

## Barracks community celebrates high school, college graduating seniors

By Curt Keester, US Army Garrison 01 June 2020



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The Carlisle Barracks community delivered a socially distanced show of support to graduating seniors who had their course work, proms, and graduation ceremonies affected by COVID-19.

To celebrate their successful academic achievements, class of 2020 high school and college seniors of the Carlisle Barracks community paraded in cars and trucks around the installation, Saturday, May 30. The Barracks' Police and Fire Departments escorted them along the route, and, from the social distance of their driveways and homes, families, friends, and community members cheered as they passed.

Parents in the Carlisle Barracks community developed the plan for a parade and presented it to the commands of the Army War College and

U.S. Army Garrison Carlisle Barracks. "It was a couple of moms, sitting together, trying to brainstorm ways to celebrate the seniors who were missing out on graduation and all the other activities," said Melinda Stackle, an organizer of the event. "It was a group effort. We wanted to celebrate all their hard work."

"Anytime we can celebrate each other, it benefits and brings the community together, especially during these unprecedented times," she added.

The event began in the AAFES Exchange parking lot, made its way through The Meadows, and then worked its way around the installation ending at the Wheelock Bandstand with a parent hosted a socially distanced reception for the graduates.

"We didn't have a lot to celebrate toward the end of our year, like a senior trip, prom and those sorts of things," said Sophia Toti, Carlisle High School graduate. "I think it was important we got to go around what's been our home for this past year and see all of the support and show the younger kids this is something to work toward and be excited about in the future."

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation provided 1757 Bar & Grille gift certificates to the two best-decorated cars and the most spirited spectator. The best-decorated car winners were Sophia Toti and Savannah Hossfeld, and the most spirited spectator was Megan Spahr.

"It definitely boosts morale," said Savannah Hossfeld, Carlisle High School graduate. "This makes people happier. It made us graduates happier in the cars, and all the kids looked so excited to see it."

Participating seniors included: Ella Adams, Ashlynn Ashmore, Gabriel Buss, John Foster, Carter Gallahue, Savannah Hossfield, James Kem, Allison LeCleric, Owne Manley, Emma Novak, Abby Stackle, Kelly Sullivan and Sophia Totti.