

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



Welcome to September, 2013!



This year seems to be flying by very fast, and many exciting and wonderful things are happening with Bugles Across America. We are growing by leaps and bounds, both in number of active members and in number of services requested and accepted. We are the only unit of our kind that is all volunteer, meaning we provide the live honors for our

veterans at no cost. **We do not charge the families of veterans. Never have, never will.**

In previous issues, I had mentioned the tentative plans for a general membership convention to be held in May of 2014. We have decided to rethink this plan and move that projected date to 2015 so as to coincide with the 15th anniversary of the founding of our organization. We will advertise this event as "The 2015 Leadership Conference", and have set the date. We are looking for folks to arrive and check in on August 21 with meetings and seminars set for the 22nd and 23rd. We have reserved the Windsor Room and the Essex Room at the Mayfair Banquet Facility in Westchester, IL. We have an option of additional room, if needed so that we will have space for about 220 people.

The meeting is for National Officers, State Directors and Assistant Directors, but will be open as well to any who may have an interest in being part of the 'management team'. There will be no registration fee or cost for the meeting for



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those attending, but all will need to make their own arrangements for accommodations and transportation. This facility is about 17 miles west of Chicago, between O'Hare and Midway airports, and just off the tri-state highway. This is just east of Oakbrook by about three miles. There are many lodging facilities in the nearby area that range from the truly luxurious (read that as expensive) to the nice and clean but affordable.

The concept is to hear ideas on how to expand the active membership, and improve our visibility to the general public. By 2015 we will have a much better idea how all the Military Budget cut-backs will affect the mission of BAA. We already see many of the results of this taking place. Directors will be able to record the sessions and use that material for presentation in their own region at a later date.

Should you have a topic you would like to see on the agenda please let me know as soon as possible so we can make a spot for it. I hope this gives you enough time to plan to be here.

Thanks for all your hard work during these 13 years.

Respectfully,
Tom Day, Founder

Attention all players,

Should you need inside or outside BAA decals, pins and gear IE: patches,
DvD's about BAA, email me with your name and address and if I have it, it's yours.

First come first served.

Notice, I only a couple of BAA flags Left.

Thanks for all YOU do.

Tom Day, Founder

tomjday@sbcglobal.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2015 Leadership 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: August 22 & 23, 2015

Where: The Mayfair Banquet Facilities in Westchester, IL

Cost: Free, but you are responsible for your own accommodations and transportation.

The meeting is for National Officers, State Directors and Assistant Directors, but will be open as well to any who may have an interest in being part of the 'management team'.

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:

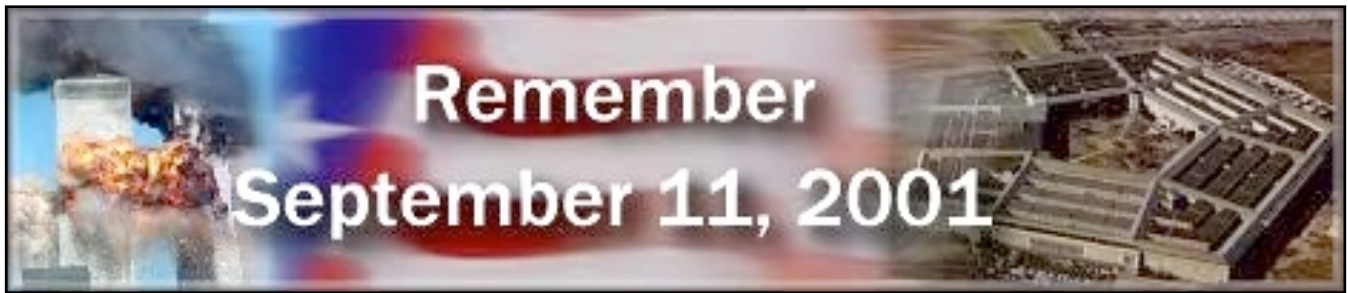
- * To The Getzen Comapny in Elkhorn, WI, to see how horns are constructed
- * To Oakwood Cemetery in Chicago where 4000 Confederates are buried.

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.

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.



Fourth Annual September 11th Memorial Taps

Dear Bugler,

We are within a few days of the 12th anniversary of that “Second Day of Infamy,” September 11th, 2001.

It has been 12 years since four airplanes full of innocent Americans were hijacked by 19 cowardly individuals bent on their path of destruction and the killing of innocent Americans. Each Year since 2010 I have asked members of “Bugles Across America” to participate in “The September 11th Memorial Taps,” and each of the previous three years the number of participants has increased.

Not just buglers that are members of “Bugles Across America,” but also many other buglers have participated in this annual nationwide event. These men and women could not have made me prouder.

It is an unusual format in that it is not a formal organized event other than that each year I have asked the many members of “Bugles Across America” to participate in whatever manner they feel they can perform “Taps” at the appropriate times on September 11th.

Some of you have organized formal events with Honor Guards and have asked their fire and police departments to participate as well. Many of you have been successful in organizing these formal ceremonies to honor the fallen of September 11th, 2001 and also honoring their brother and sister Firefighters, Police Officers, and Emergency Medical personnel in their own cities and towns.

Some of you have taken a different approach to honor these brave emergency personnel by performing as lonely buglers while traveling or just in front of their house on their front lawns. The important fact to remember is that none of you is alone as there will be hundreds and

hopefully thousands of buglers performing “Taps” at the exact moments of the attacks on September 11th 2001.

The exact time line of the crashes are as follows, all times are Eastern Time. Please make the proper adjustments for your time zone so that once again “Taps” is heard across America at the exact times of the attacks.

At 8:46 AM, American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into the North Tower of the New York World Trade Center.

At 9:03 AM, United Airlines Flight 175 crashes into the South Tower of the New York World Trade Center.

At 9:13 AM, American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, just outside the borders of Washington, D.C.

At 10:10 AM United Airlines Flight 93 crashes in a field near Shanksville, PA after the passenger make a heroic attempt to regain control of the aircraft from the hijackers. Who can forget those last words spoken by Todd Beamer, “Let’s Roll” as the passengers on board flight 93 resisted the terrorists who commandeered their flight.

Last year we asked that you add a fifth rendering of “Taps” in memory of all those who have died in far away places defending our nation. It would also be appreciated if you would say a prayer of your choice prior to the fifth rendering of “Taps.” We have found that the “Lords Prayer” is an appropriate prayer, but please feel free to use any prayer you wish, if you are inclined to do so.

We must never forget all the innocent lives lost that day to an attack by these cowardly terrorists. Let us “Never Forget and Never Surrender.”

Our young children must be reminded of that day so that they will be watchful and understand the evil that exists in our world. Sadly many people have already forgotten the events of that day and your efforts will help keep the memory of that day alive.

I thank all those buglers who have participated during the last three years and pray that we will once again honor the fallen on this 12th anniversary of that “second day of Infamy” and the 4th anniversary of “The September 11th Memorial Taps” ceremonies.

I must apologize to the many buglers who sent in pictures and their reflections of last years ceremonies, Unfortunately my computer, on which all the information, pictures, reflections and email addresses were saved had a catastrophic failure and everything was lost before I had a chance to back anything up. I assure you that will never happen again. So please, send me anything you have from this year and if you participated during the last three years and would be so kind and send it again so that I can rebuild the "September 11th Memorial Taps" web site I would be grateful.

Thank you to Tom Day for having founded the "Bugles Across America" organization and to all of the membership for considering joining us during the Fourth Annual "September 11th Memorial Taps" ceremonies. Please feel free to call me for any further information at anytime.

If you can join us, please respond via email to:

september11thmemorialtaps@yahoo.com

Please include your name, telephone number, city and state and any information regarding your specific plans.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Speckmann

Founder, "September 11th Memorial Taps"

(775) 410-1269





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.

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 25th**. This is to remember the tragic death of our 35th President, John F Kennedy who was assassinated and buried 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, sounded 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 25th, 2013** a day the country will remember and mark that date as **"A Bugler's Tear"**. This date has been chosen as it's the actual date of President Kennedy's funeral.

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 25th, 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. - Tom Day

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.

State Director Spotlight: Idaho

State Director: Larré Robertson

How long have you been with BAA?

I'm not really sure. Probably about 6 years ago.

Why did you join?

When I was in the Army, I sounded Taps for General GS Patton's memorial service in Luxembourg, and I got the service bug to sound as much as I could from that point on.

How long have you been playing?

Since I was in 3rd or 4th grade. I got my first bugle by selling Christmas cards to soldiers at Ft. Bragg where I was born.

What is the hardest part about being a SD?

Getting those who have signed up to actually sound Taps.

What is the best part about being a SD?

Talking with funeral directors with my SD status in Idaho. They tend to listen and call more often. Engaging with others with the same excitement for Taps and honoring.

What has been your best experience with BAA?

Unquestionably sounding Taps for General GS Patton's son and several others at ANC last year for Taps 150. What a moving, touching and emotional experience!

What is your goal for your state?

To get those on the role more active and to have a live bugler at every internment. I sounded Taps 249 times last year, (I was out of commission for two months due to some medical issues, or would have had the distinct honor to sound more often) I am tied in with the Idaho State Army National Guard Honor Guard and am tasked out to sound Taps a minimum of 3-5 times a week. What an honor for me!!

Anything you'd like to share?

I love to sound Honors, do woodworking, eat chocolate and spend time with my wife of 40 years this August. I can't thank Tom Day enough for what he did when he started BAA. Doing Honors fulfills my life in way that only my God in heaven understands. Tom, you are a blessing to more people than you can ever imagine!!



OUR NEW STATE DIRECTOR

Kyle Yeager - BAA State Director, Oregon

I am 47 years old. I was born and raised in Libby, Montana and started playing the trumpet at age ten. I graduated from Libby High School in 1984. After two years studying music at the University of Montana, I joined the Army and had a wonderful 20 year career as a military musician. During my time as a trumpet player in the Army Band program I performed all over the Pacific Northwest and Midwestern United States; I was stationed / played across Europe and South Korea; and I spent nine of my last ten years in the Army living and performing in Hawaii. Military memorials and funerals are an army bugler's bread and butter! I can state with satisfaction, that I performed Taps 864 times during my 20 year Army career.



After I retired in 2006, my wife and I spent a summer working at Glacier National Park, and then we moved to the Grand Canyon's South Rim. In 2008 I was hired as a JROTC instructor at Madras High School in Madras, Oregon, where I am beginning my sixth year teaching high school cadets. I perform bugle calls at various ceremonies with my cadets. They especially like it when I play Retreat and To The Color at evening flag ceremonies.



In May 2012 I participated in the 150th anniversary of Taps at Arlington National Cemetery. It was an honor for me to sound Taps at the graveside of Civil War Bugler and Medal of Honor recipient, John Cook. In attendance at the graveside was John Cook's great-granddaughter Beatrice Gies and her husband Ed.

I became interested in Bugles Across America when I heard about the live bugler service that this organization provides to families of those active duty, retired, and veterans who have passed. While stationed in Hawaii, I was approached by family members (countless times) at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (known as The Punchbowl) and asked if I was the "real deal." They did not want me to play, if I was holding a fake bugle with a recording inside. I was proud to inform these family members that I was, indeed, the "real deal." - *Kyle*

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES



Crista Parfitt - California

This year I played Taps for the VFW's Flag Retirement Ceremony as well as organized my husband's battalion, 3rd LAR of MCAGCC 29 Palms, to take part. "It was a great event, even though it was 110 degrees that day! My husband was head of the Flag Detail, so it was great that we both got to be involved this year! It's really neat to see the community come out to

properly retire the flags." The Joshua Tree Memorial Park maintains a grave that is opened each year for the event. The flags are collected throughout the year, and more than 3,000 flags were retired that day.



Mike Rotman - California

I participated on Memorial Day at the Spirit of '45 Day wreath laying on the USS Iowa in Los Angeles. There were about 10,000 people there that day, which was a great complement to the Spirit of '45 Memorial Day.





Michael Brady - Illinois

Playing Taps for the Valor Games Midwest was a huge success. I worked with Mr. Malnik and connected with organizations that are now familiar with Bugles Across America. I also had the pleasure of running into Mr. Mike Embrey, a fellow BAA member who was a pleasure to talk to.

Edward "Duke" Scales - Florida

Honor Flight is a nation wide program that transports WWII vets to D.C. to visit the WWII and other memorials. I'm a board member of our "Space Coast Honor Flight" hub, which is based in Melbourne, FL.

Each flight requires all to rendezvous about 2-3 a.m. before we board a bus to the airport. We have a pre-flight program first and I have the honor of kicking each program off by sounding Reveille! Then when our Marine honor guard brings in the colors, I sound To The Color. As we break and get ready to report to the bus, I play "Assembly".

I've always wondered if any other BAA volunteers are doing the same thing? There are about 110 to 120 hubs across the country, so I suspect someone else must be doing it somewhere.



Paul Roache - Michigan

I have been a member of BAA since 2003 and am a professional free-lance trumpeter in the Detroit area. I have been dedicated in sharing my talents by sounding “Taps” at military funerals and memorial services across southeastern Michigan and northern Ohio.

This year I had the honor to play at the General Motors Veteran’s Affinity Group “Field of Flags” (seen here) at the GM Willow Run Complex. Here we honored the 6,581 military

personnel to date who have given their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. This year’s guests of honor included two Generals and a Colonel. Under those circumstances, I wanted to be certain the calls these officers have heard their entire careers were played absolutely flawlessly. *(No pressure there!)*



Another memorable event I attended this year was the annual Veteran’s Day service held at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit. This service is a combination service, honoring both US veterans and veterans from Commonwealth nations such as Canada and Great Britain. The end of the service remembers all the veterans who have passed with the sounding of “Taps” and “Reveille” and the Commonwealth calls “Last Post” and “Rouse”.

This year, November 10th, 2013, marks the 50th anniversary of this commemorative service. It has been my pleasure and honor to play the past nine.

I have never served our country in a service branch, but It’s a tremendous honor to be able to represent BAA and its mission at the many funerals and services for this nation’s military members I’m called on to play for. I joined BAA because I felt it would be the best way for me to properly thank those who have served.

Tommy South - Virginia

I've been playing trumpet/cornet since 5th grade and all through college, under all kinds of weather conditions and I have never had this happen before.

In late January, I had volunteered to sound Taps for a 90-year-old WWII vet at a nearby cemetery. That afternoon it was 22 degrees & snowing. There was a delay in beginning the service, so I remained at my post, as did the honor guard. Just before it was time for me to play, I gave the valves on my Blessing cornet a quick push-down, as most of us do, I suppose, only to find that the first valve didn't come back up. I took off my glove & tried to raise it, but it was frozen solid. I checked the spit valves, only to find they were frozen also, so I didn't try to force them, fearing they would freeze in the open position. Fortunately, I had planned to play Taps first-valve-down anyway, so it wasn't a problem. The valve didn't thaw out until I got home.

I think I need to clean my horn, or else get some heavier-weight valve oil. Maybe 10W-40?



This photo was taken at the Virginia War Memorial, where I frequently sound Taps on patriotic holidays. This day I played Echo Taps with Bud Oakey, also of Richmond and also a BAA member. The glass wall behind me has inscribed on it the names of Virginia war dead, and the folks looking through the glass were standing outside the memorial due to the large crowd (1700+). I was standing just behind the governor of Virginia, Robert McDonnell.

Timothy Griffin - New Jersey

I started playing bugle in the scouts over 40 years ago and served as the Troop #141 Bugler. I went on to play in the Bergenfield High School Marching Band and then with Drum & Bugle Corps. I played bugle (lead soprano) with the Hawthorne Muchachos and the Bayonne Bridgemen during the mid to late 1970's. My interest in BAA was something that came about after my father's funeral, a Korean War Veteran, who was buried back in 1998 without the deserved military honors. The funeral director said that it's hard to get military personnel let alone a live bugler and it was his practice to sound Taps with a boom box tucked away behind a tombstone. Not a very fitting tribute for someone who had served his Country. I felt the need to "pay it back" and BAA was the perfect place to do that.



I once played a funeral in Brooklyn for a WWII vet. The family could not produce a DD214 to the funeral director in time to request a military presence. Upon my arrival, I learned that there would be no military honors. I played Taps, did the Flag fold with the assistance of a sharp veteran who was in attendance and presented the Flag to the widow reciting the traditional words for that branch of service. I was happy to be able to make that day special for the family and made me realize that I need to be prepared for anything.

Most recently, I was asked to play Taps at a cemetery in Kearny, NJ for a WWII veteran who was buried over 10 years ago but never received the honor of Taps. The request was to perform it for his 93 year old widow and for his son and daughter who were now in their mid-60's. It had been planned for three weeks and although I was suffering from a bout with food poisoning, I knew I couldn't miss this date. Upon arrival, the family could not remember where he was buried so we hunted for the grave for about an hour until we finally found it. While the widow sat in a wheelchair before her husband's grave, I stood behind her and off to the side. I sounded the 24 notes of Taps perfectly, stood at attention and presented a sharp salute. The son and daughter were in tears but the widow sat there looking straight ahead at the tombstone. I waited for a reaction but there was none. She finally turned and looked at me and asked, "are you going to play something?" I was dumbfounded. The son apologized and informed me that "Mom can't hear so good

anymore". I smiled, kissed her on the cheek and returned to my car with a very special memory.



These photos were taken at the National Law Enforcement Memorial Service in Washington D.C. in May, 2013 during National Police Week.

Performing the "echo" was Police Officer Kimberly Bonsanti of the Port Authority Police of New York/New Jersey who is a BAA member as well. Kim and I perform at this event every year and are the official buglers for the National Police Emerald Society.

Michael J. Del Vecchio - New Jersey

I played Taps recently for a personal friend of mine, a Marine veteran. It gave me the chance to meet the funeral detail from the Marine Corps stationed at Picatinny Arsenal here in Dover. As usual they had a third Marine with the electronic bugle. I explained to them the purpose of Bugles Across America and the First Sergeant in charge was very interested.

I advised him to go to the BAA web site and seek the Request a Bugler page to use of our large bugler network.

He liked the idea of eliminating one of the three they use for their funeral detail. Their territory covers from Toms River, New Jersey, north to the New York state line, and from the New Jersey coast and Hudson River west to Delaware. The sergeant advised me that they do as many as seven funeral details per week.



Hawthorne NJ 5/27/2013 . Memorial Day parade. Taps played by Mike Del Vecchio. Don Smith/staff photographer

Polly Backes - Illinois

Dearest Tom Day.

I meant to send you this Thank You a long time ago. I have no excuses except that life got in the way.

Thank You for sponsoring my son, Jesse Backes for the third time in four years this year for his participation in Cavaliers. He is grateful and I am overwhelmed by the incredible generosity you have shown our son, Jesse Backes for three of his four years in Drum Corps. Jesse has 'risen through the ranks"...in 2011 the Cavs Drumline won the Sanford High Drum Award and are on the road to winning MIT again this year!



Jesse is the Drum Sergeant for 2013, a Junior Officer and the Center on the Cavalier's Snare Line. He and his fellow Drum Sergeants have been working diligently with the entire Corps to get them ready to start the 2013 season. They have been filming themselves playing, made suggestions about music, had everyone memorize all the music for the upcoming season, tutored and taught each other, practiced like mad, kept in verbal and online communication with one another and their individual sections since the lines were set and the sections were full and the guys were sure being a Cavalier meant being the best group since

they were the best in DCI...it all bodes well for a successful season!

Jesse is graduated from The University of Illinois this past May with a Music Education Degree...he will be certified from K-Grade 12. His student teaching experience for this semester from home has been so much fun, hard work, and a successful time for him...his high school band director, mentor and student teaching guide told Jesse's dad and I that "Jesse is a good teacher, now and he is going to be one of the Great Ones!"...I cried...Jesse is a natural and easy going kind of a guy and popular with the hundreds of friends he has made, in Drum Corps, at college and student teaching...he has been teaching Green Thunder Percussion for the WGI competitions. Every weekend they have met for the past three years and has made a real difference in the snare line and the battery with his dedication and love of the guys, the music, the staff and the parents! He LOVES teaching and has had numbers of students who come to him because of his experiences and the reputation he has as a great player and a great person. I know you would be proud of his accomplishments.

Bragging aside...you made it possible this year and 2010 and 2011 for him to march Colts and then, Cavaliers with your generous donations to him.

I promise with all my heart that he will 'pay it forward'...see to it that as many kids as possible get a chance to march for Drum Corps around the country as soon as it is possible for him to do that. He has worked with high school and college students when he teaches privately and many have tried out and 'made it' to the Marching Illini Drum Line and Drum Corps around the country. Jesse helped them get there with his teaching and his demonstration of skills.

I just wanted you to know how much it means to receive help from a stranger. I wish so much that we could meet in person! If you do get to a show this summer please look for Jesse...the tall redhead in the center of the snare line.



He would so much love to meet you and Thank You in person (and so would I).

*Thank You. Thank You. Thank You.
A million times Thank You.*

All good things to you, to Bugles Across America, to your family...and mostly to YOU!!!!

*Polly Backes
Jesse Backes' Mom*



Dennis Bruso - Vermont

My introduction to Bugles Across America was June 12, 2013. My wife and I attended a funeral of a family friend, with my trumpet in the car. I asked the detail if they had coverage for Taps. They did not. I was instructed to go up to the top of the hill and stay alert and ready for the gun salute. That was my cue.

The location was the Veterans Cemetery in Randolph, VT. It is a beautiful setting amidst the green hills and rural surroundings of central Vermont.

After several minutes of watching, but not hearing, the ceremony, I realized that I should take a couple of pictures with my phone. The trumpet went between my knees and the phone into my hand. As I'm taking a picture there occurred a loud "BANG". The phone was dropped and forgotten and the trumpet came up as I realized that the first cue had just been sounded.

Taps went off without a hitch. After the ceremony was over the widow told my wife how desperately she wanted me to play Taps but hadn't had the chance to ask. When my wife told her that I had been the one that played, she wept with gratitude.

The sergeant in charge of the detail told me about Bugles Across America as we prepared to leave. I registered that day.



Richard Stanczak - Illinois

Annually, on the Saturday before Memorial Day, a tribute is conducted to honor the five American veterans who are buried at the 1.2 acre Jewell Grove Cemetery in Wheaton, Illinois. Four of the individuals fought for the Union Army in the Civil War, with the fifth a veteran of the War of 1812. Enactors, portraying the likes of Abraham Lincoln, U.S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, etc., who are associated with Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) give brief speeches and eulogies honoring those individuals, and all of our fallen heroes. I am afforded the opportunity and honor to play Taps at this event every year following the gun salute.



Auston O'Neill Jr - Virginia

I participated with the Spirit of '45 in Washington DC's Memorial Day parade. I'm riding in the car holding a picture of my dad, Auston E O'Neill Sr, who fought World War II.

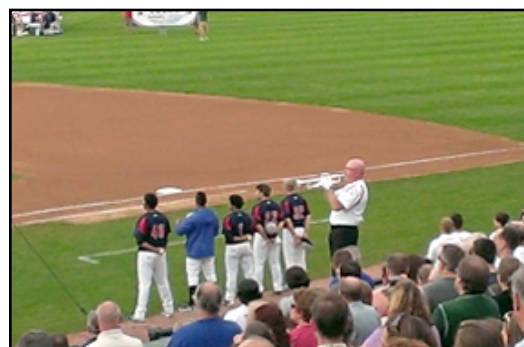


Jim Gould & Al Larson - Illinois



On June 6, 2013, the Kane County Cougars held a Military Appreciation Night. They honored veterans and active military throughout the evening. All branches were represented to throw out the first pitch. American Legion Post 80 from Downers Grove and Honor Flight Chicago brought out the colors and a large American

flag was unfolded in centerfield. Before the National Anthem they asked for a moment of silence and BAA member Al Larson and myself sounded Taps from on top of the dugouts. It was such an honor to play for an appreciative crowd like that and Echo Taps sounded great. After the game everyone enjoyed a patriotic fireworks show.



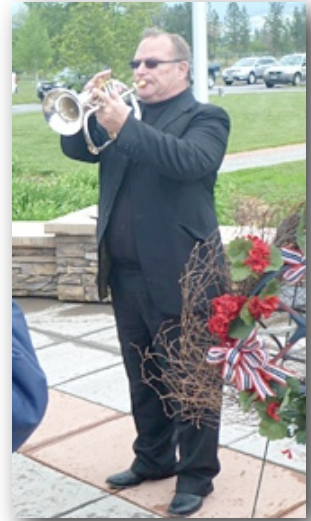
Congratulations to BAA Bugler & Marine, Ed Crobie for just completing his 6,500th Taps mission for Bugles Across America.

Elliott Oppenheim - Montana

I proudly sounded Taps in ten Memorial Day services and got the word out about BAA.



With Major General Matt Quinn.
He is in charge of all military operations in Montana.



US Senator John Testor, D-Montana. I tell everyone about BAA and we got on three TV stations and NPR!



Peters Erwin - Vice-President, US Wereth Memorial

*"I would like to express my thanks for **Hartmut Hausser** who played Taps at our ceremony in Wereth in May. He did this perfect and in very bad weather conditions. Respect for Him and your organization. Thank you and Greetings from Belgium."*

Rick de Treville - Florida

This veterans' group wanted "Assembly" to open their ceremony. It was a great opportunity to play my Kanstul bugle.

Now when I play Taps, I "channel" (former Florida BAA State Director) John Murphy and think of his style and accuracy. Some great memories...



Peter Duston - Maine

The wind chill was about 10 degrees at the annual B52 Crash memorial on Elephant Mountain, ME.

After a half hour snowmobile ride in the bitter cold, we reach a B52 crash site in Elephant Mountain, Maine. It is the annual memorial service for the 7 crew members which were killed when the plane went down on the mountain side. The service is conducted by the USAF Honor Guard of the 101st Refueling Wing, Maine ANG and the Maine

Warden Service who both participated in the original rescue effort. Two of the crew survived the crash.

BAA member, COL John Thomas, 101st Air Refueling Wing, ME ANG Base



Mark Tuggle - Florida

Thought I would share a video of me and my step daughter performing Echo Taps for a 2013 Memorial Event here in Ocala, Florida.

[Click to watch](#)



Tom Day - Illinois

Last weekend my family and I stopped by an Estate sale of an old house in the Westchester, Illinois area. We went to the upstairs area and walked into one room and saw a very nice Folded Flag in a wood case. I went to look at the case and pulled it forward to see the condition of the back of the case and to my surprise there was a BAA decal and my business card. As it happens that I played for this funeral a few years back. So I donated to the family and the flag is ready for another family in the future. It is a small world.

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

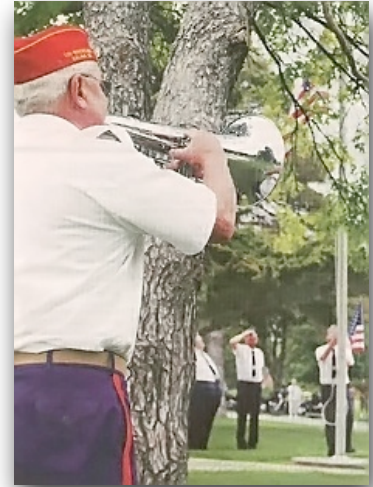
BAA- IN THE NEWS

Bugle Brings Fulfillment to Veterans

By Jennifer Stultz, Hillsboro Star Journal, Kansas

Larry Cushenberry's instrument of choice Monday at Hillsboro's Memorial Day ceremony was bigger than a trumpet, shorter than a trombone, had only two valves, and took more than 15 years for him to find. When deep somber tones issued forth as he played "To the Colors" Cushenberry felt a sense of peace.

"I've been looking for something like this for a long time," the Durham resident said. "I've always been a non-traditional kind of guy and I wanted a more masculine tone. When I play this, it just makes me feel better."



A Marine Corps veteran, Cushenberry plays his euphonium bugle in memory of friends and fellow service men who did not come back from military enlistments. He plays for fellow firefighters who died in service and whom he got to know during his years as a firefighter in Wichita. He also plays to ease the loss of his son, Brett Cushenberry, a bull rider who died in the 2003 finals of the Central Plains Rodeo Association in Hutchinson.

"The lower tones of this instrument bring a lot of emotion with them," he said. "It is a more soothing tone."

Feedback from Cushenberry's performance at Hillsboro's Memorial Day ceremony was mostly positive. While many commented that they enjoyed the musical quality of his instrument, he said there were questions about his song choice.

"Some wondered why we didn't play the 'Star-Spangled Banner,'" he said. "Most veterans know that 'To the Colors' is equivalent to the 'Star-Spangled Banner' at smaller bases where they don't have a full-size band."

Cushenberry is a certified member of **Bugles Across America** and plays military songs, revelry, charge, and Taps cadences for 15 to 20 military funerals or honor ceremonies each year.

Click [here](#) for full article

G.P. (Chip) Stickler - BAA Maryland State Director

Check out the following link that Maryland's youngest Bugler and Boy Scout troop Bugler, Avi Chittum sent me. He is a good bugler, a great student and a natural at PR work.

[This segment](#) will air as part of Rockville 11's October TV newscast starting Oct. 1st, 2013.



[Click here for the segment](#)



TOPINKA SALUTES BUGLES ACROSS AMERICA *Comptroller celebrates commitment to veterans*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013
BRAD HAHN / 630-606-1394

SPRINGFIELD – Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka recently saluted the commitment of **Bugles Across America** for its dedication to preserving American history through bugling.

As part of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller's "Veteran's Day" at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Topinka presented groups and individuals from throughout the state with proclamations celebrating their achievements and dedication. Topinka specifically honored **Tom Day**.

The bugle was the chief mode of communication for the Cavalry during the Civil War. There are many bugle calls, but the most well-known bugle call is Taps.

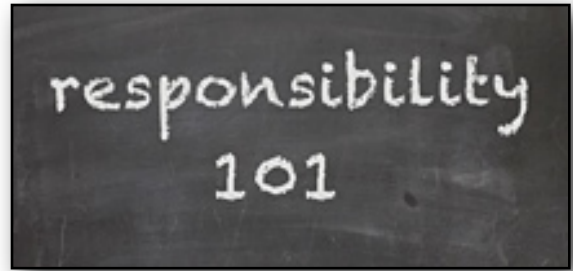
"Tom has selflessly worked to ensure we remember all the brave souls who fought in the War Between the States," Topinka said. "Their efforts have made a difference to thousands of military families in Illinois and beyond, and it is my honor to salute their volunteerism."



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

Your Guide To Being a Responsible BAA Member



Q: Why is it important to update your contact information?

A: You will be sent the correct requests for your area, to the email address you prefer and if BAA needs to reach you, we can.

Q: Can't BAA update my information for me?

A: We are encouraging member responsibility in keeping their profile up to date.

Q: How to I update my contact information?

A: 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 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"**

Q: I can't volunteer for a request. Should I let BAA know?

A: It is not necessary to reply to the request email. While we truly appreciate your willingness to serve, you are replying to an automated message.

Q: I am able to volunteer for a request. Now what?

A: Please click 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 then be given an option to formally click on a link to volunteer yourself for it.

Q: How will I know if I'm the bugler that accepted the request?

A: You will be sent a confirmation email with the requestor's contact information. Please contact the requester ASAP. If you don't see email, please check your spam folder.

Q: I lost my email with the contact information for the request I accepted. How can I get that information?

A: Log in to the BAA web site. After you've logged in, you will see a tab at the top called **My Events**. Clicking on that will show you the information you are looking for.

Q: I accepted a request but now have to cancel, what do I do?

A: 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, contact your State Director ASAP. Not showing up lets down the family of the deceased and is grounds for membership removal.

Q: How do I contact my State Director?

A: If you don't already have their contact information, log in to the BAA web site 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.



SEEN THIS MONTH ON FACEBOOK

BAA Pict of the Day: BAA member, John Stevens, bugler American Legion Post 6, sounding Taps at Prescott VA Medical Center in Prescott, Arizona.



Oldest BAA Member at a young 95 Jack Steidl. [Watch Video](#). Pictured here playing the fight song of his Alma Mater, Notre Dame.

BAA National Coordinator Larry Wiseman sounding Taps at Arlington [Video](#), Echoed by BAA Maryland State Director, Chip Stickler. Salute rendered by BAA National Spokesperson, Susan D. Wiseman, AKA The Tribute Lady, honoring Air Force Veteran, Elmer Haupt. They sounded Taps in several locations last November; this photo was taken at the grave marker of George Lutz II, whose father is the founder of Honor and Remember.



BAA Tenn. State Director, David Cox; also is the Division Vice Commander at United States Coast Guard Auxiliary See [David's Video](#)



BAA Alaska



BAA Alaska...Drew Herman



**Thank You Brent Christensen!
BA State Director, Utah**

"Members of the community conducted the Flag Ceremony and, a Bugler from Bugles Across America sounded TAPS – the family was appreciative of our efforts and offered to make a donation to cover our expenses. *"No thank you, it was my honor – Sanus Veneratio ~ Veneratio Sanus."* By the way, the Bugler is not wearing his white uniform gloves . . . they were placed on Seaman/2nd Class Bruce William Warren's casket as a token of respect."

Georgia BAA Member: George "Rich" Nuckolls



BAA Pic of the Day...Virginia bugler Tommy South, along with Russell Wilson, sounding Taps August 2011.
[View story here.](#)



*Providing Emergency Financial Aid and Other Services
to Veterans Severely Wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan*

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes continues to work diligently on assisting Veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have also been working on our Road to Recovery that will be coming up in December. We have an online education program through a partnership with [Skillsoft](#) and we are proud of the fact that our financial aid dollars have never been given out in such abundance and quite so expediently.

I'm excited to share that we have begun a beautiful partnership with Bennigan's (the restaurant). Bennigan's has launched the [Wall of Heroes](#).



On March 27, 2012, a man walked into Bennigan's in Borger, Texas, bought a beer and wrote a note in memory of a fallen soldier, his friend LTJG Frankie Toner. It was the third anniversary of Frankie's death in Afghanistan, and the man asked that the beer and note be left on the bar that night to honor Frankie's sacrifice. The bartender was so touched by this gesture that she took a picture and posted it on her Facebook page, telling the man's story. The photo went viral and quickly caught the attention of the Bennigan's home office. Guests across the country were later invited to do the same for their military heroes. Thus began Bennigan's Wall of Heroes.

[Wall of Heroes](#) is a nationwide campaign by Bennigan's that began this past Memorial Day. The campaign is in support of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. It will run through Veterans Day (Nov. 15). Guests are invited to purchase a drink in honor of anyone that is currently serving or has served in the U.S. Armed Forces. After ordering the drink, the guest writes a message on a Wall of Heroes notecard ([supplied here](#)), takes a photo of the drink and the message, and then uploads the picture to Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #WallofHeroes. Guests may also email the photo. For every photo uploaded, Bennigan's donates \$1.00 to the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.

Thank you all in participating in our Team!

The following is our criteria for Emergency Financial Assistance:

To be considered for financial aid and other services from CSAH, applicants must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

- An injury sustained during combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, or in support of those operations in a hostile environment;
- A disability rating assigned by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs of 30 percent or greater from a single, sustained injury;
- Currently experiencing severe financial hardship;
- Completion of a Coalition to Salute America's Heroes aid application and timely submission of supporting documentation as requested; and
- Completion of a phone interview with a Coalition to Salute America's Heroes case manager.

Cpl. Donny Daughenbaugh USMC (ret.) Semper Fi !

Regional Vice President East

2629 Aztec Ct.

League City, TX 77573

Mobile (515)868-4470

Office (703)291-4605 ext. 107

Announcing our exciting new Text Campaign! To Donate \$10.00 to the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes text the word SALUTE to 80888 .

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

www.saluteheroes.org



In recent weeks, Bugles Across America has been contacted by Helping Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) to assist them at some grand opening ceremonies for several of their locations. They wish to have a bugler to serve for that part of the program that will honor the fallen. We are gratified to report that all requests for these events were filled within 36 hours of their posting. That included one very sparsely populated area in southwestern Wyoming.



The primary mission of HHV is to provide armed service and military veteran patients receiving care at US federal, state, and commercial medical or nursing home care facilities with therapeutic arts and crafts kits and other products. These kits go a long way in keeping hands active and minds alert during the often long and arduous times of recuperation and recovery. These products and projects provide a very welcome and necessary assurance to the patients that they have not been forgotten and that they still retain the capability to function, concentrate and work with their physical abilities. Quoting from their materials:

“HHV will promote the general welfare of armed service veterans and military patients so that, despite profound disabilities and pain, they maintain a sense of pride, self-confidence and dignity during their rehabilitation process.”

Help Hospitalized Veterans was founded in April 1971, after a group of concerned citizens visited with several Marines who had been wounded in Vietnam. While recuperating at the Balboa Naval Hospital, the Marines were asked, “How can we help you?” One often repeated comment heard was on the lines of, “Give me something to do with my hands,” and an expression that the endless hours of recuperation were often harder to take than combat.



After discussions with hospital clinicians and patients alike, the first arts and crafts kits were delivered. Seeing all the smiling faces, it was understood that the kits had a tremendous therapeutic value, not only psychological, but in many cases, that value turned out to be a



physical as well. It only remained to be seen if the American public would be supportive. Today donors are the lifeblood of HHV's continuing program all across the country. The largest supplier of arts and crafts kits, HHV provides these products — free of charge—to all VA and military facilities that care for hospitalized veterans and active-duty military. HHV does not seek nor do they receive any government funding.

Years later, during a visit to the San Diego VA hospital, one veteran inpatient at the San Diego VA Hospital said, "These kits are like medicine that doesn't come in a bottle.," and this sentiment has been repeated many times and at many locations.

Bugles Across America is proud to be associated with this outstanding service organization, and we would encourage our members to find out more about them, and perhaps take it upon themselves to give support. More can be learned of this group by following this [link](#), clicking on their logo on the side banner of our BAA home page or going straight to **hhv.org**



Thank you Bugles Across America!

August 14th, 2013 marked the 9,000th Bugler Requests received on our website alone, since October of 2010; that is when our new website went live. After some research in our system, National Coordinator Howard Reitenbaugh reports that of those 9,000, we have actually filled 86% of them, and that in the last 60 days, we have received over 700 requests. We would love to report a 100% acceptance rate, but being an all volunteer group, we do understand that all can't be all places at all times. We are so thankful to all of our volunteers for their dedication and faithfulness to our common cause of nothing more than to Honor the Veteran.



National POW / MIA Recognition Day

On September 20th, 2013, the nation will honor those service members who endured captivity and whose remains have yet to be recovered. The day serves as a stark reminder of the risks and sacrifices that American service members and their families make every day.

Today, there are still more than 83,000 American troops missing in action, according to the Department of Defense Prisoner of War-Missing Personnel Office. That includes some 73,681 from World War II; 7,947 from the Korean War; 126 during the Cold War; 1,657 from the Vietnam War; and six from Iraq and other conflicts.

America's POW/MIAs be honored and recognized, not just memorialized.

[POW / MIA Families](#)



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
- * West Virginia
- * Washington

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 contact Mr. Vytas Sulaitis at VS Printing. (708) 655-4774 vsprinting@hotmail.com

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](#)

[Coalition to Salute America's Heroes](#)

[The National League of POW/MIA Families](#)

[The Bent Prop Project](#)

[Help Hospitalized Veterans](#)

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.