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By Suzanne Reynolds

Lt. Col. Charles Unruh, Dunham Clinic, is the escort for a guest from Manor Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, at the 56th Annual Senior Citizens Holiday Social, Dec. 8, LVCC.

Dec. 8, 2011 -- Entertainment galore, delicious cookies, festive surroundings, and Elvis rocking and swaying could only mean one thing—the U.S. Army War College and Carlisle Barracks annual Senior Citizens Holiday Social.

The 56th Annual Senior Citizens Holiday Social was held on Thursday, Dec. 8 at the Letort View Community Center here. More than 140 senior citizens from Carlisle retirement centers attended the event, which depends on the dedication and work by hundreds of USAWC and Carlisle Barracks volunteers who bake cookies, serve as escorts, provide entertainment, and much more.



Master of Ceremony, **Col. Robert Bennett**, USAWC Class president, welcomed everyone to the 56th annual event. The event's host, **Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin**, USAWC Commandant, saluted the veterans in the audience, and asked everyone to remember the service members in harm's way and the families who will miss them this holiday season.

Songs by young kids and Irish dancing took top billing from guest **Marion Deibert** of Manor Care.

Entertainment featured the Post Chapel Praise Band, preschool children from the post's Moore Child Development Center, dancers from the Coyle School of Irish Dance, a Christmas poem from **Joshua Douglas Orsi**, Hanukkah songs from **Cantor Sharon Kunitz**, Temple Ohev Sholom, Harrisburg, and songs from **Emily Johnson, Rosalie Chesney and Grace Moore, Samantha Brainerd**, and Seminar 11 Holiday Choir, and of course, Elvis.

"I think it's a great event," said **Col. John Ulrich**, USAWC student. "I really enjoyed the entertainment and the ability to spend some time with our distinguished members of society."

"It's a great way to kick off the holiday season," said Ulrich.



For **Jim Quickel**, a resident at the Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, it was his first time at the event.

"It couldn't have been any better," he said. "I had a wonderful escort and I was treated wonderfully. "I don't think they can go out and buy better entertainment."



A WWII Marine veteran, Quickel was a code radio operator on Guam during the war and was with the 1st Marine Division in China after the war.

Col. Oliver Norrell, USAWC National Guard Advisor, greets his guest, Jim Quickel from the Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

It was also the first time at the event for Quickel's escort, **Col. Oliver Norrell**, USAWC National Guard advisor.

"He had a wonderful time," said Norrell. "It was very heartwarming, and I am glad I was able to give back," said Norrell. "I wish I would have done this sooner."

Turning 97 in February 2012, **Joe Dopsovic** thought the event was very interesting and particularly enjoyed the Irish dancers. The Chapel Pointe resident keeps himself young by keeping active, getting up early, and participating in all the activities at Chapel Pointe.

USAWC student **Lt. Col. Frederick Olson** escorted **Kathy Bashore** of Manor Care.

"I loved it," said Bashore. "I would come back next year if I could."

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