



Army Engineer Spouses' Club

Castle Gram

Volume V, Issue II

September, 2014

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

Welcome Cocktail Party

Saturday, October 25, 2013

5:00 to 7:00 PM

at the home of

*LTG and Mrs. Tom Bostick
Quarters 7 Fort McNair
Washington, DC*

Coat and Tie

Please RSVP by October 20th to:

Anita Link, 301 371-8896

anitaglink@aol.com

*Voluntary donations to Army Engineer Memorial
Award Fund will be accepted.*

Suggested: \$20 per person

(This donation is tax deductible)

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



The Gavel



...a note from our President

Dear Army Engineer Spouses' Club,

In the past few days as I have listened to the rumblings of the first school buses of the year as they have lumbered through the neighborhood, it has truly become obvious to me that fall is upon us. The excitement of the new school year can be contagious even if you do not have a cute little family member hopping up the stairs of that big yellow giant - don't you also find yourself anticipating cool evenings, turning leaves, mums, chili and football games?

Autumn also brings the beginning of our club year and time to renew your membership with AESC. Your board members have been working diligently throughout the summer on plans for an exciting year with many opportunities for you to network, show a little Engineer pride, as well as contribute to our communities and Memorial Awards. Take a few moments to visit the AESC web-site and fill out your membership form - you don't want to miss any of our newsletters or get-togethers. Our membership chair, Jackie Caldwell, is very anxious to receive your information so that our annual Redbook includes YOU! This little treasure should always be handy as you will find yourself reaching for it time and time again - "... what's her email / cell number?", "... gee, I wonder if they have moved?", "... oh, I am excited to meet you - I've seen your name in my Redbook!". I always have to get two copies as my husband keeps one at his desk as well!

While you are at the website, take a look at our Castle Boutique. Our committee has decided to offer some of our traditional inventory, recently discovered treasures, and some first time items that will quickly become favorites. Give us a few weeks to post our new inventory on-line, but order quickly as our popular Engineer goodies go fast!!!

With the world-wide-web in mind, the entire board is so excited that our Facebook page has been re-energized! Lisa Stevenson, our Facebook Editor, is committed to posting fun and informative links on a regular basis. Please remember, every time you "like" one of our posts, all of your Facebook friends can see it. This is truly the fastest way to spread the news about AESC with all of your favorite Engineer buddies.

It was so very sad to learn about the passing of two special AESC members during the past several weeks. Betty Swygert was a very active and visible member of our club and board for many years. Kris Watson's untimely death was a shock to all and leaves an emptiness in the soul of the Engineer Regiment. Please find more information on these two wonderful ladies within these pages.

As always, we exist to serve you and our Engineer community and I challenge you to share the news of our club with someone today!

Warmly,

Connie

2014-2015 AESC BOARD

Elected Officers

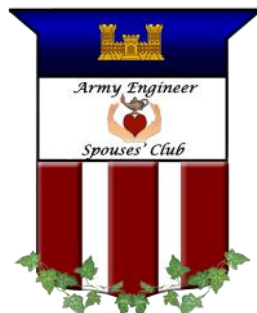
PRESIDENT – CONNIE SEMONITE
 VICE-PRESIDENT – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE
 SECRETARY – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE
 TREASURER – KATHY MOAKLER
 AEMA CHAIRPERSON – HOLLY SCHERER

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

PARLIAMENTARIAN – ROZ RILEY
 MEMBERSHIP – JACKIE CALDWELL
 HOSPITALITY – LYNDA FLOWERS
 AEMA SCHOLARSHIP – VACANT
 MEDIA TEAM: PUBLICITY/HISTORIAN – GLENDA HUDSON
 NEWSLETTER – KAREN ANDERSON
 WEBMASTER – LAURA PUTNAM
 FACEBOOK – LISA STEVENSON
 CIRCULATION – KARA ANDERSON
 RESERVATIONS – ANITA LINK
 WAYS AND MEANS – VACANT
 WELFARE/SERVICES – KIMBERLY OBORSKI
 LIAISON CHAIR: KNOLLWOOD – VACANT
 FAIRFAX – JOYCE REBH AND KAY BURLIN
 KNOLLWOOD BAKE SALE – PRISCILLA NOAH
 NOMINATIONS – BETTE MEULENERS
 AD HOC VOLUNTEER—PAT O'NEILL AND
 BETH MAZZANTI

ADVISORS

RENEE BOSTICK - SPOUSE, CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
 VICKY GRONINGER - SPOUSE, CSM OF ENGINEERS
 JACKIE CALDWELL- SES SPOUSE, DIRECTOR- MILPO
 JOAN STOCKTON-SES SPOUSE, DIRECTOR-CEO



2014-2015 AESC BOARD

WELCOME



...a note from an Advisor



My name is Vicky Groninger and my husband is the Command Sergeant Major of the Corps of Engineers. I serve as an Honorary Advisor on the Executive Board for the Army Engineer Spouses' Club. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our returning members and new members for the upcoming year. I would especially like to say "Thank You" to the members who have volunteered to hold a seat as a board member-we could not do this without your tireless efforts and continued support. We have many fun and exciting events planned throughout the year and I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities to come out and not only support the club, but get the chance to meet some new people or just re-connect with some familiar faces that you have not seen in awhile. The strength of this club is our members and to that point, I'd like to challenge each and every one of you to reach out to one Engineer spouse who is not a member and encourage them to join. Our Engineer family stretches around the world and I regularly find myself using our "Redbook" to stay in touch with those spouses' who have PCS'd or retired. Once again, thanks for your membership and support of AESC -here's to another great year! ESSAYONS!!





BOOK DRIVE

*Green Eggs and Ham,
The Little Engine that Could,
Goodnight Moon*

We all have a favorite book from our childhood. What's yours? Help the AESC share those precious stories with the Children at Ft Belvoir Hospital. AESC is collecting gently used children's books and chapter books to donate to the hospital. Please bring your book to the October board meeting, drop it off with a local board member before October 1st, or contact Kimberly Oborski at kimberlee130@hotmail.com / 646-232-3599 to coordinate.



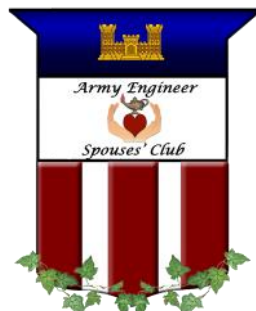
ARMY TEN-MILER OCTOBER 12, 2014

Did you know the AESC is an official volunteer group of the annual race? Come out to support the runners, join the excitement and have fun! There are several volunteer options to choose from. To sign-up go to:

www.armytenmiler.com/volunteers

Register as an individual volunteer in order to choose the day, shift and job you prefer. Pre-race day shifts are available at the DC Armory on October 10th and 11th. Or sign up for race day on October 12th to see all the action!

Contact Kimberly Oborski at kimberlee130@hotmail.com or 646-232-3599 with any questions and to confirm your participation on behalf of AESC.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting

Please join us at our upcoming Board Meeting

AESC Board Meeting

October 1

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

At the

Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center

10265 Fairfax Drive

Fort Belvoir, VA



Join us for our September Activity!

The Engineer Round-Up

Thursday, September 25th

5-7pm

Crystal City Gateway Marriott

in the bar area of the lobby



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Engineer Round-Up is a monthly event held by the Office of the Chief of Engineers to bring together all the engineers in the National Capitol region for socializing and networking. Anyone who can call themselves an Engineer is always welcome to attend! This includes retirees and spouses. These events are advertised in the Engineer Blast as well as an email distribution. This distribution list is comprised of Engineers assigned to the Pentagon zip code and another list made up of people that have been added by their request over the years. The main distribution list is updated about every six months. If you want to get on this list to be informed of future Round-Ups, please contact Bill Arthur: william.r.arthur.civ@mail.mil

AESC will be attending the September Round-Up to help spread the word about our organization. We are looking for new members in the area and we also want to ensure we meet any new engineer families in the Metro Region so we can invite them to the Cocktail Party. So, join your spouse and come on out to the Crystal City Marriott. No need for any RSVP. Please direct any questions to Allison Chamberlayne: allison@chamberlayne.net

Save The Date!

Saturday, October 25th, 5-7pm - AESC Annual Cocktail Party at the home of the Chief of Engineers. Please see the invitation in the Castle Gram for more detail.
Photos from last year's Cocktail Party:



Wednesday, November 19th - ROAD TRIP! Let's head west to Purcellville and have lunch at Magnolias. We can explore this little town and some cute shops and consignment stores. As we head home, we can hit the Leesburg Outlets. Details coming soon!

Here are two recipes that were served at the September board meeting:

Chicken Casserole

Ingredients:

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, boiled and cubed
1 cup sour cream
1 (10 3/4 ounce) can cream of chicken soup (mushroom can be substituted)
25 Ritz crackers
1/2 cup butter, melted
salt and pepper

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F.
Boil chicken breast until tender; drain and cube.
Spread evenly over the bottom of a square casserole dish.
Salt and pepper to taste.
Mix sour cream and chicken soup in a separate bowl.
Spread the sour cream and soup mixture over the chicken in the casserole dish.
Crush the Ritz crackers and spread over top of the casserole.
Spoon melted butter on top over all.
Bake in a 350°F oven until top is golden brown, approximately 20-30 minutes.
(Note: to freeze, reduce initial baking time to 20 minutes. When ready to serve, reheat until warm.

Lemon Bars

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Bottom layer ingredients:

1 cake mix (you can use either lemon or yellow cake mix both work fine)
1 egg
1 stick butter melted
1 tsp lemon extract

Mix the above and press into a 9 x 12 cake pan. Lightly spray the pan with "Pam" or a light coating of Crisco. This helps later in removing the lemon bars from the cake pan.

Topping

1 – 8 oz pkg of softened cream cheese
2 eggs
1 – 1 lb box of confectioner's sugar (about 4 cups)

***Optional – I add a tsp lemon extract along with a tsp vanilla extract.

Beat the ingredients above together until smooth. Pour the topping on the bottom layer and place in oven. Cook until it is slightly brown or tan-ish. The outside will appear a little more set and the inside a little loose - that's okay. It can take from 45 minutes to an hour or more – depends on your oven. When it looks slightly browned on top – pull them out and let them cool. Run a sharp knife around the outside edges right after removing from oven --- this helps later when you are cutting them into squares and are removing from the cake pan.

PAST Events



The AESC September board meeting was held on September 3, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at the Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center, Fort Belvoir, VA

Thank you to Bette Meuleners for hosting, to Allison Chamberlayne and Karen Anderson for providing refreshments.



SPY MUSEUM



My name is Greta Schmidt. I am 33 year old astronomer from Germany coming to visit London for a few days.... OR AM I? Deception may be the name of the game in the spy world, but the truth is a great time was had by all the AESC members who attended our trip to the International Spy Museum on August 20th. We saw everything from the technology spies use like button cameras, umbrella guns and listening devices to ancient ciphers and stories of notorious spies throughout the ages. Some of our favorite exhibits were the 1940s cartoons encouraging all Americans to "pay their taxes to defeat the Axis" and poor "Private Snafu" who got a little tipsy and spilled the beans about Allied battle plans. The museum ended with everyone's favorite spy, James Bond and all of the villains who tried to do him in.

If I have tempted you into visiting the museum, remember to show your military ID card AND your Metro card for double discounts.

After the museum, we enjoyed a great lunch at Rosa Mexicano. The guacamole was made table side and the margaritas were made with just enough salt in the rim! Thanks to all those who attended and I hope those who were unable to come can join us for our next adventure.

(Submitted by Allison Chamberlayne)



Brigadier General Walter Bachus

Brigadier General Walter O. Bachus was buried in ANC on Tuesday, 9 September. He was a colorful Commander of the North Central Division, USACE, in Chicago during the mid-1970s and as a Texas Aggie, wore cowboy boots whenever possible. His lovely wife, Helen, encouraged other wives to get up early to do exercises. Brigadier General Bachus was known to award his District Engineers with Skunks or Roses based on their achievements in their District to increase membership in SAME. Later, he was the Director of SAME for many years and was responsible for moving the SAME Headquarters to the current address in Alexandria after leading a successful campaign to purchase the building. BG Bachus retired from Headquarters, USACE to live in Alexandria. Helen now resides at the Fairfax.



Kris Watson

Kristine Watson, 53, went to her Heavenly Home on Aug. 27, 2014, in her home at the U.S. Army Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany. Kris was born on Oct. 6, 1960, in Waukegan, Ill., the daughter of Virgil and Betty Koester, Green Bay, Wis., and wife of Major General Bryan Watson, Stuttgart, Germany. Her family lived in Wausau, Wis., 1965-1985, and she attended Wausau Schools, kindergarten through high school, graduating from Wausau East High in June 1979. She graduated from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, May 1984 and was employed by IBM, St. Paul. Kris married West Point graduate Bryan Watson, Dec. 29, 1984, at Grace Lutheran Church, Minneapolis and lived in many Army Forts in the US, Korea and Germany. She was a true Red, White and Blue Army wife, Kris was a Green and Gold Packers fan and could see the games wherever she lived. Kris is survived by her loving husband, Bryan Watson; daughter, Rachel Watson, Los Angeles, Calif.; parents, Virgil and Betty Koester; father-in-law, Retired Major General Gerald Watson, Jacksonville, Ala.; brother-in-law, Darryl Watson, sister-in-law, Janie Watson and three nephews, Zack, Tom, Sam, all of Acworth, Ga.; two uncles, six aunts, 12 cousins and many, many friends. Kris was preceded in death by her mother-in-law, Carol Ann Watson; grandparents; six uncles, two aunts and one cousin. Visitation was at Murphy Funeral Home, Arlington, Va., at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, 2014. The Funeral Service was held at the Memorial Chapel, Fort Myer, Arlington, by Chaplain Col. Ron Huggler, 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014. Burial will be held at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery. If you wish to honor Kris, donations can be made in her name to Fisher House Foundation, Inc., 111 Rockville Pike, Suite 420, Rockville, MD 20850-5168. Fisher House provides free housing for families while visiting wounded Service Men and Women.

Betty Swygert



Betty Swygert who died 23 April, 2014, was a beloved member of our club for more than 30 years. She was both a former President and Vice President of the AEWOC. Betty was also the Liaison for the Knollwood, keeping us in touch with our military families who live there. We all appreciated her warm advice colored by her many years with our organization on the board.

Betty M. Swygert was the daughter of E. Max Moss and Julia DeLoach Moss and was born in Statesboro, Ga. She grew up in Chicago, IL and Savannah, GA. She graduated from Wesleyan College in Macon, GA with a Fine Arts degree; and, thereupon, she returned to Savannah where she taught art at her high school alma mater, Savannah High School. Betty had been selected by the Savannah Junior Chamber of Commerce upon her high school graduation as the most outstanding girl in 1950. At Wesleyan, she was a member of The Senate, a part of the College Government Association; a House President; Co-President of the Art Club; Art Editor for several publications; and a Senior Superlative. The 1954 yearbook summed-up Betty this way, "...we always feel that she is going somewhere, and we have no doubt that it will be far."

While teaching at Savannah High School, Betty met then-First Lieutenant Donald R. Swygert, a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers officer who was stationed with the Corps' Savannah District. They were introduced by Betty's uncle who was an attorney with the District. They were subsequently married at then-Hunter Air Force Base in Savannah.

Betty and Don first lived at Fort Benning, GA; then College Station, TX; Fort Belvoir, VA; Verdun, France; Troy, NY; West Point, NY; Mokuleia, HI; Quantico Marine Base, VA; New Cumberland Army Depot, PA; Carlisle, PA; and Alexandria, VA. Betty was especially active as a leader in the various women's chapel groups where they were stationed. She also was a member and frequent leader of community ladies' groups which always had community-service projects. Additionally, while they were stationed at West Point, NY, Betty taught Nursery School for two years. A number of her charges were later graduates of the United States Military Academy itself. She served a term as President of the Army Engineer Officers Wives Club and was otherwise often an officer of the same club and its successor, the Army Engineer Spouses Club.

She loved travelling both in the United States and abroad; and, during the early years following her husband's retirement, they were able to travel extensively to Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, often times re-visiting places they had lived and where her husband had served. She was a talented artist, using either oils or water colors, and painted beautiful scenes from places where they had lived in France and the United States. Unfortunately, the family has all too few of her paintings today.

Betty was a loving and caring mother who successfully nurtured her four children to adulthood, sometimes in the prolonged absence of their father who was on an unaccompanied military assignment or away at war.

Betty's and Don's happy marriage endured for almost 59 years, being terminated by Betty's death after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Colonel (USA, Ret.) Donald R. Swygert; two daughters, Susan L. Swygert of Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, and Carol L. Swygert of Cumberland, MD; two sons, Donald R. Swygert, Jr. (Lisa) of Mooresville, NC, and John Stephen Swygert of Cumberland, MD; four granddaughters and one grandson; a great-granddaughter and two great-grandsons; several nieces and a nephew; and a host of cousins. She was pre-deceased by her brother, John E. Moss.

A memorial service was held at the Belvoir Chapel, Fort Belvoir, VA on Saturday, May 17, at 2:30 p.m. Betty was interred at the West Point Cemetery at West Point, NY on May 30, 2014.

SEPTEMBER



Birthdays.....

September

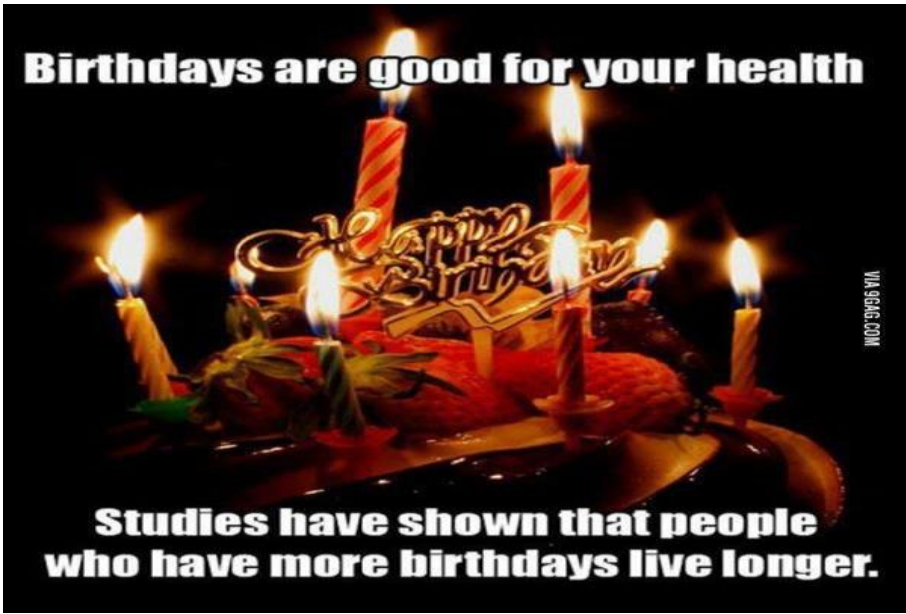
Maria Cahill	Sept. 2
Pat Williams	Sept. 2
Kimbel Treat	Sept. 3
Noah Burt	Sept. 3
Barb Comiso	Sept. 8
Felicia Geary	Sept. 14
Nancy Graves	Sept. 16
Betty Ann Akiyama	Sept. 19
Barbara Pavlick	Sept. 19
Elsie Mersereau	Sept. 20
Susan Sullivan	Sept. 22
Cheryl Gill	Sept. 28
Tonyi Pelham	Sept. 28

October

Giner Hopkins	Oct. 5
Jules Bigelow	Oct. 7
Martha Kem	Oct. 9
Vickie Brown	Oct. 13
Gene Villiva	Oct. 13
Michelle Funkhouser	Oct. 17
Laura Putnam	Oct. 18
Renee Bostick	Oct. 20
Judy Castro	Oct. 21
Dee Lee	Oct. 31



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS





The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from spouses of all U.S. Army Engineers and civilian employees of USACE and, with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who are associated with the Corps of Engineers.

2014-2015 AESC MEMBERSHIP

There are two options for submitting 2014-2015 membership forms and dues.

- 1. An electronic membership form with paypal on the AESC website**
- 2. Our traditional mail-in membership form**

We look forward to receiving many electronic memberships. As always, our AESC post office mailbox will be checked frequently for mailed memberships.



"LIKE" us on Facebook!

AESC 2014-2015 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 DeceasedSpouse'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, 2014 until June 30, 2015. Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2014 will be included in the 2014-2015 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

Join online at www.armyengineerspouses.com

The AESC mission is to keep our Army Engineer family connected. We value membership as a way of keeping Army Engineer friendships alive through member information in the Castle Directory. We welcome your active participation. Let a board member know if you would like to:

- write regular or occasional articles for the Castle Gram,
- volunteer your computer skills,
- host an AESC-sponsored activity or fund-raising event in your area,
- provide pictures of member weddings, births, retirement, or other events of interest to the Army Engineer family.

MEMBERSHIP



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