

EXPLORERS CLUB WASHINGTON GROUP (ECWG)
Annual Report for calendar year 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2017
Prepared by Michael Wyrick, MN08 - Vice-Chair ECWG

Our annual election meeting was held during our black-tie reception and dinner at the Cosmos Club on December 9, 2017.

2017 ECWG Board Officers

Chair: Lonnie Schorer, MN98
Vice Chair: Michael Wyrick, MN08
Secretary: Bill Runyon, MN01
Treasurer: Bruce Blanchard, MED78
Program Director: Michael Max, FN05
Membership Director: Deborah Bell, FN14
Immediate Past Chair: Jack Williams, FN03

2018 ECWG Board Officers

Chair: Lonnie Schorer, MN98
Vice Chair: Bill Runyon, MN01
Secretary: John Maclean, FN03
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Program Director: Michael Max, FN05
Membership Director: Deborah Bell, FN14
Immediate Past Chair: Jack Williams, FN03

2017 Standing Committee Chairs

Program Committee: Michael Max, FN05
Membership (and Outreach) Committee: Deborah Bell, FN14
Grants Committee: Polly Penhale, FN01
Public Relations and Web Editor: Craig Cook, FN01

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Public Relations and Web Editor: Craig Cook, FN01

Ad-hoc Nominating Committee 2017: Jack Williams, FN03

Ad-hoc Nominating Committee 2018: Jack Williams, FN03

ECWG Board Members (15):

Class of '17

Deborah Bell, FN14
Tony K. Meunier, FE84
Linda Perry, FN13

Class of '18

Caroline A. Baker, FN04
Marilyn E. Livingood, FN03
Susan Sawtelle, MN01

Class of '19

Eric Fies, MN16
Terry Garcia, MN13
Don Gerson, FE78

Betsy Stewart, MN05
Lee M. Talbot, MED57

Sarah K. Yeomans, FN07
Richard Vondrak, FN15
Charles Davidson, MN12*
Daniel Y. Gezari, FN07

Michael Manyak, MED92
Polly Penhale, FN91

Those listed in italics resigned their board positions due to work conflicts and insufficient time to devote to the board.

* Reclassified as a Term Member and therefore no longer eligible to serve on board as a voting member.

On December 19, 2017, the following slate was approved by the ECWG Board as the Class of 2020:

Ken Kambis, FN11
Betsy Stewart, MN05
Lee Talbot, MED57
Arnella Trent, MN10
Michael Wyrick, MN08

Board members meet at 11:30 a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, excluding July and August. On November 28, the ECWG Board voted to change its meeting dates to the second Wednesday of each month beginning January 2018. The ECWG Board meetings are held at two locations alternating monthly between the National Geographic Society headquarters and the offices of our chapter Secretary and incoming Vice Chair.

Minutes are on record for each Board meeting.

Membership:

Membership Director, Deborah Bell, FN14

In 2017, the ECWG chapter:

- Developed a welcome letter, signed by Membership and the Chair, and sent to all new ECWG members. The letter gives an overview of the chapter, the dues, the dinner meetings schedule, and the programs.
- Welcomed 14 new members.
Fellow-4, Member-1, Associate-4, Term-1, Friend-1, Student-3
- Received 10 inquiries/requests for applications.

Two new applications have been submitted to Headquarters for consideration:
Fellow-1, Member-1.

Total ECWG membership (2017-year-end): 271 members listed in the ECWG 2017 Member Directory.

5 were reported as deceased in 2017. 13 ECWG members relocated, resigned or lived outside the ECWG area, and 1 was dropped by ECWG for non-payment of dues.

Dinner/Luncheon with Speaker Meetings:

Program Committee Chair: Michael Max, FN05

- Saturday, 28 January 2017. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Craig Cook, FN01
Title: Exploring Central Pacific Islands, Atolls & Seamounts: Science in Paradise
Attendance: 81
- Saturday, 25 February 2017. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Steven Hatfill, FN12
Title: The Global Problem of Emerging Infectious Disease
Attendance: 71
- Thursday, 6 April 2016. Arlington National Cemetery. Organizer: Eric Fies, MN16
Title: Tribute to John Hershel Glenn, Jr. , HON62 *(See Addendum)*
Attendance: 35
- Saturday, 22 April 2017. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Gary Jobson
Title: Sailing across the World's Remote Regions
Attendance: 65
- Saturday, 20 May 2017. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Dr. Lew Toulmin, FN04
Title: The Exotic Life, Mysterious Disappearance, and Massive Search for Jim Thompson, the "Silk King of Thailand"
Attendance: 46
- Saturday, 15 July 2017. ECWG Annual Summer Picnic at US National Arboretum/National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. Organizer: Deborah Bell. Included a tour by Michael James, a curator of the Bonsai Collection.
Attendance: 25
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 29 September – 1 October, 2017 –ECWG Bombash, held in conjunction with the Explorers Club Philadelphia Chapter and centered around Independence Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Organizer: Arnella Trent. Highlights: Tours of Independence Hall, Constitution Center and Carpenters Hall and Museum of the American Revolution. Also included a dinner lecture by Dr. Robert Peck, FN83.
Attendance: 42

- Saturday, 21 October 2017. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Norm Cherkis, FN91
Title: How Deep is the Ocean and Why Do We Care
Attendance: 57
- Saturday, 18 November 2017. Cosmos Club. Speaker: John All, LF14
Title: Climate change and civil war on the Mt. Everest massif
Attendance: 80
- Saturday, 9 December 2017 Gala. Cosmos Club. Speaker: Dr. Lee Talbot, MED57
Title: A Fresh Look at the Art and Science of Motor Racing and its impact on Society
Attendance: 112

ECWG Exploration and Field Research Grants Program:

Grants Committee Chair: Polly Penhale, FN01

The Explorers Club Washington Group's Exploration and Field Research Grants Program was established to encourage young men and women to add to the body of knowledge of the earth, its people and the universe through exploration and field research.

The ECWG Student Grant Program is partially financed by those whose contributions are greater than the annual ECWG dues amount. 3 members donated \$500+. 9 members donated \$200+. 20 members contributed at least \$100.

Applications were reviewed by the Grants Committee, and grants were awarded to the following four graduate students enrolled in a college or university in the local area (Washington, DC; Virginia; Maryland). Grants total: \$12,400.

The awardees and their projects are:

- David S. De La Mater, III, The College of William and Mary, "Biogeographic variations in common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) functional and defensive traits, and their effect on monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) fitness", Virginia, \$3200 (MS)
- S. Augusta McCracken, Anthropology Department, University of Maryland, "Ancient latitudinal diversity gradients of insect herbivory: Exploration of the Cerro del Pueblo Formation", Mexico, \$ 2500 (Ph.D.)
- Enquye Wondimu Negash, Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology, George Washington University, "Modeling vegetation structure in modern ecosystems: Implications for hominin landscape dynamics", Rwanda, \$ 2500 (Ph.D.)
- Brandon Semel, Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech, Advancing Effective Lemur Conservation in the Face of Global Change, Madagascar, \$4200 (Ph.D.)

FY 2017 Financial Report

Reported by Bruce Blanchard, Treasurer

As stated in the ECWG Articles of Procedure:

ECWG was granted tax-exempt status under sec. 501 ©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in 1990, was incorporated in the State of Delaware, and received a certificate of authority to operate in the District of Columbia in 1994. It was granted tax-exempt status by the District in 1998.

The Short Form 990-EZ - Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax - for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, was filed with the Internal Revenue Service and Club headquarters by ECWG Treasurer Bruce Blanchard on November 14, 2017.

During fiscal year 2017, ending June 30, 2017, our net worth decreased by \$1,750. This is the second year that we have run at a deficit. Fortunately, we were able to make our routine transfer of at least \$7,000 from our operations account to our exploration (student grant) account. We awarded 4 grants, amounting to \$12,400 to graduate students in our area. Our grant account ended the year down \$4,909 for an end-of-year total of \$62,834. This last amount may seem large, but it reflects the current status of our grant endowment resulting from our FY2013 gala at the Portuguese Ambassador's residence and our FY2013 Lowell Thomas Awards Dinner (LTAD).

As of June 30, 2017, we had 210 dues payers out of a total membership of 271 (77%). Both the percentage and our membership are up slightly (199/267/75%).

FY2017 financial statements, including monthly program revenues, member contributions, and member attendance, are a matter of record.

Video Library: ECWG has 253 recorded dinner lectures on DVDs. The lectures, recorded from 17 October 1987 through 9 December 2017, have been transferred to DVDs. All DVDs were reviewed and verified by Board Members. The Board resolved to ensure that these DVDs are available for purchase. A complete list may be found on our chapter website: <http://explorersclubdc.org>.

Public Relations and Outreach Committee under Committee Chair Craig Cook FN01 in the last 12-months, the ECWG Website has been completely revamped with a brand new look and feel, and had all of its content reorganized and vetted. Additionally, several key content sections have been added, and online ticket purchasing for ECWG events via Eventbrite, has been implemented with the extensive assistance from the committee's Webmaster Michael Fitzgerald, AN16.

Work has begun on a membership database that will connect members having like exploration interests. Communications will be sent targeting similar interest members, making it easier for these members to connect. Nametags with

exploration fields have been developed to assist members and guests in finding other members with like interests during chapter events. The goal will be to make this information available prior to events so attendees can make contacts. The ultimate goal of this project is to increase attendance and ultimately retain members. While we make every effort to recruit new membership we believe that retaining dropouts is perhaps even more important.

We also began uploading biographies of all ECWG board members to the chapter website so that members may become better acquainted with those representing them on the board. Additionally, we added a Memoriam section on the website to honor those among us who have transcended to higher exploration.

Finally we are beginning the process of digitizing our aforementioned dinner lectures for website and media archival access. With more than 200 recordings, this is a large, tedious and lengthy undertaking.

ECWG Board Flag Expedition: In October 2017, ECWG member Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Eric Fies, MN16, along with an EC member from another chapter and team of combat-wounded military veterans, deployed to Kenya to work with the Mara Loita Community Rangers in order to gain a better understanding of the rangers' operational challenges, tactical limitations, and resourcing needs, and to advise and assist them to enhance their capabilities and effectiveness conducting anti-poaching patrol operations.

Additionally, the Board has made the decision to establish a tradition of recognizing at chapter dinner meetings, all expeditions conducted by chapter members upon their return.

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Honoring Our Fallen

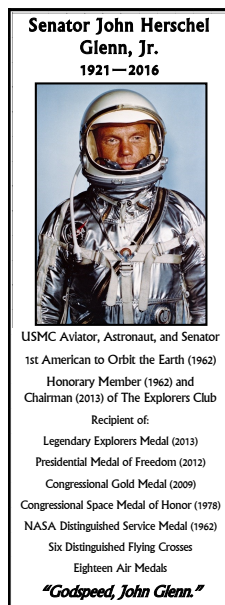
On April 6, 2017 at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), a grateful nation laid to rest one of our most profound heroes, Senator John Herschel Glenn, Jr. HON'62. As the skies wept and solemn rains fell, The Explorers Club Washington Group (ECWG) represented The Club in honoring this great hero and other legendary explorers interred in our nation's most hallowed ground. In attendance were President Ted Janulis MR'95 and Barbara Janulis, Vice-President of Chapters Bob Atwater LF'05, Executive Director Will Roseman MR'07, five former ECWG Chapter Chairs: Don Gerson FE'78, Jane Washburn Robinson FE'90, Alan Lukens ME'78, Jay Kaplan MN'01, and Jack Williams FN'03, as well as ECWG Board Members: Debbie Bell FN'14, Bruce Blanchard MED'78, Marilyn Livingood FN'03, Michael Max FN'05, Bill Runyon MN'01, Arnella Trent MN'16, Michael Wyrick MN'08, and ECWG members: Kellie Gerardi MR'13, Ken Kambis FN'11, Richard Vondrak FN'15, and guests.

Our day of remembrance began appropriately at the statue of Rear Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd, Jr., standing resolute on historic Arlington Memorial Avenue, the "Avenue of Heroes". The Avenue and Memorial Bridge serve as the ceremonial entrance to Washington, D.C. and symbolically link North and South between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial.

Lead by ECWG Chair Lonnie Schorer MN'98 and retired U.S.

Army Command Sergeant Major Eric Fies MN'16, the delegation proceeded by bus along the winding roadways of the 152-year-old, 624-acre cemetery to one of ANC's oldest sections, just below the Kennedy Gravesites. There, ANC Historian Christopher Warren provided insight into the lives and achievements of the first set of explorers to be visited and honored: Aviators, Arctic Explorers, and Explorers Club Medalists Rear Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd, Jr. and Colonel Bernt Balchen, and famed Antarctic Explorers Captain Finn and Jackie Ronne.

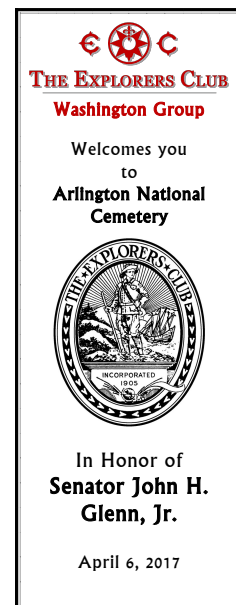
Equipped with umbrellas, the delegation navigated the headstones and wet grass to stand before the marble and granite reminders of our honored fallen. At each grave, designees placed a single white rose and small TEC Flag to show our respect and mark our visit. Despite the downpour, explorers and guests marveled at the accomplishments inscribed in timeless honor to our inspirational brothers and sister of discovery.



Schedule of Events

- 0900 Cemetery Tour—
Visit Notable Explorers
- 1030 Honor Senator Glenn
- 1130—1230 Lunch
- 1300 Meet the Tomb Sentinels
- 1330 Changing of the Guard
- 1345 Wreath-laying
- 1400 Memorial Display Room
Tour
- 1500 Events Conclude

*Thank you for visiting our
Nation's Most Sacred Shrine*



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Momentarily shaking off the rain, the delegation boarded the bus and proceeded to the oldest section of ANC nearest the former Custis-Lee Mansion to visit the grave of one of our Club's founding fathers, Major General Adolphus Greely. An Arctic Explorer and Explorers Club Medalist, Major General Greely served as the first President of TEC from 1905-1906. A short walk later and just past Mrs. Robert E. Lee's garden, Brigadier General David Legge Brainard lies in eternal slumber. The famed Arctic Explorer and Explorers Club Medalist was a Charter Member of TEC and served as the fourth President of TEC from 1912-1913.

The next stop on this expedition through time was on the southern border of ANC nearest the U.S. Air Force Memorial and overlooking the Pentagon. Respectfully pausing as a horse drawn caisson carrying the flag-draped casket of yet another hero passed the foggy windows of the bus, the delegation made its way to Section 8 and the graves of Arctic Explorers Matthew Alexander Henson and Admiral Robert Edwin Peary, Sr. Matthew Henson was the first African-American Arctic Explorer, adventuring beside Admiral Peary for nearly 23 years, and he became TEC's first African-American Honorary Member in 1948. Admiral Peary received The Explorers Club Medal in 1914 and served as the third and fifth TEC President.

After honoring our famed Arctic duo, the delegation made its way to neighboring Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, home of the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment, known as "The Old Guard", and to Patton Hall, for a delicious lunch in this former Army Officers' Club. There, the esteemed Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, former astronaut, TEC Medalist, and recently designated TEC Honorary Chair, joined the delegation. Dr. Sullivan, a close friend of Senator Glenn, attended the funeral service at the invitation of the Glenn Family.

Now provisioned to continue the expedition into the afternoon, the explorers made their way to ANC's Memorial Amphitheater. Joined again by ANC Historian Christopher Warren and led into the Memorial Display Room, just yards away from the incredible Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the group received a private talk by the Sergeant of the Guard for the venerated Tomb Sentinels. These dedicated U.S. Army Infantrymen protect the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 24-hours a day and 365-days a year, preventing anyone uninvited from approaching the Tomb Monument. At precisely 1330, the explorers stood silently to witness the Changing of the Guard, a ceremony occurring every 30 minutes around the clock whereby the on duty Tomb Sentinel is relieved by the oncoming Sentinel, all officiated by the Relief Commander.

Immediately following this time-honored event, the Relief Commander marched rigidly up the wide marble stairs from the Tomb Plaza and into the Memorial Display Room where TEC President Ted Janulis, Honorary Chair Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, TEC Treasurer Bruce Blanchard, and ECWG Chair Lonnie Schorer waited silently to meet him. They received instructions on the conduct of the wreath-laying ceremony about to occur as the weather subsided outside.

At 1345, the sky opened, storm winds howled, and torrential rains fell as our respected representatives proceeded with military precision down the stairs to the Tomb Plaza escorted by the Relief Commander. Unbeknownst to all there, an EF-0 tornado with winds between 60 and 70 mph swept through Arlington, Virginia and into D.C., damaging cherry trees along the Tidal Basin on its four-and-a-half mile path. Despite the tempest, on cue, and assisted by the Sentinel,

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our President and Honorary Chair stepped forward and stood before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier placing a beautiful floral wreath where Heads of States often do. The fragrant wreath, made of red, white, and blue carnations laid in the diagonal pattern of the TEC Flag and displaying an image of our flag as a centerpiece, had a ribbon placed across the upper portion that read “The Explorers Club” and another across the lower portion that read “Godspeed, Explorers!” Once the wreath was placed, all in attendance stood absolutely still and silent as an Army Bugler sounded Taps in honor of our fallen comrades. Then, the official party departed the Tomb Plaza and the entire delegation reentered the Memorial Display Room.



ANC Historian Christopher Warren provided the group with a private tour of the exhibits and talked about the history of the Memorial Amphitheater and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Once completed, the explorers gathered beneath the apse in the back of the amphitheater stage for a TEC Flag photograph, then made their way on foot to the monuments to the crews of the Space Shuttles Challenger and Columbia. Once respects were paid and flags and roses placed, the delegation walked to Senator Glenn’s gravesite in Section 35 near the Memorial Amphitheater. As if on cue, the clouds dissipated and the sun shone beautifully across the iconic marble headstones.

John Glenn epitomized the spirit of exploration and service to country: a U.S. Marine Corps Aviator, pioneering Astronaut, and U.S. Senator. A larger than life character and hero to many, he embodied the mission of The Explorers Club and lived a legendary life as an inspiration to generations. Senator Glenn served as the Honorary Chair of TEC since 2013, when he received the Legendary Explorers Medal. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Congressional Gold Medal, Congressional Space Medal of Honor, NASA Distinguished Service Medal, six Distinguished Flying Crosses, and eighteen Air Medals.

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The delegation warmly encircled his pristine and freshly covered grave, solemnly looking down upon the bouquets of flowers left their by his beloved Annie and their children. Dr. Sullivan provided a lovely eulogy, sharing fond memories of her personal interactions with the explorer, and then President Janulis and Jay Kaplan placed a TEC Flag and single white rose at the head of his grave. One by one, the explorers said their silent good-byes to one that will never truly leave us, turned and slowly walked away, completing the day's expedition at our Nation's Most Sacred Shrine.

Immediately following, an informal gathering was hosted by the ECWG in Washington, D.C. and many attended, reflecting on the day's events and toasting, "To Fallen Heroes and New Adventures!"

Flapping in the Spring breeze, soaked by the torrential rains, and bearing witness to the burial of a legend, flew a single U.S. Flag at half-staff on the Memorial Amphitheater's flagpole, only yards from Senator Glenn's gravesite. As the sun set and Retreat was sounded, the Tomb Sentinels lowered this flag, gently folding the red and white stripes into the blue, just as the light of day vanishes into the night. In the early morning hours of April 7th, Eric Fies retrieved this triangular blue field of stars from the Sentinels, to be presented to President Janulis and placed on display at TEC Headquarters in memorium of a legend. Godspeed, John Glenn!

- *CSM(R) Eric Fies, FRGS MN'16, eric.fies@explorenorthstar.com, with Lonnie Schorer MN'98*