

Army Engineer Spouses' Club

Castle Gram

Volume III, Issue VIII

April 2013

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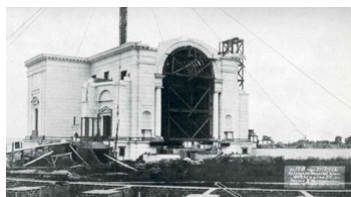
[Army Engineers Supervised Construction of the Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater](#)

In 1913 Congress approved the construction of an amphitheater and chapel at Arlington National Cemetery. It was common in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century for Congress to appoint a commission to design and build a monument, and the commission often appointed the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds as the executive and disbursing officer. The respective heads of the public buildings and grounds office, engineer Lieutenant Colonels William W. Harts, (1913-17), and Clarence S. Ridley, (1917-21), were responsible for most federal property in the District of Columbia.

The amphitheater plans called for an elliptical structure enclosing an outdoor, 1.5-acre oval seating area capable of holding about 5,000 people. The exterior of the building was a Vermont marble colonnade with entrances at each of the principal axes. The entrance on the east housed a hall leading to the stage, a museum room on the second floor, and a chapel in the basement.

Construction began immediately after the groundbreaking ceremony on March 1, 1915. Work proceeded rapidly until the severe winters of 1916 and 1917. In the spring of 1917 the U.S. entered World War I, increasing the costs of materials that were becoming scarce and difficult to transport on railroads clogged with war materials. After these delays, the amphitheater was dedicated on May 15, 1920.

Across the Potomac River, the Lincoln Memorial was nearing completion, and Congress was on the verge of appropriating money to build an impressive bridge to connect Arlington Cemetery and the memorial. The amphitheater would join this magnificent array of monuments built to honor those who died in the service of their country.



"Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected - through the years and across the miles."



Kathy Moakler
President

The Gavel



...a note from our President

Dear AESC friends:

Doesn't matter how far you are from the DC flag pole, chances are you have been listening to the hullabaloo about sequestration, furloughs, the budget and the effects on service members, civilians and their families. Here in DC the interest is immense and the freezing cold winds and weather add to the gloom. We don't even have any cherry blossoms to distract us since the cold has pushed the peak bloom back by a week. The full effect of all of this has yet to set in and with today's announcement of the delay of furloughs we may not see it till the very end of the month.

In this issue you will find the slate of officers for next year along with the names of those who have agreed to serve on the AESC board for next year. Thanks to Bette Meuleners and her crackerjack team of Mollie O'Neill and Pat O'Neill for finding willing and able volunteers for next year.

April 15 to 21 is Volunteer Appreciation Week and I'd like to take a moment to thank all who share their valuable time in supporting our club. I know you have many choices on how you can spend your time - thank you for sharing your time and your treasure with other Engineer spouses.

April is also the Month of the Military Child. While many of us have military children who have long ago become adults (military or otherwise) I always remember the delight in raising a military child with the many challenges and the many rewards. We asked so much of them - adaptability, resilience, maturity and the patience to sit in the back seat with several siblings as the family moved one more time across the country. Here's to all our military children - hugs all around!

Don't forget your goodies for our Knollwood bake sale! The residents love to stash the homemade treats in their freezers for when they entertain. Thanks to Priscilla Noah for her tireless work on this important event.

And hope to see you all at the Scholarship Brunch at the Fairfax on April 21. Chief of Engineers LTG Thomas Bostick is scheduled to be our keynote speaker.

Still waiting for March to come out like a lamb - Happy April!

Essayons

Kathy Moakler





A note from Bette

As required by our Army Engineer Spouses' Club constitution, here are the Nominees for AESC's elected officers for 2013-2014:

President - Kathy Moakler

Vice-President – Rosemary Davis

Secretary – Allison Chamberlayne

Treasurer – Debbie Rapp

AEMA Chairperson– Holly Scherer



Members present at our April function/meeting will vote on approval of these nominations.

Appointed (by the President). Here are the tentative placements:

Parliamentarian – Roz Riley

Membership – Jackie Caldwell

Hospitality – Lynda Flowers

Newsletter – **Open, still looking**

Webmaster – Susan Wright

Reservations – Anita Link

Ways/Means – Connie Semonite

Welfare/Services – Mollie O'Neill

Publicity/Historian – **Beth Mazzanti will stay, if necessary, but she'd like to pass the position to a new person**

Circulation – Kara Anderson

Knollwood Liason – Betty Swygert

Fairfax Liason – Joyce Rebh

AEMA Scholarship – Laura Putnam

Facebook – Elizabeth Hill

Nominations and Ad Hoc Volunteer – Pat O'Neill

Ad Hoc Volunteer – Gene Villliva

Bake Sale – Priscilla Noah

Nominations – Bette Meuleners

A big thanks to these members for volunteering to serve on our board. We really appreciate it!!!

Bette Meuleners
Nominating Chairperson
AESC 2012-2013

Mollie O'Neill
Pat O'Neill
Nominating Committee members
AESC 2012-2013

NOMINATIONS



Anna Marie Cox
VP

UPCOMING EVENT--APRIL

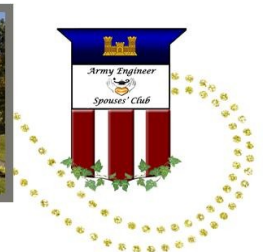
*Army Engineer Memorial Awards
Scholarship Champagne Brunch*

April 21st, 2013

1:00 pm

RSVP by April 14th with payment of \$28

Seating is limited this year so RSVP as soon as possible.



Join us for a delicious Champagne Sunday Brunch at The Fairfax as we honor our award winners for the 2012-2013 Army Engineer Spouses' Club year. Our Army Engineer Memorial Awards committee has worked hard to choose deserving award winners out of our 75 applicants this year.

Located at 9140 Belvoir Woods Pkwy Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Army Engineer Memorial Awards Scholarship Brunch Reservation Form

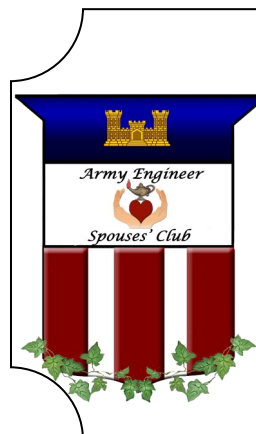
Mail to AESC, P.O. Box 6332, Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

Name(s) of those attending: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Amount of payment: (\$28 per person) _____ (***)Make check payable to AESC



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*Fellowship
Scholarship
Service*

Upcoming Board Meeting

Wednesday, 3 April 2013

1100-1300

*At the Home of
Priscilla Noah*

*820 Arcturus-on-Potomac
Alexandria, VA*

Members are welcome

PROGRAMS FOR 2012-2013

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
| April 10 | 10:00am | Knollwood Bake Sale |
| April 21 | 1:00pm
RSVP with payment
By April 14 (\$28) | AEMA Scholarship Brunch,
The Fairfax
(Couples event) |
| May 09 | 11:00am—1:00pm
RSVP with payment
By April 23 (\$33) | Tudor Place Victorian Tea & Tour
Tea with finger sandwiches
and dessert included |

Cherry Blossom Trees—DC
Peak Blooming Date Prediction: April 3-6, 2013
<http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org>



THE CAPITAL CONNECTION

MARCH EVENT



CRIME AND PUNISHMENT MUSEUM FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT ROSA MEXICANO

Described by Good Morning America as a "must see for CSI fans," this museum includes a crime lab and the filming studios for *America's Most Wanted*. A simulated shooting range, high-speed police-chase, and hundreds of interactives and artifacts pertaining to America's favorite subject.



Set of "America's Most Wanted"



Crime Scene Autopsy Room



Displays offer a look into crime history.



Bonnie & Clyde's car (notice all the bullet holes!)

Although only 2 of our members (Roz Riley and Marna Rockwell) joined me downtown on a cold, blustery day, the Crime and Punishment Museum was worth the trip. There were so many interesting displays, a look into the criminal history of our country and the growth of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. With popular TV shows like CSI, *America's Most Wanted* and NCIS gripping our curiosity about crime, this museum helped to answer some of our questions. We had a time limit because of our restaurant reservations so we were unable to get through even half of the museum!! Definitely a must-see stop on your next sightseeing venture. And the good news is that it is just down from the USACE HQ and across from the Gallery Place Metro.



Whoops! These two AESC members end up in stocks!! They were released in time for lunch!!



The History of National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week began in 1974 as a way to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers. Since then, the original emphasis on celebration has widened; the week has become a nationwide effort to urge people to get out and volunteer in their communities. Every April, charities and communities reinforce the week's official theme ("Celebrating People in Action") by recognizing volunteers and fostering a culture of service.

Origin

President Richard Nixon established National Volunteer Week with an executive order in 1974. Every sitting U.S. president since Nixon has issued a proclamation during National Volunteer Week (as have many U.S. mayors and governors), urging Americans to give their time to community outreach organizations.

Sponsoring Institution

National Volunteer Week is sponsored by the Points of Light Institute, which encourages and organizes volunteerism on a community level. The institute began as a foundation, created in response to President George H.W. Bush's inaugural speech in 1989, urging volunteers and community activists to become "a thousand points of light." In 2007, the Points of Light Foundation joined forces with the HandsOn Network, creating the country's largest volunteer management organization. The institute is an independent non-profit organization, not affiliated with any political party.

The President's Volunteer Service Award

Many communities and organizations use National Volunteer Week as a time to hand out the President's Volunteer Service Award. Created in 2003, this award allows certified organizations to recognize individuals who have fulfilled a quota of volunteer hours in their communities in the past year. Volunteers can be rewarded with a bronze, silver or gold award for the total yearly number of hours they volunteer. To get a gold award, kids need to volunteer at least 100 hours, young adults must volunteer at least 250 hours and adults at least 500 hours.

Effects

Although National Volunteer Week is just one part of the government's emphasis on volunteering, the available statistics show great improvement in the number of American volunteers since 1989. According to the HandsOn Network, 23 million more Americans volunteered in 2008 than in 1989 (that's a 60 percent increase in the sheer number of people who volunteer). Youth volunteer rates have had a nearly identical climb, also rising 60 percent from 1989 to 2008. Older Americans from the Baby Boom generation are 40 percent more likely to volunteer than the same age groups were in 1989. In addition, volunteers are choosing to work with kids and educational organizations; volunteering is up for these organizations by approximately 75 percent.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

**KNOLLWOOD BAKE SALE**

Knollwood Bake Sale

April 10, 2013 at 10 AM

We are delighted to have the opportunity to revisit Knollwood with baked goods, hors d'oeuvres and special goodies for diabetics.

Knollwood is the home for retired military and their spouses. Our special treats are sold with all the revenue to return to Knollwood for the benefit of residents who need some financial assistance. We Engineers love to take care of our military families. So start making all types of baked goodies, hors d'oeuvres and other snack mixes.

Please bring the goodies to Knollwood already priced:

- Bar Cookies and Brownies - 50¢
- Cupcakes -50¢
- Mini Loaves \$2.00 each
- Cheese, Sausage, or Spinach Balls - 12@ \$2.00
- Mini Quiches - 4 @ \$2.00
- Snack Mixes \$1.00/bag
- Appetizers & Other Cocktail-Hour Nibbles - 6 @ \$1.50
- Cookies - 1 dozen @ \$1.50 - \$2.00 depending on cookie size

We hope many of you will come join us for a fun day. Please plan to stay for lunch in the dining area.

If you can't make it to Knollwood (6200 Oregon Ave NW, Washington, DC 20015) on the 10th of April but would like to donate baked goods, give Priscilla Noah a call at 703-269-8131.



Birthdays.....

Michelle DiCiro	Apr 01
Sally Ball	Apr 02
Carol Pawlowski	Apr 09
Jackie Danielson	Apr 12
Mary Scott	Apr 15
Lee Boutin	Apr 18
Susan Oliveri	Apr 20
Mary Lorber	Apr 23
Dolores Felch	Apr 29
Jennifer Riordan	Apr 30

Renee Johnson	May 06
Kathy Candido	May 09
Mary C Pratt	May 09
Lynda flowers	May 13
Ruth Bond	May 18
Donna Dabbieri	May 18
Kathleen B Moakler	May 22
Allison Chamberlayne	May 24
Debbie Rapp	May 26
Bette Meuleners	May 28
Emily R Jansen	May 29



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

WELCOME—NEW AESC MEMBERS

**Rosemary Davis
Michelle DiCiro**



**HAVE YOU FILED YOUR 2012 TAX RETURN YET??
HURRY— DEADLINE IS APPROACHING FAST !!
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013**

If your income is \$57,000 or less, let Free File brand name software do the hard work for you with free tax preparation and free e-filing. It's available only through IRS.gov, where a number of tax software companies make their products available for free. Some also support state tax returns for free. To take advantage of this option, go to:
<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Free-File:-Do-Your-Federal-taxes-for-free>

Volunteer Story

Contributor: Ginger Hopkins

When I was in the 6th grade, my father was stationed at Fort Riley, KS. He left for his 1st tour in Viet Nam in October, but because no new troops would be coming we (along with many other families in the same situation) were able to stay in quarters. Fort Riley was the home of Chief, the last US Cavalry horse. Since the Cavalry Museum is located there, Fort Riley would become Chief's final resting place. Since he was in failing health, the teachers at the elementary school on post talked about the significance of the horse and that if we wanted we could volunteer to help dig his grave. While that does sound morbid, the teachers said we could be a small part of history and that this would be something we would remember all our lives. Let's face it, how many people can say they helped dig Chief's final resting spot? And yes, I still remember walking to the parade field in my jeans, sweatshirt and sneakers! While all the volunteers started the digging, bulldozers finished the job. After all, Chief was buried standing up! Chief passed away after I left Fort Riley, but I will always remember seeing him in the stables and digging on the parade field.

Several years after Gerry retired, we moved to New Windsor which is close to West Point. I had continued to volunteer in Bayside, but it was within the civilian community. I was looking forward to volunteering on a military post again. I joined DUSA, became a board member and then later on was the President. As a board member, I attended the yearly event called the Bride's Coffee. DUSA has been hosting the Bride's Coffee during graduation week since 1954. For many of the fiancées of Firsties, this is the first Army wives function they have attended. It was such a joy talking to these young women about becoming Army wives and the adventures they will experience. It hit me during my last talk as President; wow, what a great way to pass on information and the value of volunteering to our future Army wives. Let's be honest, volunteering is not only a great way to meet people, but it is the best way to enjoy all that a post has to offer. I so love talking to the fiancées; they are like a sponge soaking up knowledge from us seasoned Army wives! I still attend this function, but now as a member. However, it's so refreshing to talk to and pass along useful information to the wives of our future Army leaders.

Volunteers God Bless 'Em

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgment nears
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers,
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there's no committee chairmen,
No group leaders or car pools,
No eager team that needs a coach
And no bazaar or cake sale.
There will be nothing to staple,
No one thing to fold or mail,
Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
Cold drinks and gourmet dinners,
And treats fit for a king.
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?"
Why all those who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on Earth!

Contributor: Ginger Hopkins

Source: A wall-hanging that was displayed in the Volunteer's Room at Arlington Hospital.



Volunteer Services

VOLUNTEERISM



“Like” our public Facebook page!
Facebook Editor: Elizabeth Hill

We post events, photos, and scholarship information on the page. It is a great way to let more people know about AESC as well as keep members in touch.

<https://www.facebook.com/ArmyEngineerSpousesClub>



Our Webmaster, Susan Wright, has done her magic!
Check out our AESC website at

<http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/>



RECRUITING FOR:

NEWSLETTER EDITOR--In charge of putting together the Castle Gram, our monthly newsletter

PUBLICITY/HISTORIAN--In charge of publicity for the club and keeping a record (scrap book, photo book) of the year's activities

Call Bette Meuleners 571-235-3566 if interested in joining the AESC Board

AESC 2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

Last _____ First _____

Nickname _____ If you are in the military, list your rank & job title

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail _____

The Castle Gram (in color) is sent to you via email. If you do not have email, a black and white copy will be sent to your home address.

Your Birthday (month/day only) _____

Preferred method of contact:

- E-mail Home phone Cell phone Do not contact me

Check one:

New member - I was invited by _____

Returning member

Eligibility Information:

Spouse's Name _____

Check one: Is Spouse: Active Retired Deceased

Spouse's title/rank/job assignment

If retired, use current firm, if any. If active duty, use official abbreviation.

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information placed in the Castle Directory. Membership runs from July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2013. Membership information received by Oct 15, 2012 will be included in the 2012-2013 Castle Directory. After that date, new member names will be published in the Castle Gram and information will be emailed to members to update their Red Book. Thank you.

Annual dues + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$25 _____
Additional Castle Directory(ies) : Each \$5 _____
Total: _____

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to: AESC MEMBERSHIP
P.O. Box 6332
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

You may also print the membership application online at
www.armyengineerspouses.com.

Jackie Caldwell
Membership
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP



AESC
P.O. Box 6332
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332