

# Military honours: Mayor salutes ex-servicemen

By AINE FITZGERALD

THE CONTRIBUTION made by the local branch of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women (ONE) to community life in Limerick has been marked at a mayoral reception in City Hall hosted by outgoing Mayor Joe Leddin.

Led by world champion piper Michael Egan, there was no mistaking the arrival of over 30 of the former troops at the Mayor's office.

"I knew it was you arriving," he joked to the group as the distinctive sounds of the Mr Egan's bagpipes echoed up along the stairway.

During the reception, one of Cllr Leddin's last official functions, the Mayor also presented the Patrick Sarsfield branch with a donation to help them in their future endeavours.

The donation and reception, he said, "were on behalf of all the people of the city in recognition of the tremendous work being done by the ex-servicemen, especially the care and help they

give to other ex-servicemen at the two homes for ex-servicemen on James Street."

For secretary of the branch Joe O'Mahony, the reception was a humbling experience: so-much-so that he was lost for words.

"This is the first time ever that we have been recognised at this level. It has been a wonderful evening and nothing was spared. I was humbled by it. Our chairman Leonard Hawkins said a few words. I could hardly even speak," he commented.

Others who were equally humbled by the experience were president of the branch, Michael Barry, along with his wife Mary who is chairperson of the social committee.

This was just one of a number of significant events which have taken place to honour and recognise the work being done by the Patrick Sarsfield branch of the ONE.

Just last month, the branch received a letter from President Mary McAleese sending her warm greetings to the group and wishing them every success in the



**All for ONE and ONE for all: Members of the ONE Patrick Sarsfield branch Simon McInerney, Mary Costello, Mary and Micheal Barry, Micheal Egan, Breda Broderick, Catherine Hayes, Mick Shanahan, Maura Canty and Tom Gleeson pictured as a mayoral reception was held in recognition of their charitable works for members Picture Brendan Gleeson**

future.

Also last month, a spe-

cial wreath-laying ceremony was held at the

monument to ex-servicemen on Pery Square,

which was followed by a mass at the Dominican

Church held in memory of deceased members.