

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



Welcome to November, 2013!



Fellow Buglers, I know that May and November are perhaps our busiest months, as Memorial Day and Veterans Day bring many requests and opportunities for bugler tributes. Last year I did 17 events from 2 through 17 November. This year, so far, I have 10 events on schedule, not counting possible Military Funerals.

I would like to ask that you all try to remember Nov. 25th. On this date 50 years ago President John F Kennedy was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Army Bugler Keith Clark was serving, and he chipped the 6th note of Taps. We all try to be perfect every time, but it does happen. I refer to this as a "Buglers Tear". See page 4 for more details.

I am asking that you as a lone Bugler mark the day Nov. 25th, by playing Taps at a Veterans Memorial in your town. President Kennedy was our youngest President and a World War II Navy Veteran. Since we are all Buglers, this could be an Honor Performance in memory of Army Bugler Keith Clark as well. Our original idea is called "A Buglers Tear", for sounding of Taps on November 25, 2013 all across America. Chip Stickler, the Maryland BAA State Director, had a great program planned and approved by the staff at Arlington, but we were asked not to go forward with our program on that date at the request of the Kennedy Family. Naturally we complied with their request.

Since November is the month of "Thanksgiving", I want to thank The Elks, the Help Hospitalized Veterans organization, and All America for supporting BAA. Each morning I say a



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short prayer of Thanks to the members of BAA for what you are all doing everyday.

Thanks to the Elks continuing and generous sponsorship, our veterans visiting Washington D.C. during the recent government shutdown were still able to have LIVE Taps sounded at their ceremonies during the Honor Flight visits. Their sponsorship also allows BAA members to do a conservatively estimated 3,500 military funeral honors every month all across America. Always remember the Elks built the first Veterans Hospital and one of the Elks earliest members was General "Black Jack, Pershing" who stated, "We will always remember our Veterans on the 11th hour of the 11th Day, of the 11th Month." Our buglers will be sounding Taps LIVE all across America and even on the burial grounds in some foreign lands on that day. Should Elk Lodges wish to have a live horn player at their December "Remembrance" Ceremonies, they can go to www.buglesacrossamerica.org and use our Request a Bugler system.

The year 2014 will mark the 14th year for Bugles Across America, and NOT ONE penny of government funds has been spent on the program. It's a free service, and we have now reached the mark of 10,000 entries in our Bugler Request system since October 2010. Over 3600 of those have come through in this year alone so far. BAA members have completed over 200,000 Funeral Honors and have contributed over a MILLION volunteer hours since our beginning. My motto is. "Do good things, and tell people about it".

This is the final BUGLERS POST for 2013, so I want to personally thank you all for a great year, and have yourself a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanuka. Please remember December Dec. 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, and December 14th, which is the "Wreath's Across America" program.

Fly The Flag and God Bless The USA.
Tom Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

Baltimore Veterans Day Parade

Hello all,

Dean and I would like to invite you to join us at the Baltimore Veterans Day Parade, at the invitation of the Mayor herself. We will be in the parade on Monday the 11th of November, and afterward we will play Echo Taps from the balcony of City Hall in Baltimore.

It is a true honor to be asked for the second time in two years to do this. A few weeks ago we were asked to join the Mayor, and were her Rifle Guards in a Veterans Day Commercial. Of course, Dean and I brought our WWII M1's and stood proudly on either side of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. We spoke to Tom Day, and the Mayor about including our Scouts, and they all said yes, immediately.

We will meet at the Washington Monument on Charles Street in Baltimore at 7:45am.

If you can make it, please mark your calendar, and email me ASAP.

Sincerely,

G. P. (Chip) Stickler

Maryland State Director,

sticklersmusic@gmail.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 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, 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 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.

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: Illinois

State Director: Lawrence Buttimer

How long have you been with BAA?

I registered in 2010 but was apparently lost in the system for a number of months. I have been active since my first mission for USCG Alfred Janz on March 24, 2011.



Photo Credit: James Hoch Photography

Why did you join BAA?

In April, 2010 when Michael Embry, owner of Fun Me Events, became my new client we talked about his extensive experience with NIU, the USAF, Drum and Bugle Corps and, of course, Bugles Across America as well as my playing trumpet through elementary, high school, college, churches and professionally and other venues. It was obvious that BAA was, and is, a wonderful way to thank and pay respect to all who have served our country in the armed forces and as first responders.

How long have you been playing?

55 years.

What is the hardest part about being a State Director?

Scheduling of new registrant's interviews and auditions as well covering missions when no one has volunteered is often challenging.

What is the best part about being a State Director?

I have the honor and privilege of working with countless wonderful and dedicated people including Tom and Jennifer Day, Illinois Assistant Director, Ed Crobie, some excellent Funeral Directors, and the vast majority of the Military Funeral Honors Teams, who so appreciate the work and dedication of our buglers sounding Taps live, and our awe-inspiring, all-weather buglers themselves. I thank you all for your service, and the honor to work for our Veterans and their families.

What has been your best experience with BAA?

The opportunity to serve and recognize others is both a great experience and its own reward.

What is your goal for your state?

I want to expand both the number of our contacts and our sphere of influence. There are many people and entities whom we can serve, and many people who could be serving, who know little or nothing about us. They also are not aware that, by law, the Sounding of Taps by a live bugler, when available, is the right of those who have served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Since there are not enough qualified buglers in our military, Bugles Across America is the organization to fulfill that need.

In the course of my full time job's sales activities, I often call on religious leaders, funeral homes and crematoriums to make them aware of BAA. I deliver my BAA business cards and brochures so they will have information about our organization, responsibilities and how to reach us when the need arises. I also stop at music stores/schools and high schools to recruit new volunteers and get our information posted on the bulletin boards or in the band director's files. The recruits may be trumpet, cornet or flugelhorn students or instructors.

If you think you can't make a sales call, please know that when you sound Taps you are delivering the most appreciated valued and memorable service to the family, of one of our country's heroes. That is the greatest sale ever made and the zero dollar cost cannot be beat. I encourage all of us to make those kinds of contacts on a regular basis. Who can say no to something so cherished and valued?

Personal likes, dislikes & other things you don't mind sharing

The Bible demonstrates that our Savior came to serve others rather than to be served. I believe that we are all here to serve others and Bugles Across America, through our volunteers, brings peace and comfort to those whom we serve.

Is there anything you'd like to share with your audience?

I am often told by the widow of a veteran for whom I am sounding Taps, that hearing Taps will make her cry. I will tell her that I sound Taps with my eyes closed so that she will not see the tear in my eye.

I present a personalized, custom card to the family, of the deceased Veteran, offering both my sympathy for their loss and my gratitude for the named Veteran's service to the branch of the military and our country.

Assistant Director: Edward Crobie

How long have you been with BAA?

I guess you could say I joined March 7, 2002 after meeting Tom Day at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery where I had been sounding Taps. Tom was in the honor guard room when I got there. He asked me what service I was there for, and I told him I sound Taps, and I was here to sound Taps for all of our nation's veterans that I could today.

Why did you join?

Tom explained to me that day how he was trying to get volunteer buglers for BAA to sound live Taps for our nations veterans, and how there was a great need for them instead of a Boom Box. I know at the National Cemetery they were using a recording at each shelter for honors which I felt the rendition was way too fast.



Memorial Day 2012 Echo Taps

How long have you been playing?

I started playing a cornet in 4th grade in the St. Dennis School band in Lockport Illinois. I went on to Joliet Catholic High School and also played in the Band. After high school I worked for a short time and soon joined the U.S. Marine Corps. After boot camp I was sent to Field Music School where I was trained to be a bugler. Then it was on to DaNang, Vietnam where I first went to the 1st Marine Division Band for about three months. Then it was on to the Third Marine Amphibious Force Drum and Bugle Corps. From there I was sent to Henderson Hall in Arlington Virginia till I was discharged.

I worked for a Power Company for 30 years and never picked up the horn much till I retired and started sounding Taps at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. Now I try to play every day.

What is the hardest part about being a SD?

When new buglers sign up on the website Larry Buttimer or I have to find time to call them, and sometimes its many calls to get ahold of them for an audition of Taps and give them the proper information on BAA. Finding time is the hardest part.

What is the best part about being a SD?

I would say that it would be that I had a part in giving a volunteer bugler the honor of sounding Taps for one of our nation's veterans at their military honors ceremony.

What has been your best experience with BAA?

That would be receiving the Bugler of the Year Award at the Convention in 2006, and in 2010 having the honor of sounding Taps for the President of the United States at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. Both were truly and honor that I will never forget. Thanks again BAA.

What is your goal for your state?

I think in the future it will be important to go through our state active bugler list and try to contact each name to see if they are active and are still willing to be a part of BAA.

Personal likes, dislikes and other personal info you don't mind sharing?

It's an honor for me to sound Taps for our nation's veterans, and I love to do it. It's been a big part of my life for the last eleven years, along with my eleven grandkids. I also love to be a volunteer bugler on the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery Memorial Squad. There were nine volunteers and one bugler that started with the Memorial Squad in 2003 and now there are 120 with twelve buglers who are all some of the most dedicated volunteers you would ever want to meet. I really don't care for the winter too much.

Is there anything you'd like to share with your audience?

When sounding Taps sometimes many times a day at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery or at a private cemetery I always try to think about each individual veteran before sounding Taps. For me it's saying thank you for all the freedoms I and my family have today, and the many sacrifices they made for their country, and how it brings closure to their family. Taps is the last moving memory a family will have of their loved ones passing. The sounding of Taps at a final military honors ceremony is truly a great honor. Just a thought, maybe if a bugler thinks about some of this before he or she sounds Taps the jitters will go away. Thanks BAA buglers for all you do, and thanks to you Tom Day for all the help you have given to me through the years, and being a true friend. You are one of the most dedicated volunteers for our nation's veterans and their families. It's been a pleasure knowing you. And last, thanks to my wife and family for all these years for supporting me. God bless America!

OUR NEW STATE DIRECTORS

Gary Torressen - New Hampshire

I am 46 years old married to my wonderful supportive wife Melissa for 23 years this past September. We have two children; Alysha and Andrew. Alysha is a senior at the University of New Hampshire and Andrew is a freshman (Rook) in the Corps of Cadets at Norwich University in Vermont. I grew up in Weymouth, Massachusetts. My wife and I moved to Moultonborough, New Hampshire in 1996. Since being here have been involved in the community. I served two terms (1999-2002) in the New Hampshire State House as a State Representative. I did not run a third term as I wanted to spend more time with family. I am currently on the school board in Moultonborough and I am the missions director at my church. I work as a technical support engineer for Enterasys Networks in Salem, New Hampshire and have been with them for seventeen years. I enjoy spending time with family and being involved with my church and community.



What brought me to be a part of BAA is that my dad, a WWII Army veteran, passed away last year and he had military honors at his memorial service. However, part of that was Taps on an electronic bugle which I did not expect. The bugle failed about three notes into Taps. The Honor Guard detail did a great job though and continued with the flag folding. Arrangements were made to have a bugler for the interment at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery. This time it was live Taps by BAA member MSGT Lee Hirtle, though I did not know that at the time.

Earlier this spring I was in my office thinking about my dad's service and what had happened with the electronic bugle and saw my trumpet sitting in the closet. I said "I know how to play Taps! How can I help!" Long story short I found BAA and signed up. Spoke with Peter Duston, State Director in Maine and I have been honored to be able to play Taps for the Veterans and families since.

My most recent assignment I was honored to play Taps for a former colleague who I served with in the NH House of Representatives. He was a WWII USCG Veteran. I arrived at the NHVC at 8:30 for the 9:00 service. As it got closer to 9:00 the staff at the NHVC realized that the USGC Honor detail were delayed not going to make it. Lt Col Mike Horne USAF (Ret) the Cemetery director asked if I would be willing to assist him with the flag folding. I said I had not

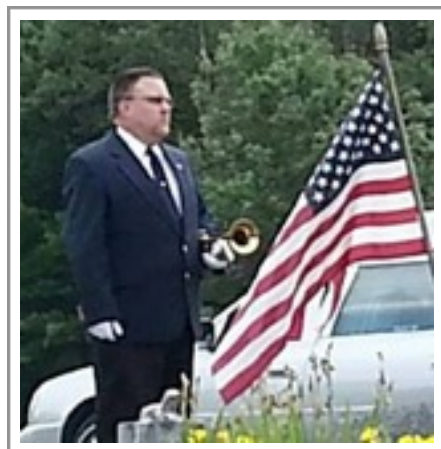
done it before but would be willing and he guided me through the steps. Peter Duston had told me in the first call I had with him to be prepared sometimes for the unexpected. Those words were true on this day. To be able to be there for a former colleague and his family to perform Taps and assist with the flag folding, I know this was a comfort to his family.

Just recently I organized a 9/11 remembrance ceremony in Moultonborough where Taps was played to remember all who were lost that day. The Moultonborough Academy Chorus sang the National Anthem and two of the band members played Echo Taps. Local Police, Fire and EMS personnel as well as Town Officials and Clergy as were involved. We were glad to join with the millions across America who were doing the same, and sounding Taps with fellow buglers to honor all those who were lost that day.

I hold a special place in my heart for the military and veterans and those who gave all for the freedoms we have today. Grateful to my parents for instilling in me a love of God, family and country.

I learned to play the trumpet in fifth grade and played till High School. Taps was one of the first songs I wanted my trumpet teacher to teach me. And he did and I am grateful to be able to play it now to honor our Veterans. Of all the songs learned and played this is the most important to me. 24 notes. Sound the honor – Honor the sound

Gary Torressen
New Hampshire State Director



Ernie Richardson - Assistant Director, Michigan

I was born in Detroit and began playing the trumpet when I was eight years old. By the time I was ten, I was also playing French Horn in the Detroit Parks and Recreation Boys Band under Harold Arnoldi. I also played in a Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corps and was the Troop Bugler. In Junior High School I played in Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, Pit Band and Dance Band and was the Student Conductor.

While attending Cass Technical High School, I played in bands under Dr. Harry Begian, whom later became director of bands at University of Illinois.



I attended Detroit Bible College, pursuing a dual major in Bible and in Music (Trumpet and Voice). There I studied trumpet under Louis LaRose and James Tamburini, French Horn under Ernestine Barnes and Voice under Amos Ebersole and Leon Anderson. I studied Conducting under James Boersma, Leon Anderson and Thor Johnson.

In 1966 I became an ordained Southern Baptist Minister.

I have sung with Michigan Opera Theater Chorus, Rackham Symphony Chorus and a variety of other choirs and choruses.

I have directed choirs in Michigan churches and was also the founder director of the Handbell and Hand Chime choirs at Christ Church, Grosse Pointe and also directed the Handbell Choir at St. Gertrude Catholic Church for five years.

I have been a full-time wheelchair user for the past fifteen years and was President of the Michigan Wheelchair Athletic Association for four years, was a regional delegate to Wheelchair Sports USA and served on the board of Michigan Adaptive Golf.

I currently play cornet in Motor City Brass Band and in Detroit Shriners "Brass Band". I serve as Bugler for Bruce Post VFW in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

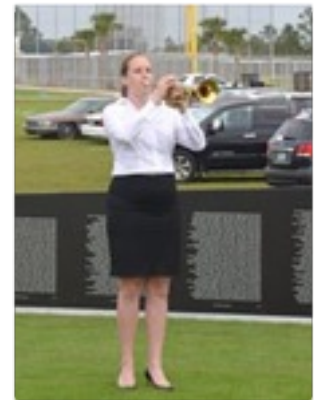
I have been married to my wife, Geri, for 33 years and I have a Service Dog named Ruby.

PHOTO: This is a picture of me and part of the Bruce Post VFW Ritual Team at a City of St. Clair Shores Memorial Day service at "Veterans' Memorial Park" in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. I have the honor to be the Bugler for the Bruce Post VFW Ritual Team.

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

Bethany J. Jameson, Naples, FL

I am part of a bag pipe and drum group in my area, and I bugle with them on occasion when the event they are playing would call for a bugler. On Tuesday August 6th I awoke and checked my email as I normally do. There was an email from our band secretary that stated the previous night, a Charlotte County Sheriff's Deputy was killed in the line of duty. He was responding to a domestic disturbance call. They weren't sure of the services yet, but I had been requested. I was asked "can you be there?" I work full time in addition to having a family with two small children but it was never a question of "if" I could be there. I told my band secretary to tell me when and where they needed me and I would be there.



Saturday August 10, 2013 will live with me forever. It was a hot August day as we sat outside the events center and waited for the funeral to continue outside. I was honored and amazed to watch a riderless horse, two fireboats were on the water near the events center spraying an arch in honor to the deputy, a 21 gun salute, mounted patrols, dozens of motorcycle patrol, a fly over of 3 helicopters, and the sounds of our group - Guns N Hoses Pipes and Drums of Southwest Florida. I was deeply moved after finishing Taps that day, recognizing the importance of what I was doing was honoring an active duty officer killed in the line of duty. What impressed me more was the outpouring of love and support for this man. Dozens of Honor Guards from around the state of Florida stood at attention in the very hot and sweltering August heat.

I was truly honored and humbled that I was able to provide a part of that incredible service. The opportunity would have never been extended to me if I had not been found by the Guns N Hoses group, back in January of 2013, via the Bugles Across America website. Thank you for this service as it has connected me with one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

Richard Henward Sr. - Maine

I have been a member of BAA for quite a while now but have not really participated much. However, I recently did a blessing of the fleet service in South Portland, Maine. The last time before that was a few years ago when I paired up with another BAA member to play in Bath, Maine for a memorial wreath drop in the Piscataqua River.

Dow Dozier - Oklahoma

My wife and I live in a small gated community in northwest Oklahoma City. I called the president of our homeowners' association and volunteered to play Taps for our group on the 4th of July. She was very pleased and sent the word out to the thirty or forty residents who live here, giving them the time, 2 p.m., and the place, near the flagpole at the entrance to our development.

I believe there were about twelve people and a few dogs who showed up, and they seemed to appreciate the fact that someone had volunteered for that particular duty.

On the way back to my house, I met a lady who saw my horn and said, "You haven't already played, have you?" She had forgotten the stated time and thought it was at 2:30. After reading the disappointment in her face, I said, "No problem. I'll just give you a solo performance."

After the last note, her smile and "thank you" were more than worth the small effort expended for the extra performance.



Michael Jackson - Rhode Island State Director

Attached is a photo from our BAA participation in the "Spirit of 45" event in Providence, Rhode Island on August 11, 2013.

Pictured BAA members (Left to right): Michael Jackson, RI State Director (Tech Sgt. Air Force Retired), William Chilton, Don Chilton (Senior Chief Musician Retired)

Douglas Conrady - Oklahoma SD and acting New Mexico SD



A friend's mother came up to me during a school function of my sons. She had read in the local paper where I was the guardian for my grandfather on his honor flight and that I had taken my bugle with me and sounded at the WWII memorial. She told me her mother wasn't doing so well and the time was drawing near. This lady had been in the WAC during WWII while her husband to be was in the army so many years ago. She asked me if, when the time came, I would sound Taps for her mother.

Without even thinking, I told her absolutely! Consider it done, just give me a time and date. She also asked if I would/could sound again for her father at the same time. Apparently he did

not receive honors, or Taps was sounded on a fake, or some other malady had happened during his funeral. Again I responded, absolutely!!

Well, the time came this last August, I was called and the arrangements were made. The MFH detail was two young ladies and a fake bugle. When I arrived, I told them I was the bugler, and to my surprise, they had NEVER been to a MFH with a live bugler. Knowing that this funeral would be kinda special (lots of family and friends in attendance), I wanted to look and sound extra sharp. Well, not literally sound sharp, but you catch my drift. I sounded Taps and after the service was over and most of the friends had gone, the family asked if I was still available for sounding for the father. I had been standing back, just waiting for the word. I sounded again. A bit later my friends mother came up to me with an envelope. We all know what's usually in there. I refused a couple of times, but I did accept the simple black and red envelope. Inside was not a check, but a thank you card. On the card was expressed her and her families unending thankfulness because I did not think about hesitating when asked to sound Taps for their mother and father. I have received many thank you cards over the years, but this one... well, its the most touching one I've ever received.

Now that I've told the story, and just so you know, I am by no means a super bugler or is the above story that unique. What keeps me thinking about this service is, even before this lady passed, I was already serving the family. All I did was accept a request, just like all of you do. My words for all of you..... although Taps lasts just 24 notes..... we are buglers 24/7. We have the ability to serve long before and long after the lips meet the mouthpiece.

Mark Riebs - California

These are pictures of the opening ceremonies from National Day Out on August 6th, 2013. This was sponsored by the Rose Bowl District, San Gabriel Valley Council in Pasadena, CA.

Color Guard represented by Troops 27 and 40.



Bugler, Mark G. Riebs, Venturing Crew 561
Honor Corps Advisor, Bugling MB
Counselor and Bugles Across America
member

Elliott Oppenheim - Montana

Never Forget Service on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013 at
Rose Memorial Garden Park.



John (Joseph) Collova - Minnesota

I received permission to play Taps at three of our local schools and one funeral home upon showing them a copy of the letter you sent. One of the schools, Cretin High School, had a class come out. My agenda: stand in the uniform of our rifle squad at parade rest five minutes before playing Taps, stand at attention for the last minute, play Taps, turn and salute flag, and quietly walk away in a military fashion. Each time I made it back to my car and then cried.



Roy Perrin - Texas

This is the second annual memorial for 911, in which I have participated, hosted by the Prosper, Texas fire department.



This is a huge steel member from Ground Zero. It currently is being used as a portable display for people to observe around the area.

Here are the two pastors present at the ceremony, (in order from left to right), Pastor Jason McConnell, Senior Pastor, Prosper United Methodist Church, and Pastor Kevin McClain, Associate Pastor, Prosper United Methodist Church, and me, (Roy Perrin).



Here I am playing Taps.

Travis R. Unterbrink - Ohio

When I was in high school, the local Funeral Director would call school and ask me to sound *Taps*, and I was excused from school to do it. For a high school student, that was quite a treat, but even then I took my bugling duties very seriously.

Fast-forward nearly 20 years: I earned a Bachelor's of Arts in Music Education and have just begun my second year as a full-time Professional Music Educator. The gratitude families have shown me over the years has been humbling, and I have found that people do both appreciate and prefer a live rendition of *Taps* over "the digital." Although *Taps* is only 24 notes, I find they are the most difficult notes to sound, especially when played for a Hero who was lost during Active Duty or deployment.

My most memorable experience was when I played at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans in 2010. After I was cleared to play, I sounded the call in front of their massive United States of America flag, after which I played *Amazing Grace*. When I finished, all manner of people greeted me as I was putting my trumpet away, but I will forever remember one specific interaction – a museum employee approached me and stated that she had not been having a very good day at work, but my playing reminded her why she does her job. She then thanked me for that important reminder.

Sounding *Taps* is not about how many notes I may miss or how many times I play it. I take what I do very seriously because brave men and women gave more of themselves than I could ever imagine giving – the least I can do is give a little of my own time to properly honor a fallen hero.

PHOTO: I am playing, and it was not a BAA event. That photo is from the WWII Museum in New Orleans.



Donna Marie Berchtold - New Jersey

This release was in the Hometown Section of the Atlantic City Press.

Galloway Veterans have asked my daughter, Heather, to sound Taps for them again for a special Veterans Ceremony. This will be her 3rd year playing for them.



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

Dean and our new Bugler and Boy Scout, Jonah Mittlestadt stepped up and Sounded an excellent version of Silver Taps at the dedication of Hagerstown's new Korean War Veterans Memorial in July.

Dean and I are really proud of the way our Buglers are stepping up to the plate, right out of the box. Jonah is already looking for his next event to help out with.

I am told by all those who were in charge of the event, that it went excellently! As a matter of fact, they appreciated the job they did so much, that they had them play it twice.



I was unable to attend, as I was out of town at the time, and I want to formally commend Dean for taking charge and stepping up in my absence. He is not only capable, but did a great job. Thanks to Dean and Jonah. Well done!

Roy Perrin - Texas

I just returned from a trip to New York where it was my honor to have been allowed to sound Taps at Ground Zero. Management told me that, other than the September 11 memorials each year, this was the first time Taps has been sounded at the 9/11 Memorial Site. Hard to believe!



My wife, Sandra, two other friends from Prosper, along with forty more nice folks from around Texas, visited Ground Zero October 5th. I was abruptly stopped at the airport-type screening, because of my bugle and case, and after going through multiple management interviews, the four of us were finally led past throngs of visitors and onto the Memorial Site, where we were then ushered by security personnel to an open area for the presentation.



The emotion within this environment is intense, and was certainly increased by the haunting, 24-note, sounding of Taps. The first few notes produced immediate silence. Then, there were pictures, videos, thank-you's and tears, and seemed to be a fitting and welcome adjunct to the memory of those we lost, never to be forgotten.

It is a magnificent memorial site, and in my opinion, Taps should always be a daily occurrence there.

Terry Lambert - West Virginia

West Virginia Veterans Ride & Memorial Wreath Presentation, July 12, 2013.



Steve Bow - Ohio

This past July 4th, I had the privilege of playing Taps at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. My family and I usually travel to Roanoke, VA every year over the 4th of July to visit my wife's father, Art Tatman and his friend, Andrew Cochran, mostly to celebrate the July birthdays but also to have family vacation and fellowship. This year I decided to contact the National D-Day Memorial and request to play Taps on the morning of the 4th.

My request was granted, and it was very well

received. They halted all the tours to pay honors at 1100 when I played. My father-in-law read a short eulogy I wrote for our fallen military family members. I stood in the courtyard and played towards the flag behind the Operation Overlord memorial monument. At that moment a veteran stood when I played the opening 3 notes. It was emotional. I have been asked to return next year for their 70th anniversary event of D-Day they are holding in June 2014 as well as next July 4th. Hopefully we have started a new memorable tradition for BAA!

It was truly an honor.



L. Brent Christensen - Utah State Director



"The Rotunda in Utah's State Capitol Building was the site for Utah's Patriot's Day Ceremony remembrance. Our host was Governor Gary R. Herbert; Governor Herbert was aptly represented by Gary R. Harter, Executive Director, State of Utah Department of Veterans Affairs & Military Affairs. We wish to express our thanks to Mr. Harter for affording us the opportunity to sound Taps in such a classic and beautiful building."

From Left to Right: BAA L.Brent Christensen, BAA Caitlin Babb, Mr. Gary R. Harter, and BAA Kris Larson.

Gary Lapine - Massachusetts

Hundreds may have been involved in Corporal William C. Knight's return home, but I was particularly honored to play Taps at his memorial service held on the Brookfield Common in Brookfield, Massachusetts.



Gary Maki - Michigan

While assigned to the 28th Army Band (1970-71) at Ft. Ord, CA, the band was assigned to play "To The Color" at a Headquarter's ceremony one Friday evening. The Band Commander gave the command, "Buglers....sound To The Color". All ten trumpeters began play, without music of course. It's about 40 seconds long and every few seconds another trumpeter dropped out due to memory loss. By the end, only one lonely trumpeter was able to finish the tune, saving the rest of us fellow O2B20'ers (MOS-Trumpet Player) from serious shame and discipline. It was a very tense moment.



During my time at Ft. Ord, I played the trumpet solo, "Dramatic Essay" by Clifton Williams with the 28th Army Band at a Veteran's Day concert on Nov. 11, 1971. 41 years and 1 day later, I again performed the solo at a Veteran's Day Tribute Concert with the Saline, Michigan New Horizons Band (Nov. 12, 2012). Here's a [video of the performance](#).

This is a photo of me taken in 2013 in my original khaki uniform shirt from my 1970 enlistment. I was dressed to play a Memorial Day Parade in Saline, MI. It's a true miracle I can still wear it. Them buttons are a'screamin'. I'm proud to be a member of BAA and believe it was a true honor to serve my country in the U.S. Army in both the 28th (Fort Ord, CA) and 33rd (Heidelberg, German) bands.

Ed Bilger - Pennsylvania

This was a ceremony I put together back in August 2011 for Spirit of 45 and Amtrak rededicating the statue "Winged Resurrection". It holds the names of the Pennsylvania Railroad (pre Amtrak) workers who served in WWII.

Making plans for 30th Street Station

Paul Nussbaum, *Inquirer Staff Writer*

Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 2:01 AM

Amtrak is seeking redevelopment plans for 30th Street Station and the surrounding area, including the potentially lucrative air rights above the rail yards adjacent to the station.

After several years of preparation, Amtrak announced Monday that it wants proposals for a master development plan delivered by Nov. 18.

Amtrak is working with Drexel University and Brandywine Realty Trust to redevelop the 80-year-old station and its University City neighborhood. A coordinating committee of significant players, such as the University of Pennsylvania, SEPTA, and the city, also will be involved, Amtrak said.

The master plan, similar to planning efforts underway for Amtrak stations in New York, Washington, and Boston, will seek to make the neoclassical 30th Street Station a more welcoming gateway to West Philadelphia and Center City.

For full Philly.com article, [Click here](#)



Michael Brady - Illinois



I had the honor to sound Taps for the Waukegan Air Show, and for the Jesse Brown VA hospital. On September 11th, I sounded Taps for the town of Des Plaines which was a tremendous honor.



Cliff Jordan - Virginia

Recently, I had the honor to sound Taps for Sylvia Frasier. She was one of the victims who's life was ended short in the Naval Yard shooting.

It went very well. Congressman Tom Harkin ended up presenting his flag to her parents early since he had to depart for Capitol Hill. Captain Selby presented his flag at the very end following a rousing 3-hour celebration of life.



Rather than play immediately following the presentation of the colors, I had to wait a full minute for all the applause to dissipate. Following my performance, it was so silent in the packed church (with at least 500 attendees) that you could hear a pin drop. I received many thank you's from the family and attendees on the way out. It was a great honor. Thanks again for the opportunity!!

PHOTO: I do not have a photo from the event but this is from Memorial Day this year at the WWII Memorial

P. Ryan ONeal - North Carolina



Looking through my Buglers pictures I found this one from 2004. I was one of the Buglers for the CSS H.L. Hunley Crew. These photos were taken at Marion Square in Down Charleston, SC. I played Taps with my friend Col. Tom Kindal after the Cannon



Volley. If you look close you can still see the smoke in the background.

Carla Beaudoin - Maine

Dear Tom, I am sitting here writing after reading the most amazing article about you in The Weekly Standard. My brother Randy lives in Wheaton, IL and he sent it to me today, knowing I would love to read it. He was right! I hung on every word in that story as though I was visiting an old friend. I met you at Arlington and I will remember that day forever. You opened your arms and hugged me like you'd known me forever. I tell everyone that YOU are my rock star. You started something that has real meaning and I am proud to be a part of it. When I put that beautiful uniform on I become a better person.



As I was reading I laughed, and cried, and even made my husband cry as I read some of it out loud. I saw some of myself in there. I'm sure many of us Buglers across this United States also did. Each time I come home from a service, I recant my experiences to my husband. Sometimes they're funny, sometimes ever so sad. He always says, "Carla, you should be writing this stuff down!" So he bought me a journal and I have been writing my memoirs ever since. Someday I hope my kids will read it and be proud that their mom shared her gift.

Here's a photo of me returning from a funeral. I had this decal made so that wherever I go I bring BAA along. You told us a while back the we're marketing directors for this company and this is part of my advertising. I get all excited when someone passes me on the highway and gives a wave of thanks.....awesome!

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 December 15th

Please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

BAA- IN THE NEWS

The Weekly Standard

September 16th, 2013

by Matt Labash

The Last 24 Notes

Tom Day and the volunteer buglers who play 'Taps' at veterans' funerals across America

Tom Day is not a man given to extravagance. He thinks he's living high on a reporter's nickel if he orders a beef sandwich to go at the local Buona sub shop. He shops at Goodwill every Sunday, hoping to pick up bargains, like his handsome \$35 suits. But if there's one superfluity that Day especially can't abide, it is that of empty rhetoric.



There's been a lot of talk about "the troops" the last many years: Supporting The Troops. Hugging The Troops. Splitting A Malt With The Troops. (At least when not Forgetting The Troops, hurriedly paging past the "Faces of the Fallen" feature in your local paper to get to the movie listings.) The talk usually comes from helmet-haired cable anchors or men with soft hands who type things for a living. They use those who serve like polemical mascots, to run up the score either for or against the war of the moment. But to Tom Day, "duty . . . honor . . . sacrifice" aren't just Memorial Day buzzwords that trigger the Pavlovian anticipation of picnic foods and mattress-outlet sales.

They are words that actually require something of him, the dwindling resource you can't buy more of: time. For the 73-year-old former Marine serves those who serve. Or rather, he serves those who have served. Day is the man who, both on his own and through the 7,500-plus volunteers in the organization he founded, Bugles Across America, has saved the tradition of playing live "Taps" at military funerals.

When Day was a 10-year-old kid, steeped in the thriving drum and bugle corps culture of mid-century Chicago, he first volunteered to blow "Taps" for a returning Korean War casualty. Since then, he has personally played over 5,000 funerals. All on his own, with no recompense from the military or from the family for whom he is playing. On average, he estimates, it costs..

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

Keane Matthews - North Carolina

Cabarrus County

Sept. 11, 2013 — Early this morning, from the front steps of the Cabarrus County Government Center, Concord resident Keane Matthews stood tall and faced the flags that flew at half-mast. He lifted his horn, closed his eyes and played “Taps” with clarity, precision and resonance, twice—at the moments each of the towers of the World Trade Center fell.



"I thought there would be several events in Charlotte," said Matthews. "I wanted to give people in Concord an opportunity to remember those who died on Sept. 11."

Matthews was not part of a production; he created the impromptu performance as a service to local residents. Matthews is a volunteer with Buglers Across America, a national organization of 7,500 horn players who have committed to playing a live rendition of “Taps” at the funeral of veterans.

Matthews is also a veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy from 1990-1997.

"It's important for people to remember those who died on September 11, 2001, and that freedom isn't free," said Matthews.

Full Article [here](#)

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.

Is there a way for me to record or get “credit” for events that are not requested through the BAA website?

This is an often asked question and the answer boils down to, ***you really don't.*** For one, there is no way to 'record' missions done by our BAA members other than those that come through the on-line request system. Couple reasons for this, 1) We have never kept count of individual's missions on BAA register or archive. 2) A very significant number of our members do the great majority of their missions as a result of direct contact rather than waiting for requests from the system. We have always encouraged members to make themselves know in their own community and area so that folks can contact them directly when the need for a bugler arises.

Many members have kept a personal 'log book' of their missions, and this has been more for personal reflection and memories than anything. It really is not important how many missions any of us have done; the important thing is that we do our utmost, through the organization as well as individuals, to see that every deserving veteran receives proper and dignified honors.

If you do get a direct request to serve as a bugler, you can always ask the individual to also submit the request through our system. They can state in the Additional Information section that they have already arranged for you to serve. You then 'accept' the mission by following the link in your notification email. Then that mission shows up on your My Events record maintained on the web page. No one but you can see that My Events information..... hence the name of "My Events" rather than perhaps "The Events of Jane Doe". Some people have taken to submitting a request themselves and then immediately accepting it. This has the same effect as the scenario I have suggested.

We are sincerely appreciative of the service of members like you. Thank you for honoring the veterans at every opportunity you have.

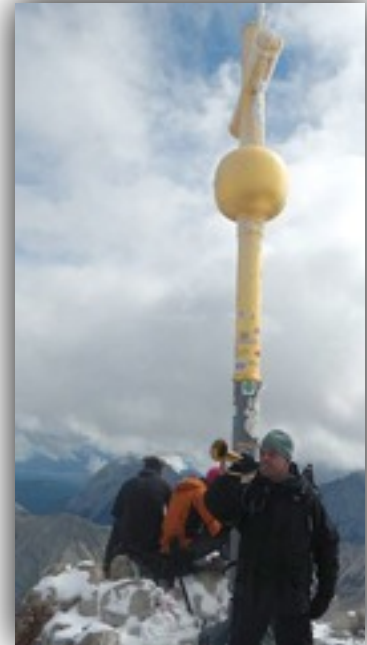
Howard T Reitenbaugh
National Coordinator
Bugles Across America

SEEN THIS MONTH ON FACEBOOK



Massachusetts State Director, Jayson Newell sounds Taps at National Cemetery

September 11, 2013; twelve years after the world watched in horror and awe as the United States was attacked, Hartmut Hausser sounds Taps while atop Zugspitze, the highest peak in Germany (2,962 meters), to honor those lost on that infamous day and during the years of war since.



BAA Pict of the Day...One of BAA's over 1,500 women buglers, Brenda Ehly, of Georgia.

BAA Pict of the Day: BAA Michigan Assistant Director, Ernie Richardson.





BAA Pict of the Day: BAA Australia Representative, Ian Stares



BAA Pict of the Day:

Steve Hightower, BAA volunteer in Florida; sounded Taps to honor the fallen for the grand opening of the Helping Hospitalized Veterans Center in Bay Pines, on Monday. Steve is one our most active MFH buglers in his state.



BAA Pict of the Day: "He's the Boss" our founder, Tom, Wife Donna, and their lovely daughter, Julie.

BAA Pict of the Day: Bugler, Firefighter, and Assistant Director of Pennsylvania, John Pristas





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
- * 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:

VS Printing Service. Located at 1218 Ostrander Ave., La Grange Park, IL, 60526.

Owner: Mr. Vytas Sulaitis Phone: (708) 655-4774 Email: VSPrinting@hotmail.com

KEY LINKS

[Bugles Across America](#)

[BAA on Facebook](#)

[BAA on YouTube](#)

[BAA New York on Facebook](#)

[BAA New Hampshire 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](#)

[The Bent Prop Project](#)

[Help Hospitalized Veterans](#)

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

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.