



CASTLE GRAM

VOLUME LXVIII ISSUE 6 JANUARY 2022

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New Year's Greeting

I hope everyone enjoyed a fantastic holiday season.

Thank you for your continued support of AESC, especially the Castle Boutique and the Army Engineer Memorial Awards.

We are looking forward to the remainder of our club year, to hopefully (barring any pandemic restrictions) include our annual bake sale at Knollwood and the AEMA Recognition Ceremony.

Wishing you and your families the best of health and prosperity as we journey into the New Year. Please be safe and take care!

Tanya Toussaint

Happy
New Year

Wishing you and your family
all the best in 2022!

The applications for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards and the Geraldine K. Morris Award are now available on our website. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2022.

Holiday Receptions



Launa Klimowicz-Pat O'Neill



Mary Alice Jakso-Ramona Smith-Leann Martin-Launa Klimowicz-Brenda Schultze



Brenda Schultze-Mary Alice Jakso-Sharise Spellmon-Tanya Toussaint



Launa Klimowicz-Pat O'Neill - Bette Meuleners



Brenda Schultze-Launa Klimowicz

CSM Patrickson & Tanya Toussaint



Mary Alice Jakso-Pat O'Neill



CASTLE GRAM



JANUARY 2022



START THE NEW YEAR OFF
WITH A TOAST...



CHEERS TO THE ENGINEERS!

ORDER YOUR ENGRAVED FLASK
ON JANUARY 10TH WHEN THE CASTLE BOUTIQUE REOPENS

ARMYENGINEERSPOUSES.ORG

Only \$15

WHILE SUPPLIES
LAST

[Click here to shop!](#)

Service/Welfare

LYNCH CREEK FARM

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! This year we raised \$1,156 from our Lynch Creek Farm fundraiser!!! We surpassed our goal and we can't thank you enough. We hope that you are enjoying your Lynch Creek Farm displays and that you all had a wonderful holiday season.

Thank you for your continued support of the AESC and we hope that 2022 brings you an abundance of love, joy, health, peace, and prosperity.

Happy New Year!!



\$1,156 of our \$1,000 goal raised this year!!!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Thank you, also, for participating this year in Wreaths Across America! Whether you sponsored a wreath or even volunteered to help lay the wreaths, we appreciate your dedication to this important annual event.

If you would like to get a head start on sponsoring wreaths for this year's event, which will occur on December 17, 2022, you can visit our group page via this link:

<https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/pages/157166/>

Thank you again!

[Click here to visit the link.](https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/pages/157166/)



HONOR FLIGHT

After being grounded for over a year and a half, Honor Flight has begun conducting flights again. This is an exciting opportunity to welcome our nation's veterans as they embark on their D.C. journey. There are, of course, safety precautions being taken and we encourage you to become familiar with them before arriving to the airport, whether it is at Reagan National or an airport nearest you. We want everyone to be safe, while still having a wonderful time!

And don't worry! You can participate even if you aren't in the DC area! The schedule for *all* Honor Flights around the country can be found here:
<https://www.honorflight.org/current-trip-schedule.html>

Pick a time and date that works for you, invite family and friends along, participate safely, and, most of all, enjoy honoring our nation's veterans.

Access Honor Flight Tour Schedule here. The 2022 schedule will be available beginning in February.

Engineer Friends Out and About

AESC members, along with ladies from the Belvoir Spouses' Club, attended a tea at the Historic Rosemont Manor in Berryville, VA.



**Mary Alice Jakso
Sharon Jones**



Jennifer Bowen-Sharon Jones-Kelli Reynoldson



Sharise Spellmon



Sharise Spellmon-Elizabeth Agar

Army Distaff Foundation Gala at the Knollwood Military Retirement Community



Ann Kem-Michelle Funkhouser

Happy January Birthday!

Sally Beck	4
Kristin Stolesen	5
Priscilla Noah	6
Catherine Hansen	10
Karen Reed	12
Stacey Reisinger	12
Lynne Jackson	13
Launa Klimowicz	16
Carrie Young	17
Christine McElwain	20
Jessica Bowman	21
Elisa Kinsman	23
Rachel Vail	24
Wendy Owen	25
Sandra De La Pena	26
Boumy Funes	26
Heather Long	31



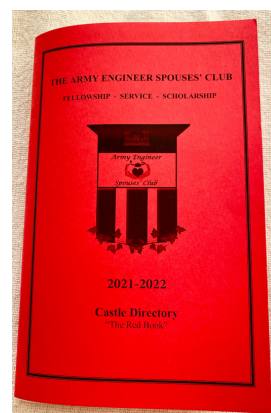
Castle House Readers Book Club

The next meeting of the book club will be in January. The club will read *Beyond the Point* by Claire Gibson.

Red Book

The 2021-2022 Red Book is here!

Thank you to Jackie Caldwell and Jennifer Broderick, our Membership committee, for all your efforts in creating our annual membership directory.



Please email any changes to your information to membership@armyengineerspouses.org



Please update the below information in your Red Book.

Veronica Burbo

New Address: 2720 Indian Creek Ct, VA Beach, VA 23457

AESC Board 2021-2022

ELECTED BOARD

President

Mary Alice Jakso

Vice President

Urvi Avichal

Secretary

Brenda Schultze

Treasurer

Boumy Funes

AEMA Chairperson

Kerri Chase

APPOINTED BOARD

Castle Boutique

Stacy Lloyd

Castle Gram Editor

Michelle Funkhouser

Circulation

Basia Kent

Fairfax Liaison

Isabel Stevens

Historian

Erin Beer

Hospitality & Reservations

Erin Caswell

Knollwood Bake Sale

Priscilla Noah

Knollwood Liaison

Ann Kem

Membership

Jackie Caldwell

Nominations

Vacant

Nominations Emeritus

Bette Meuleners

Parliamentarian

Launa Klimowicz

Publicity/Facebook

Vanessa Joly

Webmaster

Terri Stevens

Service/Welfare

Jennifer Broderick

HONORARY ADVISORS

Honorary President

Sharise Spellmon

Honorary Vice President

Tanya Toussaint

SES Spouse Advisor

Jackie Caldwell

Volunteer Opportunity

Serve on the 2022-2023 AESC Board!

Even though 2022 has just begun, it is not too early to start thinking about our next club year. We are looking for members to serve on the AESC 2022-2023 Board.

The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and AEMA Chairperson are elected through a vote of our membership. This election normally is held in May. Appointed Board positions (listed to the left) are filled by volunteers in consultation with the incoming President.

You do not need to live in the DC area to be a part of our board! Our current board members live all over the country; our Circulation Chair is stationed in Germany.

The following board positions, due to their responsibilities, do need to reside in the local area: President, Vice President, Castle Boutique, Historian, Hospitality & Reservations, Membership, and Parliamentarian.

The duties of all the board positions are listed in the Bylaws included in your Red Book. If you are interested in serving on the AESC board or would like additional information about a position, please email our Parliamentarian, Launa Klimowicz, at parliamentarian@armyengineerspouses.org.



Coping in Military Spouses Research Study

Meghan Monney, a member of the Army Engineer Spouses Club, is working on her Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Texas Health San Antonio. Her dissertation will examine the coping of Army spouses during soldier deployment to a combat zone. The survey takes 20 minutes to complete. The soldier must be active-duty and have deployed to a combat zone in the last three years. You may share this with other Army spouses.



Army Spouses – Let your voice be heard!



- Are you an Army spouse?
- Has your spouse been deployed to a combat zone in the last three years?

If you answered yes to both questions, I would like to invite you to take part in a study about your deployment experience.

The **purpose** of this study is to learn about the coping strategies Army military spouses use to cope with the experience of deployment.

What is involved? You will be asked to complete an online survey that is anonymous that will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

What is the cost? There is no cost to you to participate in the study. You can register for a drawing for **four \$50 gift cards** should you decide to participate in the study.

How do I participate? Click the link below to find out more information and complete the survey.

<https://redcap.link/3qx7ox61>

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Meghan Monney, MSN, RN
254-780-6105

The University of Texas Health San Antonio

Slow Cooker Creamy Tomato Basil Tortellini Soup

1 3/4 cup diced carrots (3 medium)
1 3/4 cup diced yellow onion (1 large)
2 Tbsp olive oil
5 cloves garlic , minced
3 (28 oz) cans whole Roma tomatoes
1 (32 oz) carton vegetable broth
1/3 cup chopped fresh basil, extra for garnish
2 bay leaves
1 Tbsp granulated sugar
Salt and freshly ground black pepper , to taste
16 oz refrigerated three cheese tortellini
3/4 cup heavy cream
Parmesan , shredded, for serving

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add carrots and onion and saute 3-4 minutes, add garlic and saute 1 minute longer. Pour mixture into a 6 or 7 quart slow cooker along with tomatoes, vegetable broth, basil, bay leaves, sugar. Stir and season with salt and pepper to taste. Cover slow cooker and cook on LOW 6 - 7 hours or HIGH 3 - 3 1/2 hours. Remove bay leaves then puree mixture well in small batches in a blender (only fill blender 2/3 full and cover removable insert with a kitchen towel) or use an emulsion blender*. Stir in tortellini, cover and cook on HIGH heat 15 - 20 minutes longer (or until heated through). Reduce heat to warm, stir in heavy cream. Serve topped with parmesan cheese and fresh basil.

If your slow cooker doesn't keep all the moisture in well while cooking, you may need to add in 1/2 cup water or so to prevent the soup from becoming too thick.



Recipe Source: Cooking Classy Notes

Culinary Corner

When the weather outside is cold and snowy, I love to make soup and hearty meals in my crockpot or slow cooker. Here are a few of my favorite finds from Pinterest.

Crock Pot Corn Chowder

2 cups potatoes, (peeled and cubed)
2 cups fresh or frozen corn
1 16-oz can creamed corn
6 slices bacon, (fried until crisp and crumbled)
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon seasoned salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 cup half and half ((can substitute chicken broth or cream, if desired))
additional crumbled bacon, (for serving)

Combine the potatoes, corn, creamed corn, bacon, sugar, Worcestershire sauce, seasoned salt and pepper in a slow cooker and cook on high for 3-4 hours. Add in the half and half and cook an additional 15-20 minutes, until heated through.

Serve topped with additional bacon, if desired.



Recipe Source: Taste & Tell

In Remembrance

Colonel (R) Edward C. Gibson

COL (R) Edward C. Gibson, a recipient of the Gold de Fleury Medal and longtime supporter of the Engineer Regiment, passed away on December 26, 2021. He was 95 years old.

COL (R) Gibson honorably served his nation with almost 50 years of public service. He was a combat veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. After retiring from the military, he served for 20 years as the Chief of Military Personnel, Office of the Chief of Engineers. COL (R) Gibson continued to serve Engineers for nearly 30 years after retiring from the Civil Service through his non-profit organization, 21 Delta Search. 21 Delta Search was established to assist service members transitioning from the military to civilian careers.

In 2004, COL (R) Gibson received the U.S. Army Engineer Association Gold de Fleury Medal, the highest award given by the Engineer Regiment. He received the 2018 Golden Eagle Award from the Society of American Military Engineers. SAME honored Ed with creating the "Gibson Veteran Transition Medal," given in recognition to a SAME member for superior efforts in assisting military personnel as they transition to the private sector.

A memorial service and burial with military honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Our heartfelt condolences to Estelle, his spouse of 72 years, children Beth, Jim, and Clif, and their spouses, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

