

# Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume I, Issue III

November 2010

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The Castle Gatehouse at Georgetown Reservoir was built in 1902. Its brickwork was originally covered with Portland Cement plaster blocked off to represent stonework.  
Photo courtesy of Washington Aqueduct Division.



## The Corps Castle Can Be Found in Unusual Places

Strength, pride, heraldry, prestige, and honor. The castle remains the premier symbol of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The medieval castle is inseparably connected with fortifications and architecture. In heraldry, the castle and the tower are often used on coats of arms. In this country the term "castle" has been applied to the strongest of our early fortifications such as Castle Pickney in Charleston, South Carolina, and Castles Williams and Clinton in New York Harbor.

The Corps Castle is a highly stylized form without decoration or embellishment. The Army unofficially adopted the castle to appear on the Corps of Engineers' epaulets and belt plate in 1840. Soon afterwards the cadets at West Point, all of whom were part of the Corps of Engineers until the Military Academy left the charge of the Chief of Engineers and came under the charge of the Army at large in 1866, also wore the castle on their cap beginning in 1841. Subsequently, the castle appeared on the shoulder knot, on the saddlecloth, as a collar device, and on the buttons. Finally, in 1902, the castle was formally adopted by the Army as the insignia of the Corps of Engineers. Although its design has changed many times since its inception, the castle has remained the distinctive symbol of the Corps of Engineers.

Excerpted from *The Military Engineer*, Vol. 94, No. 618, Jul./Aug. 2002

**The distinctive Corps castle structures shown below are but a few examples that can be found in various cities and countries around the world.**

This engineer castle was constructed between 1938 and 1941 by elements of the 3rd Engineer Combat Regiment's 65th Engineer Battalion at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The castle served as a grandstand for the stadium on the installation's Ralston Field. After years of weathering, B Company, 65th Engineer Battalion restored the structure to its original glory. The renovated castle remains as a tribute to the soldiers who built it 67 years ago.

Photo courtesy of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Fred Schwark.



This "memorial" to the U.S. Army's 343rd Engineer General Service Regiment was constructed in the woods of Highmoor, Oxfordshire, England, prior to D-Day 1944. In honor of the engineers' sacrifices, Highmoor villagers continue to care for it.

Photo courtesy of Ray Woodhouse, England.



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



**Paula Van Antwerp**  
**Honorary**  
**President**

“We had a wonderful gathering for the annual Cocktail Party in late September and raised nearly \$4,000 for our scholarship fund!!“

## The Gavel ...a note from our Honorary President

Greetings Engineer friends,

I don't know about you.....but time seems to be flying by for us!! Van and I had the most wonderful summer with all five of our grandchildren .....boating, swimming and relaxing at the North Carolina lake house we purchased in late May. Three of our five children and all the grandkids....as well as my parents are within 45 minutes!! (Makes retirement location a lot less scary come May!)

The lazy days of summer have quickly turned to the very busy days of our AESC year! We had a wonderful gathering for the annual Cocktail Party in late September and raised nearly \$4,000 for our scholarship fund!! I picked up my Army 10 miler race number today and received my T-shirt from a group of our AESC volunteers. Next week many of our group will be stuffing envelopes for the Army Engineer Association's annual mailing. These volunteer opportunities combined with our fabulous monthly programs give our members many meaningful ways to serve our Engineer family and have great fun doing it!! Most of our board members live in the greater Washington, D.C./ Maryland/Northern Virginia area.....but not all! This Castle Gram is put together by our talented, faithful Newsletter /Webmaster board member.... Anna Marie Cox in Dallas! I want to publicly thank Anna Marie for her 5 years of service to our club; many of those years spent without her husband, Ken, as he has been deployed!! Anna Marie will be stepping down after this year. I will make a shameless plea for anyone of our members.....anywhere....who enjoys the web and feels led to inquire about this important position to contact our nominations chairman: Bette Meuleners at [bmeuleners@comcast.net](mailto:bmeuleners@comcast.net)

I hope all of you are enjoying the change of seasons.....even if the days are shorter and busier than summer!! May your homes be blessed with the joy that comes from serving others with the unique gifts and talents you possess! Just in case some of those “gifts and talents” match our needs.....let us know!!

Essayons! Building Strong!

*Paula*



As we grow up, we learn that even the one person that wasn't supposed to ever let us down, probably will. You'll have your heart broken and you'll break others' hearts. You'll fight with your best friend or maybe even fall in love with them, and you'll cry because time is flying by. So take too many pictures, laugh too much, forgive freely, and love like you've never been hurt. Life comes with no guarantees, no time outs, no second chances. you just have to live life to the fullest, tell someone what they mean to you and tell someone off, speak out, dance in the pouring rain, hold someone's hand, comfort a friend, fall asleep watching the sun come up, stay up late, be a flirt, and smile until your face hurts. Don't be afraid to take chances or fall in love and most of all, live in the moment because every second you spend angry or upset is a second of happiness you can never get back.

- Unknown

# Greetings from Sunny Kabul...

Dear Friends, Family, Colleagues --

It's now the 8th of October. Autumn here in Kabul -- beautiful: sunny, a little cool and crisp here in the high mountains. The skies are still clear and blue because it is still too early to begin burning fuel; once winter sets in, I understand "burning fuel" means "burning everything not nailed down" to include tires and plastic, so the air quality will go downhill and the sky will go generally gray. I don't think EPA would approve of Kabul in winter one bit -- otherwise very healthy employees speak of acquiring "Kabul asthma," "Kabul bronchitis", and a variety of itchy skin symptoms that are simply a reaction to the air. S'mores, anyone?

Just prior to the end of September, my boss asked me to come with him and a team of our senior staff on a day-trip to the Southern District here in Afghanistan -- Kandahar. This was my first trip "outside the wire", and truly an adventure. I donned what we call "battle rattle" -- flight suit, Kevlar vest, helmet (oh my is that stuff HEAVY) -- and showed up at o'dark thirty for the armored, speeding ride through Kabul to our military airstrip. Even in the early morning darkness, Kabul's streets were alive with cars, motor cycles, horse-drawn carts, pedestrians -- all maneuvering without any obvious lanes or traffic rules. A small car passed us, packed with what appeared to be a family of perhaps 10 children, all colorfully and neatly dressed, their hair combed, braided and tied with ribbons. Small trucks passed us, their truck beds handmade with filigree metalwork. In the midst of the confusion, a lone pedestrian would step into the traffic and dart across, wearing sandals and a burka. (It's disconcerting to be inside an armored vehicle, inside battle rattle, inside shatter-proof goggles -- and see a slender Afghanistan woman hurrying to work alone on the darkened street wearing nothing to protect herself, and little with which to even stay warm -- and to realize that she is still safer than you are, because she belongs here, and you so clearly do not.) We passed a jumble of apartment buildings, houses, storefronts -- no clear "zoning", some looking new and sturdy, some looking as though they could blow away in the wind. There were few street lights -- Kabul in the dark is DARK. Solar street lighting is one of the Corps' projects right now -- at least, we are putting in stretches of solar street lights in some test areas, where merchants have banded together and requested this, in hopes that the lights will be maintained. More impressions of the trip: We flew to Kandahar in a 12-seater private plane, maintained by one of the contractors over here that provides service to the military. Our steward was an impressive, muscular, bearded, tattooed, well armed Aussie; he did not serve coffee but he did give a safety briefing worth listening to. The trip took an hour and a half, and went over high, rugged, desolate mountains -- a huge nation below us -- occasional settlements with little evidence of access to water. When we got to Kandahar, we landed on the post -- no careening drive thru the city, as the post itself is its own sprawling military community. What can I say about Kandahar? It is a lot like Nevada: There is a lot of "there" there, with talcum-like sand everywhere. The spirit there feels like the old Wild West. We were given the grand tour -- first stop, the bunkers (just in case). My tour included the infamous "poo lake" (an open cesspool) -- immediately after being downwind of poo-lake, my driver happened to drive past the French PX: "PULL OVER!!!!" I said. I don't know if he gets a kick back from the French PX, but I promptly went in and bought cologne. I met with my RMO counterparts when not touring the post. At the end of the day, we once again pulled on the battle rattle, boarded the 12-seater, flew back to Kabul, and careened thru traffic to Camp Cupcake. Safely back inside the wire, I staggered to my room, shed my battle rattle, went back to the DFAC where dinner had long been put away, scrounged some cornflakes, went back to my room and fell asleep. Long day -- lots of visual impressions to take in -- exhausting.

More next month...  
Stay well!!

-- Devorah



**Devorah  
Wasche**

**"It's now the 8th of October. Autumn here in Kabul -- beautiful: sunny, a little cool and crisp here in the high mountains."**

# Beanie Babies bring joy to children—twice!!

Recently the Engineers in Iraq completed the construction of a new children's hospital in Basrah. At the official opening BG Kendall Cox donated his daughter's Beanie Babies to the children on the wards (with permission of course). In a recent email he writes:

"We had the official opening last week and we passed out the Beanie Babies. I was not able to go with the local Iraqis up to the ward but here are some of the pictures from the hospital and children with the beanie babies. They had over 200 children in the hospital so they went fast."

This idea was not new—MG Don Riley did the same thing with his daughter's Beanie Baby collection. This time the recipients were residents of an orphanage in Afghanistan (see bottom right photo.) The smiles on their faces makes it all worthwhile.



"The smiles on their faces makes it all worthwhile."

*Birthdays.....*

Kris Schuster	Nov 4
Pat O'Neill	Nov 18
Marjorie S. Williams	Nov 18
Karina Hunter	Nov 22
Jacqui Ellis	Nov 23
Norma Irwin	Nov 28
Nancy Temple	Nov 28



Member Zip Code Change:

Bill Pratt  
2711 Woodfern Ct  
Woodbridge, VA 22192



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND NEWS

# The AEMA Scholarship Application will be available online on November 1st!!!

WITH SYMPATHY...

The AESC would like to extend their heartfelt condolences to the Mudd family upon hearing of the death of COL (Ret) Jim Mudd.

From long-term AEOWC/AESC member, Toni Mudd— 2 Oct 2010.

“It is with heart-wrenching sadness that I tell you that my dear Jim passed away early this morning. Our comforting thought is that he is with our Lord for eternity and at peace. It has been a very hectic few weeks since I last wrote as his condition deteriorated rapidly even though all the tests were coming back as "stable." After ruling out anything that was reversible, Jim was placed in hospice and died at home surrounded by our children and his sister, Laura. I can never express my thanks sufficiently for all the prayers and good wishes that you have sent our way. It is comforting that on this, the feast of the Guardian Angels, we have a wonderful new one up in Heaven. May he rest in peace.”



## October Program Recap

On a beautiful Fall Wednesday, nine of us met for a delicious lunch at the Firefly Restaurant near Dupont Circle. We had a choice of ordering ala carte from the menu or getting their two course prix fixe lunch which included a beverage. After lunch we walked one block to the Christian Heurich House aka the Brewmaster's Castle. It sits on the corner of New Hampshire Ave NW and Sunderland Place. One cannot miss it with its unique appearance compared to the newer surrounding buildings. We were greeted by Scott Nelson, the museum director, who was also our guide. Little did we know that we were about to see a wonderfully restored and well furnished home and receive an outstanding tour.

The Brewmaster's Castle was built in 1892-1894 by Christian Heurich, a German-American beer baron. He spent several years in Kansas working for a relative. Then he moved to DC with \$200 and with a partner bought the brewery. The home was the residence for his family, has 17 ft. ceilings and has about 12,000 square foot. The walls are made of poured concrete and iron beams making it fireproof. With so much to see & history to remember, I asked a few of the members to send me what they liked or found especially interesting. Here are some of the comments:

Bobby Buxbaum found "the inside of the fireplaces were awesome" as was the "wonderful wood carving. For anyone who has lived in Germany could see how much it influenced it and The Chicago World's Fair and the inventions that were put into the building." Many of the furnishings were ordered from catalogs at the World's Fair and others were hand carved furniture from Germany.

Gene Villiva "liked the conservatory" which was originally built with a glass dome but eventually was removed due to another DC building having their dome cave-in. "The other features that I am partial to are the inlaid wood and tile floors. . . the intricate red and white tile in the basement breakfast room."

Carolyn Wallis enjoyed the conservatory and a favorite was the marble wall carving at the fountain of the child who died at a very young age.



Bette Meuleners sent a number of "interesting things" starting with the youngest daughter is still alive at age 103." Mr. Heurich had 3 wives. The first two died before the residence was finished. The house has approximately 17 fireplaces ( none have ever been used because of the fear of fire), beautiful wood carvings and oriental rugs. It contains a "Bier Stubbe" in the basement. Later his third wife turned it into the German breakfast room.

There is truly so much to see and write about. Unbelievably the house was built with an in-wall vacuum system, dumb waiters and my favorite - the self-cleaning closet sink that the servants used to dispose of dirty water after cleaning. My other favorite was the enthusiastic, knowledgeable tour from Scott Nelson.

The house opened for tours in 2005. The garden and house can be rented for special events. Public tours are given on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for \$5 per person. Group Tours and tours on Wednesdays are by reservation. It is definitely worth a visit!

~Janice Smith

## Sneak Peek at This Year's Planned Programs for the DC Area

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November - 6 November (Saturday) 8:00pm show time

Couples event – “Oklahoma” at the Arena Stage

Please call Amy Dorko for tickets (703-781-3753) (\$55 ea)

December - White House Tour & Lunch (see below)

January - No program

February - Couples' Wine Tasting

March - Knollwood Bake Sale

April - Mt. Vernon National Treasure Tour & Lunch at Mt. Vernon or a possible tour of the new hospital at Ft. Belvoir

May - AESC Awards Brunch

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More details will be provided in future issues of the Castle Gram about each of our programs, to include RSVP deadlines and any costs.

If you live in the DC area or are visiting—plan to join us!!

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### Deadline for DECEMBER program is Nov 2!!

Our December AESC event will be a tour of the White House on a date in December—to be determined. This tour will be limited to the first 25 AESC members that respond. At this time I will need the following information: Please email me your full name—first, middle, and last name! (I will need to collect more personal data in the near future. This is required for security reasons.) If we do not get the full 25 AESC members, non-members names will be placed on the list. However, if we get more than 25 members, I will make a reserve list that both non-members and members may be placed on. This reserve list will be utilized as back fill for any vacancies that open up from the original list of 25.

If you are interested in going on this tour, please email me by 2 November. My email address is: [konajoe1@verizon.net](mailto:konajoe1@verizon.net)

~Amy Dorko



THE CAPITOL CONNECTION

#### 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

RSVP BY  
NOV 2



**Kathy Candido  
Services Chairman  
(aka the Castle  
Boutique Manager)**

## *Shopping in the Castle Boutique*

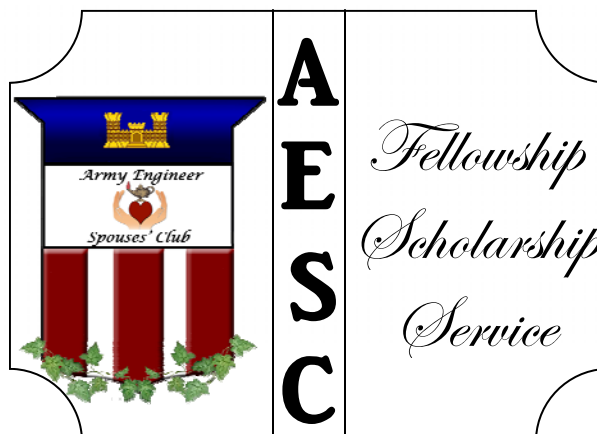
*Get an early start on your Holiday shopping!! Our Engineer Pendant is a gift that is sure to please. Wish it would show up under your tree or in your stocking? Send your family and friends to the Castle Boutique to shop for you!*



**\$85.00**

“A benefit to being a member of the AESC is the 10% discount you receive when you shop online in the Castle Boutique!”

We have many other unique items in the Castle Boutique. To view the Boutique online, go to our website [armyengineerspouses.com](http://armyengineerspouses.com) and click on the Castle Boutique link. You can order online using your credit card (through the Pay Pal gateway) or you can download the order form and pay by check through the mail.





## AESC 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from spouses and family members over 18 years of age of the following U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees: military grades E-7 and above and civilian grades GS-07 and above, whether active, retired or deceased; and with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who have been associated with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

PRINT NAME as you want to be listed in the Castle Directory (Redbook)

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

If you are in the military, provide 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) \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Is Spouse:  Active  Retired  Deceased

Spouse's Rank or Title \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Assignment or job title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## AESC 2010-2011 Membership Application

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information placed in the Castle Directory and/or Castle Gram --our monthly newsletter. Membership runs from July 1, 2010 until June 30, 2011. Applicant information received by September 15, 2010 will be included in the 2010-2011 Castle Directory. After that date, new members will be announced in the Castle Gram. Thank you.

Annual dues + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Castle Directory(ies) : \$5.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

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 application online at [armyengineerspouses.com](http://armyengineerspouses.com).



**Sandra Lowe**  
**Membership**  
**Chairman**

**Dues: \$25.00**

**Benefits:**

Castle Gram monthly;  
one copy of the  
Castle Directory;  
10% discount in the  
Castle Boutique; &  
being a part of the  
only Engineer network  
for spouses.

**“Join today  
and invite a friend!”**



AEOWC  
P.O. Box 6332  
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