sold in excess of 250 in presales. After we ship out the current orders we will then have a routine shipping process that ships within 5 days of orders.

### Reserve your Copy

Registration open through 7/31/2019 11:59 PM Eastern Time (US & Canada)

# Service & Welfare Updates!



## Classic Jar Candles

Our iconic shape is ready to deliver classic ambiance in your home.

### Mother's Day is May 12th!

*(deadline for shipping for Mother's Day has past)*

Freshen up your home with some new Yankee Candle items!

#### Deals of the Week

Save on select items—candles, accents, all unbelievable deals. They go fast!

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

### FOR SPRING 2019:

Shipping for Spring will end July 10, 2019

Watch for last minute specials announced from Yankee Candle on our [Website](#), [FaceBook page](#) and via our Circulation emails.

How to do it:

- Go to [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com)
- Put in your group number 999972278
- Although not required, please consider creating a 'Seller Login' when placing your order. Super easy to do, just click and follow the instructions!  
*\*Only the Service and Welfare Chair will see your name, so she can better track order credit from orders made by our members and friends.\**
- Shop

Questions?

Contact Cathy at [service@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:service@armyengineerspouses.com)

Warmly,  
Cathy



*Please Join Us....*



# *Hillwood* *Garden & Estate* **TOUR**

**MAY 7TH - 10AM**

Enjoy a docent led tour of the Hillwood Estate, founded by Marjorie Merriweather Post. Cost is \$12-18. Feel free to also stick around for a self led tour of the garden. Details can be found through the following Evite:

**<http://evite.me/8BSk2DBSNS>**



***PUT ON YOUR COMFY SHOES AND  
JOIN US FOR A WALK IN***

# **GEORGETOWN**

**MAY 21ST AT 10:30AM**

Enjoy nice weather and great company as we take a walking tour of Georgetown. Details on Evite:

<http://evite.me/SJsQ9udS3P>

# May 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Knollwood Bake Sale 1 pm AESC Board Mtg.	2 	3	4 
5	6	7 Hillwood Estate Museum & Garden @ 10am	8 V-E Day 	9	10 	11
12 	13	14	15	16	17	18 
19	20	21 Walking Tour of Georgetown @ 10:30	22	23 AESC Social Get Together	24	25
26	27 	28	29	30	31	

**SAVE THE DATE**

May 1st - Knollwood Bake Sale  
June 17-21 - USACE PCC at HQ

June 19 - PCC Spouse Day (Castle Boutique Day)  
June 21 - USACE Organizational Day at Six Flags (Possible Boutique)  
July 31 - Twilight Tattoo - USACE Host Night  
August 2 - Castle Ball

# AESC Activity Calendar 2018-2019



MONTH	EVENT	DATE
September	Chartreuse & Co Fall Market	9/21 (10a)
October	African American History Museum	10/2 (10a)
November	National Cathedral Tour	11/6 (1p)
December	Fords Theater-Christmas Carol	12/6 (12p)
January	Mansion on O Street	1/15 (10a)
February	National Portrait Gallery	2/26 (10a)
March	Museum of the Bible	3/14 (10:30a)
April	Cherry Blossoms Tour with Lunch	4/5
May	Hillwood Estate Museum & Garden	5/7 (10a)
June	Union Market	6/11

MONTH	EVENT	DATE
September	Newcomers' Lunch / Cocktail Party	9/5 & 9/15
October	Apple Picking at Mackintosh Farm	10/24 (11a)
November	Alexandria Escape Room	11/13 (630p)
December	Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum	12/17 (10a)
January	Olive Oil Tasting	1/24 (6pm)
February	Distillery Tour & Tasting	2/15 (6pm)
March	Old Town Alexandria Walking Tour	3/28 (10:30a)
April	Fredericksburg Battlefield	4/18
May	Walking Tour of Georgetown	5/21 (10:30a)
June	Boat Tour / Sailing	6/28

# Around Town



## Twilight Tattoo 2019 – Wednesday, April 25 – Wednesday, August 8, 2019

Our 2019 Twilight Tattoo season is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, and run through Wednesday, July 31, with exception to July 3 and July 10, 2019. There will be no Twilight Tattoo scheduled for July 3 and 10. Please note that Twilight Tattoo is also scheduled for Thursdays from May 9 through June 13. This means for six weeks there will be a Twilight Tattoo on Wednesday and Thursday. **The show scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th, is at capacity.** If you'd like to register a group to attend Twilight Tattoo please [e-mail](#) them.



## Military Spouse Appreciation Day – Friday, May 10, 2019

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan recognized the profound importance of spousal commitment to the readiness and well-being of military members with Proclamation 5184, dated April 17, 1984.



## V-E Day Observance at the WWII Memorial – Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Come observe the day that marks the Allied victory in Europe in 1945.



## Revolutionary War Weekend

May 4, 2019 - May 5, 2019 – 9:00am - 5:00pm



Mount Vernon's serene 12-acre field transforms into a battleground as hundreds of Continentals, Redcoats, and Hessians conduct military drills, perform cavalry demonstrations, and engage in 18th-century battle reenactments. Throughout the weekend, wander through the encampment and meet the soldiers, discuss military techniques, and meet General Washington. Young visitors can join a youth muster on the bowling green and participate in 18th-century demonstrations to understand life as a soldier in the Continental Army.

*Revolutionary War Weekend takes place rain or shine. Schedule*

## Fisher House Golf Classic – Monday, May 6, 2019

Think you are the world's best golfer? Looking for a time to show off your inner Jordan Spieth? Show off your skills for a cause.



## Washington Nationals Federal Workforce Day – Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Cheer on the Nationals as they take on the New York Mets and pay tribute to government workers during Federal Workforce Day. The Nationals are offering discount tickets that also include a credit for food and merchandise purchases in the stadium.



## National Memorial Day Parade – Monday, May 27, 2019

The National Memorial Day Parade, held annually along Constitution Avenue in our nation's capital – Washington, DC – shares the story of American honor and sacrifice from across the generations.



## Historic Half Marathon – Sunday, May 19, 2019

Plan to visit Fredericksburg, VA to #RunWithTheMarines during Armed Forces Weekend in May.

## Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom – Final DC Ride – Sunday, May 26, 2019

Rolling Thunder runs have been rumbling across America since 1987, riding in from all corners of the nation and meeting in Washington DC to demonstrate for American POWs and MIAs. 2019 marks the final year of the Thunder Run, so you definitely won't want to miss this.



## Salute the Sunset Concert Series at The National Harbor – Every Saturday Night, May 18 – September 21, 2019

World-class performances by bands from the nation's Armed Forces at National Harbor will stir the hearts and souls of civilians and military personnel alike, while their tuneful stylings in a variety of genres please music lovers of all ages. Don't miss these free shows on the Plaza stage every **Saturday night, May 18th – September 21st.**



## Month of the Military Caregiver

The Month of the Military Caregiver is observed in May each year to honor more than five million caregivers in the United States. Paying tribute to the people who care for more than two million veterans is an important part of supporting troops and military families. But for some, it's also about recognizing the work they do that qualifies them as caregivers even if they don't think of themselves that way.

A Rand Corporation report on military caregivers reflects this sentiment. "Those caregivers often toil in relative obscurity, and they are challenging to count or describe."

They are spouses, parents, children, and relatives of the wounded veteran, but many coworkers, neighbors, and friends also take on responsibilities. They provide care and assistance, promoting faster recovery for their loved ones and thus saving our nation millions of dollars in health care costs. Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/military-caregiver-month/#ixzz5m9HdBYW4>



Courtesy Photo U.S. Army Warrior Care and Transition



## National Military Appreciation Month 2019

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. NMAM honors the current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. The month of May is characterized by six national observances which highlight the contributions of those who have served. Read more:

<https://militarybenefits.info/national-military-appreciation-month/#ixzz5m9NhT9pU>

## Applications are Open for Operation Purple Camps!

**NMFA knows Military Kids Serve Too®** and that's why we offer military kids a free week of summer camp where they can connect with other military kids just like them.

At Operation Purple Camp, your military kids will experience all the best summer camp has to offer. In fact, our week-long camps happen at some of America's best campsites nationwide! Just like at a traditional summer camp, Operation Purple campers will learn new skills, make new friends, and have a blast – all while building the community and support military life requires.

**Operation Purple Camp is more than regular summer camp.** Being surrounded by other military kids with similar life experiences allows campers to process and understand the military-specific challenges in their lives without feeling alone. It's a chance for military kids to just be kids. "I was able to escape the hardships and struggles, focusing on being just a kid at camp," said one camper who went on to become a counselor. [Read more](#) about how Operation Purple Camp changed her life.



Operation Purple Camp started during the height of deployments from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom to meet the needs of military families trying to make it through those rough times. We know military life continues to pose new challenges, and Operation Purple Camps are here for your kids to be the place they can unwind, learn, and grow.

Operation Purple Camp welcomes children from all Uniformed Services, including National Guard, Reserve, and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and United States Public Health Service. Priority is given to military children with a wounded, ill or injured parent or a parent who's deploying soon or has deployed within the past 15 months.

Take a minute today to send in your child's application for Operation Purple Camp and help your them create their own fun-filled memories and learn successful coping skills. You'll never forget the pride on their face when they return home from camp, and they'll never forget this amazing experience.

<https://www.militaryfamily.org/programs/operation-purple/>

Interested in learning more? Visit our [Operation Purple FAQ](#).

Ready to apply? Find a location and [apply now!](#)





# AESC Social Group



The Social Group hit [MGM Grand Resort & Casino](#) in April. The Conservatory was still decked out in cherry blossoms and is quite a sight! It was a beautiful night, so we sat outside at the TAP Sports Bar and enjoyed some guilty pleasures (burgers, nachos, chicken strips). My favorite was enjoying a cocktail called a French 75 which is a delightful mix of gin, champagne and lemon juice.

If that doesn't sound good to you, then try one of the many other restaurants and bar in the casino. They have a steakhouse, Italian eatery, Asian restaurant.. Then they have a food court which has everything from Maryland Crab cakes to pizza to Shake Shack. Pro-Tip: The bar at the food court has happy hour until 9pm! \$5 glasses of beer and wine.





*AESC Luau Social*

May 23, 2019  
7:00-9:00pm

at the home of  
Michelle Tyler  
2606 Childs Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22308

Let's kick-off summer and  
our shoes together...  
Prizes for cutest & most original  
Flip-Flops!

Please RSVP to Allison [vtth8a@gmail.com](mailto:vtth8a@gmail.com)  
or 540-459-3061

The Knollwood bake sale on May 1st was a BIG hit. Thank you all who donated!





# DC HAPPENINGS



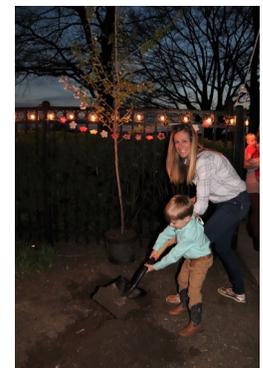
Active Duty Engineer Families across the DC area traveled to Fort McNair on April 6 in celebration of the city's famous cherry blossoms. Renowned for their beauty, the history of the trees is intermingled with the Corps of Engineers as noted below. LTG and Mrs. Todd Semonite thought it only fitting that the Chief of Engineers' home on lovely Fort McNair have a cherry blossom tree in the garden to symbolize those efforts. Most of the 125+ in attending their Cherry Blossom Celebration took turns shoveling a spade or two full of dirt to share in the tree planting before watching the Cherry Blossom Fireworks from the DC



Beginning in the 1880s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) transformed the unsightly Potomac Flats in the District of Columbia by dredging the river channel and dumping the spoil on the Flats, thus creating new land to the south of the National Mall. On March 25, 1912, work began on one of the best-known Corps improvements as more than 3,000 flowering cherry trees, a gift from Tokyo to the District, arrived to replace an earlier shipment of diseased trees. On the afternoon of

March 27, 1912, the First Lady, Mrs. William Howard Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador, planted the first two cherry trees beside the Tidal Basin, where eleven years of care had created a perfect setting. Workers from the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, headed by Engineer Col. Spencer Cosby, proceeded to carefully lay out and plant 1,800 Yoshino cherry trees around the Basin. The remaining trees, of eleven other cherry tree varieties, were later planted on the White House grounds and throughout the city. Historically, the

Yoshino cherry tree species enjoys a life span of about 40 years. Amazingly, an estimated 125 (or about four percent) of the original trees, including the first two planted, are now 90-years-old and still dazzling visitors in springtime.





# Keepers of the Castle Happenings



## Spring Planting at the Engineer Museum



It was a beautiful day to plant some new flowers at the museum. Thank you to all who came to help [#ENWeek19](#)



## Army Regimental Week



Decorating for the Engineer Ball  
Volunteers help decorate for the annual Engineer Ball at Nutter Field House on April 12th



# Europe District Happenings

WIESBADEN COMMUNITY SPOUSES' CLUB



This month's coffee theme was "Signature Dish". With over 20 Spouses in attendance, we had a true culinary feast. We were also able to welcome three new spouses and gifted them with unit pins. Additionally, we recognized, with a "Baby Sprinkle", two of our spouses who are about to add another "Future Engineer" to their homes.



April is Volunteer Appreciation month, and Europe District honored their Spouse Volunteers. Certificates of Appreciation signed by the commander, a parking pass (in Europe parking is always an issue), a small gift, and lunch at a local Biergarten rounded out the celebration. It was a beautiful day to honor those who bring so much through spouse sponsorship and Kastle Keeper events.





# Japan Engineer District Happenings



JED active duty military visited Iwo Jima island for Officer Professional Development. They walked Invasion Beach and hiked up Mount Suribachi (over 11 miles) exploring the island's many caves and historical sites.



Walking the beach at Iwo Jima



Iwo Jima Memorial



Iwo Jima at Mount Suribachi



Iwo Jima Cave

April is Cherry Blossom season in Japan and all over the country there are festivals and hanami (cherry blossom viewing) parties and picnics. Camp Zama has beautiful cherry blossom trees all over post and here are a few pictures of what we got to see in our own backyard.



JED spouses had the opportunity to try their hand at Chigiri-e, a Japanese craft made up of bits of special colored paper. This event was hosted by the Zama Community Spouses Association People to People outreach program.



Chigiri-e craft making



Chigiri-e finished craft



Korean District  
Happenings

**E**ast Gate  
dition

**Welcome!**

Welcome to the Far East Engineer District, the engineering and construction agency of choice in Korea. FED has a long history of overseeing the design and construction of outstanding quality of life and operational facilities for the Department of Defense community in Korea. To find out more about FED, its people and the work we do to support the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and their families living and working in Korea, please browse our web site. Keep abreast of events and happenings in the FED by liking our social media sites on [Facebook](#), Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube. Thanks for visiting and we hope your stay with us will be interesting and informative!



One Team – Building Strong® – In Korea

Col. Teresa A. Schlosser

**Geotechnical branch welcomes first Soldier**

Staff Sgt. Kyla Stewart, a technical engineer in the Far East District (FED) materials testing laboratory learns the correct testing techniques from FED's material engineer, Song, Un-ho, April 11 at the Far East District headquarters, Camp Humphreys, Korea. Staff Sgt. Stewart is the first Soldier to be assigned to the district's geo-technical branch.

<https://www.pof.usace.army.mil/Media/News/Article/1816156/geotechnical-branch-welcomes-first-soldier/>

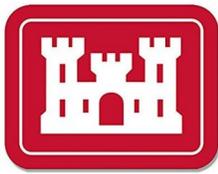


See the latest from the East Gate Edition  
[April 2019](#)



More News from the Far East District. Click [here](#)

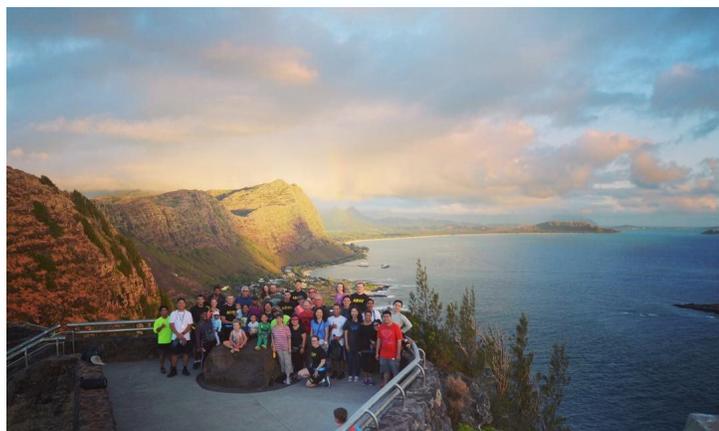




# Honolulu District Happenings



## Celebrating the 114th Birthday of the District



[USACE Honolulu District Commander](#) Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn, Honolulu District Deputy District Commander Maj. Josh Sturgill and [Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Tous-saint led roughly 40 Division and District personnel, families and friends on a two-mile hike to view the sunrise from the Corps of Engineers-built Makapu`u Lighthouse April 25, 2019, celebrating the 114th Birthday of the District. The Corps built Makapu'u Lighthouse in 1909 on a 647-foot sea cliff overlooking Makapu`u Beach in southeast Oahu. The Corps' history in Hawaii and the Pacific began in 1905 when Lt. John Slattery became the District's first commander. His original mission was to construct lighthouses for navigation, like Makapu`u. Makapu`u Point is an important location passed by all ships moving between Honolulu and the U.S. Mainland. The lighthouse is still an active U.S. Coast Guard navigation aid in use today. (Photo by Bryanna R. Poulin Honolulu District Public Affairs Office) [#POHcomeworkwithus](#) [#USACE](#) [#Hawaii](#) [#BuildingStrong](#) [#Makapuu](#) [#Oahu](#) [#Armyhistory](#) [#GoArmy](#) [#Birthdayhike](#) [#USACEbirthday](#)

## New Parking Garage at Schofield Barrack's

Honolulu District's Tom Crump, military branch chief (at podium) provided remarks and participated in the ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremonies Wednesday for the U.S. Army Health Clinic Schofield Barracks' new 181,000 sq. ft. parking garage. After the ceremonies, the five-level, \$26 million Corps-built facility welcomed the first vehicles via the McCormack Road entrance. The garage, constructed by Swinerton Builders, adds 429 standard and 19 handicap parking spaces to the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic campus.



# May Birthdays



Allison Chamberlayne	2 May
Lisa Stevenson	3 May
Basia Kent	6 May
Kerri Chase	7 May
Claire Strand	7 May
Katherine Candido	9 May
Robert Fraser	10 May
Lynda Flowers	13 May

Tricia Murphy	15 May
Lauren Castro	17 May
Carolyn Hudson	17 May
Beth Pritchard	21 May
Fran Steffens	21 May
Kathleen Moakler	22 May
Bette Meuleners	28 May
Sherry Snider	31 May



## AESC Welcome Membership

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from spouses of all U.S. Army Engineers and civilian employees of USACE and, with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who are associated with the Corps of Engineers.

### 2019 - 2020 AESC MEMBERSHIP

There are two options for submitting 2019-2020 membership forms and dues:

- An electronic membership form with PayPal on the [AESC website](#)
- Our traditional mail-in membership form

If you would like to be included in the AESC's Red Book, please ensure that we receive your membership form and dues before 31 October 2019.

## Benefits of Membership

- The Castle Gram - This monthly newsletter will attempt to keep you informed, entertained, and connected to your Engineer Family
- The Redbook - This annual publication includes our coveted membership directory. Many members order an extra copy for their Engineer Spouse! Consider it an annual update to where your engineer friends have landed!
- The Castle Boutique - Our boutique is available both online and at live events throughout the year. You may find us at HQ, the annual cocktail party, AEA... you never know where we will pop up or what new goodies we will be offering. Each month we feature certain items available to members only
- The children of our members are invited to apply for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards.



## AESC 2019 -2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please PRINT NAME as you would like to be listed in the Castle Directory (The Redbook)

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Your Birthday (month/day only) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  New member  Returning member  Rejoining member

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: Is Spouse:  Active  USACE DA Civilian  Retired

Reserve/National Guard  Deceased

Spouse's title/rank/job assignment or firm \_\_\_\_\_

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information listed in the Castle Directory. Membership runs from July 1, 2019 until June 30, 2020. Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2019 will be included in the 2019 -2020 Castle Directory. Thank you!

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

Additional Castle Directory: Each \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to:

**AESC MEMBERSHIP**

**P.O. Box 6332**

**Alexandria, VA 22306-6332**

Join online at [www.armyengineerspouses.com](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com)