



Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

VOLUME LXIV ISSUE 2 | October 2017

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A Note from the Newsletter Chair:



Welcome back for another great edition of 'your' Castle Gram! I'm Jessica Gregris, the AESC Newsletter Chair. To assist me in producing a relevant newsletter I encourage spouses from our entire Engineer family to reach out through this newsletter. Submissions for the Castle Gram should go to newsletter@armyengineerspouses.com.

Dear AESC Friends,

It is a beautiful fall day in Washington DC - the crisp, cool weather hints that the leaves will turn color soon, pumpkins are starting to decorate doorsteps, and autumn blooming mums bring a welcome brightness to summer weary gardens. Most importantly, fall is the beginning of another Army Engineer Spouses' Club year! Take time to thumb through this edition of the Castle Gram to peek at pictures of some of our members' 2017 summer fun, but don't forget to renew your membership - you are an integral part of our Engineer Family!



As you know the past few months have kept our beloved Engineers very busy responding to multiple hurricanes. Harvey, Irma and Maria brought devastation to many. Because of Engineers receive quite a lot of publicity on their service, I am constantly asked how individuals and groups can also support those in need. Would you assist me by directing donors to reach out to our Family Readiness points of contact? They will be the most informed on how your unit or local community is responding. In addition, please pass a kind word of thanks to Soldiers and Corps Employees working so diligently to restore homes, roads and electricity - sometimes around the clock - and possibly for months to come in the very hard hit areas. Volunteers are responding as well. I know of a group sewing pillowcases and quilts non-stop for those who have lost everything - they know that laying a tired head on a soft pillow while wrapped in a cozy blanket might help prepare someone to face another long day of putting their life back together. Others are collecting gas/gift cards to donate. If you, or a group you belong to, are aiding victims in any way, feel free to send photos and share those ideas with our Engineer Family Network through the Castle Gram.

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

AESC Executive Board, 2017-2018:

Elected Officers

President	Launa Klimowicz-Brown
VP	Rosemary Davis
Secretary	Christy Cramer Preston
Treasurer	Kimberly Oborski
AEMA Chair	Kara Anderson

Appointed Board Members

AEMA Asst.	Marguerite Theisen
Circulation	Sheila Kelly
Corresp. Sec.	Laurel-Lee States
FB/Publicity	Louis Cook
Historian	Lisa Stevenson
Hospitality	Terri Stevens
Knollwood	Priscilla Noah
Membership	Jackie Caldwell
Newsletter	Jessica Gregris
Nominations	Bette Meuleners
Parliament.	Rob Riley
Reservations	Lynne Jackson
The Fairfax	Kay Burlin
Ways & Means	Kendra Lewis
Webmaster	Laura Putnam
Wel./Service	Vanessa Joly

Honorary Advisors

Hon. Pres.	Connie Semonite
Hon. VP	Kim Houston
AEMA Adv.	Bobby Buxbaum
SES Sp. Adv.	Jackie Caldwell

Friends continued.

Todd is constantly on the move in his job and if you “like” U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters on Facebook you might have seen a couple of his “On the Road” videos talking about projects, units, and Engineer life in general. You may have also noticed that he is excited to have a new traveling buddy, CSM Brad Houston. He and his wife, Kim, recently left an assignment at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, where CSM Houston served as the Engineer Regiment Command Sergeant Major. The AESC Board is absolutely delighted to welcome Kim as our Honorary Vice-President. I am thrilled to have a new friend who is so knowledgeable on military life, well versed on military issues, extremely experienced with military families, and so very loved by all who know her. She is a tremendous asset to our board and will help strengthen the voice of our Engineer Spouses at the table. Welcome Kim!

Thank you for all you do - I am proud to be part of your AESC Team and Engineer network...though the years and across the miles.

Warmly,

Connie

Connie Semonite
Honorary President, AESC

Join us at our next AESC Board Meeting...

AESC Executive Board Meetings are always open to the general membership, and prior coordination of attendance is not required. If you are curious about the AESC Executive Board or think you might want to assist please come join us.

The next **AESC Board Meeting will be on October 4th, 10 am, at the Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center** which is located at 10265 Fairfax Drive, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

Upcoming AESC Events

OCT
5



AESC OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR TASTING

Olio Tasting Room
1223 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314
5 October, 7pm - 8:30pm

The tasting includes a sampling of their premium olive oils and balsamic vinegars, snacks that pair with the oils, and a glass of wine. There will be a brief history and explanation of how olive oil is pressed and processed.

Cost is \$10 per person (10% discount will be provided on anything purchased during or after the event). Pay upon arrival.

PLEASE RSVP TO ROSEMARY DAVIS, DAVIS6103@MSN.COM



AESC Visit to the 10th Annual DC Design House

9004 Congressional Ct, Potomac, MD 20854
October 25, 2017 1130am

Benefiting Children’s National Health System, the show house includes 23 beautifully designed spaces, four boutiques, a Decade of Design celebration, and a daily onsite cafe by Relish Catering. Parking is available at the corner of River Road and Bradley Boulevard about two blocks away. Please no high heels, no children under 8 and it is not wheelchair accessible due to stairs and no elevator.

Tickets are \$35 +Eventbrite fee and should be purchased in advance at www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-dc-design-house-tour-tickets-36990109413. Please also RSVP to Rosemary Davis, davis6103@msn.com.



Newcomer's Welcome

On September 5th we gathered at Sine Irish restaurant at Pentagon City where the AESC Board welcomed Engineer spouses who are new to the capitol region. Many newcomers were pleasantly surprised to see some familiar faces from previous assignments. The room was filled with Engineer warmth and laughter, as we made new friends and shared familiar stories. Terri Stevens, Hospitality Chair, welcomed the ladies in the cozy fireplace room and Launa Brown, President, shared information about AESC and our exciting upcoming monthly events. Kendra Lewis update us on the Castle Boutique and Vanessa Joly described some of the ongoing fundraisers and service projects. As we each introduced ourselves, we found that we really do have a lot in common. After enjoying a delicious meal and camaraderie, three lucky ladies received door prizes from our very own Castle Boutique. The wine glass engraved with an Engineer castle was a big hit! Thanks to Lois Cook, for streaming the luncheon live on Facebook. You can view some of the moments at www.facebook.com/ArmyEngineerSpousesClub. Everyone departed with a fall housewarming gift and a sense of belonging to a special sisterhood. We look forward to seeing our friends, old and new, at the monthly events as we continue to welcome new members to our club with open arms.



AESC Castle Gram

Cocktail Party



Membership

The Engineer Spouses Club's mission for 2017-2018 continues over fifty years of fellowship, service, and scholarship to Army Engineer families. We have expanded membership outreach to acknowledge the service of engineer spouses worldwide as we focus our efforts on keeping engineer families connected through the years and across the miles. Please join us as we make this a memorable year.

Sincerely,

Jackie Caldwell
Membership Chair

Full Year Memberships are now available! **Membership applications received after Oct. 31, 2017 will NOT be included in the hard copy of the Castle Directory (Red Book).** Club year runs from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. For just \$25 Membership includes:

- Inclusion of membership information in the Castle Directory (The Red Book)
- One copy of the Castle Directory (The Red Book)
- E-mailed copy of the monthly newsletter, "The Castle Gram"
- Access to the Members Only page on the AESC website which includes member only specials for the Castle Boutique, archived files from past Castle Grams and meeting notes, and the current digital version of the Castle Directory (The Red Book)
- Invitations to our monthly programs, luncheons and special events
- Children of our members are invited to apply for the Army Engineer Memorial Awards

ONLINE membership application and payment can be done at <http://www.armyengineerspouses.com/online-membership-form.html>.

Or

Fill out the 2017-2018 membership form included in this edition of the Castle Gram, include a check payable to AESC, and mail it in.

Need an extra copy of the Castle Directory (Red Book)? For an extra \$5 each, you can order as many as you need with your membership.

Not sure if your membership is current? Verify the status of your membership with our membership chair, Jackie Caldwell, by emailing membership@armyengineerspouses.com.

Hurricane Relief

AESC Save the Date

October 4

AESC Board Meeting
Fort Belvoir, VA

October 5

Olio Olive Oils & Balsamic
Vinegar Tasting
Alexandria, VA

October 22

Wear Blue Mile at Marine
Corps Marathon
Arlington, VA

October 24

Fisher House Meal
Ft Belvoir, VA

October 25

Tour DC Design House
Potomac, MD



AESC continues to express our concern and well wishes to those affected by any of the hurricanes that have occurred over the past few months, and those engaged with supporting relief efforts.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District's South Florida Operations Office (SFOO) has the monumental task of inspecting the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) and reopening Okeechobee Waterway post Hurricane Irma, a task that is essential to recovery operations across Southern Florida.



View of the inside of a C-130 filled with [#PrimePower](#) NCOs from A/249 and B/249 along with civilian responders. The aircraft arrived in Puerto Rico to provide additional support to hurricane [#Maria](#) recovery efforts.



*AESC
Save the
Date -
continued*

November 1

AESC Board Meeting
Fort Belvoir, VA

December 6

AESC Cookie Exchange
Quarters 7, Fort McNair, VA

December 16

Wreath Laying at
Arlington Cemetery
Quarters 7, Fort McNair, VA

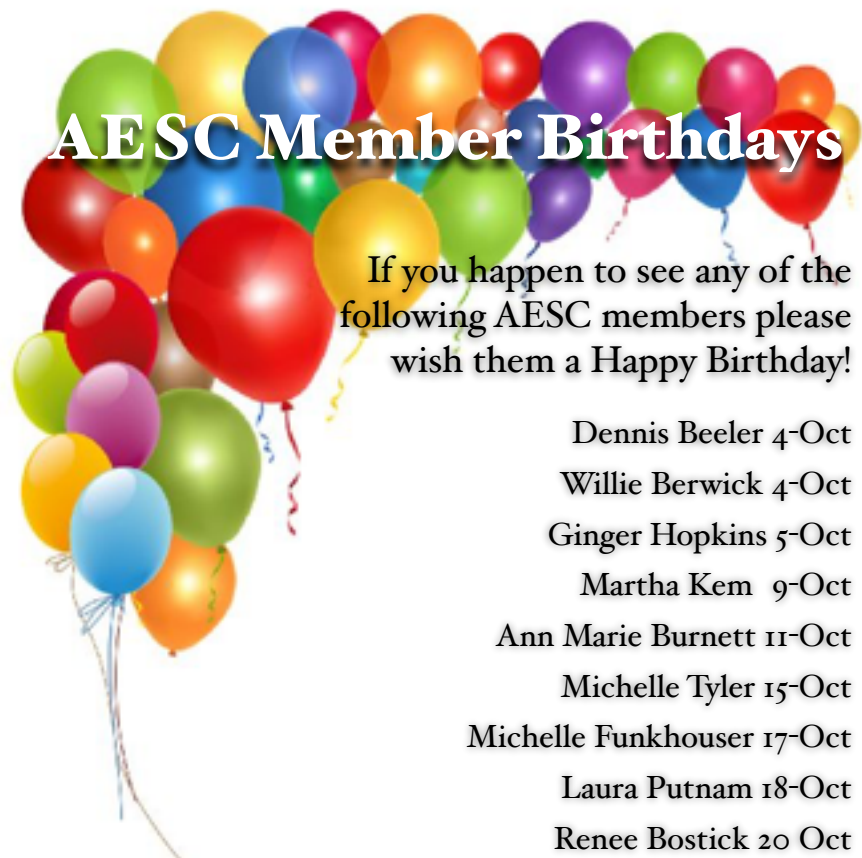


Top 3 entries
will win a trip
to our National Training Seminar in
Washington, D.C., July 23 - 25, 2018

The Art of Being a Military-Connected Child
Open to all civilian and military-connected students, Pre-K through high school

All artwork and writing submissions must be postmarked by December 31, 2017. The top 3 entries will win a trip to our 2018 National Training Seminar in Washington, D.C., July 23 - 25, 2018. The finalists will be featured in our 2018 Spring On the Move® Magazine, 2018 Month of the Military Child poster, or the MCEC 2019 calendar.

In celebration of the 20th Anniversary and sponsored by Target, the 2017/2018 Call for the Arts Campaign will raise the visibility of military and veteran-connected children and the sacrifices they experience through military lifestyle. For more information and entry forms go to www.militarychild.org/parents-and-students/programs/the-



AESC Member Birthdays

If you happen to see any of the following AESC members please wish them a Happy Birthday!

Dennis Beeler 4-Oct
Willie Berwick 4-Oct
Ginger Hopkins 5-Oct
Martha Kem 9-Oct
Ann Marie Burnett 11-Oct
Michelle Tyler 15-Oct
Michelle Funkhouser 17-Oct
Laura Putnam 18-Oct
Renee Bostick 20 Oct
Lynda Allanach 28 Oct

Welfare & Service

AESC helped welcome Honor Flight to DC ~ 6 September



Volunteer for the *wear blue Mile*

The iconic on-course experience at the Marine Corps Marathon is the *wear blue Mile*. Located along Haines Point at mile 11 of the MCM course, every step honors the service and sacrifice of the American military.

350 volunteers are needed on October 22nd to build their largest annual *wear blue Mile*. Please consider volunteering on race day and register at www.wearblueruntoremember.org/marine-corps-marathon. If you volunteer please let Vanessa Joly, service@armyengineerspouses.com know and she will coordinate a meeting spot for volunteers from AESC.



AESC Castle Gram

AESC Support to Fisher House

AESC continues to provide monthly meals to the families staying at the **Fort Belvoir Fisher House**. The following dates are now available:

- October 24
- November 28
- December (TBD)
- January 23
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- May 22



If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can support the Fisher house, please contact our Welfare Services Chair, Vanessa Joly at service@armyengineerspouses.com

Welfare & Service

AESC has a new fundraiser!

Support AESC fundraising by purchasing Lynch Creek Farm handcrafts traditional and decorated Christmas wreaths, fresh centerpieces and other beautiful holiday gifts.



AESC 2017 Fall Fundraiser JOIN THIS FUNDRAISER
 \$0 earned of \$1,000 goal - 75 days left
 By Vanessa Joly - Fort Belvoir, VA - Other Organization or Cause

Shop Lynch Creek Farm and our fundraiser will earn 20% cash back! Funds raised support AEMA, The Fairfax, and Knollwood.

[Shop Online](#) EARN CASH BACK [Donate Now](#) DONATE DIRECTLY



Lef

Lynch Creek Farm
 Gives 20% back
[Shop Now >](#)

[Support](#)



Fall/Holiday 2017 Collection

YANKEE CANDLE | FUNDRAISING

Buy Yankee Candle and Support AESC! Yankee Candle has become the #1 most-recognized name in the candle business and the country’s best-selling candle brand by sharing our customers’ “passion for fragrance” in every product we bring to market.

To support this fundraiser go to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and use Group #999972278. For every sale made Yankee Candle will give 40% to AESC.

Local Events

October 8

Army 10 Miler
Washington, DC

October 11 - 14

AUSA Conference
Washington Convention
Center, Washington, DC

October 14

Scottish Heritage Day
Carlyle House Historic Park
Alexandria, VA

October 26

Engineer Round Up
Marriott Gateway
Arlington, VA

October 28

US Army Caisson Haunted
Barn & Hayride
Fort Myer, VA

November 4

Grant Hall Open House
Fort McNair, Washington, DC

Around Town

U.S. Army Caisson Haunted Barn & Hayride

This event is hosted by the U.S. Army Caisson Platoon on 28 October from 4:30pm - 9:30pm at 201 Jackson Avenue, Building 236, Fort Myer, Virginia, and will happen rain or shine. There will be hayrides, games, snacks, prizes, costume contests and a surprise guest appearance.



Grant Hall Open House

There will be a public open house of Grant Hall's historic third-floor courtroom, located on Fort McNair from 10 am to 4pm on Saturday, November

4th. The courtroom is the site of the military tribunal, held from May through June 1865, of those responsible for the plot to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln. Courtroom features were recreated based on artistic renderings and written descriptions of court proceedings. Some furnishings and artifacts on display are on loan from the production company of a 2011 historical film about the trial, and other artifacts and documentation are from National Defense University. No reservation required for military ID holders. Registration information for all others can be found at www.facebook.com/events/1422299111211328.



Keepers of the Castle *Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri*

Keeper's of the Castle is an Engineer Spouses' Club located in Fort Leonard Wood Missouri. They welcome members from Active Duty Army, National Guard, Reserve, Retired, allies and sister services. They aim to instill pride in Engineer spouses through camaraderie by educating, sharing, and embracing our roles – past, present, and future. Connect with the Keeper's Of the Castle on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KeepersOfTheCastle or via email FLWKeepers@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

November 16, 2017

*Our next Keepers of the Castle Social event.
Please look out for an email 3 weeks prior to event.*

Army Engineer Spouses Group - Europe

The Engineer Spouses Group - Europe hosts a monthly gathering. For more information on joining this active group, contact Michelle Tyler at mtylert1015@aol.com.



Heather Adams recently hosted an AESG-Europe potluck social in her home. Good times and good food was had by the entire group!



Castle Boutique



Visit the Castle Boutique online or in-person to get your special Engineer items! Check in on-line to see what item is featured with the member special price.



Don't forget! When you start your holiday online shopping, click through Amazon Smile! Go to www.smile.amazon.com and select Arm Engineer Memorial Award as your charity. It costs you nothing and a portion of your purchase goes to AEMA.

Membership

Join online at
www.armyengineerspouses.com/membership.html

Questions?

Contact our
Membership Chair

Jackie Caldwell
membership@armyengineerspouses.com



AESC 2017-2018 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, 2017 until June 30, 2018.

Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2017 will be included in the 2017-2018 Castle Directory. Thank you!

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

Additional Castle Directory: Each \$5 _____

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

