

Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

VOLUME LXIII ISSUE 9 | April 2017

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Our Executive Board:

President

Launa Klimowicz-Brown

Vice President

Carolyn Hudson

Treasurer

Jessica Gregris

Secretary

Laurel-Lee States
Christy Preston

AEMA Chairperson

Erica Shaw

Hello Spring! The time of year where Mother Nature can't quite decide between rain, snow, heat waves or hurricanes! But, we love it! More sun, and more daylight hours to spend with family and friends!

April is marked by many honorary celebrations. On April 5th, we observed Gold Star Spouses Day, when we take time to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of surviving military spouses and honor the legacy of their husbands and wives who died in service to the nation.

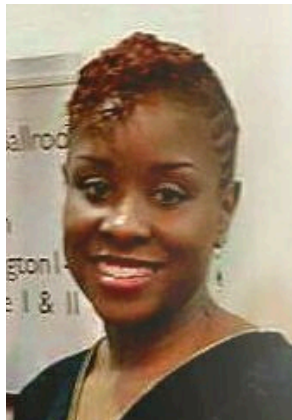
The Gold Star is a symbol of loss dating back to WWI. In 1947, Congress approved the design, manufacture and distribution of the official Gold Star Lapel Button, a symbol worn by Family of service members who lost their lives in combat operations. In 1973, the Lapel Button for Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel was introduced to symbolize active-duty Soldiers who lost their lives in non-combat operations. The surviving Family members wear either a Gold Star Lapel Button or the Lapel Button for Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel in honor of their fallen Soldier. Family members typically receive these pins from the Army during their Soldier's funeral service.

April is also Month of the Military Child. There are currently almost 2 million military children of active duty members worldwide. 2.7 million military children have experienced a parent at war and/or deployment since 2001 (many on multiple occasions). Active Duty military children move 3 times more frequently than civilian counterparts. 80% of military children attend public school throughout the United States. So, show your support for our military kids on April 21st by wearing purple. Purple symbolizes the combined colors of all branches of the military: Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Purple Up!

AESC and AEMA have so much in store for you this spring that I won't even touch it here! Just turn the page and find all that is happening in our Engineer World!

“Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected through the years and across the miles”

AEMA



**AEMA
Chairperson,
Erica Shaw**

Hello Castle Gram readers, I am grateful to be able to provide additional nuggets of information about the AEMA award process and to assist you with preparing for college. As I sit and reflect on how fast the months, days and year is passing quickly, I began to consider, “What’s important to Parents and Graduating Seniors now?” So here goes....

Current AEMA Award Process Status:

It is mid-April 2017 and many of you are wondering, “What is the status of my high school senior AEMA Application”? In the March Castle Gram, a schedule was provided to give you an idea of when you could expect notice of Award/Declinations. As a reminder, April 1, 2017 to April 21, 2017, notice of award and notice of declinations will be mailed to each applicant. If your high school senior has been selected as an award recipient, you will receive a call and notice in the mail.

Unfortunately, several applications submitted failed to meet eligibility requirements. It was the consensus of the Board that the eligibility requirements must be applied consistently. It was decided that each applicant that failed to meet the eligibility requirements will be automatically eliminated. We will be in touch with each applicant to inform them of the status of their application.

We look forward to meeting our award winners at our annual AEMA Brunch scheduled for Sunday May 21st . As is our tradition, we will convene at The Fairfax at Belvoir Woods. We look forward to this event each year as we are able to congratulate our award winners as well as reconnect with our members residing at the Fairfax. Please look for your invitation in next month’s Castle Gram.

Finally, if you would like more resources on helping to prepare your High School student for the upcoming college years, feel free to reach out to me. I am happy to forward along any of the wonderful resources I have come across in my years working as your AEMA Chair.

aema@armyengineerspouses.com

Nominations

The 2017-2018 Slate of Officers for the Army Engineer Spouses' Club is as follows:

President: Launa Klimowicz-Brown
Vice President: Rosemary Davis
Secretary: Christy Preston
Treasurer: Kim Oborski
AEMA Chairperson: Kara Anderson

Members may still nominate additional individuals for each position.

Mail in nominations must be post marked no later than April 27, 2017.

If there are any new nominations for the elected positions, they will be listed with the nominees above in the May CastleGram (due out May 8th, 2017) and also in an email to the entire AESC membership.

To make a nomination from the floor:

- Contact our Nominations Chairman:
by email at nominations@armyengineerspouses.com or
by mail to Army Engineer Spouses' Club (Nominations)
P.O. Box 6332 Alexandria, VA 22306-6332.
- You need to state, "I nominate _____ for the position of _____."
- You must be a member in good standing to nominate or vote in this process and you must have received permission from the nominee to be considered.

Voting will take place by email and mail beginning May 5, 2017. Mail in ballots (available in the May CastleGram and in an email to the membership) must be post marked no earlier than May 5th and no later than May 19th.

Results of the election will be included in the June 2017 CastleGram.

In addition, an email with the results will be sent to the entire AESC Membership.

Thanks for participating in AESC's election process.

Bette Meuleners
AESC Nominations 2016-2017

[**nominations@armyengineerspouses.com**](mailto:nominations@armyengineerspouses.com)

Roz Riley
AESC Parliamentarian 2016-2017

[**parliamentarian@armyengineerspouses.com**](mailto:parliamentarian@armyengineerspouses.com)

Summary of the 2016-2017 Executive Board Election Process

Nominations from the floor: Now - April 27th

Final Slate Presented in CastleGram - May 8th

Voting on Slate - May 8th - May 19th

Election Results Presented in Castle Gram - June 12th

Save the Date

April 19
Knollwood Bake Sale
10am to 2pm

April 21
Purple Up Day
Month of the Military Child

April 29th
FairWinds Brewery
6pm
7000 Newington Road
Lorton, VA

May 3
AESC Board Meeting
(evening meeting, location
TBD)

May 21
AEMA Awards Luncheon
The Fairfax

May 31
Sip & Paint Night
Wine & Design
7pm
1506 Bell View Blvd
Alexandria, VA



Nuts & Bolts

SUMMARY OF AESC ELECTION PROCESS

The membership of AESC, as you know, is varied - not only by the eligibility requirements, but also by the geographic locations of the membership. We *truly do* span the globe.



As your membership with its privileges is important to the Executive Board, we, as of last year, developed a virtual voting system to assure that all members were included in the decisions made for the organization. Roberts Rules of Order for Voting was the guiding framework for our virtual voting procedure.

A summary of the procedure for election of your Executive Board is as follows:

- Nominations Chairman surveys membership for volunteers/ recommendations to fill the Executive Membership Positions
- Nominations Chairman presents PROJECTED SLATE to the serving Executive Board for their voting (approval of slate) by April meeting
- Nominations Chairman calls for further nominations from the floor in April after publishing the PROJECTED SLATE
- FINAL SLATE is presented in ballot form in May CastleGram for general membership voting**
 - If a MAJORITY of the membership responds NAY, the ballot is reworked and the successive vote will be on each position with the ballots collected and tallied.
 - If a MAJORITY of the membership responds and casts an AYE vote, the ballot is approved by the general membership as submitted.
- Election Results Presented in June Castle Gram

**Consensus voting is used in this general membership voting. While a ballot is published (in print and/or email), only a NAY vote need be returned.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this process, your privilege.

Roz Riley
AESC Parliamentarian 2016-2017

Knollwood Bake Sale

6200 Oregon Ave NW
Washington, DC 20015

April 19, 10:00 am

We are delighted to have the opportunity to revisit Knollwood with baked goods, hors d'oeuvres, and special goodies for diabetics. (Savory items seem to be much more popular at this event.)

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. We hope you will join us!

Please bring the goodies to Knollwood already priced:

Bar Cookies and Brownies - \$1.50

Cupcakes - \$1.50

Mini Loaves - \$ 3.50 each

Cheese, Sausage or Spinach Balls - 12 @ \$4.00

Mini Quiches - 4 @ \$3.00

Snack Mixes - \$2.00/bag

Appetizers & Other Cocktail-Hour Nibbles - 6 @ \$3.00

Cookies - 1/2 doz. @ \$2.00 - \$3.00 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 19th of April but would like to donate baked goods, email Priscilla Noah at general@crosslink.net

Also, you may make a donation to Knollwood. Please make check payable to AESC and mail to: AESC PO BOX 6332 Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

**Make note on check that is for Knollwood

AESC April Event



Join us for a brew bash at Fair Winds Brewery, voted DC's best local brewery 2 years in a row. They offer fresh, local, flavorful craft beers which are born from inspiration, crafted with devotion and served with excitement and anticipation. The Savory Delicatessen food truck will be on-site with specially made sandwiches and side dishes. We hope you can come fill your steins AND your sails! Please RSVP to vp@armyengineerspouses.com by Friday, April 21.

When: Saturday, April 29, 6pm

Where: Fair Winds Brewing Company, 7000 Newington Road, Lorton, VA



AESC May Event



Please make plans to join us for our AESC Sip & Paint Night on Wednesday, May 31 at 7 p.m. at Wine & Design, 1506 Belle View Boulevard Suite D, Alexandria, 22307.

We will be painting the Jefferson Monument with the cherry blossoms pictured above. This studio class includes 2 glasses of wine or one beer. There is also a selection of nonalcoholic beverages, and you are welcome to bring snacks with you.

The session will last approximately 2 hours. Please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes early to sign in, get your apron, etc. The cost is \$40.

Online payment is required to book your seat. Please click on the following link to see further details and make your reservation. <http://wineanddesign.com/calendars/event.php?id=62880>. Please make your reservation as soon as possible.

Welfare & Service

First off, thank you to all those who came out to our hard Times Café fundraiser in February! I know many of our members met up for lunch that day. All of your efforts were appreciated!



Second, AESC continues to provide monthly meals to the families staying at the Fisher House. This effort has been so well supported by our members that the remaining slots we have for meals this year are full. if you are interested in learning more about how you can support the Fisher house, please contact our Welfare Services Chair, Vanessa Joly at service@armyengineerspouses.com



Local Events

April 10

Thomas Jefferson Birthday
Wreath Laying Ceremony

April 15

Southwest Waterfront Festival
and Fireworks

April 15-23

National Park Week

April 17

White House Easter Egg Roll

April 20-30

Filmfest DC

April 21-23

Bay Bridge Boat Show

April 22

March for Science

April 22

Earth Day

April 22

National Math Festival

April 22-29

Virginia Historic Garden Week

TDB

White House Spring garden
Tours

Around Town

When is the last time you went to National Harbor? If you haven't been lately, then you haven't been! This area has been developed over the past 10 years starting with the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center and continuing with the most recent grand opening of the MGM National Harbor.

If you want to take one of these beautiful spring days to explore National Harbor, why not get there via water taxi? Potomac Riverboat Company is pleased to offer service to the National Harbor and the Gaylord Resort. Adult fares are \$16 round trip and \$8 one way. The one way journey takes about 20-25 minutes. Taxis leave Alexandria around 10:45am and continue until 10:45pm.

A water taxi might be the way to go if you are attending one of the many festivals that are taking place along the waterfront at National Harbor. Get your picture with the Easter Bunny on April 16th right by the Capital Wheel. Did you know the Peeps store hosted a peeps eating contest this past weekend? The winning eater ate 225 peeps in 5 minutes.

The National harbor Food & Wine Festival kicks off on April 29th. National Harbor celebrates the spring season with a waterfront food and wine festival emphasizing food and wine pairing, artisanal and organic products, and boutique wines. The event includes tastings, cooking demonstrations and educational seminars on culinary and wine trends, sustainability issues, and supporting local farmers and resources. The Food and Wine Festival at National Harbor will present more than 150 International wines, spirits and beers featured along with local and regional favorites.

Guests will be able to sample all of the varieties as well as purchase them by the glass and the bottle. Other highlights include a craft beer tasting Bier Garten experience, Whiskey and Bourbon Tasting experience in a relaxed setting - paired with hand rolled cigars, three stages of live music and smooth jazz.

Finally, speaking of the Capital Wheel, did you know they offer VIP Service? The Capital Wheel's National Harbor One (the VIP gondola) provides an especially luxurious ride with its leather bucket seats, and glass floor. National Harbor One can accommodate up to four riders. VIP tickets at \$50 per person allows you to step right to the head of the line, and a photo package is included, too! National Harbor One is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and tickets can be purchased at the ticket booth on the pier the day of your visit

Photo Gallery

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

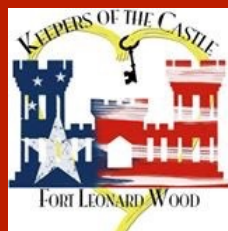
This Memorial honors the women who have served in and with the US Armed Forces from the time of the American Revolution to the present.

Although women did not officially serve in the military until the 20th century, many women served with the military in earlier times of crisis.

The Education Center within this Memorial tells the stories of these forerunners and then focuses on women of the 20th century who have served both in and with the military in ever-expanding roles.



Our April Board meeting took place on Wednesday April 5th at the Women In Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Our tour guide, LTC(ret) Cushman, in addition to her active duty service, is also the spouse of an army engineer! We thank her for her time and allowing us to tour the museum as well as conduct our board meeting.



Keepers of the Castle

Keeper's of the Castle is an Engineer Spouses' Club located in Fort Leonard Wood Missouri. They welcome members from Active Duty Army, National Guard, Reserve, Retired, allies and sister services. They aim to instill pride in Engineer spouses through camaraderie by educating, sharing, and embracing our roles – past, present, and future. Connect with the Keeper's Of the Castle on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KeepersOfTheCastle or via email FLWKeepers@gmail.com.



**Engineer Spouses
THE STRENGTH
of the
CASTLE!**

2017 Regimental Week - Fort Leonard Wood, MO

**Come out and participate in the
Annual Engineer Spouses Day!**

"Engineer Spouses: The Strength of the Castle!"

Tuesday, April 25, 2017
8:30 am – 2:30 pm
Training Area 136/137, Fort Leonard Wood, MO

Activities Include:

- **Manual Breaching**
- **Basic Team Tactic Obstacles**
- **Paintball**
- **Mine Detection Dogs**
- **Rappelling**



**\$20 Registration Fee
(includes T-shirt & lunch)***

Visit us at www.wood.army.mil/usaes/ENFORCE.HTML for registration and event details.
MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE.
 *Pre-Register/Pre-Pay by April 10th to guarantee t-shirt.
 Late registration will be accepted until April 19th .

Army Engineer Spouses Group - Europe

The Engineer Spouses Group - Europe hosts a monthly coffee on the third Tuesday of each month from September to May. For more information on joining this active group, contact Michelle Tyler at mtyler1015@aol.com.



Army Engineer Spouses' Group-Europe Presents
LEGO LEAGUE!
LET'S CLICK SOME BRICKS!

21 January 1000-1130

25 February 1000-1130

25 March 1000-1130

29 April 1000-1130

20 May 1000-1130



- All AESG Lego League events will be held in the ACS Cafeteria
- All Preschool & Elementary students welcome!
- Stroller parking available next to Sign-In Table in the hallway
- No food or drinks allowed during Build Sessions

Facebook: Army Engineer Spouses' Group-Europe



Membership

Join online at
www.armyengineerspouses.com/membership.html

Questions?

Contact our
Membership Chair

Jackie Caldwell

membership@armyengineerspouses.com



AESC 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 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, 2016 until June 30, 2017.

Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2016 will be included in the 2016-2017 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



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

