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Dear Members,

I simply cannot believe it's June already? Where did this year go? Since we came to a complete halt in March it just seems a little surreal for the end of my term to be this close.

It truly has been an honor serving as your AESC President this year. This year has brought us some challenges but we are taking every thing in stride as we continue with our mission.

Even through this COVID19 stuff we have been highly successful as a team. We raised enough money this year to give 23 students AEMA awards and we are still in good shape to hand over the reins to the new Executive Board.

We've done some virtual meetings and a lot of social distancing. We miss our folks at Knollwood and at the Fairfax. We miss each other, but this too shall pass and we will have in person get togethers as soon as permitted.

I want to thank all of you who have supported us. I thank each and every board member for stepping up to the plate and making this year successful. I am very fortunate to have you all on my team.

I look forward to seeing you all again and I am looking forward to the future and working with the new AESC Board.

Stay Safe and Healthy

Warmly,
Launa



*Keeping our Worldwide Engineer Family Connected
Through the Years and Across the Miles*

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Others stay awhile, make footprints on our hearts and we are never, ever the same.



**AESC 2020-2021
Executive Board**

ELECTED BOARD:

President

Mary Alice Jasko

Vice President

Lois Cook

Secretary

Brenda Schultz

Treasurer

Basia Kent

AEMA Chairperson

Laura Putnam

VOLUNTEERS:

AEMA Scholarships

Kara Anderson

Castle Boutique

Betsy Rayfield

Castle Gram Editor

VACANT

Circulation

Sheila Kelly

Corresponding Secretary

Shannon Luzzatto

Facebook/Publicity:

Carolyn Hudson

Fairfax Liaison

Kay Burlin

Historian

VACANT

Hospitality & Reservations

Lucy Fratello & Ria Etheridge

Knollwood Liaison

Pricilla Noah

Membership

Jackie Caldwell

Nominations

Vanessa Joly

Nominations Emeritus

Bette Meuleners

Parliamentarian

Launa Klimowicz-Brown

Service/Welfare

VACANT

Webmaster

Terri Stevens

HONORARY ADVISORS:

Honorary President

Connie Semonite

Honorary Vice President

Kim Houston

SES Spouse Advisor

Jackie Caldwell



passing the Gavel

Farewell Launa, Welcome Mary Alice!



**Congress Fails
Military Families
Struggling to Feed Their
Families**

This week Congress failed to include a provision within the HEROES Act that would help military families struggling to make ends meet.

[Read More](#)

Dear Members,

I would like to say thank you for all your encouragement and contributions these last 2 years as the Castle Gram editor. It was so fun, and what a great board we had both years. I'll be hanging up the proverbial hat after this issue.

All the Best,
Susan Wright
Castle Gram Editor





<https://www.armyengineerspouses.org>
Goodbye .com Hello .org

The AESC web address has a new ending. In geeky terms, the TLD (Top Level Domain), is now **.org** instead of **.com**. Don't worry, if you instinctively enter the old address, you'll simply be redirected to the new website. Nonprofit websites such as ours generally use the ".org" extension. We're delighted to move forward with our website modernization.

The extension .COM is widely used for commercial purposes throughout the world. Companies prefer domain names .COM because they are a recognized symbol of a business and commercial presence.

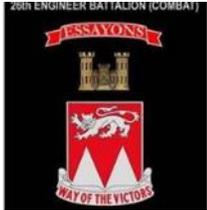
.ORG (organization) and is also available globally. Sites of nonprofits, NGOs and trade associations are the most common users of this extension.

Coming Soon! July 1

New Login and Password Procedure for 2020-21 Membership Year

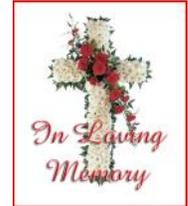
With our new membership year comes the exciting launch of a new and improved sign-up feature. From the website, members will create a Profile with a personalized user name and password. This will give members access to the Members Only Page which includes Castle Boutique coupons, new and archived Castle Grams, monthly board meeting notes, and details on upcoming events. Once a member has created a Profile, they can easily renew their membership in subsequent years.





OBITUARY

Donald R. Swygert
September 28, 1930 – May 18, 2020



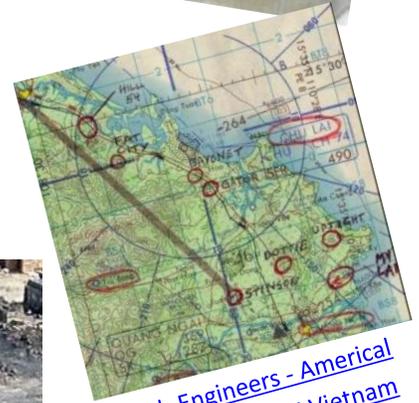
Donald R. Swygert was born on September 28, 1930 and passed away on May 18, 2020
and is under the care of Demaine Funeral Home.



Don Swygert and Max Noah



COL Donald R Swygert



26th Engineers - Americal
Division, Chu Lai Vietnam





A Sincere Thanks



Dear Army Engineer Spouses Club,
Thank you for the Army Engineer Memorial Award scholarship, it truly brightened my spirits in this time of international hardship. I wish you all the best & hope you are all doing well.



Respectfully,
Ani Boucher

Dear scholarship committee,
I am honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Army Engineer Memorial Award for 2020; thank you so much for your generous contribution. You are helping me to receive an outstanding education at Penn State University and I am so appreciative of your support. I'm sure the Army Engineer Memorial Award and ^{the} opportunity to attend Penn State University will help me create a solid foundation to build my future. Thank you again for your generous investment in my future.



Sincerely,
Ashley Pearson





A Sincere Thanks



Dear Army Engineer Spouses Club,
Thank you so much for including me on your list of scholarship recipients. I appreciate the honor immensely. The money will be very helpful for when it is time to buy books.

Very respectfully,
Louisa Hehmlinger



CAL POLY

Sincerely,

John Hehmlinger



Dear Army Engineer Spouses Club,

Thank you for the Army Engineer Memorial Award. This Fall I will be attending Northwestern Preparatory School which is a preparatory school for West Point. In college I plan on majoring in civil engineering.

Post college aspirations include serving the country and exploring the world. Hope you are all doing well during this pandemic!





2020 Geraldine K. Morris Award



The AESC is proud to present this year's Geraldine K. Morris Awardee! Congratulations Vivian! Please read more about Vivian and the GKM Award below! A special thank you goes out to the Morris Family for their continued support in providing for this award!

Vivian Santiago Anaya is the daughter of Eduardo Santiago and Vivian Anaya Rivera and attends West Springfield High School in Springfield, Virginia. High School Achievements include: Varsity Color Guard, Color Guard Captain, Winter Guard Captain, National Society of High School Scholars, National Honor Society, Math and Spanish Tutor, Red Cross Volunteer. She plans to attend Penn State University to major in Nursing.



The Geraldine K. Morris Award was established in 2006. Mrs. Morris served as an Army nurse, was Honorary President of the Army Engineer Spouses' Club and wife of the 44th Chief of Engineers, LTG (Ret) John Morris. A candidate for this merit based award may be any graduating high school senior who intends to enroll in a program leading to a nursing degree or certification, is a citizen of the United States and whose sponsor, parent, or legal guardian is a U.S. Army Engineer (active duty, retired or deceased), National Guard U.S. Army Engineer, Reserve U. S. Army Engineer, or current Department of the Army employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The candidate must also have a parent or legal guardian who is a current member in the Army Engineer Spouses Club.(Exceptions do apply if parent or legal guardian is deceased). This award will be renewable based on the student's GPA and their maintaining full-time enrollment in a nursing program.



YANKEE CANDLE® | FUNDRAISING

AESC is partnering with **Yankee Candle® Fundraising** to help achieve our goal this year. They are the world's #1 candle brand and they offer a wide range of premium candles, fragrances, and décor items at a very wide range of prices.

But the most important thing to know is that **35% percent of every sale goes to AESC!**

To help support us, click on the link below and order items online. Your purchases ship directly to your home and our group receives profit on each and every sale. **This promotion is good through Wednesday, July 8, 2020.**



<https://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com/store.htm>

Now over 500 items online!

If this link fails to take you to the shopping site, don't worry. Simply type in:

www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter your **Group Number 999972278** in the **"Start Shopping"** box there. Then you can shop for the same Yankee Candle Fundraising items and your purchases will still benefit our organization

We have raised \$98.00 for the spring campaign so far, thank you! for

Specials!! Free Shipping!! And more!! Yankee Candle Fundraising runs **periodic specials**. Watch for the announcements of these specials on our FaceBook and in our Circulation emails.



!! FLIGHT ALERT !!

Updated May 13, 2020

Today, we announced that the Honor Flight Network will postpone all trips through August 31, 2020 in response to the growing health concerns over the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. The Board of Directors made this difficult decision following an alert issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which advised that adults over the age of 60 are particularly at risk of infection and should avoid all non-essential air travel. Unfortunately, the vast majority of our veterans fall into the CDC's high-risk category. Many of our veterans also live in community settings, such as retirement homes or assisted living facilities, where the risk of spreading illness is extremely high.

Honor Flight trips are a once in a lifetime opportunity for America's veterans, but their safety is our highest priority. We will continue to assess if any extension needs to be made beyond August 31 as more information is provided by health authorities. Honor Flight participants with questions about their individual trip should contact their local Honor Flight hub.



Castle Boutique

We are immensely proud of everything the US Corps of Engineers team has done to fight this COVID-19 battle all around the country. Now that wearing masks is the new “normal” for many of us these days, we have decided to offer this handmade, fabric mask, embroidered with the USACE castle as a way to show our support and pride in all that the Engineers have done and continue to do to serve and protect this country!



New and for a limited time only in the Castle Boutique Shop!

Masks are available in Red and Black. Machine washable. Instructions included. \$16/each plus shipping



Did You Know?



How the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Became a Major Army Command

On 16 June 1979 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers became a Major Army Command (MACOM). The document conferring MACOM status was Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) General Order No. 13, dated 14 June 1979. Receiving MACOM status culminated a series of events that began almost three years earlier.

In an oral history interview, LTG John W. Morris, USA (Ret.), Chief of Engineers from July 1976 through September 1980, stated that the events leading to MACOM status started after Jimmy Carter was elected president in November 1976. As a candidate, Carter criticized the Corps' civil works activities. During an Army commanders' conference shortly after the election, General Morris asked the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Bernard Rogers, for an opportunity to address the group. (Members of the Army staff, such as General Morris, attended the commanders' conferences as observers, not participants.) General Morris asked the commanders for their support in convincing the new president of the importance of maintaining the Corps' civil works mission in the Army; he received the commanders' full support.

[Read More](#)



The Army's Institute of Heraldry officially assigned the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia and the Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a Major Army Command (MACOM). Although the MACOM was established in 1979, the shoulder sleeve insignia was adopted two years earlier for military personnel serving in Corps of Engineers' field organizations, such as divisions, districts, and labs. The MACOM shoulder sleeve insignia also appears as one element in the MACOM flag.



SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA
(worn on left shoulder)

Symbolism: The globe refers to the activities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers both in the Continental United States and overseas. The dividers are symbolic of design and planning and the tower signifies the construction mission. Scarlet and white are the colors traditionally associated with the Corps of Engineers.



DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA
RIGHT / LEFT
(worn on each epaulette)

Symbolism: The eagle, our National symbol, stands behind the scarlet and white tower representing the Corps of Engineers and its construction mission. The worldwide scope of the Corps' mission and its service to the Nation in the past, present, and future are suggested by the sun symbol and globe. The olive branch connotes the peaceful nature of the Corps' mission and the oak stands for fortitude. The Corps' historic motto, "ESSAYONS" meaning, "Let Us Try" is held in the eagle's beak.

The Meaning and Observance of Independence Day

Every July 4th, Americans celebrate the day in 1776 when the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration proclaimed: *"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness . . . That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved."* The document closed with the delegates mutually pledging to support the Declaration with *"our lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."*



John Adams, one of the signers and a future President, wrote his wife Abigail: *"I am apt to believe that*

[Read More](#)





June 2020

Sun

Mon

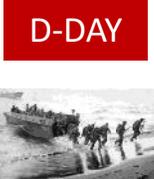
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1  VIRTUAL TOURS/IDEAS/PHOTOS 6:00-9:00 PM	2	3 AESC Board Meeting @ 10	4	5 	6 
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20 
21 	22	23 Pink Flamingo Day! 	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



July 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2 World UFO Day 	3	4  Happy 4th of July!
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 National Free Slurpee Day 
12	13	14	15	16	17 National Hot Dog Day 	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Harry Potter Day 	

Save the Date

First Wednesday of the Month—AESC Board Meeting 10am @ The Fairfax

31 July— 152nd Annual U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Castle Ball (TBD due to COVID-19)



1 Aug— [AEA Engineer Regimental Information and Training Seminar](#) (subject to the evolving situation with COVID-19)

5 Aug— AESC Board Meeting @ 10



24 Little Things You Can Do for Yourself and Others Right Now

It's a scary time right now. That's for sure. There are a lot of uncertainties and unknowns, and it can be really hard to [stay calm and focused](#) on other things when you're inundated with the news, social media posts, and texts from your friends and family asking you if you're staying safe. It seems like everything you read, watch, and hear is all about the coronavirus. While it's important to stay educated about what's going on in the world right now and what you can do to help (e.g., stay home if you can, avoid panic-buying), it's also crucial to [take care of yourself](#) and others at this time.

Things to Do for Yourself

1. **Meditate**—[Meditation](#) can help improve the symptoms of anxiety and depression, boost your mood, and also reduce stress.
2. **Watch Something That Makes You Laugh**—Turn off the news for a bit and [start streaming something](#) that makes you smile.
3. **Stretch or Work Out**—If you're social-distancing and staying at home, it's easy to forget to get up and move around. Make it a point to set aside time during the day to exercise
4. **Open That Nice Bottle of Wine**—You know, the one you got as a gift and have been saving for a "special occasion"?
5. **Take a Bath**—There's nothing like a relaxing bath to make you feel a little calmer and refreshed.
6. **Take a Break From Social Media**—Whether it's for an hour or for the entire evening, taking a break from the endless scroll on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook just might give you some peace of mind.
7. **Journal**—Putting your thoughts to paper can help you process and release your feelings.
8. **Take a Walk Outside**—If you can, go outside and take a walk. Or step outside in your backyard, patio, or balcony for some fresh air. Just remember if you're walking outside, you should still maintain distance from others (about six feet).
9. **Break Out That Fancy Self-Care Product**—Like the fancy wine, you might know what we're talking about here—that expensive face mask, cream, bath salts, candle that you haven't used yet because it's just so nice.
10. **Take a Nap**—If you have some time, go ahead and take a quick nap. A midday siesta can be so refreshing.



[Read More](#)



facebook fasting





Germany

BUCKET LIST CHALLENGE

HOW MANY THINGS HAVE YOU SEEN, BEEN TO OR DONE?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BRANDENBURG GATE | <input type="checkbox"/> THE BERLIN WALL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HEIDELBERG CASTLE | <input type="checkbox"/> HAMBURG |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICH | <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTMAS MARKETS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHECKPOINT CHARLIE | <input type="checkbox"/> FRANKFURT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OKTOBERFEST | <input type="checkbox"/> COLOGNE CATHEDRAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DROVE ON THE AUTOBAHN | <input type="checkbox"/> BERGHAIN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK FOREST | <input type="checkbox"/> NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EUROPA-PARK | <input type="checkbox"/> DRESDEN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> ATE FOOD THAT ENDED IN THE WORD 'WURST' |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATE A SCHNITZEL BIGGER THAN YOUR HEAD | <input type="checkbox"/> DRANK RIESLING ON THE RHINE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER | <input type="checkbox"/> KONIGSSEE |



Hello from Weisbaden,

It's definitely a trying time. I wish I could be more help to you, but we've been on serious restriction of movement so we've had nothing since the last Castle Gram. Max telework is still in effect. I was on official quarantine myself due to possible exposure, and I just got out of that on Thursday. There are some restrictions that are starting to ease up. However, as only half of our unit is here in Wiesbaden those restrictions are different for everyone else based on their state of Germany, Garrison, or in many cases, the country in which they live.

There is no one size fits all for Europe District.

My husband will be having a change of command in June. I'm knee-deep in purging and preparing for the packers to arrive shortly.

On behalf of the Europe District Spouses, please accept our thoughts of peace, strength, and health during these uncertain times.

*All the Best,
Rachel Baker*





The month of May was pretty similar to the month of April - nice weather, low humidity, and still under restriction. A few JED employees received an exception to policy to PCS prior to June 30. As such, we watched the first ever (I think) virtual farewell for Mark and Jen Jones. Mark was the Chief of Engineering for the last five years. The Jones's held a Facebook live and invited all their friends. They did a wonderful job of taking us down memory lane of their years here and all the memories they created. We had a small social distance tea for Jen where we enjoyed good conversation and said farewell in person. They are returning to Pittsburgh.



I had the opportunity to tour a JED construction site, my first ever, here on Camp Zama. They are building an extension to the Medical Clinic. It was a treat to see what things look like mid-construction and meet all the project managers both US and Japanese.



Finally, a little bit of fun, Japan has a serious fascination with Kit Kats. There are an insane amount of flavors that we just don't see back in the States. Plus new flavors come out every season. I saw these Ocean Salt flavor Kit Kats and was instantly curious. Are they salt flavored? Sea food flavored? I bought them and thankfully they were neither of those. Good old fashioned white chocolate with just a hint of salt.



Things are improving here. Japan has lifted its state of emergency for our prefecture. Our Camp Zama restrictions are currently scheduled to lift on June 14, but things are changing everyday. We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

~ Cheers, Benef 



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June



Harriett Connell	1-Jun
Kelly Smith	7-Jun
Jenny O'Rourke	8-Jun
Anne M Yankoupe	8-Jun
Leslie Hufstedler-Alvarez	10-Jun
Kimberly Sheaffer-Oborski	12-Jun
Michelle Helton	13-Jun
Alicia Hite	18-Jun
Michael Pfenning	19-Jun
Tish Anderson	22-Jun
Sally Hannan	22-Jun
Christy Williams	27-Jun



Jessica Gregris	6-Jul
Estelle Gibson	8-Jul
Leonard Gant	12-Jul
Debbi Shelley	12-Jul
Alyssa Hogerty	14-Jul
Jennifer Koprowski	15-Jul
Kay Burlin	16-Jul
Kathleen Lauzon	17-Jul
Connie Semonite	19-Jul
Kathleen Whittle	20-Jul
Cynthia Kam	23-Jul
Lori Fenn	31-Jul
Marge Fuhrman	31-Jul





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.

2020 - 2021 AESC MEMBERSHIP

There are two options for submitting 2020-2021 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 2020.



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 2020 -2021 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, 2020 until June 30, 2021. Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2020 will be included in the 2020 -2021 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

