



Backchannels

Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area

February 2020



PRESIDENT'S PEN

Wow, did we have a spectacular January and start to 2020! We were blessed to have the opportunity to hear from two incredibly accomplished women and it was great to see everyone again after the holiday break.

Our January luncheon speaker was the remarkable Patty Collins. Patty shared her moving, extraordinary life story with us and was simply amazing. Thank you to our luncheon committee who knocked it out of the park again with the wonderful program, food, and decorations. Our volunteers, vendors, and the Patton Club are instrumental in adding to the success of our luncheons. A special note of thanks to our Ways and Means team of Karen Grady and Amie Hovatter for moving and setting up our Ways and Means items every month.

The Joint Armed Forces of Washington Luncheon (JAFOWL) is always the "not to be missed" event of the year and this year's JAFOWL was one of the best ever. Our guest speaker, Jennifer Griffin, was marvelous and inspirational. The Army once again had the highest number of attendees – there were over 80 of us. Thank you for being delightful representatives of our service, for singing the Army song loud and proud, and for lining up quickly and efficiently for our club photo. We hope you had a splendid time – we would love to hear your thoughts about the event. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of work to execute a gathering of this magnitude. Connie Semonite represented our club on the JAFOWL committee and did an outstanding job handling the arrangements, which included everything from coordinating with the Waterford, planning the menu, organizing the ambassadors, creating those beautiful centerpieces, and much more. I know you join me in saying how much we are grateful to and appreciate Connie for all her efforts. "Hooah" to our club ambassadors, Kathy Fox, Christie Kehoe, Kelly Kreis, Melissa Pederson, Ramona Smith, and our club photographer Cecilia Dyer.

Another event not to be missed is our February luncheon. The International Showcase is a favorite of many of our members. Our international friends are always marvelous and gracious about sharing their countries and customs with us. We are excited to share that we will have a few new and returning countries this year. Please join us on February 20 at the Spates Community Club.

Our parliamentarian, Jennifer Kiel, is seeking nominations for next year's executive board. If you are interested in a committee position, Jennifer will pass your name on to next year's president for consideration. Please think about sharing your talents with our club by serving on our board. Our club needs you to help continue its history and legacy. Many of our current board members will be leaving our area this summer. If you would like further information or have any questions about the club or any of the board positions please reach out to Jennifer, to me, or to the person currently serving in the position. Our emails are listed here in the Backchannels; we would be happy to answer your questions or provide additional information.

Lastly (but definitely not least), thank you to our fabulous newsletter editor Jackie Habel. Each addition of the Backchannels is a treasure, but this month's edition is one of my personal favorites. Jackie also creates our many, many club flyers. Thank you, Jackie, for all you do for ASCGWA!

Wishing everyone a happy February!

Michelle Funkhouser

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LUNCHEON DATES

2020

February 20
 March 19
 April 16
 May 21

BACKCHANNELS SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit an article, information about an upcoming club activity, movie or book review, restaurant recommendation, recipe, local event, or a must-see travel destination, please let me know! I would love your input!

All Backchannels submissions are due no later than the second Friday of each month.

Pictures from the monthly luncheon are due the following day on the third Friday of each month.

I can be reached at:
newsletter@armypousesclub.org

Fondly,
Jackie Habel
Editor



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ASCGWA 2019-2020

Honorary Presidents

Maria McConville
Alexandra Grinston
Leann Martin
Tracey Jones

Honorary Vice President
Advisor

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Michelle Funkhouser	president@armypousesclub.org
First Vice President	Kathy Fox	firstvp@armypousesclub.org
Second Vice President	Ramona Smith	secondvp@armypousesclub.org
Secretary	Open	secretary@armypousesclub.org
Treasurer	Laura Basye	treasurer@armypousesclub.org
Parliamentarian	Jennifer Kiel	parliamentarian@armypousesclub.org

STANDING COMMITTEES/SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Affinity Clubs	LaDonna Cavanaugh	affinityclubs@armypousesclub.org
Backchannels	Jackie Habel	newsletter@armypousesclub.org
Charitable Causes	Suzie Woodring	charitablecauses@armypousesclub.org
Fundraising	Holli Aspland	fundraising@armypousesclub.org
Historian	CC Dyer	historian@armypousesclub.org
Hospitality	Holly Scherer	hospitality@armypousesclub.org
International Liaison	Melissa Pederson	internationals@armypousesclub.org
JAFOWL	Margaret Lepak	jafowl@armypousesclub.org
Membership	Connie Semonite	membership@armypousesclub.org
	P.A. Mancini	
	Diane Martinez	
Military Support	Patty Barron	
Newcomers	Jill Vaniman	newcomers@armypousesclub.org
Publicity	Jackie Habel	publicity@armypousesclub.org
Social Media	Katie Wojtowicz	socialmedia@armypousesclub.org
Reservations	Kelly Kreis	reservations@armypousesclub.org
Scholarships	Pikkwan Boston	
	Kim Houston	scholarships@armypousesclub.org
Special Activities	Jill Vaniman	specialactivities@armypousesclub.org
Tours	Mary Alice Jakso	
	Kelli Reynoldson	tours@armypousesclub.org
Vendors	Christie Kehoe	vendors@armypousesclub.org
Volunteers	Maggie Hollinger	volunteer@armypousesclub.org
Ways & Means	Karen Grady	waysandmeans@armypousesclub.org
	Amie Hovatter	
Web	Pam Parker	admin@armypousesclub.org
Zip Code Groups	Jennifer Stepetic	zipcodegroups@armypousesclub.org

VOLUNTEER



We have a few positions open on our 2019-2020 ASCGWA board. If you are interested in volunteering for a position, and making a strong impact in the community while working on a great team, please contact our president, Michelle Funkhouser, or any of our board members. We will be happy to speak with you!

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Bible Study

The Living Word Bible Study meets every Monday at 10 am at the Memorial Post Chapel on Fort Myer, across from the PX.

Please contact Nancy Jackson at jacksonjn@verizon.net.

Book Club

A story is always better when shared with a group. This club will read a selected book and then meet to discuss the book.

Please contact LaDonna at affinityclubs@armypousesclub.org.

Bridge Groups

The Bridge Group meets the third Tuesday of every month at the Army Navy Country Club of Arlington. You must have knowledge of how to play.

Please contact Henriette Gordon at hmg1776@sbcglobal.net.

Flick Chicks Movie Group

This group meets up to enjoy a movie together, as select movies that are of interest to club members are released.

Please contact Ellen Pirog at mcatmny@verizon.net.

Great Decisions

Do you enjoy talking about current events and exploring the rationale of our foreign policy decisions? Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching a DVD, and meeting in a discussion group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. A National Opinion Ballot is compiled and presented to the Department of State, Congress, and the White House at the end of the year.

Please contact Jill at specialactivities@armypousesclub.org if you are interested in leading this group (guidance on how to run this group can be provided).

Happy Hour Group

Meet new friends and catch up with other members at Happy Hour gatherings throughout the year in the DC/Northern Virginia area.

Please contact Kim Farnsworth at jkfarns@comcast.net.

Tea Group

This group meets to enjoy tea at various establishments in the area.

Please contact Ellen Pirog at mcatmny@verizon.net.

Tours

Throughout the year, various group tours are scheduled. One of the most popular is the yearly New York City bus ride with tickets to the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes show.

Please contact Mary Alice Jakso or Kelli Reynoldson at tours@armypousesclub.org.

Walk Around Washington Group

Each month a walk is organized in and around the Washington, DC area.

Please contact Nina O'Shaughnessy at ninaspangos@gmail.com.

or Mary Pawlow at mlspawlow@aol.com

Zip Code Groups

Zip Code Groups meet in one another's homes, at local restaurants, or visit places of interest and are a perfect opportunity to meet your ASCGWA neighbors in a smaller setting.

Please contact Jennifer Stepetic at zipcodegroups@armypousesclub.org.

ZIP CODE GROUPS

Alexandria

LaDonna Cavanaugh
678-464-7470
cavanaugh@comcast.net

Annandale, Fairfax, & Fairfax Station

Mary Pawlow
703-764-9656
mlspawlow@aol.com

Arlington

Paige Kellogg
703-248-8313
Paigekell@aol.com

Burke

Jeanne Sander
703-426-2880
ebs17@verizon.net

Falls Church/Fort Myer/McLean

Lori Borgna-Strong
706-799-9308
borgnalori@gmail.com

Fort Belvoir

Fran Biggerstaff
973-997-8074
bignlittlestaff@gmail.com

Chantilly, Clifton, Centerville, Herndon and Beyond

Pat O'Neill
703-378-3624
pponeill6@aol.com

Prince William County and Beyond

Paula Ann Mancini
703-346-4468
pa.mancini@comcast.net

Springfield

Jennifer Stepetic
910-263-2063
stepetic@yahoo.com

Maryland-Howard County and Beyond

Marie T. Corbett
410-418-4934
mtcre@aol.com

Maryland-Montgomery and Beyond

Deidra Stubbs
803-447-8700
dleestubbs@aol.com

Washington D.C.

Mary Dulany
240-644-2467
medulany@msn.com





Our luncheons have it all: community service, games, vendors, great food, opportunity baskets, inspiration, and life-long friendship!



Happy Valentine's Day



We asked a few of our members to tell us how they met their spouses and their responses are listed below. Make sure you check out our club Facebook page each day from February 1-14 for photos that accompany these stories!

1. She wishes she could say they met at a church, but they met at a bar near Fort Knox, KY. She was with a friend who was celebrating her 30th birthday and he was at Fort Knox with the Royal Canadian Army for an exercise. She would not give him her phone number or address, but finally allowed him to have her email address.

2. He was stationed at Fort Carson, CO, but came to D.C. to visit friends and they met on Fort Myer through mutual friends who were part of the Honor Guard. They had a long distance relationship at first but took it to the next level when he returned home from a deployment.

3. They met through work. He was a clown, literally, at Upper Clements Amusement Park in Nova Scotia. She operated the roller coaster.

4. He started off as her escort! She worked for the bank on post in Heidelberg and he was the MP who showed up to escort her and the bank's money.

5. They met as cheerleaders at the University of North Dakota. He joined the squad because he had a crush on her friend, but then he met her and fell in love.

6. She went to a club in Asuncion, Paraguay, known to be frequented by Brazilians and Argentinians. He asked her, in Spanish, to dance. Being from Paraguay, she responded in Spanish and he could not understand. He was an American in country to train members of the Paraguay Armed Forces.

7. They met on eHarmony and drove 50 miles for their first date. He proposed on

the one year anniversary of their matching and married six months later at a winery in Oregon.

8. Her co-worker was married to his co-worker and they were introduced while working in Los Angeles, CA. They dated for two years and then married at sunset on a boat in Marina Del Ray.

9. They met at the Officers Club in Vicenza while she was visiting her college roommate. He invited himself on the rest of her European vacation and she brought him along to drive the van and carry the luggage. After she returned home, he sent her an airline ticket to come back.

10. She moved to Alaska, where he is from, for college. A friend thought they would be a good match and kept throwing them together. One day they ran into each other on a bike trail and he asked her to a movie. They married on the Mendenhall Glacier.

11. They met at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, VA, in an older singles group. They started as friends, who just met to talk, and then it evolved into more over the course of a few months and they married within nine months.

12. He was newly assigned to Nürnberg, Germany, where she is from. For his first time out, his co-workers decided to take him to the largest bar in town. He approached her and asked, "Sprechen Sie Englisch?" and she was confused why he would ask her, in Germany, if she spoke English. The bar was closing at 5 a.m. and he told her he would not leave until she gave him her phone number.

13. The University of Arizona is where

they met. Both were serving on a board of the largest student run carnival.

14. They initially met as high school classmates in New Jersey. He was a military brat and had newly transferred in from Korea. They didn't start dating until both were home on a college break.

15. She is from Panama and that was his first duty station as a new Signal Corps officer after OCS. They met on a blind date and discovered that they had a lot in common, such as being born just days apart and both had parents who were musicians. In June they will be married 49 years!

16. They met during Fasching in Seligenstadt, Germany. They danced one dance but then he moved on. Someone he worked with lived near her friend so he got her address and showed up at her front door.

17. They initially met in a bar but didn't connect until they had a chemistry class together at Duquesne University.

18. She was a Little Sister president and he was in a fraternity at a college in Kansas. They worked together but never dated until they met up again at ten year class reunion.

19. They met in a soda shop in 1952 in Troy, North Carolina. It was love at first sight and in July they will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary!

20. Both worked for their college student union at the University of Wisconsin Madison. He carried in the beer barrels and she served the beer.

1. Melissa Pederson **2.** Cecelia Dyer **3.** Kara Lang **4.** Monika Flom **5.** Jennifer Phillips **6.** Viviana Scrivener **7.** Mary Alice Jakso **8.** Catherine Melusen **9.** Jennifer Stepetic **10.** Kelli Reynoldson **11.** Chris Jones **12.** Ramona Smith **13.** Kim LaNeve **14.** Pikkwan Boston **15.** Elsa Francis **16.** Helgard Zebell **17.** Heidi Miller **18.** Linda Beougnier **19.** Joan Bills **20.** Margaret Lepak



23rd ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

“Building Bridges Across the World”

February 20, 2020

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

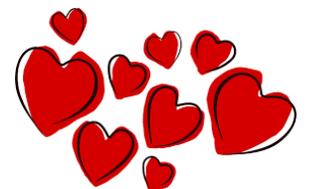
\$25

Spates Community Club
214 McNair Rd
Building 407
Fort Myer, VA 22211



Sending a warm thank you to our January luncheon volunteers. Your generosity in helping to make the day such a success means more to us than we can say!

Mary Pawlow
Sara Wade



CHARITABLE CAUSE

FEBRUARY 6, 2020

11:30 A.M.

**TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS**

**3033 WILSON BLVD
ARLINGTON, VA**



The Mission of the Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors (TAPS) is to provide comfort and support to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one in the Military Service. One way you can support TAPS is by handwriting cards to surviving family members, loved ones, co-workers, friends, and Battle Buddies. Volunteers are also needed to prepare note cards to be sent out. In addition to the cards, you can write or paint encouraging messages on ornaments. With your assistance, you will be letting survivors know that their service members are always remembered and that TAPS supports them.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Suzie Woodring at charitablecauses@armypousesclub.org.



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Is there someone that needs a little cheer, a get well wish, a condolence, or a congratulations? If you know of a member in need, please let us know.

Email the member's name, address, and the type of card that should be sent to Michelle at president@armyspousesclub.org.



The Army Spouses' Club of the Greater Washington Area (ASCGWA) is a non-profit organization seeking to enhance the quality of life of its members and the Military District of Washington community at large.

We offer friendship, monthly luncheons, special activities and many volunteer opportunities. Additionally, there are zip code groups to make it easier to connect to the military spouses who live near you. Our volunteers organize fun activities and share information about unique opportunities available in the Washington, D.C. area.



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Wishing the happiest of birthdays to our members with a February birthday!

February 1 - Jennifer McCarthy | February 2 - Dana Pollard | February 4 - Patricia Jarrige, Deborah Kalisz Wehr & Katie Wojtowicz | February 5 - Becky Clark & Anne Pede | February 6 - Sharise Spellmon & Susan Wright | February 7 - Lorna Malooley | February 9 - Anne Barr, Anne Borcharding & Traci Calvert | February 10 - Charleen Kennedy | February 18 - Kathleen Harrison | February 14 - Lori Metheny | February 15 - Beatrice Barnwell | February 17 - Luz Selenia Fratello & Mary Lou Henderson | February 18 - Kimberly LaNeve | February 19 - Mary Gauvin & Karen Jaedicke | February 21 - Jennifer Stepetic | February 22 - Kelly Kreis & Jane Pafenberg | February 24 - Julie Tegtmeier | February 25 - Wadad Alnaamani | February 26 - Aysegul Ike & Erica Thietten | February 27 - Michelle Zuniga



ASCGWA 2020 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Each year ASCGWA awards merit-based scholarships to high school graduating seniors, college students, and military spouses living in the National Capital Region. In 2019 we distributed \$14,000 in scholarships to 12 worthy students.

Our 2020 scholarship application period will be open January 30 until March 15, 2020. Scholarships are awarded in three categories: High School Senior, College Student, and Member/Spouse. Application forms and eligibility requirements can be found on our ASCGWA website.

To learn more about the ASCGWA Scholarship Program, please contact Kim or Pikkwan at scholarships@armyspousesclub.org.

calling all
Vendors

Sign up. Show up. Sell.

We would like to thank the following vendors who participated in our luncheons:

December vendors - Marcelle Fozard (American Roadtrip Pillows) | Liz Hutcheson (Fast Snail Greetings and Design) | Shannon Kicza (ColorStreet) | Jennifer Kluge (The Spicy Spouse, LLC) | Mary Wargel (Family Tree Gifts)

January vendors - Patti Dreyer (Initial Outfitters) | Catherine Melusen (Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski) | Viviana Scrivner (VS Candles)

Want to sell your creative work? Know a great vendor you'd like to see at a luncheon? Please contact Christie Kehoe, Vendor Chair, at vendors@armyspousesclub.org.



We love our volunteers and are always grateful for any extra help our members are able to give us. We can always use volunteers before, during, and after our luncheons. If you are able to lend a hand at one of our club tables (Fundraising, Special Activities, Hospitality, or Ways and Means) or at our photo booth, just let us know!

Our club uses Sign Up Genius to coordinate our volunteer needs. Please visit our club's web page to view the online sign up sheet. Simply click on the **Sign Up Genius** link at the bottom of our club's home page, or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Maggie Hollinger, at volunteer@armyspousesclub.org.

MEMBERSHIP

We are always thrilled to welcome new members to our club, regardless of the time of the year. Membership information can be found on our web page or by contacting Diane or P.A. at membership@armyspousesclub.org. Our membership directory has been printed and there is a blank page at the back where new members can be written in. Any new member who joins our club after the directory was printed will be listed in Backchannels. Please look for "new member" ribbons on name tags at our monthly luncheons and take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome our newest members.

Yasmin Ahmed
yasmindija@yahoo.com
202-704-4655
6030 Katelyn Court
Alexandria, VA 22310

Claire Cuccio
claire.kuwait@gmail.com
703-861-3789
5282 Navaho Drive
Alexandria, VA 22312

Sondra Horst
sondrahorst@gmail.com
813-385-1940
7926 Oak Hollow Lane
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Judith Browne
dbrowne1@cox.net
Primary 703-503-0227
Cell 703-303-1797
9780 Katharines Drive
Burke, VA 22015

Courtney Dock
Courtneyadock@gmail.com
425-328-0218
2026 S Monroe Street
Arlington VA 22204
Burke, VA 22015

Lauren Williams
lauren.bristow@gmail.com
785-550-0090
5661 8th Road N
Arlington, VA 222-5

ADVERTISING

Are you looking for an opportunity to advertise your business? Showcase your company with an advertisement in the ASCGWA monthly newsletter and on our web page. We have four options to suit your advertising needs.

For more information, please contact newsletter@armyspousesclub.org.

\$40 package: 2" x 3.5" ad in the newsletter and on the web page with customer-provided graphics (October - May & a summer issue).

\$25 package: 2" x 3.5" ad in the newsletter and on the web page with customer-provided graphics (October - January or February - May).

\$60 package: 2" x 3.5" ad in the newsletter and on the web page includes design and graphics provided by ASCGWA (October - May & a summer issue).

\$35 package: 2" x 3.5" ad in the newsletter and on the web page includes design and graphics provided by ASCGWA (October - January or February - May).



ASCGWA Book Club

Dates and Books

February 7

American Dirt

March 13

The Weight of Silence

April 17

Where the Crawdads Sing

For additional formation, contact
Debbie Gillum at dgillum8@gmail.com



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

National Geographic Museum

1145 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20036

February 21, 2020

10:00 a.m.

\$13

Your visit will begin with guided tours of the *Becoming Jane: the Evolution of Dr. Jane Goodall* and *Women: a Century of Change* exhibits, and will last about an hour. At the conclusion of the tours you are welcome to go back through the exhibits to explore more on your own. Detailed exhibit information can be found on the museum's web page at <https://www.nationalgeographic.org>.

Please contact Mary Alice or Kelli at tours@armyspousesclub.org for additional information.





TEA GROUP

There are two Tea Group events scheduled so far for this spring. Look for upcoming emails on how to register for these teas on the club web page. We hope you will join us for these spring events.

Please contact Ellen Pirog at mcatmny@verizon.net for additional group information.

Thursday, February 27, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Talk and Tea at the Clifton Cafe

7144 Main Street, Clifton VA 20124

Cost: \$40.00

Maximum number: 30

Enjoy a presentation on the historic town of Clifton, established in 1868, while enjoying a High Tea of sandwiches, scones and sweets at the Clifton Cafe.

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Tour 11:30 a.m. | Tea 1:15 p.m.

Hillwood Estate and Museum

4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Cost: \$45.00 for tour and tea | \$30.00 for tea only

Maximum number: 30

Join us for a tour of the Hillwood Museum, the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post, followed by tea in the Merriweather Café.



Winks Photo Booth
 Owner: Chris Agbalog (Army Veteran)
 Instagram: @WinksPhotoBooth
 Facebook: WinksPhotoBoothDMV
 Email: winksphoto booth@gmail.com
 Cell: (808) 398-6066

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 Retirements | Celebrations

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 contact form for \$100 any package

Out and About

One of the many benefits of living in this area is the plethora of activities the VA, MD, and DC area has to offer. Each month we will spotlight one event that catches our eye! Get out and enjoy the day!

Historic Georgetown Tour

February 16, 2020

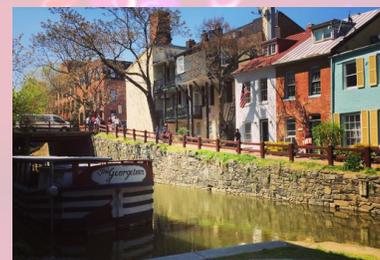
10 a.m.

Adults \$35, Children \$20

Established fifty years before Washington DC, Georgetown began as a gritty port city on the banks of the Potomac River, described by Abigail Adams as a "dirty little hole." Despite its modest start, Georgetown is now home to palatial mansions, elegant cemeteries, stately churches, and a world class University. Join DC Design Tours to explore the highlights and secrets of DC's most exclusive neighborhood, discussing architecture, history, scandal, and more. By the end of the tour, we'll see Georgetown's full transformation in this rags to riches tale. Tour lasts approximately 2- 2.5 hours.

Additional information and tour tickets can be found at:

<https://www.dcdesigntours.com>



First Person

Monica Boone



Monica and Lew on the day of their first date

Back in 1990, I was a reporter for a Raleigh-Durham television station, covering the Gulf War for ABC. I flew over with the troops, in December 1990, and went from camp to camp covering stories that would be of local and national interest. On one such day, I was assigned to work with an army captain as my public affairs escort. As we met that first morning, I had already carefully listed story ideas on my legal pad that I wanted to tackle. These weren't light stories. Among them, information someone

had given me was that hundreds, if not thousands of caskets had been unloaded on a flight line in preparation for the upcoming standoff with Iraqi troops.

As I proceeded to read off my story ideas to my military escort, one by one he rejected my ideas. Instead, he listed off his ideas for viable stories that he insisted we work on. After a lot of back and forth, the military Public Affairs Officer won, but his ideas actually turned out to be great, very newsworthy stories.

Months after the Gulf War ended and troops had returned home, I encountered that young captain a few times in my work with Fort Bragg Public Affairs. One day, I finally got up the nerve to ask if he wanted to go out for a drink over the weekend. This was very much out of my character, but we had struck up some great conversations in the desert during our few days together. He seemed like a nice, decent guy. On the phone, he accepted my offer but said he would have to work earlier that day and could meet me later. I told him I had to work too, and we agreed to meet later in the evening. As it turned out, I was covering an event at Pope Air Force Base that weekend, and much to my surprise, my military escort for the event turned out to be the young captain – neither of us had any idea we would be working together again. The photo you see was taken by one of my viewers who saw me out at Pope that day, and unknowingly, captured me and my military escort the day of our first date!

Years later, he confessed that he thought that first date was my attempt to dig a story out of him, but in truth, I found great company with this intelligent young man, who like myself, was the child of a military officer. We could relate to military life, and very unpredictable careers. A year later, I married Lew Boone.

Today, almost 28 years later, we have two sons, Braxton, 21, a junior at Auburn University, and Griffin, 18, a high school senior. They are our greatest accomplishments in our story.

Over the years, I always cringed whenever Lew or I was introduced at a change of command or military event and it was announced "and they met in the Persian Gulf War" because there was no love in the desert, as I always say. But as our minister said at our wedding, out of war can come great things and I'm blessed that our life together is one of those great things.

Do you have an interesting story or photo relating to one of your military posts or a job you have held? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jackie at newsletter@armyspousesclub.org



JAFOWL 2020



Community News



Operation Deploy Your Dress (ODYD) needs your help!!!

ODYD is a military spouse founded, all volunteer run non-profit. We collect and distribute gently used and new formal attire in an effort to offset the cost of military balls and other formal events. Every year, ODYD holds a "pop-up" style distribution event at the AUSA headquarters in Arlington to support the many military families in the NOVA/NCR. We "deploy" about 500 dresses in one day and we need volunteers to help.

Volunteer opportunities include drop off site/donation collecting, being part of the event planning committee, and event day execution. If you're interested in participating in a REALLY fun and rewarding event, please contact Melissa Pederson at (703) 350-5549. We have volunteer opportunities for all time/commitment availability.



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Our February SOWC event is on February 4th, 11:15 a.m., at Clydes in the Mark Center, Alexandria. The guest speaker is Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., an archives specialist with the Archives Center, National Museum of American History. We would love you to join us. If you are interested in joining us, please call Barbara at (571) 261-2540 and she will assist you in your making a reservation.



The Burke Zip Code Group met for lunch at Chloez Cafe in Fairfax Station.



The Springfield Zip Code Group's January White Elephant brunch.



The Prince William and Beyond Zip Code Group enjoyed lunch at Red Robin, followed by a White Elephant gift exchange and the annual recording of their New Year resolutions.

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The Happy Hour Group meeting at Pamplona in Arlington.