

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



Welcome to July, 2013!



I want to welcome all the new members who have joined us since the last Buglers Post. Some of you came because of the feeling that surrounds Memorial Day. Some because Michael Boo's story in the DCI news and others watched as present members sounded Taps at so many local events. So, "Thank you!" We need you and so do the families of the fallen.

Please check the back of the Bugler's Post. We are in need of State Directors for a handful of states. If you have the time, we can use your help.

November 22nd marks the 50th anniversary of the burial of President John F. Kennedy. What BAA is trying to do is get members all across the land to find a great place in their own town and put together a Memorial program. It's also a tribute to the Bugler who sounded Taps that day, Mr. Keith Clark. Keith was one of the finest horn players at Arlington and sadly chipped the 6th note that bitterly cold day. I call that, "A Bugler's Tear". I am looking for a place in Chicago/Berwyn, Illinois to fire three rounds and sound Taps too. Please let us know if you are able to do an event and where.

Don't forget 9-11, POW-MIA Day, and Gold Star Mothers Day in September.

Lastly, *please*.... when you accept a mission, contact the requestor as soon as possible and tell them YOU are the Bugler.

Have a safe 4th of July!

Thomas J. Day

Bugler, Founder and President



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UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Bugles Across America Conference



In 2015, BAA will be celebrating it's 15th year! Bugles Across America will be hosting a BAA Conference which will be open to all members and will include special meetings for state and assistant directors.

When: End of May 2015

Where: We are looking at renting the Mayfair Banquet Facilities in Westchester, IL

We are currently looking for American sponsors to be presented in a hospitality room showing off their products. American made horns, flags, mouthpieces, etc. **If you have any suggestions, please email Tom Day** at TomDay@sbcglobal.net

The convention will include two trips:

- * To The Getzen Comapny in Elkhorn, WI, to see how horns are constructed
- * To Oakwood Cemetery in Chicago where 4000 Confederates are buried.

We are taking suggestions for seminar topics and speakers. **Please email Tom Day with your ideas of what you'd like to hear and learn about.** TomDay@sbcglobal.net

Seminars currently scheduled:

- * Care and upkeep of valved and valveless instruments
- * Military Funerals - How BAA members can take part. Flag folding, M1 rifle firing, prayer, and presenting the flag.

We are looking to have one of our music arrangers to make a special song or two that all who attend would learn ahead of time and we would then lead the Chicago Memorial Day Parade, perform a short performance prior to the Parade in the Daley Center, a Salute to Gold Star Families, and a mass playing of Taps.

Please do NOT make reservations yet. This is just to inform you that a conference is in the works. We are trying to get the best rates possible and to have a great weekend lineup of seminars you won't want to miss! With your ideas, we will have an amazing and memorable convention.



An Invitation To All BAA Members

North Charleston Pops Salute to Veterans - November 2nd, 2013

The newly formed, fully professional, orchestra in North Charleston, SC, the North Charleston Pops, cordially invites members of Bugles Across America to perform as guest artists with us to help celebrate Veteran's Day 2013 with a special concert entitled Military Salute. The concert is scheduled for November 2nd, 2013 @ 7:30 p.m. at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. Dress rehearsal will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participating buglers will perform Taps as a special part of the program with the North Charleston Pops accompanying. Our goal is to establish a new category with the Guinness World Record of the most number of buglers playing Taps in a concert hall with an orchestra. Application has been made to the Guinness organization. Imagine symphony orchestras all the world trying to break our record! What a tremendous tribute that would be to all the men and women who have and are giving all to serve their country. A great reminder of just how much Taps means to all of us.

A few words about the North Charleston Pops; this orchestra was formed in 2012 by trumpeter/Music Director Jeffrey Reed, 2011 Grammy Nominee flutist Tacy Edwards and trumpeter/former West Point Band member, Darrell Edwards, a proud member of Bugles Across America. Since North Charleston is the home of numerous military organizations and has a rich military history, the above founders thought it only fitting that each year's season of concerts begin with some form of Military Salute. The 2012 concert attracted over 1,100 attendees and was well received.

The upcoming 2013 concert will again include patriotic selections and a guest artist, Steve Lippia who has a voice that sounds just like Frank Sinatra. Steve will be singing all your favorite Sinatra tunes that are well known by many. Add together all the above with another special video tribute and hundreds of buglers performing Taps with the orchestra and it be a fitting and well-deserved tribute to our veterans!

North Charleston, SC is the fastest growing city in SC; boasting the largest retail footprint in the state, over 8,000 reasonably-priced hotel rooms, nearby plantations and numerous beaches, plus some of the best restaurants in the country. Recently featured in the travel section of the New York Times, it also is the home of Boeing and their Dreamliner. The weather in November will be in the mid 70's; perfect for golfing, visiting historic places or the H.L. Hunley Museum. For more information about this special invitation please contact Darrell Edwards at darrellgedwards@bellsouth.net or www.NorthCharlestonPops.com.

Vintage Band Festival

Northfield, Minnesota

August 1- 4, 2013

4 days – 30 Bands – 100 Concerts

The [Vintage Band Festival](#) is an exciting 4-day international music event taking place August 1-4, 2013, celebrating the music and the instruments of past eras. The VBF is held in Northfield, Minnesota, the historic, charming river town known for its colleges, art, pubs, restaurants, and music.



The performances take place in many outdoor locations all around Northfield. In case of inclement weather, alternate indoor sites will be announced.

Festival events are presented free of charge. Festival goers, however, are strongly encouraged to make donations to help us with expenses. In exchange, they receive an official cloisonné designer pin, access to the dance and vaudeville show, and our gratitude.

Many attendees bring a bicycle and a folding chair. This is the most historically authentic way to get around to the concert sites. A sun umbrella is also useful.

Some of the bands are dressed in 19th Century clothing and some festival goers do the same. Check out the historic horn exhibit at the Northfield Historical Society.

Northfield has fantastic food available from the numerous restaurants and coffee shops. Most of the pubs and restaurants will have live vintage band music in the evenings.

There will be a Battle of the Bands and a Massed Concert following.

Vintage "Base ball", Vintage Dancing, Vaudeville shows and even some silent movies

There are many hotels, motels, and B&Bs in Northfield and nearby communities.

Know of an event?

Submit events to BAA.JDay@gmail.com for inclusion into the next newsletter. The Bugler's Post is published every other month so please give plenty of time for the event's notice. Please have event information in the format and worded as you'd like to be published.

A Bugler's Tear

We are asking all BAA members to start thinking about a Memorial Event in their own town (there are Veteran's Memorials all over the USA) where you can gather friends and many local horn players for a sounding of Taps on November 22nd. This is to remember the tragic death of our 35th President, John F Kennedy who was assassinated on that date fifty years ago.

T A P S...our meaning... Thank A Persons Service

At JFK's funeral honors, Army bugler Keith Clark sounded Taps and chipped the 6th note. Keith was perhaps one of the finest military buglers of all time. There are times when any one of us may chip a note, and that is what we call, "A Buglers Tear".

During our 13-year history we have lost Buglers who are BAA members. Very recently we have remembered and honored another one of our own; Florida State Director, John Murphy. John served in the Army and as a volunteer with BAA, sounding Taps for thousands of deserving veterans. In these 13 years we have buried over 200,000 Veterans of many wars, and we have lost over 6,500 young men and women who would have been our future leaders.

Let us make November 22nd, 2013 a day the country will remember and mark that date as **"A Bugler's Tear"**

Please watch for an announcement for what we are calling The BAA Oscar. It's a trophy about 8 inches high with the golden image of a Bugler on a wood stand. The front will be inscribed with "Bugles Across America, Buglers Hall of Fame", and on the back, "In memory of John P. Murphy Jr.". This award will be given to each BAA bugler who develops a program of commemoration and honor in their town for November 22, 2013.



I hope we can make this as big as the "Spirit of 45". Now let's get many programs going all across the country. You put it together in your town or area. The end result is that YOU the Bugler will be credited with establishing a significant community event and become known as, **The Bugler** of Your Town.

Thank you,
Tom Day

State Director Spotlight: Hawaii

State Director: Johnny Sanchez

When I first started learning how to play the trumpet, my dad, being a former Marine Corps Vietnam Era Veteran and a California Army National Guard Recruiter, wanted me to start learning bugle calls. At the age of 10, my first song I ever memorized was Taps! Once I could play that as well as a ten year old could, my dad also asked me to learn Reveille,

Charge, The Marine Corps Hymn, The Army Song and The Star Spangled Banner. These songs were the foundation of honing my musical ability, and learning them enabled me to develop my embouchure faster than most kids my age. While in high school, my dad also had me sounding Taps for a few fallen Veterans' services, so I was being groomed to do it at a young age. Above all that, instilled in me was a great sense of pride in our nation and a strong desire to serve in the Armed Forces.



In 1991, after high school graduation, I enlisted in the California Army National Guard as a Medical Equipment Repairer and went to Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in September 1992. After graduation from Basic, I attended AIT at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado. While in AIT, I auditioned to become the ceremonial bugler for the Commandant of the School and performed various memorial ceremonies and functions. After AIT, I attended unit drills from December 1993 to February 1994.

At that time, I decided that the National Guard was not enough of a commitment to my country, so I decided to enter active duty and had to reclassify. In March of 1994, I went to another AIT at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and changed my MOS to Armament Repairer. From there, I was assigned to Fort Hood, TX, where I met and married my wife, Veronica. We have two boys, ages 14 and 17 and not working on any additions! I was also sent to Korea, Fort Carson, Colorado, Korea again and then Fort Irwin, California.

At Fort Irwin in 2002, I learned how sobering it was to present the departed Veteran's Flag to the surviving family members and developed a deeper sense of reverence for it. As a burial

detail NCOIC, I expected nothing less than perfection from the Soldiers I was put in charge of, because our fallen comrades deserved the best. At this time, I also noticed that the Army was giving out a CD player and a prerecorded CD for the playing of Taps. I went to my command, and demanded that my regiment use me to perform Taps for all future burial tasks, because I would not want a prerecorded CD playing at my funeral, and ALL Veterans deserve the best possible remembrance of their service! They agreed, and I was sent on numerous details afterwards. My bugle calling skills were also put to use at Ft Irwin when I was assigned to the Ceremonial Horse Detachment.

In 2003 I was moved to Fort Richardson, Alaska. My interest in BAA came in 2004 from a chance meeting I had with Gene Horner. I was assigned as an NCOIC for a burial detail, and Gene was there to perform the sounding of Taps. We had a brief conversation and he gave me his card with his BAA info. I was always interested in joining, but my military commitments prevented me from actively participating. I deployed to Iraq from August 2005 to December 2006. A few of our Soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice there, and it was an emotionally trying time for all of us. I didn't sound Taps there, because I left my horn back in Alaska.

In February 2007 we moved to Aberdeen Proving Ground and I became an AIT Instructor. While there, I saw that my job skills were a highly sought after commodity in the Warrant Officer ranks, so I submitted my packet and was accepted. I graduated from the Warrant Officer Candidate Course in October 2009, which my dad attended. It meant a lot to me that he was there, because it was the first time he was able attend any function involving me and he was there to pin a new rank on me. I remember that he wore sunglasses because I think he wanted to hide the tears of joy that he felt when he put the WO1 rank on my shoulders. At that time, I didn't know that it would be the last military function he would attend on my behalf. I was assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas after that.

The absolute hardest sounding of Taps for me occurred on October 8th, 2010. It was my dad's burial service and I was terrified that I would mess it up! He always insisted that I be the one to play for his funeral, so I could not, in good conscience, ignore his request. When the Marine Corps detail tipped the flag, cueing me to start playing, I froze for a couple seconds. In that moment, I could hear my dad's voice telling me that this was the moment he wanted me to be ready for. The reason he pushed me so hard to become a great bugler. It was for him, and so I closed my eyes and played the song without a hitch or tear. After the ceremony, the funeral director came and told me that he had never heard a more perfect rendition.

After the burial, I told myself that I could never play another funeral. The problem with making this kind of promise is that I was denying other service members the honor. My uncle

asked me to play at his funeral too, and I agreed. He passed away 5 months after my dad and again I performed another loved one's service. I did not sound Taps again until my phone audition with Larry Wiseman on 28 May, 2013.

This past Memorial Day, I was watching the news, and I saw a bugler sounding Taps at a memorial service. It reminded me of the honorable service of fallen service members that I knew of, and especially my dad. I remembered my encounter with Gene, so I googled Bugles Across America, and registered. Larry Wiseman called me back and asked to listen to me sound Taps. I was a little nervous because I hadn't played consistently for three years. And I was lucky that day, because my son didn't take my mouthpiece to school with him! After I played, Larry asked me to become the State Director for Hawaii because no one was currently filling the role. After a couple days thinking on it, I accepted.

Currently, I am stationed in Hawaii at Schofield Barracks. One of my goals is to further serve my country after my impending retirement by playing Taps for our fallen. If I can no longer play, I want to provide the means to have a live bugler for veteran burials. I also want to become a teacher after retirement, so that I can positively mentor and teach America's youth to become good citizens. I am training my son to continue the tradition of bugling and I want to instill in today's youth the same skill set, so that future generations of Veterans will have the live bugler graveside service that they deserve. I'm not sure if there is an awareness of BAA and its mission here in Hawaii, so I plan to raise awareness and hopefully alleviate some of the workload of the Armed Forces Bands stationed here.

OUR NEW STATE DIRECTORS



Leslie Sherlin - Arizona

I am Leslie Sherlin and am a performance psychophysiology/sport psychology consultant as a profession. I grew up in Tennessee and moved to Arizona in 2002 to finish my doctoral residency and enjoyed it so much I stayed. I have a wife Rebecca of 10 years, a 22 year old step son who lives in Tennessee now and a beautiful 4 year old daughter who enjoys practicing the trumpet with me.

My first 5 years of college were studying music at the University of Tennessee where my major instrument was the trumpet and is where I found the love of playing the horn. I had played since I was 10 years old. Coming from a military family but never serving myself, I found the Bugles Across America as an opportunity to honor those who served. I enjoy sounding Taps to provide honor but additionally I especially enjoy other opportunities such as moments of remembrance at holiday events.



Sheila Foraker - Arizona

My name is Sheila Foraker and I live in Tucson, Arizona. I've played the trumpet since I was 10 years old. Over the years I've played in bands that have taken me from Hawaii to Kentucky to Washington, DC, and many places in between. I did my undergraduate studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and graduate studies at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. I taught music for 18 years. What attracted me to BAA was a short piece I saw on the TV news a couple of years ago. A representative from BAA was talking about how veterans deserve live Taps at a funeral, and not a recording. I've long had the desire to play Taps to honor our veterans. It is an honor to sound those 24 notes for those who have served.



Johnny Sanchez - Hawaii

My name is Johnny Sanchez. I am 39 years old and I have been married to my wife, Veronica for 18 years. We have two sons, ages 14 and 17. I am active duty Army with 20 years of service, and I am currently stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

About nine years ago, I was on a burial detail as an NCOIC, when I met Gene Horner in Alaska. During a brief discussion, he told me about BAA, and he gave me his card. Since then, I had BAA in the back of mind, but I was waiting until I had more time to

volunteer. This past Memorial Day, I saw remembrance ceremonies on the local news, and BAA jumped into my mind. I went to the website (which I don't think existed nine years ago) and registered as a bugler.

I have sounded Taps for numerous ceremonies and burial services throughout the years since graduation from high school 22 years ago. I started playing the trumpet when I was ten years old. My current hobby is playing slow pitch softball with my wife. We play together in local leagues and competitively in various tournaments throughout the year. I also play in men's leagues, while my wife plays in women's leagues throughout the week.

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

Ross Rumore - Arkansas

I played "America" to start the 5K run in Hot Springs organized by The Pacers running group as a tribute to Boston called *Run For Boston*. I have sounded Taps at 107 military funerals in 2012 and am averaging three military funerals a week.



Rich Yndestad - Illinois



On Saturday, May 4, 2013, the DuPage Veterans Foundation held their 2nd Annual fundraiser for Honor Flight Chicago at the Calamos Hangar at DuPage Airport in West Chicago, IL. Money was raised to cover the cost of a flight to send our WWII veterans on a one day trip to visit Washington DC and the WWII Memorial. After the National Anthem and Invocation, "Harmonized" Taps was sounded by three buglers from Bugles Across America: Gene Vanden Bosch, Rich Yndestad, and Larry Buttimer.

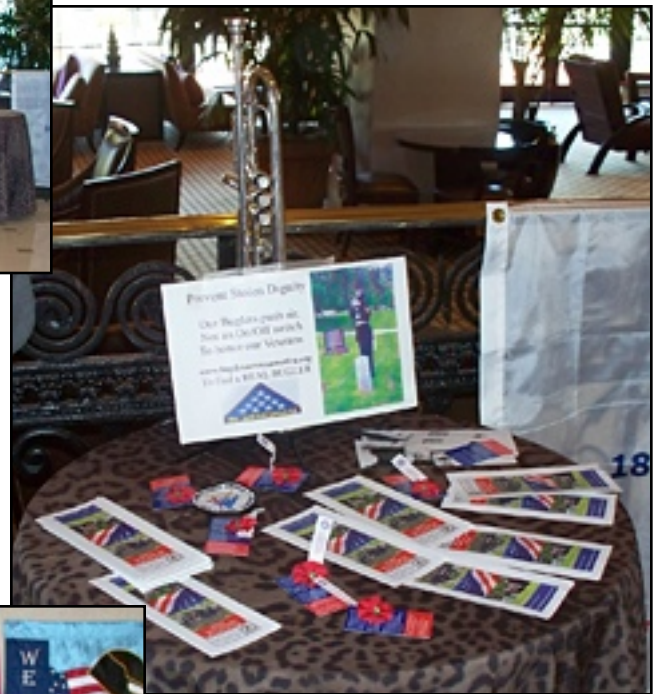
Tom Laffey - California

This is a photo from a Veterans Remembrance event I attended at Martin Luther King High School, in Riverside, CA, on March 15th. I was honored to sound Taps for all fallen military.



Jim Romand - Florida

This is from a Memorial Day program I have been doing over the last few years. Every year I have placed the BAA information in conjunction with my poppy program to educate people. This was in main lobby of Hard Rock Hotel at Universal Studios, It was myself and Julie Lushetsky who is also a bugler who has done many funerals with me. We have been asked to do Echo Taps on Veterans day for the city of Orlando. I will be on the balcony of the Mayors office and she will be on a balcony of another building across the street in Downtown Orlando. We are told this will be televised. Cant wait!



Craig Melancon - Louisiana

I have been a trumpet player since Jr. High School, band and also some Drum and Bugle Corps.

When I was a teen the VFW Post 3267 (Harahan, LA) had a youth organization called the Cadets. I started when I was 13, with the younger group. We marched in formation, learned basic drill procedures, and carried dummy rifles. The older boys were the Crack Squad, they also marched in formation, but carried old Springfield 03-A3 rifles. They did three-volley rifle salutes and assisted in Military Funerals for Veterans. We were all in HS. When the previous bugler graduated from high school, I got my turn to play the bugle and sound Taps. I also did Veterans Day and Memorial Day services. As an adult, I still sound Taps when asked, mostly for friends of my parents.

I became an EMT - Paramedic, and this opens up another avenue for having the honor of playing Taps. I have served for several EMS, Law Enforcement Officer and Firemen funerals.

About six years ago I got involved in the LA EMS Memorial Bike Ride (a take off on the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride) to honor Line of Duty deaths in EMS. I sounded Taps for this event, as well as participating in the ride. During these rides we wore dog tags for our EMS Brothers and a tag for the last LEO killed in the Line Of Duty for each jurisdiction we pass through.

Unfortunately last August two St. John the Baptist Parish sheriff's office deputies were ambushed and killed in line of duty. Our bike ride passes through St. John Parish and we passed the location where the first deputy was shot. We paused our ride at that location to pay tribute. We explained why we were stopping there, as we had riders from six states and they did not know of the event. After a silent moment of prayer, I sounded Taps. The deputies who were escorting us were so emotional that this was one of the most difficult times I ever had to play. I think it was even more difficult than the times I played for many close friends.

This photo is me playing... I was wearing bicycle riding gear but I was riding to Honor.



Harvey Redak - Connecticut

On April 25, 2013, I sounded Taps for the Veterans Memorial Island vigil at the Indian River lagoon. This annual event is sponsored by the Indian River Sheriff's office, and is to remember victims of crime.



Ed Bilger - New Jersey



Memorial rededication for the 23rd New Jersey monument in Beverly, NJ

This is the honor guard comprising of the 23rd NJ "Yahoo's" and me.

The statue stood in the Beverly National Cemetery for years until it was stored away in the 1960's.

It was recently discovered in a storage garage and restored. The National Cemeteries Administration was contacted about the statue, but they didn't have any

need or want of it. Beverly, NJ was the location of a military hospital and several training camps.

Beverly National Cemetery has a personal closeness for me and my wife, as both of our maternal grandparents are buried there.

Tom Day and Texas State Directors - Texas

On May 7th, Tom Day was in Dallas at the Convention Center attending the 135th annual meeting of the International Trademark Association (INTA) and participated in a panel discussion involving trademarks, *pro bono* work, and the Bugles Across America trademark renewal fight. The lawyer team of Rick Biagi and Brian O'Donnell were instrumental in resolving the earlier BAA trademark dispute and handled the case *pro bono*!



Tom Day and BAA were honored at the convention for outstanding service, and several buglers were in attendance. State Director Steve Kalowski played Reveille in the atrium hallway before the panel discussion began and Assistant State Director Doug Ebersole played To The Color to open the meeting. Doug and Larry Crossman closed out the afternoon by playing echo Taps in memory of all Veterans.

Photo, from l to r - Rick Biagi, lawyer from Neal & McDevitt LLC, Texas State Director Steve Kalowski, bugler Larry Crossman, Tom Day, Paul O'Donnell - lawyer from Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, and Texas Asst State Director Doug Ebersole.

Chip Stickler - Maryland

We are proud to have served the City of Hagerstown and the State of Maryland's Veterans this Memorial Day.

We have been immediately re-signed for next year, and have been asked to sound Echo Taps at Antietam Battlefield 4th of July Celebration and luminair Ceremony in December. An Honor to be sure.

Chip

Memorial Day this year saw this young man, Avi Chittum, joined by 11 more Buglers as we played Echo Taps.



From left to right, BAA Assistant State Director, Dean Martin, Hagerstown Mayor, David Gysberts, Bugler Avi Chittum, MD State Director Chip Stickler



In addition to Avi, our newest Bugler at the time, Kevin Damewood also joined us. After the ceremony, two more people expressed an interest in joining BAA, and when I opened my email the next morning, three more buglers had registered with BAA. All in all, I would say that this was a wonderful, and successful Memorial Day.

In addition to sounding Taps at two Sunday morning services at our church, Dean and I played for a Memorial Ceremony at the County Courthouse with the American Legion Post 42 and the Honor Guard and Rifle Squad from the Marine Corps League at 2:00 PM. With the exposure that we have gotten this weekend, the Maryland division of BAA is definitely active.

Update: Avi has become an active member. At the age of 11, this young man does a superb job of playing Taps. He has dedicated parents, which is always a great help. We are very pleased to have Avi. He listens to us and is very quick in learning. He even has a BAA patch on his Boy Scout uniform and likes to show it proudly.

Dean A. Martin
Asst. Maryland State Director

John Stevens - Arizona

Memorial Day, 27 May 2013, Citizens Cemetery, Prescott, AZ. American Legion Post 6 Honor Guard, Dan Tillmans Commanding.

**Cindy Wicks - Pennsylvania**

My son, Tony Wicks, and I have been sounding Taps together for the past 12 years or so. This is from Memorial Day 2013 with the Dunlo, Pennsylvania American Legion.

**Jordan Whitmer - Arkansas**

Performing Taps on Memorial Day 2013, as part of the annual Memorial Day ceremony held in our community.

Jerry Halsell - Arkansas

Proud to be welcomed back to the Weiner Memorial Day Event representing Bugles Across America with Taps.



Kathleen McCall - Pennsylvania

On May 24, 2013, Kathleen McCall sounds Taps for the Remembering the Veterans event at the South Jersey Postal Processing and Distribution Center, the main postal service processing facility for all of South Jersey. Dover Air Force Base provided the color and honor guard. In attendance was the director of Camden County Veterans Affairs, Floyd White (Lt. Col. Air Force), Congressman Robert Andrews. Representing the Postal Service was South Jersey District Manager Mark Anderson and South Jersey Distribution Center plant manager David Robinson.

Jim Graber and Rick de Treville - Florida

Performing Echo Taps at the 2013 Memorial Day ceremonies held at Cypress Grove Park, Florida.



Echo Taps 2013 - Pennsylvania



The Trumpet Choir performing during the musical program that follows the cascading Taps.



PA State Director, Howard Reitenbaugh playing solo verse to begin "Amazing Grace."



Nearly 7000 tribute flags lining the entry to the grounds of Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, in memory of all service members lost since 9-11-2001

Interior of the Pennsylvania Memorial where the group presents the musical and speaker's program.



Brian Jeremiah - New Jersey

Brian Jeremiah, Bridgewater-Raritan High School Senior had the honor to play Taps on September 11th, 2012 at each of the 4 attack times at Bridgewater High School, and has enlisted other trumpeters within his trumpet section in the marching band.

He also played Taps at the Bridgewater, NJ Municipal Township service led by the Bridgewater Mayor Dan Hayes, and Monsignor Joe Celano of St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church, Bridgewater, NJ.



Left: Lt. Col Ron Miller who led the service on May 30 at Hillsborough Memorial Gardens and Brian playing Taps



Right: Dan Collins and Dave Coleman with Brian



Left: Ron Miller presenting Brian with VFW Service award.

Right: This is from the Service on Memorial Day 2013 at the Bridgewater Raritan Bradley Gardens, pic shown of Brian with Mayor Dan Hayes, after playing National Anthem and Taps.



Mark Riebs - California

On June 1, 2013, Venturing Crew 561 Drum and Bugle Honor Corp along with BAA member, Larry Ballenger of Pasadena, performed Opening Ceremonies at San Gabriel Valley Boy Scout Council's annual EXPO at Santa Anita Race Track, Arcadia, CA, along with Troop 228, members of the Order of the Arrow, and other Crews' members as the Color Guard. For its contribution and booth, the Venturing Crew received the Gold Award.



Venturing Crew 561 is part of the Rose Bowl District and a special thank you is extended to our Chartered Organization, American Legion Post 280 of E. Pasadena, CA. For the past two years, Venturing Crew 561 has been selected as the most Distinguished Venturing Crew for the whole American Legion Department of California. www.venturingcrew561.org



Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps playing a Fanfare. Mark G. Riebs Advisor and Bugles Across America member. Larry Ballenger Bugles Across America member (BAA in civilian attire).

Venturing Crew member, Nathaniel Yuan with Larry Ballenger, BAA member.



Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps with Larry Ballenger, BAA member, marching to prepare flag for Opening Ceremonies.

John Stevens - Arizona

US Army CWO3 Tony Gonzales and Arizona American Legion Post 6 bugler John Stevens at Prescott National Cemetery, Saturday 25 May, 2013. Immediately following memorial service for Post 6 member Neil Spencer, US Navy WWII.

Sounded Echo Taps. First time collaboration ("joining forces"); Post 6 with Army National Guard Band Leader.



Rodney Beese - Oklahoma

For the last three years I have volunteered to play taps for the VFW and American Legion post in Fletcher, Oklahoma. Each year they provide colors, gun salute, and Taps for ten cemeteries in a 30 mile radius of their post. They post the times of the ceremonies in the local newspapers and there are always people standing and waiting for our arrival. I am always amazed at the dedication of these veterans who give of their time to honor our heroes. They also have a Veterans Day service at two locations and through the year go to local schools and teach flag courtesy. It has been a great honor to play Taps at these services.

Do you have an unusual, memorable or funny story to share regarding an event or request you played Taps for? The Bugler's Post wants to publish your stories.

All stories must be written, edited, **ready for publishing** and a photo is desired but not required. If you don't have a photo from the event, one of you works nicely as well.

The deadline for this is August 15th

Please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

BAA- IN THE NEWS

Taps Plays On At Military Funerals As Bugle Tradition Declines

Published: 05/27/2013

Huffington Post by Jaweed Kaleem

...To most ears, the difference between a live performance and recording of one of the nation's most haunting and symbolic tunes is difficult, if not impossible, to discern. But for people such as Tom Day, a lifelong bugler who was trained in a drum and bugle corps while growing up on the outskirts of Chicago, the difference is a palpable "stolen dignity," he said.

Thirteen years ago, Day founded Bugles Across America, a nonprofit network of 8,000 volunteer horn players throughout the U.S. and in several countries abroad. The network offers to dispatch a local civilian bugler to a military funeral via requests submitted on its website. The service is free to mourning families, and in states and rural areas without robust military funeral programs, groups such as Day's are often more common at funerals than official military band players. His group is one of several in the U.S. that have grown to offer volunteer Taps performers for military funerals.

"There is no amount of money or technology that can buy the feeling you get playing Taps for a family, the last time they are seeing their loved one and veteran," said Day, a 73-year-old resident of Berwyn, Ill. "It's something sacred to us and to them. It brings tears. We call it the hardest 24 notes."....

For the entire story... [Huffington Post](#)



Proper sendoff: Volunteer buglers play 24 haunting notes for fallen N.J. veterans

From a cemetery in the shadows of the Garden State Parkway, on a morning filled with a teary mist, the bugler stood at attention, waiting his turn.

The burial of Frank Capalbo of Nutley, an 88-year-old Army veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, was a dignified affair. Loved ones received flowers after they arrived at Glendale Cemetery in Bloomfield. His casket was draped in an American flag, later folded into perfect corners and handed — stars showing — to his daughter.



There was only one thing left to do, and volunteer bugler Jim Gallombardo was nervous.

"You want to play perfectly," Gallombardo said later. "It means a lot to the family. There's only one chance to do it right."

He need not have worried.

The bugler hit every one of those 24 haunting notes of "Taps," which cut against the rustle of an unseasonably cold late-spring morning on Friday.

"It was a big honor to have a (bugler) here," said Mr. Capalbo's daughter, Casandra Michels. "Right now, looking down, he definitely is the happiest man."

An act of Congress in 2000 gave honorably discharged veterans the right to have "Taps" sounded at their graveside service and have at least two uniformed military personnel to fold and present the flag.

But with more than 1,000 veterans dying each day, there were not enough buglers to play a live version of "Taps" at funerals with military honors.

Thinking it was less poignant to bury veterans to the strains of "Taps" from a boom box or a digital playback device embedded in the bell of bugle, Gallombardo, a civilian, and others throughout New Jersey have been volunteering to send off vets with a live version of the sad old tune.

For the full article, please click [New Jersey State Newspaper](#)

The Story Behind “Taps”

By Mike McClanahan

Published: Monday, May 27, 2013

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (WIAT) – According to the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#), “Taps” is thought to be a revised version of a French bugle signal called “tattoo” that let soldiers know when to return to their garrisons for the night.



The version we hear today was composed by a Union General during the Civil War.

In 1862 Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield initially used it as a less formal way to signal the day's end, according to the VA report.

The VA says the first time “Taps” was played at a military funeral may have been in Virginia shortly after it was composed. Union Captain John Tidball [reportedly](#) ordered the song to be played at the burial for a canonner killed in battle instead of firing rifles over the grave which was traditional, but might give away their position to the enemy.

Ten months after it was composed it was played at the burial of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson, according to the VA.

After the war it was made the official Army bugle call, but it wasn't until 1874 that the music was given the name “Taps”, according to the VA.

The department says by 1891, Army infantry regulations required the playing of Taps at military funeral ceremonies.

Today the military plays Taps at burial and memorial services, to signal the “lights out” command at day's end, and when the flag is lowered.

Source: <http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/Taps.pdf>

Polished, precise, and professional Gene Ramsay practices and perfects his bugle playing with military discipline. Though he never served in the military playing Taps is his way of serving veterans and their families.

For the full article, click [CBS Channel 42 News](#), and [The Video](#)

Every Honorably Discharged Veteran Has Right to Bugler

[The Americus Times-Recorder](#)

June 1, 2013

by Beth Alston



Although Congress passed a law in 2000 that provides that all honorably discharged United States veterans are entitled to a particular funeral benefit, it isn't common knowledge.

Local veteran and bugler Mike Saliba brought this to the attention of the Americus Times-Recorder recently.

Bugles Across America has 7,500 bugler-members located in all 50 states and some foreign countries.

The law states, according to Saliba, that all honorably discharged veterans are entitled to have two uniformed men (or women) making up an Honor Guard, plus a bugle at their funeral service.

"If a live bugler is not available," he said, "they use an electronic bugle, a little device stuck in the bell of the horn."

The founder of Bugles Across America (BAA), Tom Day, an ex-Marine, felt that every veteran deserves a live bugler, Saliba said.

"He started the organization in 2000, with just two or three people at the start, and it's grown to 7,500 today. We have done ... over 200,000 funerals. There are 2,000 veterans dying every day so we can't possibly cover all of them, but we try."

The way the process works is quite simple/

"When a veteran dies and a request is made for a bugler, an e-mail is sent to every bugler within 100 miles of the burial. One may or may not respond to that. If they do, they are assigned ... and get in touch with the Honor Guard, the two ... who come and fold the flag ... They make arrangements to do it together at the right time ... There's a protocol to it. When requested and entitled, there's also a three-rifle salute available."

Saliba wanted to let people know about this free service. Visit www.buglesacrossamerica.org to make the request or for additional information.

For the full article, please click [here](#).



Bugles Across America Honors America's Heroes

Organization provides military honors for more than 35,000 funerals annually

By Michael Boo

May 22, 2013

This Memorial Day, as we contemplate the sacrifices made by the men and women of our armed services, we encourage all to also consider what others are already doing to help those who have given of their time, energies—and yes, even their lives—to keep this country safe and free.

In 2000, the United States Congress passed a law that stated all military veterans were entitled to a military funeral, complete with a bugler playing “Taps.” That traditional bugle melody is part of the final honor a grateful nation can provide its deceased veterans. However, while all veterans are entitled to this honor, there have not been enough buglers available in the armed forces to provide the service.

Thomas Day founded Bugles Across America (BAA) in 2000 to help assure that more veterans would receive a proper send-off. Day is a United States Marine Corps veteran, a former member of the Cavaliers and a co-founder of the Anaheim Kingsmen. Shortly after founding BAA, the organization was assisting at about 5,000 funerals a year.

Today, that figure is up to around 35,000 funerals annually and growing.

“Part of that increase is due to members of BAA getting out into the communities and spreading the word, part is due to BAA being featured on multitudes of local and national television news broadcasts and in various newspapers and magazines, and part is due to the branches of the military increasingly requesting help from the organization,” Day said.

However, there just aren’t enough military buglers to supply the increased need at veterans’ funerals. About 1,800 veterans pass away every day. Those families who wish a military funeral have to contend with the fact that the combined forces of the military have only about 400 active duty official trumpet players, and recent government cuts have greatly reduced that number.

For the full article, click DCI.org

If you have seen BAA in the news recently or have been featured in an article while playing with BAA, Please send the article or information to BAA.JDay@gmail.com

KEY NOTES



“You’re WHERE?”

Why it’s important to update your contact information

We all understand that the primary mission of Bugles Across America is to provide a real, live bugler to sound Taps at any deserving veteran’s military funeral honors. We are all volunteers, and

when we registered with BAA we committed to being contacted to determine our availability to serve when a request for bugler comes to the organization.

The primary method of communication with our members is through the avenue of email. That is why a valid email address must be included with the registration; that is why State Directors are strongly encouraged to check the validity of that email when they make initial contact to welcome new members. We now require a telephone number to be included with the registration, and that is used when we are in the ‘last minute scramble mode’ in an attempt to locate an available bugler to serve a mission request.

Now, here’s the important part. We all know that people have reason to change an email address from time to time; many members will also move to a different region or a different state after signing on with BAA; some of our members are students that are in far different location or state while at school, but return to home during the summer break; some of our members are fortunate enough to be able to leave the unkind and harsh winter climates of the northern regions and spend the season in quarters of the more tranquil south..... all these matters will put one ‘out of touch’ unless the individual makes the effort to keep their Profile data updated.

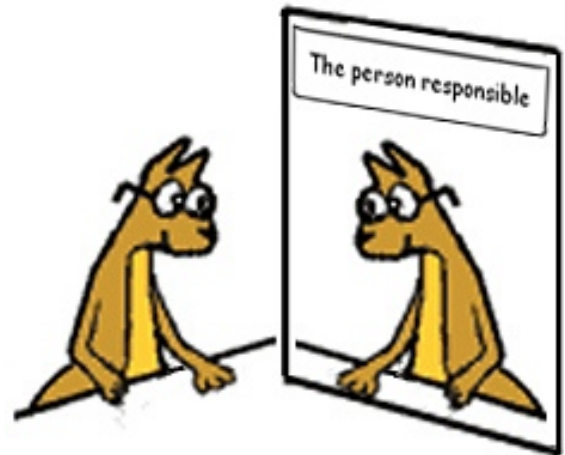
If you change email address and don’t tell us, we will not reach you with important information or with requests to serve our mission. If you change location and don’t tell us, you are going to receive requests for places far removed from the expected range of availability. It is the personal responsibility of each member to keep their Profile current.

To sum up... **It is your responsibility to keep your contact information current.**

“How do I update my profile?”

It's really easy!

- 1.) **Log in** with your username and password.
- 2.) Once you're logged in you'll see your name in the upper right corner of the page. **Click on your name.**
- 3.) Review the information presented there. If anything needs to be changed, **click on "Edit Profile"** (about in the middle of the page).



To update:

- * **Address:** After you've clicked **Edit Profile** (as stated above), a new screen will pop up where you can change your address. After you've update your address, **MAKE SURE** you go to the very bottom of the page and click on the **Update** button so that the changes you've entered will be saved to the system.
- * **Password:** If you want to update your password, there's bold red letters at the top that says "**Manage Password**" Click that. Fill in the requested information and click on **Change Password**.
- * **Email...** click on "Manage User Credentials"... a new screen comes up, change your email and click "**update**"

It's that easy!

“Is there anything else?”

One more thing that you must do is make direct contact with your State Director. Many Directors keep a personal file of names, locations, and contact information for their state's members. If you fail to let your Director know of any change, this may go undiscovered for a length of time until the Director does an audit of their files, and some have quite extensive numbers to deal with so this is not something done more than annually.

Of extreme importance is the occasion when a member moves to a different state. You may

take the proper steps to update your registered Profile with BAA, but if you do not communicate with the State Directors, one will assume that you are still available for service in the original state while the other will not be aware that you are now a part of their group in the new state. State Directors do receive system-generated notice of new registrations, but they do not get word when a person that is already on the roster simply changes location. **Please keep the State Directors informed of your whereabouts.**

If we don't know where you are or how to contact you.... Well, are you serving BAA?



Important Member Reminders

If you can't volunteer for a request, it is not necessary to reply and tell us why you can't make it. While we truly appreciate your willingness to serve, you are replying to an automated message.

If you are available to volunteer for a request, please use the link at the bottom of the request email. If the request has already been filled, you will be informed. If it hasn't, you will be given an option to formally click on a link to volunteer yourself for it.

After you've officially volunteered for a request, please contact the requester ASAP with the contact information that will have been sent to you. If you don't see an email with the requester's contact information, please check your spam folder.

If you've lost your event information: the place to find that is under the "My Events" tab after you've logged into the BAA web site. This page will show you all the events you are scheduled for and the information regarding them!

Formally volunteering for a request and then needing to cancel is a violation against the Directives for Buglers you agreed to when you registered. Do NOT volunteer for a request before you have checked your schedule. If it is a family emergency, please log in and use the Contact Director option under the Contact Us tab to contact your State Director to let them know. You will only see the [Contact Directors](#) option if you are logged in. Not showing up lets down the family of the deceased and is grounds for membership removal.

SEEN THIS MONTH ON FACEBOOK



BAA Pic of the Day...BAA bugler Steven J. Butler sounds Taps in Danang, in country in Vietnam to commemorate 12 Marines who lost their lives at the top of that hill. He and his wife accompanied his good friend Tim Davis, USMC, India Co. 3/27(along with his wife), who had lost both of his legs on that same hill. Marine Davis was unable to climb up the hill, so Mr. Butler agreed to climb up there and sound Taps. Thank You Mr. Butler for going above and beyond to Honor and Remember these Mighty Heroes.

BAA Pic of the Day...National Spokesperson, Susan D. Wiseman, AKA The Tribute Lady, sings her song at Rock Island National, She's a Soldier, Too, in Honor of PFC Katie Soenksen, KIA, Iraq. [Click](#) to hear her latest recording The Land of the Free (Because of the Brave) inspired by the life and ultimate sacrifice of CPL Steven Koch, 82nd Airborne, KIA Afghanistan.



Pic of the Day...Korean War Veteran, and BAA member Mike Saliba, from Americus Georgia, performs Taps at the Andersonville National Cemetery.

BAA Pic of the Day
NY BAA Bugler Dale Gianetto is joined by Linda Halpin Walker at the Church of the Resurrection for their Memorial Day Ceremony. Dale is also the drum major for the Syracuse Scottish Pipe Band.



German BAA Representative Hartmut Hausser sounds
Taps at Omaha Beach.



BAA Pict of The Day: Wisconsin State Director, Bill Seaman,
on Armed Forces Day 2013!

BAA Pic of the Day PLUS a prayer request!!! This is BAA
bugler Alan Christian; a very faithful member of our Georgia
team. Very recently his little two year old girl Abigail was
diagnosed with kidney cancer, and the doctors have
removed one kidney. No matter what your Faith is, please
keep Alan, his wife Aimee, and the other three children in
your thoughts and prayers.



BAA Pic of the Day...Boston Bugler Kimberley Shaw
shown here, sounding Taps for the service of Mr. George
Bruce Hanover Jr. Also see the nice letter from the
Harwich FD. We are very proud of Kimberley and her fine
work.

REFLECTIONS

The Bugler

submitted by Karoline Davis

The bugler is not recognized by
their gender
color of their skin
Nor, by the clothes they wear
The shape of their eyes
by how tall or how short
Whether they wear a hat or a beret,
A Bugler is recognized by the instrument they gently press to their lips,
The breath they inhale deeply
And the heartfelt, soulful, poignant sound that emanates from the bugle, held in
the hands of an individual, uniting all hearts, all souls and all minds, for a brief
time, to pay their last respects to a fallen Brother or Sister.
Through every haunting note we stand united with one desire, to give honor and
recognition to a life forever gone but never forgotten. And as the last note drifts
away, we became as one, with the Bugler, to say goodbye.

This is a tribute to Steve Butler, the bugler who helped lay to rest the tormented
memories carried for so many years. Our gratitude can never be fully expressed
through words...



From Anthony Montimurro, BAA Bugler, CT:

I have recently been made aware of a project that I believe will be of importance to each and every one of you. The BentStar Project LTD is working to return America's 83,000 Missing In Action to their families for proper burial with honors. The team has been working for 20 years and has been instrumental in finding and returning MIAs.

As an example of what the team has accomplished: On September 1st 1944, a B24 Liberator with 11 souls aboard was shot out of the Palauan skies. She and her crew were missing until the BentStar team found them January 26th 2004. On April 29th 2010 under crisp skies and in the presence of families of those once missing, the crew was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

BentStar is able to do much much more but they need our help. While the BentStar team is made up entirely of volunteers they are in need of an infusion of funds so they may analyze data they are gathering. A donation of even \$5 would assist BentStar immensely. For those feeling more generous every donation of \$25 or more includes the DVD of the documentary film on the project, "Last Flight Home". I have seen this film and it moved me greatly. In fact it is what prompted me to write this brief note!

For more information, click on any of the links below to get a sense of BentStar's missions. You can also click the last link for donations as well. Thanks for your consideration!

<http://www.bentprop.org/>

<http://www.jpac.pacom.mil/>

<http://www.lastflighthome.org/>

<http://www.bentstarproject.org/google/miapilotsearch.html>



NOTICE!

If any one knows of any available bugle, trumpet, flugel horn, and cornet players in the far north region of Indiana please have them join up and help BAA. The military is now calling on us big time and it appears we only have a couple of active players there.

Thanks,
Tom Day
Founder

Attention: State Directors Needed!

We are looking for experienced BAA buglers to fill the role of State Director in the states that currently do not have a full time Director.

These states are:

- * Delaware
- * Illinois
- * Mississippi
- * Montana
- * Nevada
- * New Mexico
- * Oregon
- * West Virginia
- * Washington
- * Oregon

If you believe you may be interested in and have time for a leadership role with BAA, please email galaxypilot@verizon.net to be considered with your experience and why you'd like to be a director for your state.

Not Getting a Chance To Volunteer?

Are you not seeing as many opportunities to honor our nation's heroes in your state as you'd like? Fact is, in many areas, the word about what BAA does needs to reach the attention of unknowing funeral directors, VAs, VFWs, ALs and cemetery locations.

You are more than welcome to share with them about Bugles Across America. Already available to you on our web site is a BAA business card template and a letter that you can modify with your contact information if you choose, print out and take or send to the business, organization or person of choice.

Location for BAA business cards and BAA letters

<http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/Education/ForBuglersOnly.aspx>

The business card template is a standard Avery template #8371 for simple print and separate cards or Claude at Sir Speedy has a great format for our cards too. His email is sirspeedyberwyn@sbcglobal.net

KEY LINKS

[Bugles Across America](#)

[BAA on Facebook](#)

[BAA on YouTube](#)

[BAA New York on Facebook](#)

[BAA Kentucky on Facebook](#)

[BAA Nashville on Facebook](#)

[BAA Hawaii on Facebook](#)

[BAA Oklahoma on Facebook](#)

[BAA Utah on Facebook](#)

[BAA: Ohio's Blog](#)

[BAA: New Jersey](#)

[BAA Bugler Directives](#)

[Scentsy Patriot Collection](#)

[Scentsy "God Bless" Warmer](#)

[Getzen](#)

[Kanstul](#)

[Spirit of '45](#)

[Drum Corps International](#)

[Flags For Vets](#)

[Association of Military Musicians](#)

[Wounded Warriors](#)

[Freelancers Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps](#)

[The Tribute Lady](#)

[Regimental Drum Major Association](#)

If you have any articles or bugler stories that you would like to see in the next Newsletter, please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

All stories MUST be written, edited, **ready for publishing** and preferably a photo along with it. I am also looking for bugle, bugler or Taps trivia & facts. If you know of any, please email me. If this information comes from somewhere specific, please site that. Thank you.