

Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume II, Issue VII

March 2012

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MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH



"A MEMORIAL Built by the Government of the United States and Patriotic Citizens To the Women of the North And the Women of the South Held in Loving Memory By now a United Country That their labors to mitigate the sufferings of The sick and wounded in war may be perpetuated This memorial is dedicated to the service of THE AMERICAN RED CROSS"

The Corps of Engineers Built the Red Cross Headquarters Building as a Memorial to Women of the Civil War

The headquarters building of the American Red Cross, located at 430 17th Street, NW, in Washington, D.C., is an impressive classical structure. Now designated a National Historic Landmark, it was designed by architects Breck Trowbridge and Goodhue Livingston. The interior contains a number of notable features, including sculptural artwork and three large Tiffany stained glass windows in what is now the Board of Governors Hall. Though this building is well known, it is less known that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was in charge of its construction and that the building was conceived as a memorial to the women of the Civil War.

In addition to maintaining homes and households while husbands, sons, and brothers were serving in the military, a significant number of women "on both sides" served as volunteer nurses during the Civil War. Some died performing this service. Former Union General Francis C. Barlow is credited with the idea of building a monument to these women after his wife, Arabelle Wharton Barlow, died of fever contracted while working as a nurse at a Union hospital in Washington, D.C., July 1864. Following General Barlow's death, a close friend, Capt. James A. Scrymser, worked to ensure this memorial was built in the form of a new headquarters building for the American Red Cross. The memorial would be an appropriate gesture for an organization founded in 1881 by a woman, Clara Barton, and dedicated to the relief of those affected by war.

In 1911 Scrymser enlisted the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), an organization of former Union officers, to raise funds and awareness. A bill passed Congress in 1913 appropriating \$400,000 towards the project, though not without controversy. The original conception was to honor only Northern women, but Congress changed it to include all women of the Civil War in the bill's final form. The change caused MOLLUS to withdraw from the project, though Scrymser personally contributed \$100,000—nearly a quarter of the additional \$454,897 needed to complete the building.

The authorizing legislation directed that "the memorial shall be constructed under the supervision of an officer of the Corps of Engineers appointed by the Secretary of War." Lt. Col. William W. Harts was the officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds for the Corps, and he and his staff managed the contracts for the Red Cross headquarters building and disbursed the funds associated with its construction. Begun in 1915, the building was completed and dedicated by President Woodrow Wilson in 1917. Though few now associate the building with its original inception, the inscription along the building's facade proclaims it a memorial. (see left column)

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

The Gavel

...a note from our President



Dear AESC Friends,

March is finally upon us and that means the beginning of Spring in the DC area. The daffodils and crocus have been confused for the past several weeks with our unusually warm weather. I don't mean to sound like a weather report, but we have spent a lot of time discussing our balmy weather. Hope it lasts so we can enjoy our trip to Annapolis for our wine tasting event at the Leketa's. There's also the great opportunity to walk around the Tidal Basin to breathe in the Cherry Blossoms.

One of the issues we discuss as a Board is how to make our far flung members feel more a part of our group. One way might be to have those far flung members share stories and pictures of events where Engineer spouses get together. Whether it's a battalion or brigade coffee or welcome tea, a couples event in the District or a get-together for the spouses attending an orientation at Fort Leonard Wood, we'd like to see what you are doing. Snap the pictures with your phone, pin it to an email with an explanation, send them to me and we'll post them in the newsletter or website or both.

An idea we are looking at for next year is an out to lunch bunch for those who want to get together for impromptu lunch dates once a month. If you are interested in joining the bunch, look for emails and offer suggestions on your favorite local restaurants.

Thanks to all of you who are responding to Bette's requests to serve on the Board for next year. If you are on the fence, know that it takes each of the Board members doing just a small part to effect the large success that the Army Engineer Spouses Club enjoys.

Everyone is busy but we all need and treasure our social connections. How can we make those connections relevant for you? Please let us know.

Essayons!

Kathy Moakler





March 3 Wine Tasting at the Leketa's

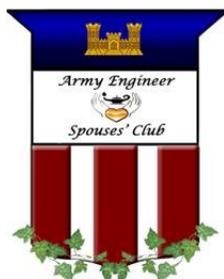
March 9-11 Washington Home and
Garden Show

April 11 Knollwood Bake Sale

April 29 Scholarship Brunch at the Fairfax



THE CAPITAL CONNECTION



The Army Engineer Spouses' Club cordially invites
you and your spouse/guest to join us at

Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 3, 2012 4 - 7 PM

At the home of Anthony & Donna Leketa

1711 Byfield Court

Gambrills, MD 21054

Coat and Tie

Hotel rooms available for \$99 at the Doubletree Annapolis and includes breakfast
for two. Ask for AESC blocked rooms. Hotel shuttle provided to and from
winetasting. Call to reserve your room at 410-224-3150

Voluntary donation to the Army Engineer Memorial Award Fund will be accepted.

Suggested donation: \$20 single or \$35 couple

(This donation is tax deductible)

BOARD MEETING

7 Mar 2012 1100-1300

Home of Kathleen Whittle

5031 King David Blvd

Annandale, VA 22003

281-608-3170

Members Are Welcome



Recruitment



.....a note from Bette

Hopefully you all have received an email from me regarding our search for the AESC Board of Officers for 2012-2013. I'll be sending out another one in the near future--we're trying our best to reach all of our members so everyone has a chance to be on the board.

Our biggest "need" right now is to find a Vice President or co-VPs to plan and "run" our monthly functions for the board's year of 2012-2013. We have to present a slate of the elected officer positions in March, with the election at our function/meeting in April. The other "jobs" on the board are appointed positions and don't need to be voted on. Most of the time our VPs have been able to remain on the board for the maximum 2 years they're "allowed" to stay in the position. Our 2 co-VPs have done a WONDERFUL job this year, but both are spouses of active-duty Soldiers and have to move out of town this summer for their spouses' jobs.

Please let me know if you might be interested in being the VP or sharing with another member? Also let me know if you have suggestions for this position or for other ones on the board.

Thank you so much! With your help, my job is not a hard one, without your help it's an impossible one.

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

Bette recruiting next year's board members while having a super bowl party at her home in Arizona
Contributor: Gene Villiva



Birthdays.....

Beth Mazzanti	March 4
Barbara Fleming	March 8
Diane Messinger Galloway	March 11
Roz Riley	March 16
Tammie Morris	March 17
Mollie O'Neill	March 20
Susan Hill	March 22
Anna Marie Cox	March 26
Jytte Hambric	March 27
Mary Fastabend	March 29
Wendy Ruch	March 31
Ann Harrell Grisoli	April 1
Sally Ball	April 2
Star Henderson	April 10
Jackie Danielson	April 12
Sandy Davis	April 12
Mary Scott	April 15
Susan Hofmann	April 17
Lee Boutin	April 18
Susan Oliveri	April 20
Mary Lorber	April 23
Heidi Rassatt	April 25
Dolores Felch	April 29
Jennifer Riordan	April 30



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS



144th Annual Engineer Castle Ball—28 Jan 2012



Photo Contributor: Gene Villiva

*USACE NCO of The Year
SSG Hendrickson & his lovely wife Shannon*



144th Annual Engineer Castle Ball—28 Jan 2012



WOMEN AND WAR (Part I)

A Family's Perspective

Having a family member serving in the military affects more than just the women. Often, but not always, it is the woman (wife, Mom, sister) who triggers the encouragement a family needs during that time of service and subsequent separation(s). For our family, the encouragement came from a sibling and a son.

Probably the hardest time of separation was the first Christmas after our son, Darren, deployed. Our whole family (to include children and grand children) sat around the dinner table to begin our celebratory meal. There was a noticeable absence . . . Darren, our family humorist. Suddenly, one of the siblings left the table and came back with an oil self-portrait Darren had done during college. That was it! We propped it up at the dinner table. After dinner, we took our obligatory Christmas family photo, which now included Darren (via self-portrait)! We sent him the photos to let him know we thought of him at that time when our family was normally together, Crazy? It helped us all through that first separation.

Then, there was that small package which arrived addressed to "Mom". The writing was very familiar...it was from Darren, serving in Afghanistan. I excitedly opened the box, and in it was the hand written note, a black and white patterned square of fabric (recognizable now as the versatile head cover, neck cowl, face mask, table cloth, tote bag, etc. used by the Afghan men), and 3 envelopes with a scribbled line and dates. His letter explained that inside each of the envelopes was a "bracelet" for me to distribute to family.

The bracelet was a dog tag secured to a strand of 550 utility cord fashioned into an adjustable band. There was dirt on the tag from the mountainous terrain where he had patrolled. He explained that each soldier wore an identification tag secured in the laces of one of his boots when they went out on a mission. Each of the envelopes had the name and date of the mission in which he wore the tag.

Darren, our most creative child, realized he could make both himself and us feel more connected to him by wearing a new tag on each mission and sending a used tag home. We felt connected to him because we were sending care packages, photos, and letters. This was his way to connect to us.

I rejoiced for each bracelet that arrived as it meant another safe return to his patrol base camp. Wearing the bracelet constantly was my reminder to continue my prayer vigil for Darren and his men. When asked about the "unique jewelry", we were able to tell the story behind it and to remind the inquisitive that we still had our military deployed. It was an opportunity to enlist their support and prayers. Although my prayers for him never stop, I stopped wearing my bracelet once Darren was safely home.

After having been on my wrist during three deployments, today it is back in my jewelry box, ready to be activated again, whenever he may deploy. We will continue to be connected through thoughts and prayers.

Roz Riley and family

A Mom's Perspective

As parents we are experiencing the third deployment of our son, Darren. My husband and I have experienced very different feelings each time Darren has deployed. As a soldier himself, my husband was confident in the Army and Darren's unit leaders and, although concerned, felt great pride in knowing his son was going to fight for his country.

I, as his mother, was watching my child go off into hostile territory. Who would protect him? I had nurtured and protected this child, hugged him when sad, encouraged him to discover new activities and interests, and watched with amazement as he enjoyed exploring and mastering new things. A different emotion swells and dwells in a mother's heart when it is her son who marches off to battle than if it were her husband.

My husband and I did the only thing we could do---trust wholly in God. We daily claimed the promises of Psalm 91, part of which we have posted in two locations in our home. We drew comfort from those words of David.

Darren's homecoming from his first deployment was filled with joy beyond description, a peace that passes understanding, and the pride that only a parent can feel. We were excited to see him, hug him, and hear of his experience---and how he, too, had placed his faith in God. And it was only with a small twinge of disappointment, but also enormous satisfaction in the way we raised him, to hear him say he "wouldn't mind going back again." He did not feel himself a hero, but humbly took satisfaction in doing his duty and helping the people whom he came to love.

Time has passed since that first deployment, and more deployments have occurred for my son and one for my husband. Our family has grown larger! Darren's last deployment occurred after he married. We were rejoiced to have his bride visit with us and we with her as she faced the absence of her groom. They shared their first anniversary online (separated but surrounded by family---he his unit family and she family and her new Army family. It has been a delight to watch his bride embrace the life of an Army wife! It has been an honor to be a seasoned guide to her as she begins her Army wife life.

Despite the changes in deployment location or family size, our reactions and our steadfast strategy for "getting through it" (or anything) continues to be based in that Trust and in the Faith in the promises found in Psalm 91.

Roz Riley

Army Brat, Army Veteran, Army Wife, Army Mom



WOMEN AND WAR (Part II)

AESC Tour of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts—February 15, 2012

On a beautiful day, a small group of Capitol Region AESC members met on F Street (the intersection of New Hampshire Ave, N.W., and the Rock Creek Parkway), on the banks of the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., to explore one of the most popular cultural locations.

In 1958, President Dwight Eisenhower signed bipartisan legislation creating a National Cultural Center in 1958. Thirteen years later, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts opened to the public in September 8, 1971. After national tragedy in 1963 and because of his lifelong support for and advocacy of the arts, Congress designated the National Cultural Center as a “living memorial” to the late President Kennedy.

The living memorial ascended from a regional performance venue to become an international stage, hosting American debuts of arts and performances from all over the world.

Areas explored by the AESC, courtesy of our tour guide, Friend of the Kennedy Center (volunteer) James Toronto, included so much! Within the halls and walls, there is 3700 tons of marble which was donated from Italy. The Hall of States displays a collection of flags from all 50 states, the 5 US territories, and the District of Columbia. In the Hall of Nations, parallel to the Hall of States, hang the flags of every country with which the US has diplomatic relations.

The group learned of the many countries which donated gifts to the center. The Grand Foyers, which display the famous bronze bust of President John F. Kennedy by American sculptor Robert Berks, are gifts from Sweden (16 Orrefors crystal chandeliers and wall sconces) and Belgium (eight mirrors 58 feet high and 9 feet wide). Areas known to the public include the 6 theater spaces, which the group toured. Additionally, the group was escorted into little known spaces designed and furnished by the donating country (The Israeli Lounge, The African Lounge, The Chinese Lounge). AND...the Presidential suites were open for a peek into the secure area where the President and guests watch performances. The group walked down the “Hall of Shame” (the hall outside of theaters were patrons who are late wait until a proper moment to be ushered into the performance).

The tour showcased the theaters, the hallways, and their beautiful collections of crystal chandeliers, and textile, bronze, and steel arts. It was refreshing to have the arts around the center highlighted since one normally does not pay much attention to that when attending a performance.

Finally, the group was made aware that the Terrace Theater/Millennium Theater have FREE performances 365 days a year! There are two restaurants worth visiting prior to or after a performance or for a pleasurable lunch with friends. And learning that the Kennedy Center is approachable by METRO with a FREE shuttle.

For the current performance schedules, the KC Jazz Club venue, directions check out the Kennedy Center website at www.kennedy-center.org.

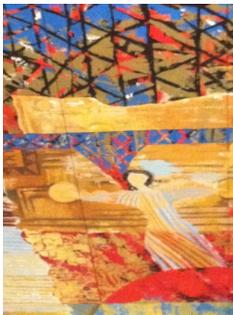
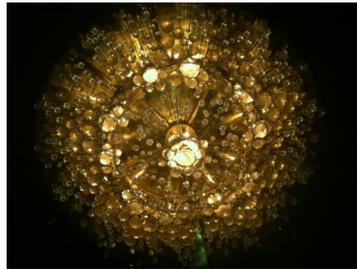
THANKS, amazing VPs (Kathleen Whittle and Mary Pratt), for making this possible!!!



Roz Riley



Yoruba Wooden Doors
 Lamidi Olonade Fajana
 Yoruba wooden doors handcarved from 700-year old Iroko wood depicting village life of Ibadan, Nigeria, where the sculptor was born.
 Gift of Nigeria, 1973



COMMUNITY EVENT—PART II

Knollwood Bake Sale

April 11, 2012 at 10 AM

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 11th of April but would like to donate baked goods, give Priscilla Noah a call at 703-505-3182.

*RUEBEN CASSEROLE**

Serves 6 as entrée/ more as appetizer or side with salad - Contributor: Roz Riley

½ to 1 pound corned beef, cooked, diced, or sliced

¼ cup Thousand Island salad dressing (or Russian dressing)

1 can or bag sauerkraut (16 oz.), drained and rinsed

½ pound shredded Swiss cheese

6 slices of rye bread, crumbled (can use pumpernickel, too) ##

¼ c. butter, melted

Preparation:

Place corned beef in a lightly greased 9x13 baking dish, Dot liberally with dressing, Spread sauerkraut over the dressing, Sprinkle with shredded Swiss cheese, Toss crumbled rye bread with the butter then sprinkle over top, Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes, or until hot and bubbly, Serve with dill pickles

Can also use party rye or pumpernickel slices. Layer on top of cheese Lightly brush with melted butter. Bake until bread is lightly crisped

Can then be cut between bread slices and served with dill pickle on the side

** For Rachel Sandwich or Casserole:*

Substitute pastrami (or turkey) for corned beef

Substitute coleslaw for sauerkraut

AESC 2011-2012 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) _____ 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 _____

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 and/or Castle Gram, our monthly newsletter. Membership runs from July 1, 2011 until June 30, 2012. Membership information received by Oct 31, 2011 will be included in the 2011-2012 Castle Directory. After that date, new and renewing members will be announced in the Castle Gram. 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
<http://armyengineerspouses.com>.

Jackie Caldwell
Membership
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP

“Join today
and invite a friend!”



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