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Dancing With The Stars:

Elk Wood Retirement Residents Wilma and Jake Star Enter Local Dance Contest

Grand Rapids, MI, May 13, 2008 - - Elk Wood Retirement Residents Wilma and Jake Star will compete in the 2008 Grand Rapids Ballroom Classic (G-Ball) on June 3 to celebrate their 55th Wedding Anniversary. At 85, the couple is the G-Ball's oldest competitors in the history of the dance contest.

Mr. and Mrs. Star have been dancing together for more than 55 years. The couple met at a dance 57 years ago and has kept dancing an important part of their life.

"Throughout our marriage dancing has been our special time together. I met this lovely lady on a dance floor, proposed on a dance floor and held her in my arms on our wedding day on a dance floor. So when she said she wanted to enter the contest this year, I thought, 'Why not? We still have some good moves to show those kids a thing or two'," said Jake Star.

The Stars have inspired other Elk Wood Retirement residents to take up dancing. They now teach an informal ballroom dance class at Elk Wood every other Wednesday morning. The happily married couple has taught a little more than dance. The class has even sparked a few new romances among the residents.

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“Elk Wood residents are close-knit groups who have fun together. The Stars’ dance class is one of the many great activities our residents enjoy. We’re really happy to have the Stars live at Elk Wood because they are so inspirational,” said James D. Calvin, CEO of Elk Wood Retirement Community.

See the Stars dance at the 2008 Grand Rapids Ballroom Dance Classic on June 3. The G-Ball will be held at the Cascade Country Club from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. The Stars will perform at 4:00 pm. For more details on the Stars and their G-Ball competition, please contact Adrienne Warber at 616-447-1691 or awarber@elkwoodretirement.com. Photos of the Stars dancing are available upon request.

About Elk Wood Retirement Community

Elk Wood Retirement Community, an award-winning senior living program, provides residence and care for 200 older adults. Elk Wood offers independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing in a comfortable and nurturing environment. Affiliated with Faith Lutheran Church, Elk Wood has served the West Michigan community for 50 years.

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