CASTLE GRAM

VOLUME LXVII ISSUE 6 MARCH 2021

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From the Gavel

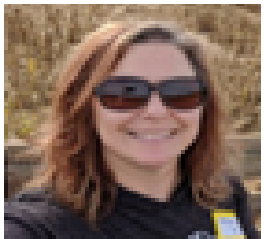
Happy March!! What is with this weather? That groundhog is causing all sorts of problems. Today I went outside thinking I was going to freeze all bundled up only for it to be 48 degrees. It is supposed to snow tomorrow. Every day is a new adventure.

Speaking of adventures, we had a fun time on the historical tour and wine tasting at the Winery at Bull Run. We were able to sip wine while learning about the battles fought on the grounds. We were also given a great opportunity by the Air Force Officer's Spouses Club (AFOSC). They were so kind to invite us to their zoom luncheon with Monte Durham from Say Yes to the Dress! We learned all about Monte's life and how he came to be on such a fun television show. He has opened a salon in Old Town Alexandria and he took us on a virtual tour of the salon.

This month we will be going to the Ruins of President's Park. There is still room on the tour if you are interested. In April, we are going on an hour long hike with an alpaca from My Pet Alpaca. We will be hiking at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston, VA.

The application deadline for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards (AEMA) has ended. Thank you to everyone who has donated to make these awards possible!

Stay safe and healthy!



Mary Alice Jakso
AESC President

Support AEMA through AmazonSmile

Did you know you can help raise money for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards (AEMA) just by shopping on Amazon through AmazonSmile? Amazon will donate 0.5% to AEMA at no extra cost to you. You'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit of supporting AEMA. You can sign in with your existing Amazon account. If you are on a computer, you must shop at smile.amazon.com for AEMA to receive credit for your purchase.

If you are shopping at AmazonSmile to benefit AEMA on the mobile app, you must select AEMA as your charity. You can find AmazonSmile in the Settings menu, then follow the instructions to activate it on your device. Twice a year, you will need to renew turn-on features that allow AmazonSmile to continue donating money to your charity (the app should remind you what date you will need to renew).

If you would like to learn more about AmazonSmile please click on this link.

Thank you for your support! Happy Shopping!

Service/Welfare

FISHER HOUSE

Fisher House is excited to be welcoming us back for meal donations very soon!

Please watch your email for more information in the upcoming months!

HONOR FLIGHT

Honor Flights have now been postponed until June 28, 2021. For more information on Honor Flights or to donate to their program, you can visit https://www.honorflight.org/.

Nominations for 2021-2022 AESC Board

Greetings Engineer Spouses,

Would you like to be more involved with the Army Engineer Spouses Club? Serving on the AESC Board is one way to be involved, help the club, work with great people, and of course, have fun. We are seeking nominations for AESC's 2021-2022 Executive Board. The job descriptions can be found in your Red Book, on our website, or you may contact me for more information.

We are taking nominations for all positions, but we are really in need of a Vice-President, Treasurer, and AEMA Chairman. We would love to have a slate of officers by the end of March.

Being on the board and working together with other Engineer spouses is very rewarding and lots of fun! We have board members that live in the DC area, live out-of-town (state/country), are stay-at-home moms, work full-time, work part-time, retired, etc. Each one is able to serve our organization in her own way. Board members, as well as any member, can attend monthly board meetings via Zoom. Currently all meetings are held on Zoom only. The club year begins on July 1, 2021 for those moving to the DC area over the summer and considering to serve on the board.

Please let me know if you are interested in a position or if you know of someone that you think would be great in a position. I would be happy to contact them. I hope to hear from many of you soon!

Fondly,
Vanessa Joly
AESC Nominations Chairperson, 2021-2022
nominations@armyengineerspouses.org

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 14 at 2:00 am, unless you happen to live in Arizona or Hawaii.

The majority of the states of Arizona and Hawaii, along with the territories of Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Northern Marianas, and the US Virgin Islands do not observe Daylight Savings Time.

Happy March Birthday!

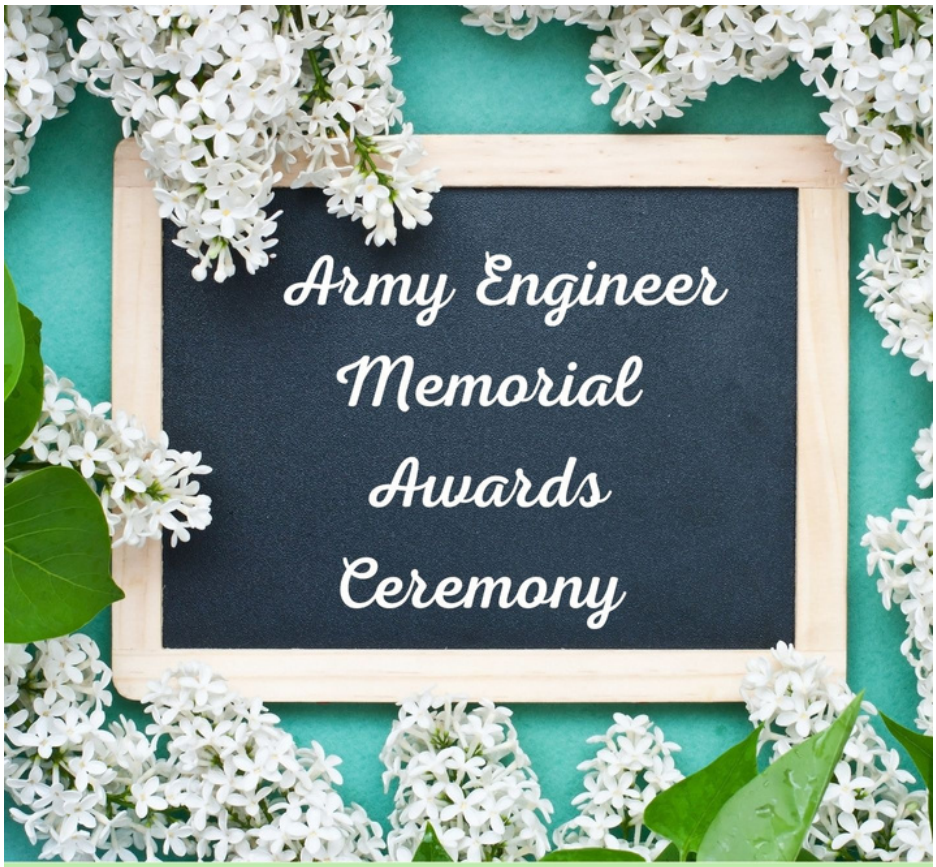
Marie Rundle	5
Sarah Jansen	9
Sharon Jones	12
Penny Hart	14
Roslyn (Roz) Riley	16
Tammie Morris	17
Mollie O'Neill	20
Vanessa Joly	21
Betsy Rayfield	21
Susan Hill	22
Blythe Hogeboom	24
Jytte Hambric	27
Stephanie Sattinger	28
Jennifer Kolouch	29
Stacy Lloyd	29
Diana Harry	30
Candice Dietz	31

Belated Birthday Greetings to

Tessie LaRose Ballard

February 28

We hope you had a fabulous day!



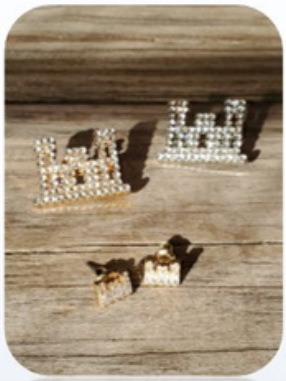
Save The Date!

May 2, 2021

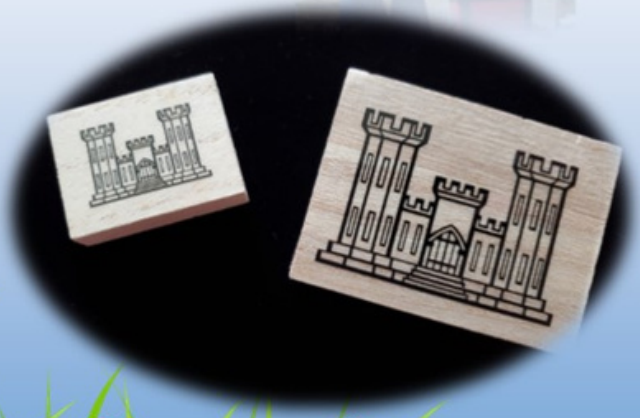
Additional details to follow.

Castle Boutique

Check out a few of our favorite items in stock now and modeled by some of our members: Our cozy castle minky and Sherpa blankets; the popular (and necessary) embroidered face-masks in various colors; our new rhinestone castle stud earrings; rhinestone castle pins; the beautiful Engineer button necklace and slate coaster; Tervis water bottles; embroidered tote bags; our new door hangers; and don't forget our fun bottle sweater! Featured on a wine bottle but also fits beer bottles and water bottles, these make great gifts!



What better time to catch up on all your correspondence than now! You can use our Castle stamps to create your own stationary, jazz up invitations or add some Engineer pride to a thank you note. With our March Member Special you can save 50% off either size! Use code Spring 50 at checkout.



https://www.armyengineerspouses.org/castle-boutique.html

Castle Boutique Wreath Sale

AESC is excited to offer these beautiful wreaths created and donated by the talented Kim Farnsworth. (Thank you, Kim!)

Email Betsy at castleboutique@armyengineerspouses.org with your number preference. If more than one person is interested in a design, winners will be picked on March 20th, the first day of spring!

Winners will be contacted through the above email. Large wreath: $40 Medium wreath: $32 (subject to change based on shipping cost). Wreaths will be delivered to you if you live in the National Capital Region. Happy Shopping!

Wreaths 1-5 are large. Photos continue on the next page.

4

5

6
Medium

7
Medium

Jennifer Phillips

Brenda Schultze

Doesn't our cozy bottle sweater look right at home at the winery?

Mary Alice Jakso-Jennifer Phillips-Brenda Schultze

Erin Caswell-Betsy Rayfield-Brenda Schultze

Winery at Bull Run Tour

Kelli Reynoldson-Elizabeth Mahoney-Betsy Rayfield-Erin Caswell-Carla Anderson-Sonja Henderson-Shelley Crotzer- Brenda Schultze-Jennifer Phillips-Mary Alice Jakso

Back: Mary Alice Jakso-Jennifer Phillips-Elizabeth Mahoney
Middle: Erin Caswell-Brenda Schultze-Kelli Reynoldson
Front: Carla Anderson-Betsy Rayfield-Shelly Crotzer-Sonja Henderson

AESC spouses from the National Capital Region enjoyed a tour and wine tasting at the Winery at Bull Run in Centreville, VA (adjacent to the Manassas National Battlefield Park). The group was joined by spouses from the Belvoir Spouses' Club.

The attendees had a wonderful experience. Brenda Schultze "loved being able to get together with a great group of people in a beautiful and safe setting. It was fascinating to go to a new place and also get to learn its history. It was challenging to do the outdoor walking tour in icy conditions while holding a glass of wine and wearing a mask so drinking it slower. New skill for me and I didn't even spill it!"

Betsy Rayfield shared that she enjoyed seeing the property, to include ruins of a home that was once there and a small officers' quarters. A fun wine fact learned on the tour was that red and white wine can be stored together but, ideally, not in the kitchen. The surprising place to store your wine? Under your bed, since it is dark and usually a consistent temperature.

AESC Board 2020-2021

ELECTED BOARD
President
Mary Alice Jakso
Vice President
Vacant
Secretary
Brenda Schultze
Treasurer
Basia Kent
AEMA Chairperson
Laura Putnam

APPOINTED BOARD
Castle Boutique
Betsy Rayfield
Castle Gram Editor
Michelle Funkhouser
Circulation
Sheila Kelly
Corresponding Secretary
Shannon Luzzatto
Historian
Erin Beer
Hospitality & Reservations
Vacant
Knollwood Bake Sale
Priscilla Noah
Knollwood Liaison
Ann Kem
Membership
Jackie Caldwell & Laura Putnam
Nominations
Vanessa Joly
Nominations Emeritus
Bette Meuleners
Parliamentarian
Launa Klimowicz-Brown
Publicity/Facebook
Carolyn Hudson
Webmaster
Terri Stevens
Service/Welfare
Jennifer Broderick

HONORARY ADVISORS
Honorary President
Sharise Spellmon
Honorary Vice President
Tanya Toussaint
SES Spouse Advisor
Jackie Caldwell

Mary Alice Jakso, Sharise Spellmon, and Jennifer Phillips had the chance to visit with Monte Durham, from the TV show Say Yes to the Dress, at his new salon in Alexandria.

The ladies had a great time chatting with Monte and picked up some of his new hair products.

AESC members have been invited to join ASCGWA on a tour of The Ruins of Presidents Park.

If you would like to attend, you must register and pay through the ASCGWA website, which can be accessed at the below link.

https://aoscgwasecure.wildapricot.org/event-4133263/Registration

If you have any questions, please call Mary Alice at 904-814-9599.

Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area

The Ruins of Presidents Park

March 27, 2021
1:00 pm–3:00 pm
8212 Croaker Road
Williamsburg, VA

Tour capacity 60 people
Guests Welcome

$25 Adult
$17 Youth 17 & under

Artifacts from Presidents Park
Presidential Trivia

This is an outside event with lots of room for social distancing. Please check the accompanying flyer for important information about the site.

The Ruins of Presidents Park Tour Information

Several remnants from the original tourist attraction that was open from 2004–2010 will be on display as accompaniments to the 42 decaying sculptures that have now fallen into a significant state of disrepair.

In addition to opportunities to take pictures of the sculptures, interesting facts and stories will be shared throughout the day. Presidential trivia with PRIZES will be held during several sessions.

The tour hours are a window of opportunity for you to visit the site. You do not have to stay for the entire two hours.

- Parking directions will be emailed prior to the tour.
- MASKS ARE MANDATORY TO ENTER. This is a statewide mandate and applies to all individuals ages 5 and up. The area is outside and quite expansive but we will still enforce social distancing.
- Muck or rain boots are highly recommended. Boots are not necessary to access the area around the perimeter of the HEADS but are necessary if you want to get adventurous and explore within the cluster of 39 of the sculptures. DO NOT WEAR NICE SHOES!
- There are portable bathrooms available before you enter the site.

This event will not be canceled due to weather (rain, etc) unless the current weather situation makes it dangerous for attendees to be on the site.

SAME ★★PROGRAMS★★ Camps

2021 Engineering & Construction Camps

SAME Engineering & Construction camps provide a rigorous experience for high school students interested in exploring STEM skills and careers. Campers gain a sense of what it takes to become a STEM professional and what options exist to explore that interest from high school to college and beyond. Each camp has a unique curriculum that features hands-on activities conducted in a competitive environment that promotes:

Teamwork **Leadership** **Project Management** **Problem Solving**

US Army Engineering & Construction Camp
Vicksburg, MS
June 13-19, 2021
Cost: $100 (stipends may be available)

US Navy STEM Engineering and Construction Camp
Port Hueneme, CA
June 20-26, 2021
Cost: $600 (stipends may be available)

US Air Force Academy Engineering & Construction Camp
Colorado Springs, CO
Jun 25-Jul 2, 2021 (tentative)
Cost: $600 (stipends may be available)

US Air Force Engineering & Construction Camp
Scott Air Force Base, IL
July 26-31, 2021
Cost: $600 (stipends may be available)

US Marine Corps Engineering and Construction Camp
Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, NC
June 20-26, 2021
Cost: $600 (stipends may be available)

Deadline to Apply
March 15, 2021

Who May Apply?
At a minimum, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be at least 15 years old by the time he/she departs for camp.
- Completed freshman year by the time he/she departs for camp.

Cost: The registration fee for each camp is listed above and includes lodging, meals, materials, instruction, and mentoring. Sponsorships by SAME Posts may be available to offset the cost.

For More Information
Visit: https://www.same.org/stemcamps. Or contact Eddie Gonzalez, Program Manager, at egonzalez@same.org.

We hope you will join us for a life-changing experience.
https://www.same.org/STEMCAMPS

SAME ● 1420 King Street, Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22314 ● Phone: 703-549-3800 ● www.same.org ● @same_national

Customs & Traditions - Dining Ins and Dining Outs

A Dining In is a traditional, formal dinner held for the military members of a unit. If spouses or guests are included, the dinner is referred to as a Dining Out. Dining Ins and Dining Outs aim to bring the unit together in the spirit of fun, camaraderie, fellowship, and celebration. These events may be held to recognize unit achievements or honor a distinguished guest or departing unit member.

The Dining In hearkens back to the Vikings, who held formal ceremonies to celebrate victories and heroes of battles. This practice later spread to England, where the British military adopted it. The U.S. military fought closely with the British during World War II and took some of their customs and traditions home with them after the war.

The uniform for a Dining In/Dining Out for a military member is usually the Army Blue Mess or Army Service Uniform. A male civilian's attire is Black Tie and either a long gown, short or tea-length formal or formal evening pants for a female civilian. There is usually a receiving line that includes the unit's leadership and guest of honor/guest speaker. Spouses may be included as part of the receiving line at a Dining Out. The commanding officer of the unit normally serves as the President of the Mess. A junior member of the unit serves as Mister or Madam Vice. Mister or Madam Vice is charged with ensuring that the Rules of the Mess are followed and may issue infractions to anyone who breaks a Rule of the Mess. The Dining In/Out includes toasting and a Grog or Punch Ceremony. A recent, modern take on this tradition is a Spouses' Dining In. Whether held by a unit or a spouses' club, these gatherings are also meant to boost morale, promote the spirit of togetherness, and have fun. Spouses' Dining Ins may include themes, costumes, centerpiece contests, feats of skill, and specialized Rules of the Mess.

I have had the privilege to attend many unit Dining Outs and a few Spouses' Dining Ins. While stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, we attended the Dining Out for a Captains' Career Course. My husband was a mentor for the class. I asked beforehand if we would be taking part in the receiving line since it would make a difference in my shoe choice for the evening. He was told that only the guest speaker would be in the receiving line. During the cocktail hour, word came that there had been a mix-up with the guest speaker's schedule, and he would not be able to attend. My husband was asked and agreed to be the guest speaker. I immediately regretted my shoe choice since it meant we would be in the receiving line (and from that day on I have always brought a pair of flats to any event with a receiving line, just in case). The first Spouses' Dining In I attended was at Fort Hood while we were stationed in the Engineer Brigade of the First Cavalry Division. Our brigade spouses represented Engineers proudly. We constructed a massive centerpiece featuring sand, bridges, obstacles, equipment, and vehicles. We dressed in red shirts with castles and borrowed our spouses' Stetsons. There were fun contests, amusing Rules of the Mess (such as not talking about our children or spouses), and a Grog ceremony that highlighted life as a military spouse.

Customs and traditions such as Dining Ins and Dining Outs are special elements of military life. Do you have a favorite memory from a Dining In or Dining Out? Please email it to me at engineerspouse@gmail.com; I would love to share it in our April issue.

Essayons! Engineer Spouses Strong!

Michelle Funkhouser
Castle Gram Editor

(Reference material: *The Army Spouse Handbook,* Ann Crossley, with Ginger Perkins, 2019)

A St. Patrick's Day Connection to Engineers

St. Patrick's Day (March 17), a holiday to recognize Irish heritage, is observed worldwide by people of all backgrounds. The first celebration of St. Patrick's Day in the United States was in Boston in 1737. The holiday's popularity grew worldwide, partly because of the mass emigration of over a million Irish people due to the Great Potato Famine of 1845.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. Did you know that St. Patrick is also considered to be the patron saint of engineers? It is believed that St. Patrick introduced the concept of arches to Irish builders, allowing them to build the traditional stone churches known throughout Ireland. St. Patrick is also credited with educating builders about different forms of Roman architecture, including the use of lime mortar.

St. Barbara is the patron saint of military engineers, artillery, miners, and anyone who works with explosives. St. Barbara, a martyr, was killed on the orders of her father. Her father was later killed by lightning. Engineers were a part of the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers from 1794-1802 and have a shared heritage with the Artillery. The scarlet color on the Engineer Regimental Crest and insignia is from this shared lineage.

An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.