



CASTLE GRAM

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From the Gavel



Happy 2022! I hope everyone is staying warm in this chilly weather. We are a month away from the deadline to submit applications for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards (AEMA). Please get your applications in as soon as possible. We thank you for your support through donations and buying items at the Castle Boutique. Stacy and Sara have worked so hard and done an outstanding job with the Castle Boutique.

We have some great events coming up. On Saturday, February 5, we will learn how to make candles at Paddywax Candle Bar. On February 16, we will tour the Mexican Cultural Institute. The Mexican Cultural Institute belongs to the Mexican Embassy in the United States. While the Embassy deals with the politics and economics of Mexico, The Mexican Cultural Institute's mission is to promote the Mexican Culture and Arts in the US. They are housed in the MacVeagh Mansion, designated as a Historic Site in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites in 2012 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. On February 22, Castle Readers Book Club will be meeting in the evening at Verre Wine Bar in Arlington, VA. The book we are reading is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. On March 4, we will head to the Smithsonian Arts and Industries for a docent-led tour of their FUTURES! Exhibit. The FUTURES exhibit has nearly 32,000 square feet of immersive, interactive, speculative, inventive, and historic designs and artifacts from Smithsonian museums and research centers. It contains four halls: the North Hall (Futures of the Past), the West Hall (Futures that Work), the South Hall (Futures that Unite), and the East Hall (Futures that Inspire).

On March 10, our fabulous VP Urvi will show us how to cook some yummy Indian food, so come hungry!



Warmly,

Mary Alice Jakso
AESC President



*We love our
Engineer families!*

Army Engineer Memorial Awards

Attn: Members with High School Seniors

Applications for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards and the Geraldine K. Morris Awards are live on the website!

<https://www.armyengineerspouses.org/2022-aema-application.html>

The AESC is proud to continue our tradition in serving the Engineer community through the AEMA and Geraldine K. Morris awards. We are grateful for all who continue to support our efforts through their generous donations. All applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact us at awardsapplication@armyengineerspouses.org.



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www.armyengineerspouses.org



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Service/Welfare

HONOR FLIGHT

Please note that at the moment, trips are postponed until after February 2022 so make sure to check back via the links below:

For Reagan National Airport (DCA), their flight schedule is below:

<https://honorflightdca.com/2022-schedule/>

If you do plan on attending an arrival or departure, please make sure to review the following information: <https://honorflightdca.com/2021/07/06/2021-honor-flight-season-all-volunteers-must-read/>

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>



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



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://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/157166/>



Happy February Birthday!

Beth Light	1
Katherine Collins	2
Kara Mangan	2
Tanya Toussaint	2
Shana Thomason	3
Janet Graham	4
Shannon Heitkamp	4
Deborah Kalisz Wehr	4
Sharise Spellmon	6
Susan Wright	6
Claudia Helmlinger	7
Erin Caswell	12
Lindsay Funches	12
James Holland	12
Sara Bailey	13
May Toy	14
Bobby Buxbaum	16
Sarah Curry	16
Lucy Fratello	17
Carla Asbery	18
Kim Wiehagen	22
Urvi Avichal	25
Tessie LaRose Ballard	28

AESC Updates



2022-2023 Board Nominations

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about AESC's board for the next year, 2022-2023.

If you know anyone who you think would like to participate by being on our board, and you think would be a good board member, please let Bette know at nominations@armyengineerspouses.org or at the contact information below.

We like to include as many as possible, but we do need suggestions. Our election is at the end of May, but we should have most of the nominations by the end of March with time for nominations from the "floor" in April, and the slate published in the May Castle Gram.

Bette Meuleners - 571-235-3566 - bmeuleners@gmail.com



Castle House Readers Book Club

Our book for February is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.

This month the group will meet at 6:30p.m. on Thursday, February 22 at Verre Wine Bar (2415 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA).

Please email urvi.avichal@gmail.com if you are interested in attending!



Mexican Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Mexico

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

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
2:45 p.m.
Embassy of Mexico in the U.S.
Mexican Cultural Institute in DC
2829 16th St NW
Washington, DC 2009

This is a FREE tour.
Please register by February 11.
This tour has a limit of 25.

This tour is in conjunction with the
Belvoir Spouses' Club.

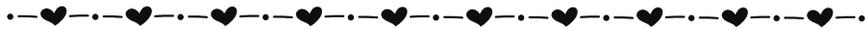


Proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 and a valid photo ID are required to attend all indoor activities and events. CDC approved masks (N95, N99, N100, R95, P95, or P100) are required at all times for all patrons and visitors.

Visitor information to include parking, transportation, and updated COVID information may be found at the Institute's website:



<https://instituteofmexicodc.org/index.php/plan-your-visit/>



Futures Exhibit at Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building

Friday, March 4, 2022
10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

900 Jefferson Drive, SW - Washington, DC

Free

Futures of the Past



Futures that Inspire



Futures that Work



Futures that Unite

Photo Credit: Smithsonian Museums official website.

Service Connected Scholarships

The scholarships listed below are a few of the multitude of scholarship opportunities for children and spouses of servicemembers. Please access the links provided for eligibility, deadline, and other pertinent information. If you are located near a military installation, your local installation thrift shop or spouses' club may also have a scholarship program.

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Army Engineer Association - Application deadline is April 30

The AEA Congressman David L. Hobson STEM Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000 each is awarded to up to three individuals annually and is open to qualified AEA members or family members of AEA members who are full-time undergraduate students pursuing a baccalaureate degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The application deadline is 30 April.

<https://armyengineer.com/educational-support-program/>

Army Scholarship Foundation - Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15

Applicants must be the sons or daughters of regular active duty, active duty Reserve, or active duty National Guard U.S. Army members in good standing, spouses of serving enlisted regular active duty, active duty Reserve, active duty National Guard U.S. Army members in good standing, or sons or daughters of former U.S. Army members who received an honorable discharge or medical discharge, or who were killed while serving in the U.S. Army.

<https://armyscholarshipfoundation.org/scholarships/>

Association of the U.S. Army - please visit the below link to view the available scholarships

<https://www.ausa.org/scholarships>

Fisher House - Deadline is February 17 - website has a Scholarship for Service search tool

<https://fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarship-programs/scholarships-for-military-children/>

National Military Family Association - Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Spouse scholarships for all degrees from GED to PhD, professional licenses, supervised clinic hours, business and entrepreneurial expenses, and continuing education courses.

<https://www.militaryfamily.org/programs/spouses-scholarships/>

ThanksUSA - Applications accepted March 1-April 15

<https://www.thanksusa.org/scholarships.html>

Pat Tillman Foundation - Applications accepted February 1 - February 28

Open to veteran /active duty military service members from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces including the National Guard who have served in both pre-and post-9/11 eras and current Spouses of veteran or active service members, including surviving spouses

<https://pattillmanfoundation.org/tillman-scholars-military-scholarships/>

Couples Match Game

Match these fictional couples to their literary, movie, or TV show source. Answers on page 10.

1. Diane Chambers/Sam Malone
2. Bella Swan/Edward Cullen
3. Pam Beesly/Jim Halpert
4. Beth & Randall Pearson
5. Ilsa Lund/Rick Blaine
6. Rose DeWitt Bukater/Jack Dawson
7. Rachel Chu/Nick Young
8. Holly Golightly/Paul Varjack
9. Maria Nunez/Tony Wyzek
10. Latika/Jamal Malik
11. Mary Jane Watson/Peter Parker
12. Maddie Hayes/David Addison
13. Buttercup/Westley
14. Vivian & Philip Banks
15. Frances Houseman/Johnny Castle

- a. *Slumdog Millionaire*
- b. *Casablanca*
- c. *West Side Story*
- d. *Titanic*
- e. *Dirty Dancing*
- f. *Moonlighting*
- g. *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*
- h. *Twilight*
- i. *The Office*
- j. *This is Us*
- k. *Cheers*
- l. *Crazy Rich Asians*
- m. *Spiderman*
- n. *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
- o. *The Princess Bride*

Culinary Corner

Chocolate has historically been linked with Valentine's Day and romance. One of the earliest examples of chocolate as a symbol of romantic love comes from ancient history. Mayans began making a form of "hot chocolate" from cocoa beans which was an important part of many rituals, including weddings, at which the bride and groom would exchange sips of the beverage to celebrate their union. The Aztecs also linked chocolate with love and desire. In 1861, Richard Cadbury was the first to sell and package chocolates in a heart shaped box. After the chocolates had been consumed, the boxes were used to store items such as letters, locks of hair, and trinkets. Here are a few chocolate treats to sweeten your day. Enjoy! (Recipes source: Pinterest)

CROCKPOT CHOCOLATE FONDUE

Ingredients

- 12 ounce bag of semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 7 ounce jar of hazelnut spread (Nutella)

Instructions

Add ingredients to crockpot and stir together.

Warm chocolate on low until melted.

Stir every ten minutes until ingredients are completely melted and combined together.

Fresh fruit, marshmallows, pretzels, oreos, wafer cookies, etc. may be used to dip or dunk into the fondue.



Recipe and photo credit: 3littlegreenwoods.com

Mini Chocolate Cakes

Ingredients

Chocolate cake:

3 eggs, at room temperature

1 and ½ cups sugar

¼ cup olive oil

1 cup milk, at room temperature

3 tablespoons cocoa powder

1 teaspoon vanilla powder

2 cups all purpose flour



Recipe and photo credit:
giverecipe.com

Filling:

1 and ½ cups whipped cream

Topping:

1½ chocolate chips

1 cup heavy cream

½ cup fresh or frozen cranberries

(I substituted fresh raspberries)

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350F and line a 9X9 inches baking pan with parchment paper.

Mix eggs and sugar with an electric mixer until creamy. Pour olive oil and milk and mix. Sift cocoa powder into the bowl and mix with a spatula. Combine flour and vanilla powder in a separate bowl and sift them into the bowl. Mix with a spatula just until there are no pockets of flour. Pour the batter into the baking pan and bake for 15-20 minutes or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

Meanwhile, bring the cream to a simmer in a small pot and pour it over chocolate chips in a bowl. Wait for a few minutes and whisk together until chocolate melts and you have a smooth chocolate sauce. Let it cool at room temperature.

Take the cake out of oven and let it cool. Cut out circles using a cookie cutter. You decide on the size of the cookie cutter. Dollop some whipped cream on a chocolate cake circle and place another cake circle carefully on the cream and gently press over. Repeat the same thing until you finish the cake circles. Top with a good amount of chocolate sauce. Chill for 30 minutes and then top each with some cranberries or fruit of your choice. Store cakes in the fridge.

Simple Chocolate Mousse

Ingredients

1/2 cup (4 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips

1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon espresso powder (optional)

1/2 cup whole milk

1 cup heavy whipping cream

3 tablespoons powdered sugar

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

Mix together the chocolate, salt, and espresso powder (if using) in a medium bowl. Heat milk until steaming and pour over the chocolate. Let sit for 2-3 minutes, then stir until combined and smooth. Allow to cool fully.

In another medium bowl, whip the cream, sugar, and vanilla with an electric mixer until soft peaks form, about 1-2 minutes. Gently fold into the cooled melted chocolate.

Pour mixture into 4 (4 ounce) ramekins or small tumbler glasses. Refrigerate at least 3 hours or overnight. Dollop with some whipped cream and chocolate shavings and enjoy!



Recipe and photo credit:
giverecipe.com

Couples Match Game Answers

1.k	4.j	7.l	10.a	13.o
2.h	5.b	8.n	11.m	14.g
3.i	6.d	9.c	12.f	15.e

♥ Couple Stories ♥

February is the time when love and hearts are in the air! A few of our members graciously shared photos and stories of their wedding day or how they met their spouses.

Urvi Avichal



Sonny and I were married in Batavia, NY on June 26th, 2011. We had a large Indian wedding that lasted 4 days long. We loved being able to incorporate Army traditions into our wedding which made it so special.



Kara Anderson



We were married on July 2, 1988 in Dallas, TX. It was well over 100 degrees until 5 pm when the skies opened up. I was so upset but was told that if it rains on your wedding day, it is good luck!

The church was full of Army engineers as Dave's first duty station was Ft. Hood, TX and it was a long weekend.

My dress was missing a button (buttoned all the way down the back)... The cleaners heirloomed it for free. All the bridesmaids dye-to-match shoes were different shades of blue.... everyone was refunded. Our wedding candle didn't have a wick.... my mom was refunded the cost.

Nothing major but funny to remember. My mom's good friend said at the rate they were getting refunded, the wedding was going to be free!

Sharise Spellmon

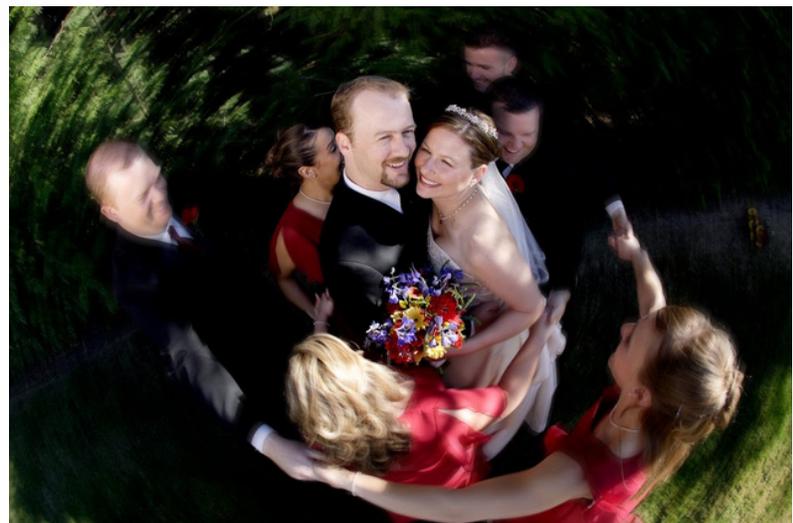


The Army football team of 1984 earned a spot to play Michigan State in the Cherry Bowl to be played in Michigan. Scott's roommate at West Point was a former high school classmate of mine. He (his roommate) called me to ask if he could stay with my family and that he also had tickets for the Bowl game. I was not looking for love, but went to the game. After Army beat the Big Ten team, I continued with plans with my girlfriends, but later met Scott when he was at my house with his fellow Army classmates, my Dad and brothers talking football. Scott stood up to say hello and shake hands and I had a feeling "there is something genuine about this guy." Later when my mom asked how was the evening was, I replied, "I think I met the guy I could marry." The best part is that Scott felt the same way.....so yes, "Love at First Sight" is real!

Mary Alice Jakso



Jeff and I were married at a small winery in Oregon. We were able to have the wedding right before they harvested the grapes. The weather was perfect. I had requested our DJ play every group dance her knew- and he did! It was fantastic!. My parents had bought us an Alaskan cruise for our honeymoon. They also decided since they had never been on an Alaskan cruise that they would come with us. It was such a wonderful trip and my parent's 43 wedding anniversary was the day before our wedding.

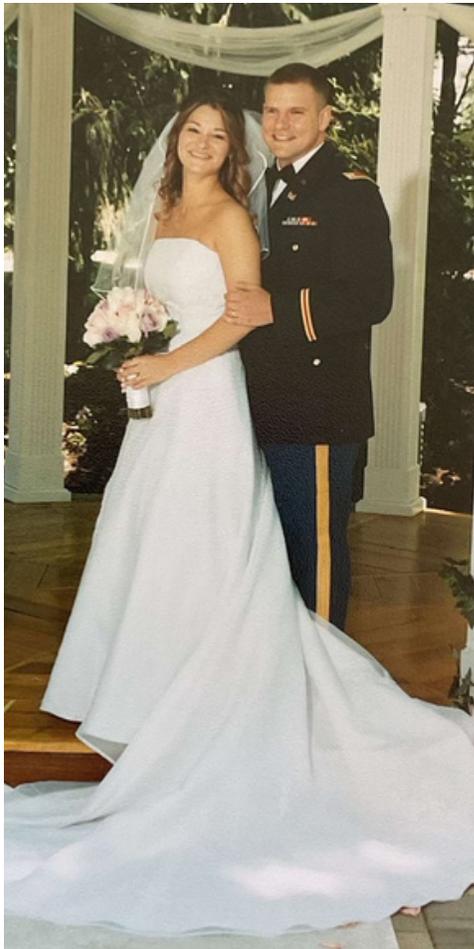


Isabel Stevens



We had a very small wedding at the Navy Chapel in Washington, DC and a reception at my parents' home in DC. We had been dating for about a year and Pat was headed to an assignment in Australia. As the time got closer, he talked about getting married when he returned - I suggested I'd wait for someone going into a war zone but not for someone having a wonderful year in Australia - so we were married three weeks later. 46 years later, definitely the right choice.

Patti Stevens



Pat and I met at Florida Tech and got married about two and a half years later. We got married at Bretton Woods in Morris Plains, NJ, on May 29, 2004. Most of the day was a whirlwind, so the majority of my memories are trying to sneak food in between pictures. We were surrounded by friends and family that flew in from all over the world, and we were blessed to have 3 generations of Pats there.



In Remembrance

MG Pat M. Stevens, IV (Ret)

Major General Pat M. Stevens IV was born on December 5, 1941, in Riverside, California, and died January 10, 2022, at the Fairfax Retirement Community at Ft. Belvoir, VA. He was the son and grandson of Regular Army officers. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers upon graduation from West Point in 1963.

He served two tours in Vietnam, on the Army Staff, and as the U.S. representative to the Australian Army Staff College. He was the commander of the 30th Engineer Battalion (Topo), the USACE Vicksburg District Engineer, and Chief of Staff. He later served as Division Engineer in the North Pacific and Lower Mississippi Valley divisions and president of the Mississippi River Commission.

Before his retirement, his final assignments at USACE headquarters included Director of Military Programs, Deputy Chief of Engineers, and as the longest-serving Acting Chief of Engineers in Corps history at the time. After he retired from the U.S. Army, Pat served as a Vice President of the Morrison- Knudsen Corporation. He continued his service to Engineers as the Executive Director of the Society of Military Engineers from 1998-2002.

Interment will be held on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Arlington National Cemetery.

Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Isabel, children Nancy, Patrick, and their spouses, grandchildren, family, and friends.

