

# Volunteers thanked for 'invaluable' contributions to community

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Laughter, hugs and words of thanks filled the Letort View Community Center April 27 as Carlisle Barracks honored volunteers for the nearly 50,000 hours of their time and talents donated in the last year.

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As part of the Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony a “check” was presented to Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp, Commandant, Army War College and Lt. Col. Greg Ank, Garrison Commander, in the amount of \$1,088,966 dollars, representing the value of the time donated by the 556 registered volunteers at the 17 agencies around the installation. Volunteers gave their time at agencies including the Army Heritage and Education Center, post Chapel, Army Community Services and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center.

“Today, we proudly recognize you all for your time, dedication and commitment to keeping our military families strong,” said Lt. Col. Greg Ank, Garrison Commander. You are a valuable resource that significantly extends the Army’s budget by millions of dollars annually – without this work, the Army mission would not be fulfilled.”

The event is held in conjunction with the Army’s Volunteer Appreciation Week (VAW) and highlights the volunteers' contributions and accomplishments.

The theme for this year’s event was Army Volunteers...Service for Life," and a series of bingo games were held, with prizes and door prizes awarded for attendees.

“We have traditionally held a very formal luncheon,” said Becky Myers, Army Community Services director. “After speaking with volunteers throughout the year, they liked the idea of something less formal and fun. We will still make this a special event and acknowledge their commitment and time they gave to the community.”

The event was hosted by Ank and Command Sgt. Maj. Nelson Maldonado, Installation CSM, who also served as guest bingo callers for the event.

“Your willingness to raise your hand and volunteer your valuable time, your resources, your boundless energy and your creativity to help the people, families, programs and activities here at Carlisle Barracks is a vital part of the positive and welcoming atmosphere of this community,” said Ank. “Volunteers, you make a difference every

day to this magical place and to the Army.

Our volunteers work is nothing short of exceptional. Thank you.”

Volunteers are essential to the Army's mission. Thousands of volunteers around the world devote their time regularly by serving the Army community. Volunteers are able to accomplish community work that would not have been done otherwise due to time constraints and financial limitations faced by the Army. The support of volunteers assists in accomplishing the Army's missions. The Army recognizes and appreciates the commitment, contributions and sacrifices of the volunteers.

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