

Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume II, Issue III

October 2011

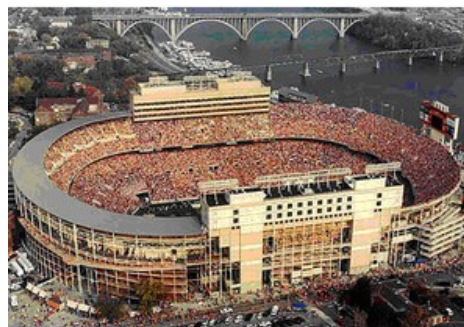
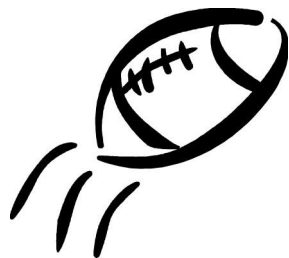
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The Relationship between the Corps of Engineers and College Football - Part 2

The football teammate who influenced Bill Hoge to enter the Corps was Robert R. Neyland, an end from the class of 1916. Bob Neyland went to France as an instructor in the First Army Engineer School during World War I. After the war he was an aide to the Superintendent of West Point, Douglas MacArthur, and served as an assistant football coach. Wanting to continue coaching, he became the Professor of Military Science and assistant football coach at the University of Tennessee. Hired as the head coach in 1926, Neyland's teams won more than sixty games and lost only seven in a nine-year span. After a one-year tour in Panama, Neyland retired as a major in 1936 to devote his full time to coaching football at Tennessee. His 1938 team was unbeaten and the 1939 team was unscored upon and unbeaten. Recalled to active duty in 1941 as the Commanding Officer, Southwestern Engineer Division, Neyland went to India as Commanding General Base Section in 1944. Neyland retired for a second time from the Corps in 1946 as a brigadier general and returned to coaching football at Tennessee. It took him five years to get his team back to a pre-war level, but in 1950 he won eleven and lost only once. In 1951 he went undefeated and won a National Championship. When he retired from coaching to become athletic director in 1953 his record stood at 173 wins, 31 losses, 12 ties, and no losing seasons. Neyland Stadium, home of the Volunteers of the University of Tennessee, is named for him.



"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,

I hope you look forward as much as I do to receiving your *Castle Gram* each month. Information is power and I know that Elsie is gathering information important to Engineer spouses to help us "do what we do!" You are receiving your *Castle Gram* early this month so you will get a heads up on events happening in early October through November.

As mentioned last month, our Cocktail Party will be on October 1. If you haven't sent your RSVP yet, please do it today. Our 1st VPs Kathleen and Mary are working hard to craft an event to remember. See the invitation in this issue and send your response (or your tax deductible donation to AEMA) today. Be sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming programs and join other enthusiastic participants for fun events.

Thanks to those who suffered paper cuts and sticky tongues for the AEA envelope stuffing. This helps our brother Engineer organization and nets some funds for our operations. Be on the look-out for other opportunities to help and have fun at the same time in the pages of the *Castle Gram* or on our dynamic website.

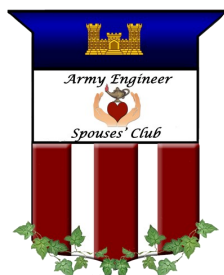
We were fortunate to have Anna Marie Cox, our fearless Webmaster, at our Board meeting in September. She extended a trip to DC from San Antonio to join us in person. We so appreciate her long-distance contributions to the Board. She did remind us that the website belongs to us all. Everyone can make it better. Do you have an article or information that would benefit the entire club? Send it on to Anna Marie for publication. She does, however, retain editorial rights. Haven't you thought about joining the social networking revolution and writing for the web? Here's your chance!

I am very excited about our incorporation of a theme this year for the *Castle Gram* and some programs that shares the stories of military spouses and those women who serve in uniform. How has your life been changed by serving, or by marrying someone who serves, or for some of us, being the parent of one who serves? I know that I have had experiences in my military life that my friends who are not affiliated with the military, never get to know:

Visiting the Nixon White House as a brand new bride at the Basic Course,
Fearlessly driving around Germany in a VW with other wives in tow as our husbands were TDY defending the Fulda Gap,
Hosting the parents of cadets at West Point, one of whom was the President of Honduras – I gave him a bamboo tray just like all the rest,
Having the privilege of speaking on behalf of military families before Congress with my only credential being a military spouse.

What's your story? How has being connected with the military impacted your life? Write it down, share it in a blog, send it for inclusion in the *Castle Gram*. Your lifestyle, your experience, your story – is unique because you are affiliated with the military. Share it with us.

Essayons,
Kathy Moakler
AESC President



*The Army Engineer Spouses' Club
Cordially Invites you and your spouse/guest
to join us at our annual
Welcome Cocktail Party
Saturday, October 1, 2011
5:00 to 7:00 PM
at the home of*

*LTG (Ret) and Mrs. Robert Flowers
7524 Weymouth Hill Road
Clifton, Virginia 20124*

Coat and Tie

Please RSVP by September 27 to:

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

Sarah Pearce 703-815-7356 (N-Z) pearcesall@cox.net

*Members are respectfully asked to bring an appetizer
or finger dessert for our guests to enjoy*

*Voluntary donations to the Army Engineer Memorial
Award Fund will be accepted.
Suggested: \$20 Single or \$35 per Couple
(This donation is tax deductible)*

AN INVITATION

Upcoming Board Meeting

Wednesday, 5 Oct 2011
1100-1300

Home of Roslyn Riley
8047 Fairfax Road
Alexandria, VA 22308
703-768-8047

Members are welcome

**September Board Meeting
Passing of the Gavel
Enjoying Delicious Goodies**



Fresh Apple Cake

Contributor: Bette Meuleners

- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/4 cups vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 4 cups peeled apples (like Granny Smith), finely diced



Combine dry ingredients and mix. Add eggs, oil, (nuts,) and apples. Stir all together. Spread evenly in 9 x 13 pan (don't need to grease).

Bake 45-60 minutes in 325-350 degree oven.

PLANNED PROGRAMS FOR THE DC METRO AREA

October 1, 2011 Cocktail Party/Newcomers Welcome

November 2011 Cooking Class

**December 2011 Breakfast Tea at O Mansion
Art Gallery Tour**

January 2012 No Function

**February 2012 Wine Tasting, Location to be
determined**

March 2012 Knollwood Bake Sale

April 2012 DC Design House

May 2012 Scholarship Brunch

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



- ★ OCT 1st-Cocktail Party at BG (Ret) Flower's home
- ★ OCT TBD- Women and War lecture at the Pentagon
- ★ NOV TBD- Cooking Class



Sign up sheets and complete information will be Available at the cocktail party



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



WOMEN AND WAR

A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE ***by Deborah Butler***

Greetings to one and all from the great state of Oklahoma (this summer weather-wise, also known as the gates of hell!) I have been asked to comment on life as the spouse of an engineer retiree who is still a working Army engineer. Randy is the Director of Public Works at Fort Sill, and as such, we are still an active part of Army life.

Many have asked if it was hard to make the retirement decision. The answer is YES...it was very hard. Randy grew up in an Army family (his dad was a retired FA officer), he was in ROTC in college, he entered active duty straight out of college and he spent over 28 years serving as an engineer officer. It was very, very hard to make the decision to retire, but I must admit, once the decision was made, the transition process was not all that bad.

What made the transition bearable? The phone was ringing with opportunities and possibilities. Why was it ringing so much? Because Randy had been fortunate to serve for 28 years in an engineer environment which fostered diversity in assignments. He had multiple assignments and commands at the troop level (both combat and heavy), he served with the Corps of Engineers as a project officer (captain) and as a district commander (colonel), he worked with the Army reserve side and he worked with Army civilians as a DPW - twice. The Army also afforded him the time to get his P.E. and his Masters in Civil Engineering. Each and every one of those assignments added to his ability to be a better engineer officer. I am a firm believer in raising diversified engineer officers and hope that our young officers today can have the same opportunities open to them. So many have approached us over the years and wished they could have the varied learning opportunities offered to them as we had.

When we retired, our last child was still in high school and of course, I let Randy know that it was time to take MY wishes into consideration. We explored varied options and we made a few visits to various places and finally decided on the DPW line and Fort Sill. It was absolutely wonderful not having to live on post anymore! WE got to choose the community WE wanted to live in and choose the high school where Kimberly would attend. And of course, WE got to choose the house! Six years later, I can say without hesitation, that we chose well. We are a music/band nerd family and we had the joy of watching our youngest daughter flourish in the program we chose for her. (As an aside - once again, thank you for selecting her as one of your scholarship recipients. She recently graduated from college and is now the brand new head band director at a high school in Texas.)

How have things changed for Randy as a civilian DPW as compared to an active duty DPW? His clothes have changed. All of the headaches and long hours are still the same, but it is fun to see the workforce realize that they can't wait out the DPW anymore until he PCS's. Because his clothes have changed, it might take some on post a bit to know that he is a retired colonel, but they eventually get that it's not the clothes or the rank that make the engineer...it's what's in your head. Financial woes on post are worse than ever and I keep hoping that our country's money problems will slow down all of the "legacy" spending commanders want to do. They all still think that the money is there---it hasn't changed a bit. Yes, I understand different pots of money and I understand that maintaining is not "SEXY", but please, those are my taxes paying for all of your pet projects (which, Oh by the way, change with each new commander that comes in.) Ribbon cuttings and TV time are not the purpose of Army officers. We all know what we think of those who like to take credit for other's work during a deployment or stateside - they must have a great PR department.

How have things changed for me? It's changed a lot, but only because I want them to. I'm still a part of the command coffee group on post and all of the opportunities to volunteer are the same. But, I've learned to say no much more frequently. I have all of the medals, plaques and awards I could ever want. It is now time to step aside and allow others to step up and shine. (I've hit my lifetime quota of making baskets for the OWC auction.) I love seeing the enthusiasm and offer help and experience when needed, but I don't want to be in charge of the world anymore. Before, all of my effort was focused on post, now I have redirected some of my time and energy to activities in the community which we have chosen to live. The needs are great outside the gate too. I was astonished at how much volunteer work is done in the civilian community and I truly admire all those, both on and off post who work so hard to help others.

All in all, making the move to retire from active duty was the right choice for us. We're in the Col(R) category now, but we are still the same people. Randy is still a proud engineer soldier who will stand up for what is right and I'm still a proud Army wife. Yes, a big part of me would like to be back as a young captain or major's wife, dealing daily with the wives of the battalion and I miss those good old days. We can all say that, but I think it's mostly about letting go of one life chapter for another. Both can be great - it's what you make of it that counts.

Y'all take care and continue to enjoy what you do. The day your spouse takes off his uniform for the last time will come sooner than you think you're ready, but it will be both a sad but good day. What George Finley noted in his "Service With a Heart - The Military Wife," is so true. You start with your "knight in shining armor" and you end with a "Well done - Together." And we military wives would have it no other way.

Birthdays.....

Happy Belated to:

Donna Leketa	August 7
Sarah Pearce	August 21
Kara Anderson	August 24
Jackie Caldwell	August 24

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|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Ginni Guiton</b>       | <b>October 2</b>  |
| <b>Ginger Hopkins</b>     | <b>October 5</b>  |
| <b>Jules Bigelow</b>      | <b>October 7</b>  |
| <b>LuAnn Reno</b>         | <b>October 8</b>  |
| <b>Joe Dombi</b>          | <b>October 9</b>  |
| <b>Harbans Singh</b>      | <b>October 10</b> |
| <b>Gene Villiva</b>       | <b>October 13</b> |
| <b>Michelle Tyler</b>     | <b>October 15</b> |
| <b>Lynn McCallister</b>   | <b>October 17</b> |
| <b>Laura Putnam</b>       | <b>October 18</b> |
| <b>Nancy Suthard</b>      | <b>October 20</b> |
| <b>Judy Castro</b>        | <b>October 21</b> |
| <b>Jane Ryan Van Epps</b> | <b>October 25</b> |
| <b>Beate Touchette</b>    | <b>October 31</b> |

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



**MEMBER CELEBRATIONS**

**Dear Members:**

**I apologize for missing some of your birthdays. Please excuse the oversight as we are currently updating our database.**

**If you would like to share your special event, please submit your article and/or photos to yours truly, e-mail address: [brumer5@yahoo.com](mailto:brumer5@yahoo.com).**

**Thanks for your support:-)**



**Elsie Mersereau  
Castle Gram Editor**



SHARING

**Honor Flight: Dedicated to American Veterans Visiting Their Memorials**

Looking for a way you and your family can serve members of the greatest generation? Honor Flight offers opportunities to greet and escort World War II, Korean and Viet Nam veterans when they visit Washington DC to see the wonderful memorials that our Nation has erected to honor them. Generous volunteers meet them at Reagan and Dulles Airports and welcome them with cheers. Some also agree to serve as escorts for the day for honored veterans who have trouble getting around. The organization is extremely well-organized and you can easily plug in to provide this wonderful support to a veteran. To learn more about this great volunteer or charitable opportunity (they accept donations to further their work) visit their website [www.HonorFlight.org](http://www.HonorFlight.org), email them at [info@HonorFlight.org](mailto:info@HonorFlight.org) or call (937) 521-02400.

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**Sep 2011  
Mike and Bette Meuleners' Visit  
with Bob & Paula Van Antwerp  
Retirement Home Nearby Pinehurst, NC**





# Shopping in the Castle Boutique

The Castle Boutique team set up and sold at Corps Headquarters on Wed 14 Sep 2011 during the Leader Emeritus Conference. Had some new items to sell and it is always fun to see former Chiefs, Commanders and friends. Many thanks to Bobby Buxbaum, Priscilla Noah and Isabel Stevens for working the sale and charming all the attendees to buy, buy, buy. A big thank you to Linda Bennie, Protocol Officer, for all the logistical support. It is always a trip in getting into DC, into the GAO Building and into a parking space. But come 2:00 p.m. we fold our tent and are out of there in two shakes of a lambs tail. Another sale down and money for the scholarship fund. Hope to see you at the Cocktail Party and bring money/checks to buy, buy, buy. Yes, as usual the Castle Boutique will be up and running.

Kathy



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

**L to R: Priscilla, Isabel, and Kathy**  
**Photo by Bobby**



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

## A WORKSHOP

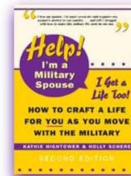


**Authors and speakers,  
 Kathie Hightower and Holly Scherer,  
 will present their trademark workshop,  
 at the Fort Belvoir ACS Bldg.  
 Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

As military spouses themselves, Kathie (also a military veteran) and Holly know from experience that finding focus, possibilities and especially joy in a military life can sometimes seem impossible...or at least, very, very difficult. They have spent over 15 years immersing themselves in the research on happiness and interviewing other military spouses to learn how to thrive in the midst of constant moves, deployments and other challenges of military life. They have presented their trademark workshop to groups of military spouses of all services throughout the United States, Europe, Korea and Japan.

They share what they've learned to live life NOW – not – WHEN.

- Now – not – When ...my soldier comes home from deployment
- Now – not – When ...we move to another location
- Now – not – When ...the kids are out of diapers or out of the house
- Now – not – When ...my soldier retires or gets out of the military
- Now – not – When ....



Their book, ***Help! I'm A Military Spouse, I Get A Life Too!*** has made it possible to spread their message even further.  
*Everyone who attends this workshop will receive a free copy.*

*Don't miss out on this fun and interactive workshop - so that you too - can tap into the resources and discover the possibilities... to live life NOW – not – WHEN!*



**When:** Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2011  
 9:30am until 1:00pm

**Where:** ACS Bldg: 200 9800 Ft. Belvoir Road

**POC:** Rosanna Cox email: [249frgleader@gmail.com](mailto:249frgleader@gmail.com) **Limited childcare available**

Their newest book, ***1001 Things To Love About Military Life***, will be available this November 2011.

*Laura Putnam*

*Nancy Temple*

SCHOLARSHIP

**ARMY ENGINEER SPOUSES' CLUB  
Army Engineer Memorial Awards  
Geraldine K. Morris Award**

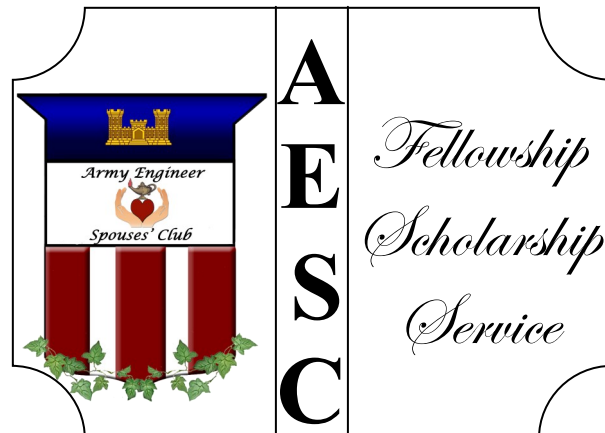
The Army Engineer Spouses' Club announces the Army Engineer Memorial Awards and the Geraldine K. Morris Award for 2012. The AEMA award is available to qualifying high school seniors who plan to continue their education at an accredited college, university, technical school, or vocational school. The Geraldine K. Morris Award is available to a graduating high school senior who intends to enroll in a program leading to a nursing degree or certification. Applicants may apply for both of the awards, if qualified, but can only be awarded one of the scholarships.

The AEMA award was established in 1973 as a living memorial to Army Engineer Officers killed in Vietnam and is given annually to honor all Engineers who died in the line of duty. This award is open to students in all fields of study.

The Geraldine K. Morris Award was established in 2006 to honor the service and memory of Mrs. Morris, a former Army nurse and Army wife. The awardee must be enrolled in a program leading to a nursing degree or nursing certification. The Geraldine K. Morris Award is renewable annually, based on GPA, provided a student maintains full-time enrollment in a nursing program.

Both awards are based on academic and extracurricular achievement during high school, along with a written essay. Awards must be applied toward tuition or scholastic expenses at a two-year or four-year college or university, technical school or vocational school. Applications must postmarked by February 29, 2012.

For more information, please contact the Scholarship Committee, c/o Nancy Temple, P. O. Box 6332, Alexandria, VA 22306-6332; or e-mail [scholarships@armyengineerspouses.com](mailto:scholarships@armyengineerspouses.com). In your e-mail subject line, please indicate 2012 AEMA Award. The application will be available on the AESC website at [www.armyengineerspouses.com](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com) in November 2011.



### 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 July 15, 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**

**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!”**



AESC  
P.O. Box 6332  
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332