

Army Engineer Spouses' Club

Castle Gram

Volume III, Issue VI

February 2013

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[Army Engineers Helped Save Inauguration Day for JFK](#)

"Friday will be cold and windy with some sunshine and a high of not more than 35 degrees." That was the Washington, D.C., advanced weather forecast for John F. Kennedy's Inauguration Day, 20 January 1961. "Some rain, possibly changing to light snow," was later predicted for the 19th. Still, inaugural planners remained confident that whatever happened, their plans to cope with adverse weather would surmount anything Mother Nature might have in store. What actually transpired taxed local and federal resources to the maximum.

Snow on the afternoon of the 19th became so heavy that federal workers were sent home early. They mixed with scores of inaugural visitors, and a monumental traffic jam ensued. Throughout the region, thousands of vehicles ran out of gas or were abandoned. Pre-Metro public transportation came to a grinding halt. By daybreak, "light" snowfall amounted to nearly 8 inches in the city and much more in outlying areas.

Fortunately, the 87th Engineer Battalion, stationed at Fort Belvoir and commanded by LTC Joseph C. Dyer, was part of the Snow Emergency Plan. At 2 p.m. on the 19th, Dyer ordered into action the nearly 700 troops from the 87th, augmented by elements of the 79th Engineer Group, two other battalions, five companies, and the Engineer School Construction Branch. By 7 p.m. a massive cleanup effort was under way.

District Engineer Commissioner BG Frederick J. Clarke and D.C. Sanitation Director William A. Xanten, joined by Dyer, oversaw the operation from emergency headquarters in the District Building. The Engineers teamed up with more than 1,000 District of Columbia employees to clear the inaugural parade route. Luckily much equipment and some men had been pre-positioned and were ready to go. In the end the task force employed hundreds of dump trucks, front-end loaders, sanders, plows, rotaries, and even flamethrowers to clear the way. District and Army equipment worked side-by-side to move more than 1,400 cars from the inaugural route. Another contingent of troops cleared the reviewing stands and bleachers at the White House and U.S. Capitol. Some 1,700 Boy Scouts joined in similar efforts along the parade route.

As dawn approached, continuing flurries and high winds threatened to undo some of the night's hard work, but within a few hours the parade route was passable. Skies soon cleared and the ceremonies went ahead as planned. Recalling those grueling hours, LTG Clarke, retired Chief of Engineers, still vividly remembers the superb leadership of Xanten and Dyer, and the dedicated teamwork of the District's sanitation workers and Engineer troops. What could have been an inauspicious beginning to John F. Kennedy's presidency turned out to be a memorable success.



Inauguration of President Kennedy on east portico of U.S. Capitol, 20 January 1961



An Engineer soldier from the Inaugural Snow Removal Force sizes up the job of moving one of many D.C. cars abandoned after the surprise pre-inaugural snowfall

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



Kathy Moakler
President

The Gavel



...a note from our President

Dear Friends:

Happy February! Hope you have your Valentines picked out - both your cards and your favorite folks to share them with! My husband is high on my list since he just accompanied me on an 800 mile car trip to visit my family over the long weekend. It's fun to hang with the in-laws but it's also fun to get home.

Even though we had a break from formal AESC events everyone was busy. I was privileged to participate in the Wreaths Across America event at Arlington Cemetery in December. Barb Fleming and I were there together but separately - the crowds were so huge that we never found each other. Luckily we had our daughters with us so we got in some chilly mother-daughter time with thousands of our closest friends. The ceremony was wonderful - it made you feel like Arlington was our hometown cemetery and we'd all gotten together to honor our fallen heroes. I'd never done it before but I highly recommend you put it on your calendar for next year with the note that parking is best across from the Spates Center on Fort Myer. And bring your own coffee - it's hard to find early on Saturday morning on Fort Myer. Barb and I plan to be there on January 26 to complete the job - the clean-up of all the wreaths!

I know the ladies who ventured to National Harbor for lunch on December 12th had a fabulous time with the awesome Christmas decorations and a wonderful Italian lunch. Anna Marie's next outstanding event is the Wine Tasting at the home of Connie and Todd Semonite on Fort Belvoir. Last year's was amazing and well-attended - let's do it again!

Look for changes in leadership for the Castle Boutique this month. Kathy Candido is turning over the reins and it is taking a committee to do what she has been doing! Kathy is phenomenal and we are so grateful for the wonderful job she has done and her many years of faithful service to the club in so many capacities. No, she's not leaving we just need to remember to say thank you more often.

And I need to break out my thesaurus - I'm using "wonderful" too much. I've had to refer to my Red Book several times as I write this article and appreciate the hard work of Jackie Caldwell in pulling it together and the fact that it is a little thicker this year since she recruited more members.

I'd better wrap up so I can get this to Elsie - as usual this letter is being written the day it is due. Stayed up too late last night watching the Inaugural festivities on TV. Thanks to Elsie for doing such a great job of pulling together these articles into a cohesive publication each month and the patience to deal with all the last minute submissions.

Essayons!

Kathy Moakler



A note from Bette



NOMINATIONS

It's that time again....

....to start thinking about becoming a member of AESC's Executive Board! Please consider joining the board and helping to guide our club. The next term goes from June 2013 to June 2014, with the slate nominated in March 2013 and the election at the April 2013 function.

As you all know AESC is a wonderful organization of friendship and interesting and worthwhile activities. Our awards to high school seniors with connections to USACE and activities to raise the funds are one of our major purposes and well worth the effort. Raising these funds contributes to great camaraderie on the board. The monthly board meeting, functions, and newsletter also bring us together and makes it fun organizing these activities.

We are going to need to fill quite a few of our positions as the elected officers do have term limits--President, Vice-President, and Secretary usually serve 2 years, but can serve a third, if they are willing to do so. Our Treasurer and AEMA Chairperson positions have a definite 2 year limit since they handle the monetary funds for AESC, so we must fill these this year. If you might be interested in any of these elected positions or the appointed positions (listed in this and other Castle Grams and the Red Book), please let me know. Also, please feel free to suggest any members who you think might like to be on the board and would be good board members.

If you think you might not have time to take a board position, please consider these things...

1. Our current President has a demanding full time job, but has been able to work out taking the time to do a wonderful "job" as our President, including attending most board meetings and activities.
2. Other board members have full time jobs and are able to help out on the board as well--one of our elected officers has a full time job, a new baby, and has been a great board member.
3. Several of our board members either travel quite a bit or are not in the DC area full time and are able to serve in their positions from remote locations, attending meetings and activities as their schedules permit.

So.....we hope you'll consider contributing to our club as these members have done and will continue to do so.

Thank you VERY much!

Bette Meuleners
AESC Nominations Chairperson, 2012-2013
571-235-3566
bmeuleners@gmail.com



Anna Marie Cox
VP

UPCOMING EVENT—FEB



All American Wine Tasting

February 16, 2013

7 pm at the home of Todd and Connie Semonite

10230 Fairfax Dr

Ft Belvoir, VA

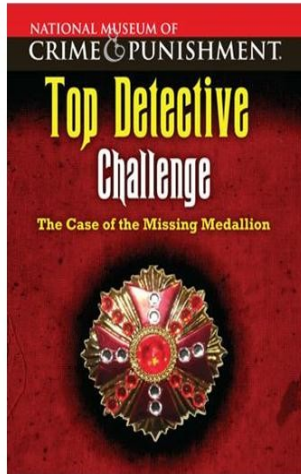
Please RSVP by Feb 13

Join us for our annual wine tasting! We will be trying 12 All American wines from Naked Wines. Please bring your favorite cheese or appetizer to share.

Wines We Will Be Tasting



- Credence Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2010
- William Henry Sauvignon Blanc 2010
- Accord Santa Maria Chardonnay 2009
- Bear & Crown Merlot Sonoma Valley 2011
- Credence Nectar California White NV
- Sin Fronteras Tempranillo 2011
- Stephen Millier Angels Reserve Shiraz 2011
- Matt Iaconis California Moscato 2011
- Da Da Da Lodi Chardonnay 2011
- Semilla Lake County Sauvignon Blanc 2011
- William Henry Gewurztraminer 2011
- Ken Deis Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot Napa Valley 2011



Crime & Punishment Museum

March 14, 2013

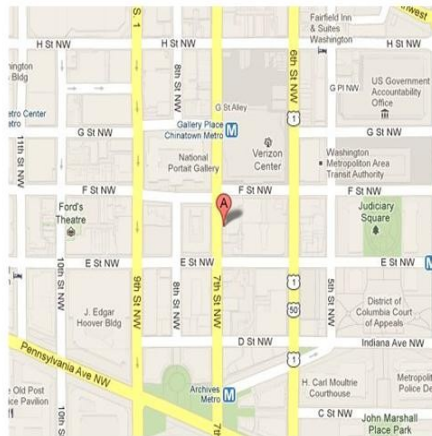
10:00 am

\$19 per person (includes Top Detective interactive workbook)

Lunch afterwards at Rosa Mexicano (bring \$\$)

Please RSVP by 4 March

The AESC has been tasked with finding a missing artifact from the Museum's private collection. While exploring the Museum we will answer a series of questions contained with clues, these answers will help you break the code and crack the case. There is a reward for solving the case and becoming the Museum's Top Detective!



The Crime & Punishment Museum is located at 575 7th St Washington DC

UPCOMING EVENT—MARCH

Crime & Punishment Museum 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: (\$19 per person) _____ (Make check payable to AESC)

PIENZA RESTAURANT LUNCH 12-12-12



**Photo Contributor:
Gene Villiva**

PROGRAMS FOR 2012-2013

- February 16 7:00pm All American Wine Tasting (couples event)
 RSVP by February 13 Home of Todd & Connie Semonite, 10231 Fairfax, Ft Belvoir
 Please bring your favorite cheese/crackers or a snack to share
 Wine will be provided.
- March 14th 10:00am Crime and Punishment Museum
 RSVP with payment Lunch at Rosa Mexicano (bring \$\$ for lunch)
 by March 4 (\$19)
- April 10 10:00am Knollwood Bake Sale
- April 21 1:00pm AEMA Scholarship Brunch, The Fairfax (couples event)
 RSVP with payment
 by April 12 (\$25)
- May 9 11:00am-1:00pm Tudor Place Victorian Tea and Tour
 RSVP with payment Tea with finger sandwiches and dessert included
 by April 23 (\$33)



THE CAPITAL CONNECTION



**Metropolitan Washington Restaurant Week is here AGAIN
Feb 4-10, 2013**

LUNCH: \$20.13 DINNER: \$35.13

For More Details: <http://www.ramw.org/restaurantweek/>

Philadelphia Restaurant Week: Jan 27-Feb 1, 2013

Website: <http://www.centercityphila.org/life/RestaurantWeek.php>

Upcoming Board Meeting

Wednesday, 6 February 2013

1100-1300

*At the Home of
Laura Putnam*

9238 Point Replete Rd

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Outside of Ft Belvoir, Off Route 1 by Fairfax

Members are welcome

Generations of Service

Yesterday, I received an email reply from a long time Association colleague in response to a technical question. After sharing with me just the information I needed she added the extra line “and Preston left the day after Christmas for nine months in Afghanistan.” I sat back and whispered a prayer for both her son Preston, who I remember as a high school athlete when they were stationed at the Pentagon and for Preston’s mom who was assuming the weight all parents take on when their child is deployed. She knew I would understand because I too live the life of military spouse turned parent of a service member.

I thought of the notes in Christmas cards I had received from friends collected throughout our 28 years of active duty - friends whose children had grown up with my children at places all around the world. There is often a reference to a duty station or a deployment of one of their children who has “gone into the family business”, following their service member parent into the military. With Facebook, I get to follow some of them as well. There is that shared worry when you hear they are going into harm’s way or when the mom tells you with a catch in her throat they are heading to Camp Lejeune this weekend to see their son and his family before he deploys. There’s the shared happiness when they say “they’ll be home next month” or “we traveled to Bragg to welcome Megan home last weekend.” Sometimes when you hear of another deployment you wonder “didn’t they just come back last year?” There is also the faint echo of what our mothers must have said in years past “Why do they have to live so far away?”

In the earlier days of the war, it seemed that we kept track of every one’s child and every experience, sending letters and care packages. Now it seems we do it by rote, the cycles of worry repeating as the deployments repeat. There is a huge impact in your own world but very little impact in the world at large.

As I re-read my ramble, I realize I must come to a point. I have two:

1. There is a sisterhood among those military spouses who are also military moms. As a member of the sisterhood, I value the support that I know will always be there when I need it and promise to be there with a hug and shoulder in the difficult times and a noisemaker and confetti in the joyous times.
2. I want the Nation to value the legacy of military families who serve through generations. Caring and providing for those currently serving promotes the service of the generation to follow. Children remember.

Kathleen Moakler, for the National Military Family Association Blog “Branching Out”

If you would like to sign up to read more blogs visit www.militaryfamily.org

**VOLUNTEER TO BE A PART OF 2013-2014
AESC’S EXECUTIVE BOARD OF OFFICERS**

Birthdays.....

Betty Swygert	February 4
Deborah Wehr	February 4
Elizabeth Hill	February 5
Sharise Spellmon	February 6
Sue Wright	February 6
Bobby Buxbaum	February 16
Toni Mudd	February 29

Beth Mazzanti	Mar 03
Barbara Fleming	Mar 08
Diane Messinger Galloway	Mar 11
Lynn Munch	Mar 15
Roz Riley	Mar 16
Tammie Morris	Mar 17
Mollie O'Neill	Mar 20
Susan Hill	Mar 22
Jyette Hambric	Mar 27



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS



DONATE A BOOK:

What: AESC Picture/Chapter Book Drive
When: Now—Wine Tasting Feb 16, 2013
Where: For Fisher House
Why: For Children to read while staying with their parents



"THE BACHELOR"



Engineer Daughter Contestant on "The Bachelor"

Many mothers excitedly announce their daughter's upcoming marriage on Facebook. For Lisa Yenter, the wife of Fort Leonard Wood commander Maj. Gen. Mark Yenter, her Facebook announcement of a possible marriage might get more attention than most.

Yenter's daughter, Lindsay Yenter, is one of 24 contestants in the upcoming season of ABC's television romance reality series, "The Bachelor". Yenter said the series is currently being taped and her daughter has been strictly cautioned not to tell anyone what will happen in the shows since they won't air until January. You can see it on Monday evenings 8PM on ABC.

Keeping things confidential is nothing new for Yenter, whose husband heads the post which contains the Army Engineer School, Military Police School, and CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) School. The Yenters have more than three decades of experience with the Army; the general's most recent overseas service included a tour of duty in Afghanistan where he was the commander of Corps of Engineers operations in that country. The spouses of senior military leaders routinely volunteer in various capacities, and Lisa Yenter has been highly involved in community activities.

Like her father, who was commissioned into the Army in 1981 through the ROTC program, and her mother who graduated with a degree in social work, Lindsay Yenter attended the University of Nevada at Reno. Her father's military career has taken the family all over the United States while serving at various Army installations, in addition to military deployments to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. A tough soldier whose current focus includes combating improvised explosive devices, Lindsay Yenter's father's prior service includes time in special operations work including Delta Force and as an engineer in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Lindsay Yenter graduated from a high school outside Fort Bragg in North Carolina before her father was promoted to become the commander of Fort Leonard Wood. She has a younger brother, Marcus Yenter, who is a Washington Redskins football fan like his father.

If Yenter and Lowe "hit it off," dates on "The Bachelor" program typically include a visit to Yenter's hometown, which isn't always clear for a military family. While the Yenters now live on post at Fort Leonard Wood, previous communities which might qualify as "hometowns" have included Fayetteville, N.C., outside Fort Bragg, and the hometown of Lindsay Yenter's parents in Reno, Nevada, where other relatives still live. (Excerpted from the Pulaski County Daily, Darrell Todd Maurina, September 26, 2012)

You can catch "The Bachelor" on Monday nights at 8 pm on ABC. Heard that the ladies at Fort Leonard Wood and Waynesville had a premiere party for the first episode complete with formals and limos and with Lindsay Yenter in attendance. What fun!

Was Your Service Member Exposed to Burn Pits?

Contributor: Kathy Moakler

During my daughter's first deployment to Iraq, I remember her talking about everyone taking their turns at managing the burn pits at their hospital in the desert, ridding themselves of all the waste – medical and human - generated by a unit in the middle of nowhere. I'm sure each of you can recall your service member talking about the smoke and smell.

Many service members are experiencing life altering reactions and illnesses to exposure to these burn pits. On January 10, 2013, the President signed into law S. 3202, the "Dignified Burial and Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012." The Burn Pits Registry Act was included as part of the larger veterans package. The National Military Family Association joined other military and veteran service organizations in supporting the legislation. Sponsored by Senators Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Bob Corker (R-TN), the bill will create a registry similar to the Agent Orange and Gulf War registries to help patients, doctors and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determine to what extent air pollution caused by open air burn pits has led to medical diseases among service members. The VA is also charges to develop a public information campaign to inform individuals about the registry and periodically notify members of the registry of significant developments associated with burn pit exposure.

The National Military Family Association will push out information as it develops on the implementation of the Burn Pit Registry. Spouses and family members – file this away in your to-do list. Make sure your service member signs up for the registry if he or she was exposed to burn pits. I know I will remind my daughter to sign up.

SHARING



Back by Popular Demand

ENGINEER RED TOTE

\$20.00



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



Saturday, 15 December 2012

**Wreath Laying
at
Arlington National Cemetery**

**Photo Contributors:
Annette Schneider (an AESC
Member) & her husband Steven**

Thanks for sharing



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