

Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

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A CORPS EMPLOYEE WAS THE FIRST GOLD OLYMPIC WINNER

James Brendan Connolly (1868-1957) was the first winner of an Olympic Gold Medal, a veteran of the charge up San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War, candidate for Congress in 1911 (Progressive Party), and one of America's foremost writers of maritime tales, having authored some 25 full-length works and more than 200 contributions to journals and newspapers. He also served with the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Born in South Boston, Massachusetts, one of 12 children, Connolly came to Savannah in 1892 at the invitation of his brother Michael, who worked for the Savannah District and arranged a position for James. In the next three years, James served in various positions, including clerk, recorder of tidal and river current fluctuations, pile-driver inspector, and dredge inspector. Connolly liked the district engineer, Capt. Oberlin Carter, who moved Connolly to rivers and harbors work after he became bored with a clerk's duties. Connolly enjoyed himself in Savannah, where he indulged in many athletic events, including track meets and football. He captained the Catholic Library Association football team to a 36-0 win over the Young Hebrew Association, scoring three touchdowns himself. For a while, he also wrote the sports column for a new weekly paper called the *Lamplight*.

In 1895 Connolly was ready for new adventures. He had never graduated from high school but took correspondence courses for six months and, encouraged by Dean Nathaniel Shaler of Harvard University, passed Harvard's entrance examination in October 1895. He entered the university as a 27-year-old freshman but left it within a year—despite being told he might not be readmitted—to participate in the first modern Olympic games, held in Athens, Greece. Harvard's attitude offended him, and he never returned to complete his education there.

In Athens, Connolly won the gold medal (actually, silver medals were then awarded for first place) in the triple jump despite the fact that the triple jump in Athens was two hops and a jump rather than the hop, skip, and jump for which Connolly had trained and was the American champion. He threw his cap a yard beyond the mark set by his main competitor and then managed to leap even beyond the cap, just short of 13.5 meters, a mark that was short of his personal best and also of the world record he would set later that year. It was the first place medal awarded in modern Olympic history. Connolly also won second place in the high jump and third place in the long jump.

Some fifty years later, Harvard awarded Connolly a Harvard sports letter, perhaps a belated apology for not encouraging him to return to finish his education. By that time, he was a well-known author (even having lectured on literature at Harvard), war correspondent, novelist, and short-story writer. But his own autobiography testifies to those halcyon and no doubt formative years that he spent as a young man in Savannah.



**First-place medalist
James Connolly,
Athens, 1896
(Courtesy IOC Olympic
Museum)**



**"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,

Happy Summer! I've been having such a busy summer that it hardly seems time to write the first president's letter of our new club year. My husband and I have fit a Caribbean cruise, a trip to Branson, Missouri and a few days at an Adirondack lake with family, into this summer along with two full time jobs. We're realizing how important it is to take some time to smell the roses as we get older.

One of the highlights of the early summer was the welcome tea for our new advisors - Renee Bostick and Vicky Groninger. Hosted at the Potomac-side home of Max and Priscilla Noah, it was an extremely lovely afternoon with many former Chiefs spouses in attendance and a great turn out by Engineer spouses in the Capital region. Scan the pictures in this issue and see who you recognize! Next month's Castle Gram will feature letters from Renee and Vicky.

We have been discussing at recent Board meetings how we might involve Engineer Spouses from Fort Leonard Wood more with our club. I took the opportunity to stop at Ft. Wood on our way back from Branson. Thanks to the team work of Lisa Yenter (Spouse of the MANSCEM commander) and Johna Walker (AESC member), with behind the scenes work from Nancy Temple in connecting me with Lisa - I had lunch with 10 Engineer ladies at Luigi's Italian Restaurant in St. Robert. It was a mix of currently serving and retired spouses, graciously hosted by Johna, who listened eagerly as I told them about the club, our activities, the scholarships, the Red Book, and why they should get involved. Turns out, they have a monthly Engineer Spouses coffee so that seems like a great entre'. I told them how we would love to include activities from FLW in the newsletter. More to follow as we work to enhance our connection.

Looking forward, Anna Marie Cox has been working long distance developing an enticing selection of activities for this year. We are still working on a date for the Welcome Cocktail Party and this year it will be held at the home of the Chief of Engineers, thanks to the hospitality of LTG and Mrs. Bostick at Fort McNair.

Welcome to the rest of the Board, especially our new members. We expect an exciting year working together for the benefit of all our members. Enjoy the last fleeting days of summer - I know I will.

Essayons!

Kathy Moakler

AESC MEMBERSHIP for 2012-2013

**Thank you to all members who have mailed renewals for
2012-2013**

**Congratulations to Cynthia Kam who earned the distinction of
being the very first member renewal!**

**Kudos to all of you who have encouraged another engineer
spouse to renew or join AESC!**

**We will be thrilled to have an AESC mailbox overflowing with
renewals in August and September**

**To be included in the 2012-2013 Red Book, please remember to
renew by October 15**

**If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Caldwell
at jbc21047@aol.com (email) or 703 340 5505 (cell).**



HEAR ALL ABOUT IT



Be a part of the only Engineer network for spouses

JOIN TODAY !

**NEW 2012-2013 Membership Application is
located on page 13 in this issue of the
Castle Gram**



INVITE A FRIEND !!



Upcoming Board Meeting

**Wednesday, 1 August 2012
1100-1300**

**At the Home of Kathy Moakler
6716 Ordsall Street
Alexandria, VA 22315
703-719-9632**

Members are welcome

TILL WE MEET AGAIN...

.....a note from Bobby

To Everyone,

I just wanted to say this one last time: THANK YOU for the support and friendship you have all given to me and our family. We have taken a job in Greenville, SC. We will be moving in September and are both looking forward to a new chapter in our lives.

I also wanted to let everyone know that we have decided not to take our retirement motorcycle ride on Route 66 in August due to the extreme heat and fires. Maybe another year. On a happier note, we will be riding to Wisconsin to visit family. Then we will ride up to Canada and down to Niagara Falls, NY where we will catch up with the American Legion Riders and do the entire Legacy ride to Indianapolis which is near and dear to our hearts. It will be just over 2 weeks on the motorcycle and we are really looking forward to it!

Again Thank You!

Hugs,

Bobby Buxbaum



HELLO GREENVILLE, SC





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

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

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



Perfect Gift !!!

Engineer Ornament
Available in Gold
and Silver
\$30 each

5+: \$25 each

www.armyengineerspouses.com

SHARING



An open invitation to eat, drink and be merry more affordably!

Lunch \$ 20.12* Dinner \$ 35.12*
*including beverage, gratuity and tax



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SPECIAL CELEBRATION



Engineers gather to farewell the Command Sergeant Major of the Corps of Engineers Mike Buxbaum and his spouse Bobby at the Change of Responsibility ceremony.....



SPECIAL EVENT

.....and enthusiastically welcome the new Command Sergeant Major of the Corps of Engineers Karl Groninger and his spouse Vicky to their new responsibilities.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

I have been very busy this past year with Nursing school, work, and family. I am currently enrolled in two Nursing classes: Nursing Pharmacology and Medical-Surgical Nursing II, as well as some general education classes this summer. This fall I will be taking Psychiatric Nursing, Medical-Surgical Nursing III, and Human Growth and Development. At the end of my spring 2012 semester my GPA was 3.61. On days I do not have school, I work at Park Village Health Care Center as a nurse's aide. My younger siblings are active in sports and I do my best to attend their games in my spare time. I keep very busy but I still find the time to study. I am very committed to my education and I am working hard to graduate next May. I appreciate the help this scholarship give me and my family. It has made the cost of tuition more manageable. Thank you for providing this scholarship. I am honored to receive it.

Molly Lawless



Dear Morris Family,

I am honored to write to you again and update you on all of my accomplishments this year, and my future endeavors! I am currently preparing to take the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing Licensure exam in two weeks, I am beyond excited but also very nervous at the same time! It has been a long road coming but I am confident that I have prepared well, with an outstanding nursing program and professors from Gwynedd Mercy College, and a lot of hard work! I am currently working for Bayada Home Health care, and work with two amazing girls with special needs. I have learned so much from them about living life, and appreciating everyday. I also work at a new pediatric ventilator facility, that several nurses that I have worked with in the past opened up in March. We are in the process of building a great foundation for the facility, and accepting admissions from surrounding Hospitals. This year academically, has been the hardest by far, but I somehow made it through working full-time, being able to pay rent and all my bills, while maintaining good grades in my classes. I am very proud of myself for never giving up on my dreams of becoming a nurse. I know that this is just the beginning, and I have so many big things that I want to do with my career and my passion for nursing.

After I take the Boards in two weeks, I hope to start working at a pediatric hospital that has a new nurse program in Bethlehem, PA. I know that I will gain valuable experience working there. This coming fall I will finish my Bachelors at Gwynedd Mercy College and have my Bachelors of Science in Nursing. The program at Gwynedd is different from most, where the first two years you do all your clinical and nursing classes and then get your license, and then finish up your classes for your bachelors. I am looking forward to an exciting year filled with great opportunity.

I want to sincerely thank you so very much for giving me the opportunity to fulfill my dreams of becoming a nurse. I am so thankful for all the people in my life, who have got me through and supported me along the way! I hope you have a wonderful summer!

God Bless!

Very Respectfully,

Kayla Ottey

Birthdays.....

Glenda Hudson	Aug 1
June Suermann	Aug 6
Donna Leketa	Aug 7
Helen Sanford	Aug 10
Johna Walker	Aug 12
Donna Winzenried	Aug 13
Angela Kirby	Aug 14
Mary Ruth Peck	Aug 18
Kitty Heiberg	Aug 19
Sarah Pearce	Aug 21
Linda Caver	Aug 23
Mary Parker	Aug 23
Kara Anderson	Aug 24
Jackie Caldwell	Aug 24
Mary Lou Lee	Aug 27
Tawanda Agee	Aug 29
Anita Link	Aug 30
Maria Cahill	Sep 2
Pat Williams	Sep 2
Kimbel Treat Noah Burt	Sep 3
Barb Comiso	Sep 8
Nancy Graves	Sep 16
Betty Ann Akiyama	Sep 19
Barbara Pavlick	Sep 19
Elsie Mersereau	Sep 20
Susan Sullivan	Sep 22
Cheryl Gill	Sep 28



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS



MONEY



**A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.
 A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that
 she doesn't need
 but it's on sale.**

WELCOME TEA



THE GOLD CASTLE PIN

On June 17, 2006, the wife of the 51st US Army Chief of Engineers, Julie Strock, was presented with a small box tied nicely with a bow. The smallness of the box indicated that it *HAD* to be something very special. INDEED!

Within the box was a beautiful gold Castle Pin and a small note. The Castle Pin was intricately carved and had 3 brilliant diamonds in it. The note within read:

"June 17, 2006

This 14kt gold Castle with 3 small diamonds is presented to the wife of the 51st Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army in recognition of the valuable role and services of the wives of serving Chiefs of Engineers.

This "Castle" is to be worn at the pleasure of the serving wife who will pass it to her successor as a new Chief of Engineers takes office.

Should a future Chief of Engineers be a woman, the "Castle" should be hers to wear as appropriate.

Should the Chief of Engineers be a bachelor, the Castle should then be retained by the President AEOWC, until there is a Mrs. Chief.

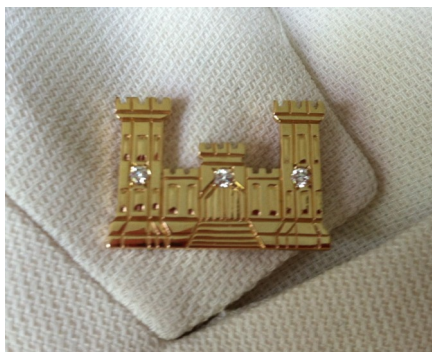
Anonymous"

As one may recall, the Chief of Engineers wears the 14kt gold Castle Engineer Branch pins, which belonged to Douglas MacArthur. How fitting for the wife of the Chief to be honored with a gold Castle! Since the penning of the note and the presentation of the pin, more treasured facts have emerged.

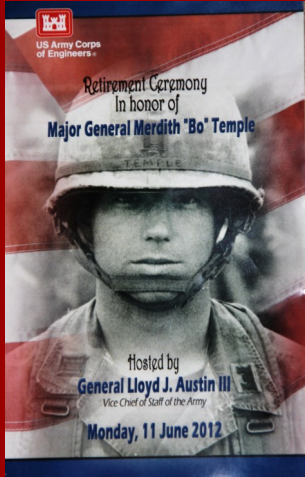
The pin was a loving act of the 44th Chief of Engineers (July 1, 1976 to September 30, 1980), LTG John W. "Jack" Morris, as a means of honoring the service and legacy of his beloved wife, Gerri (former Army nurse and accomplished Army wife).

Mrs. Strock (Julie) wore the pin and humbly presented it to Paula VanAntwerp, wife of the 52nd Chief of Engineers. Paula wore the pin humbly and honorably until the VanAntwerps' retirement on June 17, 2011. Since there was no confirmed Chief of Engineers to follow LTG VanAntwerp, MG Bo Temple stepped up as Acting Chief of Engineers. Nancy Temple assumed safekeeping possession of the pin until the confirmation of the 53rd Chief of Engineers.

On June 2, 2012, Nancy presented the gold Castle pin to Renee Bostick at the Army Engineer Spouses Club board meeting. Today, Mrs. Bostick not only has the honor of serving as the Chief's wife, but also has the privilege of preserving the legacy of the gold Castle pin.



THE GOLD CASTLE PIN



Well-wishers and friends joined MG Bo Temple and his lovely spouse Nancy to celebrate their retirement from the Army on 11 June 2012. The ceremony was hosted by GEN Lloyd Austin III, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army.

CONGRATULATIONS



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



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Alexandria, VA 22306-6332