



# Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

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## Our Executive Board:

### President

Connie Semonite

### Vice President

Maggie DeMello  
Dominique Wilt

### Treasurer

Jessica Gregris

### Secretary

Open

### AEMA Chairperson

Erica Shaw

Happy New Year! We all love to wish each other the best of times in the early hours of January 1 ... but very soon after, the month wraps itself with an unfriendly blanket of self-denial. Oh, January! Its' cold, and dismal outside, and we tend to enhance the austerity of the season with our resolutions. After the indulgence of the holidays, we harshly turn away from cookies, pumpkin spiced coffees, and rich desserts. It's time to research lo-cal winter soup recipes and plan early morning workouts. We take the candle lights out of the window, pack away cheerful holiday decorations, and pull wreaths off the front door. January .... oh dreary January.

However, if we are really honest, January is our fresh start. The house looks tidy, clean, neat and fresh. No one needs that many cookies, and skinny lattés can be pretty tasty. New mittens/clothes/boots/scarf, etc., ... seem bright and warm on blustery winter days, and everything fits a little better after just a few days of paying attention to your body. Welcome January!

Our AESC board will meet again in February to plan the final few months of our club year. There are just five short months left! Members in DC, Fort Leonard Wood, and Europe have exciting monthly events planned and we will post pictures of the fun here in the Castle Gram and at [www.armyengineerspouses.com](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com). Send us pictures of your get-togethers too. Add a caption if you like and let us know a little bit about the event - we will share them with the AESC community. We love seeing familiar faces enjoying Engineer fun!

We are currently taking applications for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards and the GKM Award. The board and general membership – you! – spends an incredible amount of time raising funds for this endeavor and were proud to distribute eleven awards to deserving students in 2015. Please share the link with Engineer friends who have a high-school senior in the house for consideration this year. [http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/uploads/1/3/0/6/13061711/aema\\_aesc\\_award\\_application\\_2016.pdf](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/uploads/1/3/0/6/13061711/aema_aesc_award_application_2016.pdf)

Indulge a little during this month of self-denial. Spend time with an Engineer friend and warm up together over skinny lattés. February and chocolate hearts are just days away!

Warmly, *Connie*

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

# In Memory

## Kitty Heiberg



### Kathryn "Kitty" Louise Schrimpf Heiberg

On December 25, 2015, at the age of 84, "Kitty" passed after a prolonged battle with dementia. She is survived by her four adult children (Kathy, Walter, Elvin & Kay), and five grandchildren. Kathryn "Kitty" Heiberg of Leavenworth, Kansas has rejoined her loving husband Elvin R. "Vald" Heiberg III who passed away on Sept 27, 2013, and is interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Section 30. They married at 21 after Vald graduated from the United States Military Academy, Class of '53. They spent 35 years (together) in the military, primarily the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They were married for 60 years.

She was a loving wife, enthusiastic mother, community leader, business owner, and a Bridge Life Master. All who knew Kitty understood her charm, wit, spirited banter, wry humor, and love of art, bridge, antiques and a good challenge! She enjoyed good company, lively conversation, and being the consummate host. She truly loved teaching bridge to others for both the mental stimulation and social benefits. Kitty was spirited, kind, full of energy, and a woman in motion!

We miss you mom and we owe you so much for your unconditional love and never-ending support. Thank you and God Bless! *(from the Heiberg Family)*

Kitty Heiberg was Honorary President of AESC from 1984 to 1988. She was an active member of our organization and is pictured here attending monthly board meetings, volunteering at the Knollwood bake sale, and accepting a furniture donation from Mary Haines in 1987. We join the entire Engineer Family in expressing our deepest sympathies to the Heiberg Family and honoring Kitty's service to our organization and our country. Rest in Peace.



# *In Memory*

## *Kitty Heiberg*



I am very sad to report that Mrs. Kathryn "Kitty" Heiberg passed away on Christmas day. Her husband, LTG Elvin "Vald" Heiberg, III, was the 46th Chief of Engineers. They were married for 60 years before his passing in 2013. Kitty and Vald were wed in Kansas in 1953 and she accompanied him throughout his distinguished military career. In addition, Kitty ran her own business in antiques, porcelain repair and custom framing "Creative Concepts". She was also involved in many volunteer activities, to include

work within the Nixon White House and a wide variety of Army family and community efforts. They have four grown children, all are married, and have children of their own.

I first met Kitty during the memorial service for her husband. She was clearly a strong and caring person who devoted her life serving the nation with her husband while raising a wonderful family. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Heiberg family. May Kitty Heiberg rest in peace.

Tom Bostick  
 LTG, US Army  
 53rd Chief of Engineers



# Save the Date

**Jan 20th**

Ladies Bowling Night,  
Ft. Belvoir

**Jan 27th**

Castle Boutique @ HQ

**Feb 3rd**

AESC Board Meeting

**Feb 10th**

Couples Night  
John Strongbows Old  
Tavern

**March 2nd**

AESC Board Meeting

**March 26th**

Wine Tasting

**April 6th**

Knollwood Bake Sale  
AESC Board Meeting

**April 14th**

Merlot's Masterpieces



# Events & Programs



**White House Tour Update:** We have yet to hear back from our contact regarding the White House Tour. Thank you for your continued patience with this event! We will keep everyone posted on any updates!

## **Ladies Night:**

Come enjoy a night out!

Ladies Night at the Fort Belvoir Bowling Center

- *When:* Wednesday, January 20th
- *Time:* 7-9PM
- *Where:* Ft. Belvoir Bowling Center, 5975 Middleton Rd, Bldg. 1199, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060



## **Couples Night:**

February 10th is AESC Couples Night! Let's get together with our spouses at John Strongbows in Old Town Alexandria. Details to follow, look out for RSVP information.





A veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is the first female commandant of cadets at the U.S. Military Academy, one of West Point's top positions.

On Tuesday, January 5th, Brig. Gen. Diana M. Holland assumed command as the 76th commandant of the Corps of Cadets. Under West Point's superintendent, she'll oversee discipline and training for the academy's approximately 4,200 cadets.

Holland replaced Maj. Gen. John C. Thomson III, who has been named commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. Holland, a 1990 West Point graduate, served as a deputy commanding general with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum in northern New York.

The first female cadets graduated from the academy in 1980.



## Do You Know.....

...the Army has taken a major step toward eliminating combat exclusion policies for women by opening some 20,000 combat engineer and associated skill positions to female enlisted soldiers of the active and reserve components.

Under policies now in effect, unit manning documents coded for military occupational specialty 12B (Combat Engineer), and seven related additional skill identifiers are available for fill by qualified women.

Women previously have served as engineer officers, and in 16 enlisted engineer occupations, with the exception of certain positions in special operations units.

12B had been the only remaining specialty closed to women. By opening the MOS and its associated skill identifiers, 20,563 previously closed positions are open to women.

The changes are part of an ongoing campaign to eliminate the Direct Ground Combat Assignment Rule by dismantling, in phases, policies that have barred women from serving in combat units below the brigade level.

*(the above text is from The Army Times June 18, 2015, below is from the Associated Press December 5, 2015)*

With no fanfare, Vermont National Guard Spc. Skylar Anderson became the first woman certified as a combat engineer — a battlefield job that, like many others, was once held exclusively by men.

Anderson, of Derry, New Hampshire, said her interest in the military was sparked by her grandfather. She began talking to a recruiter in high school and took the oath on her 18th birthday, while still a senior in high school, and left for training days after graduation. She first joined the New Hampshire National Guard and transferred to the Vermont National Guard after enrolling at the University of Vermont.

The combat engineer school opened up to women on Aug. 1, said Command Sgt. Major Alan Grinsteinner, the commandant of the 164th Regional Training Institute run by the North Dakota guard. While Anderson didn't know she was the first woman to attend, the instructors did — though they told none of the trainees until the 16-day course was almost over.

"She's a tremendous soldier," Grinsteinner said of Anderson. "She came up here, she did what she was supposed to, she passed every test, she was not granted any specialties, she did exactly what all her male counterparts did."



# 2015-2016 Volunteers

Parliamentarian

Roz Riley

Membership

Jackie Caldwell

Hospitality

Terri Stevens

Historian

Laurel-Lee States

Castle-Gram

Allison Chamberlayne

Webmaster

Laura Putnam

Circulation

Kara Anderson

Castle Boutique

Sheila Kelly

Welfare Services

Launa Brown

Retirement Residences

Liaison

Kay Burlin

Knollwood Bake Sale

Pricilla Noah

Nominations

Bette Meuleners

Volunteer at Large

Lisa Stevenson



**Get to know our  
volunteers!**

**Introducing**

**Sheila Kelly**

Castle Boutique

**Hometown:** Syracuse, NY

**Family:** Two boys Drew & Patrick

How long have you been an Army Engineer Spouse:? 18 years

**How many places have you called home?** 10

In the spirit of "Bloom where you are planted", what was your favorite thing about your least favorite duty station?

I have enjoyed all the places we have lived, but if I have to choose, my least favorite duty station was Chesapeake, VA. The best thing about living in Chesapeake was we had plenty of friends and family come and stay with us since we were so close to Virginia Beach.

Hit shuffle on your music playing device... What song is playing?

Music is always playing in our house, Pandora shuffle. You may find us all jamming to AC/DC; dancing to the song Happy; rapping to some crazy song; even Drew & I will slow dance in the kitchen to a Country song.

**What's for dinner tonight?** Salmon. At least once a month we go down to the D.C. Fish Market. Love the fresh seafood. Plus we can't leave without getting a bowl of clam chowder.

**What's the last game you played?** We love family game nights. I just got crushed in Stratego by Patrick. I just came in 2nd while playing Trouble, which can be the longest, intense, ruthless game ever!

What's one thing we would be surprised to learn about you?

I was an Irish Step Dancer for 18 years

**Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?**

I enjoy photography - my family takes bets on how many pictures I'll take. Usually the lowest bid is 250 (for something like a cool bird at our feeder).

## **Honorary Advisors**

Renee Bostick - Spouse, Chief of Engineers

Jackie Caldwell - SES Spouse, Director of Military Programs

Joan Stockton - SES Spouse, Director of Civil Works

# Castle Boutique



"Rain, Rain, Go Away" .....said no Engineer Spouse ever, sporting this castle umbrella!

The Castle Boutique is offering this unique umbrella, \$24.00 to members only. NOTE: Shipping varies depending on address (\$8 - \$30+) Please email the Castle Boutique and we will gladly calculate the shipping for you. NO OBLIGATION TO BUY

[castleboutique@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:castleboutique@armyengineerspouses.com)

The Castle Umbrella will also be located under the Members Only TAB on our website

*Visit our website under the*

**MEMBERS ONLY**

*tab for exclusive items and discounts.*

The Castle Boutique Will be at USACE Headquarters on Wednesday January 27th for the 2nd Quarter Executive Governance Meeting. If your spouse is attending, have them do some shopping for you! The items that sell fast are Tervis Tumblers, Coasters, an Artel Eggs. It won't be long until you need that farewell gift!



## WANTED!

Engineer buttons!

If you have any you would like to donate, please contact Sheila Kelly.

[castleboutique@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:castleboutique@armyengineerspouses.com)

# Engineers In Europe

The AESG-Europe Lego Leagues is in full swing! Check out these pictures of their December event and find out where they will be next! For any questions about Lego League, please contact [LegoLeagueAESG@gmail.com](mailto:LegoLeagueAESG@gmail.com).

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

18 January 1300-1430  
20 February 1000-1130  
19 March 1000-1130  
8 April 1300-1430  
13 May 1300-1430  
11 June 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

Email: [LegoLeagueAESG@gmail.com](mailto:LegoLeagueAESG@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Army Engineer Spouses' Group-Europe





## Local Events

Jan 16  
Giant Panda Cub Debut  
at the National Zoo

Jan 18 - Feb 1  
Howard County  
Restaurant Week

Jan 22 - 24  
Home & Remodeling  
Show, Dulles Expo Center

Jan 22 - 24  
Washington Auto Show

Jan 25 - 31  
Washington DC  
Restaurant Week

Jan 29 - Feb 27  
Alexandria Restaurant  
Week

Feb 7  
Super Bowl Parties

Feb 6 - 7  
Chocolate Lovers Festival,  
Old Town Fairfax



## Around Town



Are you ready for winter?! If you and your family enjoy getting out and about during these cold winter months, then you don't need to go far to hit the slopes!

The seemingly most popular spot for Northern Virginia folks to ski is Whitetail Resort in Pennsylvania.

Depending on where you are in the DC area, Whitetail is only 1 1/2 to 2 hours away. It's easy to get to on a Saturday morning. Whitetail has a 900-foot vertical drop and 23 trails that are all but one lit for night skiing. They even have new features for beginner skiers such as a "magic carpet lift" (a standing conveyer belt lift) and new beginner trails. Snowboards and advanced skiers won't be disappointed with the recent addition of a half pipe and an advanced terrain park.

Even closer than Whitetail is Liberty Mountain Resort in Pennsylvania. It's just about an hour north of the beltway in Fairfield, PA. Liberty has a 600-foot vertical drop and 16 trails, all with lights for night skiing. The resort invested more than \$1 million in 2011 for additional automated snowmaking—meaning more fresh powder for the slopes. On Wednesdays, discounts for college students are now \$40 for a four-hour day or night pass, equipment rental, and a free lesson. The resort was also recognized as one of the best in the nation for beginners by the National Ski Areas Association. From opening day until December 23, and every Thursday in January, skiing rookies can pay just \$39 for a learn to ski or snowboard package (regular rates are \$78).

Finally, if you want to travel a little farther, try out Wisp Resort near Deep Creek Lake. Wisp now has 34 trails and a vertical drop of 700 feet. The new trails are wider and good for beginners. If you have non skiers in your family, Wisp has an ice-skating rink and a year-round Mountain Coaster ride—a seated, elevated-track ride that glides through the forest and is the only one of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic.

# *Protocol Points to Ponder*

## **New Year's Day Commander's Call**

The long standing Army tradition of a commander-hosted New Years Reception for unit officers and their spouses, once a mandatory event in formal attire, has changed over the years. This tradition can be traced back to King Louis XIV (1643-1715). It was his custom to receive his male subjects in his bedchamber just after arising. It was given the term Levée Du Soleil (Rising of the Sun). Levée for short.

In the 18th century the levée in Great Britain and Ireland became a formal court reception given by the sovereign or his/her representative in the forenoon or early afternoon. In the New World colonies the levée was held by the governor acting on behalf of the monarch. Military Levées were held in remote localities as commissioned officers were expected to act on behalf of the crown. The term levée is still used for these functions in some parts of Canada.

This tradition continues in the United States Armed Forces today. Depending on the Commander and his/her spouse (Command Team) there may or may not be a New Year's reception. Many commanders choose to have their reception on a day other than New Year's Day to allow people to travel, watch football, or spend time with family members. Dress may be more formal with officers (and possibly senior noncommissioned officers) attending in dress blues and spouses in Sunday best or more casual with an "open house" format and corresponding dress. Check the invitation for appropriate attire. (and note: If there is no RSVP information on the invitation, that implies the function is *mandatory*) The location can vary from the commander's home to the Club or Community Center. Particularly, if held in their home, there may be a staggered arrival and departure time. Don't be late and don't stay past your allotted departure time.

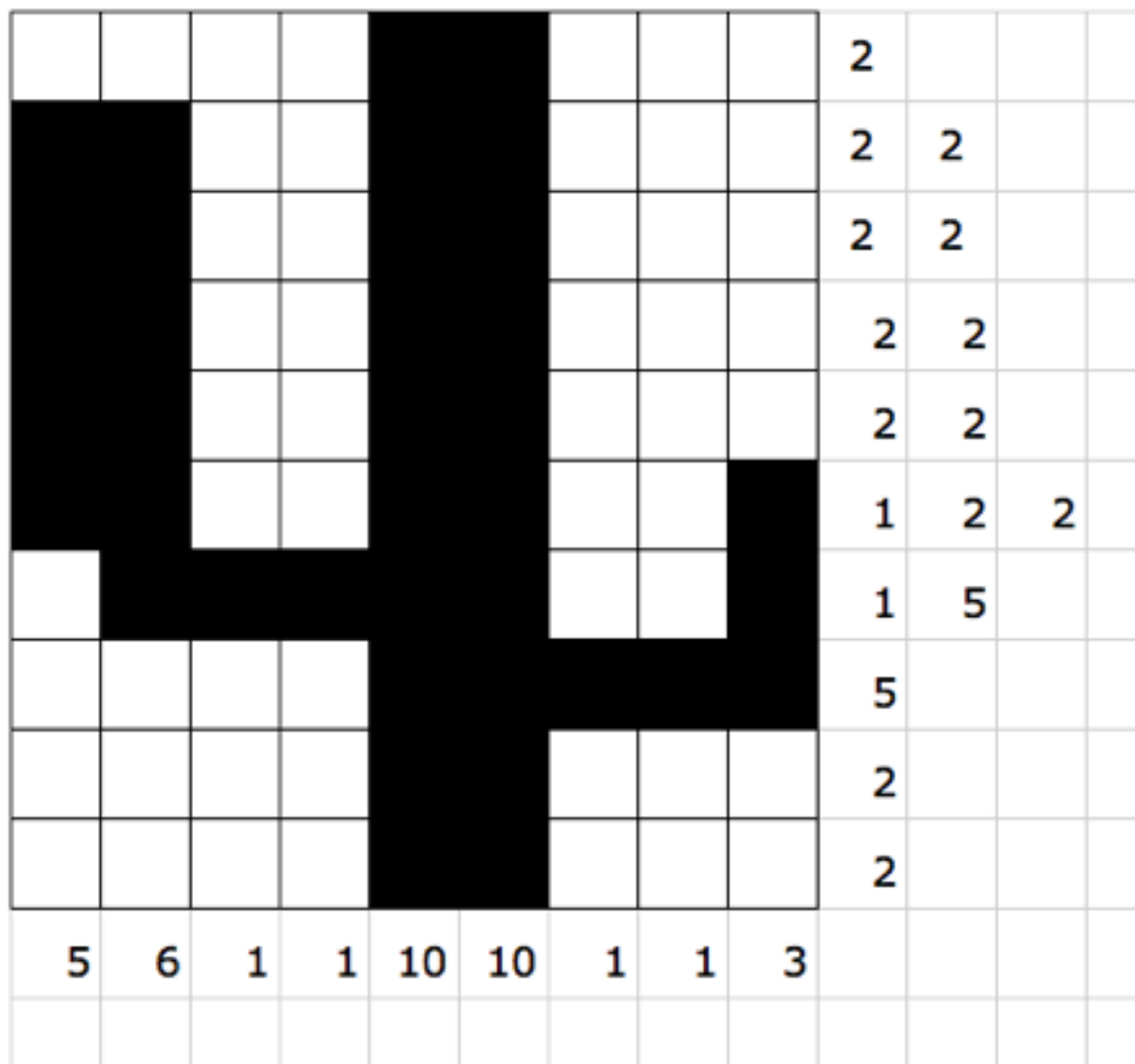
It has also been tradition to leave a calling card when visiting the commander's home. While this tradition has all but faded, you may still find a post or commander who would appreciate the card. In the past, both the officer and his wife would leave one card for each of the adult members of the visiting officer's family (usually left in a silver tray by the front door). The use of calling cards was helpful for remembering names, and they were also sometimes used to check attendance.

Today, business cards have replaced calling cards and guest books have replaced the silver trays. If you choose a business card, please try not to be garish or extravagant with your design.

Distinctive unit insignia, unit patches, or other organizational insignia are fine, so are rank insignia. Avoid the temptation of cards with rampaging tanks, enormous ranger tabs, fluorescent lightning bolts, skulls or other fantasy art. Almost as much as personal contact information, your card makes and leaves a lasting statement about you.

# Fun & Games

This month's puzzle is inspired by our European friends' brand new Lego League! This is an EASY puzzle once you get the hang of it! It's called a Griddler. A griddler is a logic puzzle that uses numbers around a grid to create an image. Each clue indicates a group of contiguous squares of a like color. Between each group there is at least one empty square. The clues are already in the correct sequence. I have added a small sample griddler solution just to give you an idea of how this works.



Our puzzle is pretty big, so it's on the next page. You may want to use a RED colored pencil! Good luck!



# Membership

Join online at  
[www.armyengineerspouses.com/  
membership.html](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/membership.html)

Questions?

Contact our  
Membership Chair

Jackie Caldwell  
[membership@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:membership@armyengineerspouses.com)



## AESC 2015-2016 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, 2015 until June 30, 2016.

Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2015 will be included in the 2015-2016 Castle Directory. Thank you!

Half Year Membership dues \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Castle Directory: Each \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

(while supplies last)

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

