

Army Engineer Spouses' Club

Castle Gram

Volume I, Issue VII

April 2011

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Perched on a wooden platform atop the Washington Monument, Bernard Green joined Casey (fourth from left), and others, as the 100-ounce aluminum tip, inscribed with the words, "Chief Engineer and Architect, Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey, Corps of Engineers," was placed on the monument's capstone. (From S.H. Nealy's sketch of the 1884 Ceremony)

Army Engineers Ran the White House

In early 1877, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Colonel Thomas L. Casey as his Commissioner of Public Buildings for the District of Columbia, which also made him Administrator of the White House. Thus began the 57-year tradition of an Army Engineer occupying that position. That officer also served as the Army's military aide to the president. This custom lasted until 1934 when, as part of a larger reorganization, President Franklin D. Roosevelt transferred that position to the National Park Service. Prior to Casey's appointment, the Army officer selected could come from any branch of the Army. Appropriately, the last Engineer officer to hold that responsibility was Colonel Ulysses S. Grant III, grandson of the president who first appointed an Army engineer.

Colonel Spencer Cosby served as White House administrator and commissioner from March 1909 to October 1913. Like Casey, Cosby was "first" in his West Point class and well versed in the social graces. Shortly after his appointment, Cosby oversaw design and construction of new executive offices at the White House. One new office for President William H. Taft's use became known as the Oval Office. Cosby remained commissioner into the early months of President Woodrow Wilson's administration. He not only helped guide the new president through his first inauguration, but also worked with his family on remodeling their quarters.

Cosby went on to become military attaché to the American Embassy in Paris, France, as World War I began in Europe. After additional diplomatic and military service, Cosby retired in 1928 as Division Engineer of the Lakes Division in Cleveland, Ohio.



Engineer Colonel Spencer Cosby, (center), Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds for the District of Columbia, and President Woodrow Wilson (right) prepare to leave the White House for the inaugural parade in 1913

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



**Paula Van Antwerp
Honorary President**

**"The club has
continually
strived to be
relevant to the
times."**

The Gavel ...a note from our Honorary President

Greetings to all my dear Engineer friends,

This will be the last time I "get to" write to you as the AESC Honorary President. My wonderful husband, the 52nd Chief of Engineers often speaks of 3 kinds of people: those who live life with the attitude of "I have to" do this or that (a not so inspiring attitude); those who "want to" (a good attitude); and those who continually approach life with an inspiring and energetic "I get to" (a great attitude). I admit my attitude about some things isn't always great...but when it comes to working with the people of the Corps of Engineers and our AESC board; I can honestly say that you all have inspired me to attain a great, "I get to" attitude!!

It has been an honor to be the AESC Honorary President for almost four years! As the saying goes: "Time flies when you're having fun"..... time has "flown" and we have had "fun"! The lasting kind of fun that combines meaningful work with meaningful relationships to produce lasting positive change!! I am so grateful for the friendships forged through our monthly board meetings, our interesting membership meetings, and our service and outreach events. The people who serve on our board are some of the most dedicated, faithful, and FUN people I know!! I encourage you who are reading this Castle Gram letter to seriously consider bringing your unique talent to join our 2011/12 board!! We need you.....and conversely....you may discover you need AESC to enrich your life!!

Words cannot express how grateful LTG Van and I are to God and to our Army for the 39 yrs. we have been privileged to serve our nation....and especially for these last 4 years in this humbling position as the 52nd Chief/Spouse team!! We are excited about what God has for us next and look forward to joining the very active and involved ranks of our wonderful Engineer retirees.

May God bless our nation at this most critical time of need, our Army, the Corps of Engineers and our dedicated AESC!

Essayons
Building Strong
Paula

Birthdays.....

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sally Ball | April 2 |
| Anneliese (Lee) Boutin | April 18 |
| Jackie Danielson | April 12 |
| Dolores Felch | April 29 |
| Ann Harrell Grisoli | April 1 |
| Mary Lorber | April 23 |
| Heidi Rassatt | April 25 |
| Jennifer Riordan | April 30 |
| Mary Scott | April 15 |

Recipes...

Rudy's Grilled Vegetable Platter

3 red peppers peeled, seeded and sliced in strips
 3 green peppers, peeled seeded and sliced in strips
 5 zucchinis, sliced thin lengthwise
 2 eggplants, sliced thin lengthwise (cut in half first)
 8 medium carrots sliced thin lengthwise
 ½ pound each of Honey roasted, Mesquite smoked and Cajun thin sliced turkey breast

2 handfuls sun dried tomatoes in oil, diced small

6 ounces toasted pine nuts

Parmesan cheese shaved fresh

Wash and slice all vegetables. Use a mandolin to get the slices thin enough. Brush peanut oil on a hot griddle. (Use one with ridges to get the black grill lines.) Evenly space the vegetables and grill till browned. Set aside until you have all grilled.

Cut the turkey breast slices in half or thirds depending on the size of your platter. Start layering the dish with turkey, dried tomatoes and the vegetables. Mix up the vegetables for color and diverse flavor. Vary the turkey slices to evenly distribute the different flavors.

When all the vegetables, turkey and tomatoes are placed start on the caper sauce.

1 ½ cups capers, chopped if large

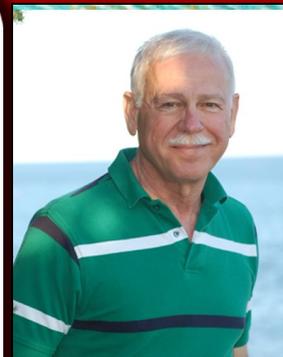
1 bunch Italian flat parsley

½ cup olive oil

½ cup canola oil

Fresh ground black pepper to taste

Put the capers in a glass bowl, add oil, pepper and freshly chopped parsley. Mix well. Spoon onto platter just before serving. Scatter toasted pine nuts a generous quantity of shaved parmesan over the platter.



Gene Villiva

The Grilled Vegetables recipe was created by Rudy Anheuser in Germany. He is part of the Anheuser family that has breweries in the US. Rudy stayed in Germany to run their wineries in Bad Durkheim. He is over 90 years old and is married to an American woman in her fifties.

Knollwood Bake Sale

April 27, 2011

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 27th of April but would like to donate baked goods, give Priscilla Noah a call at 703-505-3182.

Reservation Information

Last Names
beginning in

A-M Pat O'Neill
(703) 378-3624
pponeill6@aol.com

N-Z Sarah Pearce
(703) 815-7365
pearcesall@cox.net

YOU CAN HELP TOO!!!

**EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIVE IN THE DC METRO AREA OR CAN'T
DONATE BAKED GOODS, YOU CAN STILL HELP US WITH OUR
KNOLLWOOD SERVICE PROJECT.**

**WE ACCEPT ANY DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE RESIDENTS OF
KNOLLWOOD.**

**Make checks payable to AESC (Knollwood Bake Sale) and mail to
P. O. Box 6332 Alexandria, VA 22306.**



This Year's Planned Programs for the DC Metro Area

April 20 - 10:30am -1200pm Farewell for Paula Van Antwerp
Home of the Noahs Please **RSVP by April 15!!!**

April 27 - 10:00am Knollwood Bake Sale

May 1 - 1:00pm AESC Awards Brunch, The Fairfax
Please **RSVP by April 26!!** There will not be open
seating available for drop-ins. **RSVP TODAY!!**

May 3 - LTG Van Antwerp's Retirement



Paula Van Antwerp's Farewell—RSVP by April 15

AESC Awards Champagne Brunch—RSVP by April 26



THE CAPITOL CONNECTION

Reservation Information

Last Names beginning in

A-M Pat O'Neill
(703) 378-3624
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N-Z Sarah Pearce
(703) 815-7365
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Bette Meuleners
Nominations
Committee along
with Mollie O'Neill



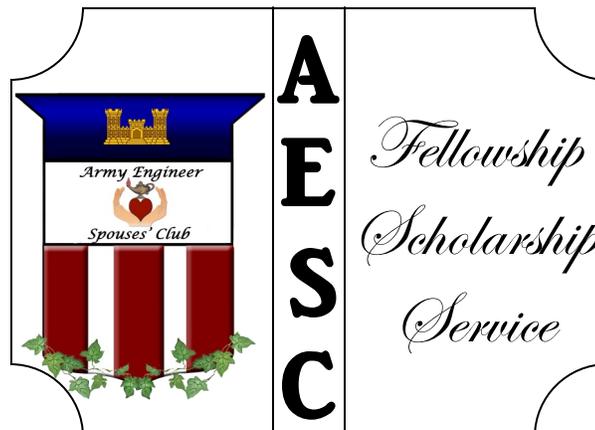
Contact Bette Meuleners at bmeuleners@gmail.com or Mollie O'Neill at mollieoneill@verizon.net if you can help out on the board next year.

We need YOU to volunteer!!!



We still have some board positions to fill for next year. We can use your help!

Please consider how you can help!
Contact Bette Meuleners bmeuleners@gmail.com
Or Mollie O'Neil at mollieoneill@verizon.net



Pregnancy, Estrogen, and Women

PREGNANCY Q & A & more!

Q: Should I have a baby after 35?

A: No, 35 children is enough.

Q: I'm two months pregnant now. When will my baby move?

A: With any luck, right after he finishes college.

Q: What is the most reliable method to determine a baby's sex?

A: Childbirth.

Q: My wife is five months pregnant and so moody that sometimes she's borderline irrational.

A: So what's your question?

Q: My childbirth instructor says it's not pain I'll feel during labor, but pressure. Is she right?

A: Yes, in the same way that a tornado might be called an air current.

Q: When is the best time to get an epidural ?

A: Right after you find out you're pregnant.

Q: Is there any reason I have to be in the delivery room while my wife is in labor?

A: Not unless the word 'alimony' means anything to you.

Q: Is there anything I should avoid while recovering from childbirth?

A: Yes, pregnancy.

Q: Do I have to have a baby shower?

A: Not if you change the baby's diaper very quickly.

Q: Our baby was born last week. When will my wife begin to feel and act normal again?

A: When the kids are in college.

Additions to the Red Book

Wilda C. Navas
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wildanavas@aol.com Birthday 2/26
Spouse: MG(Ret) William A. Navas, Jr.

Dolores Felch
2210 Basset Street
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Home: 703.780.0766 Birthday 4/29
Spouse: COL (Dec) James Felch



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Happy Spring!!

