

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



Welcome to the new year BAA!



The year 2013 picked up where the year of the Taps Anniversary left off. We continue to be available for service to honor all veterans.... always at zero cost to the family. Our leadership has been enhanced with the addition of several new State Directors and Assistants. We are always looking for more.

Those State Directors and Assistant Directors have a tough job, as they provide the core of BAA operations while depending on the general membership to be ready and willing to serve. Every day I look up and prayerfully thank the good Lord for Jennifer, Howard, Larry, Ed, and all of the State Director team.

2014 will mark our 14th year. Keep in mind that in early 2000 folks in Washington D.C. said, "There are no buglers". Look at us now; more than 8,000 have participated with BAA in this span of years, and we are quickly approaching a million hours of unpaid Volunteer Time given to Veterans and their families. Men and women of all ages and color, and different beliefs have joined together to provide honored closure for over two hundred thousand Veterans and in support of their families.

Because of you, the word Bugle is now spoken everyday.

Because of you, musical instrument companies are making these horns again in America.

Because of you, individual marketing and publicity efforts in your own towns and neighborhoods are bringing millions of people to knowledge about You and about Bugles Across America.



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Things that may interest you

This last Veterans Day we had a record number of requests from Rest Homes to be a part of their ceremonies of honor; we have provided bugler support to countless Wreaths Across America events; Mayors and other local government officials have made specific request for our presence; organizers for numerous Veteran's Reunions have come to us for bugler support and participation in their programs; Funeral Directors and Military Honor Guards, and, of course, individual families, have continued to reach out to Bugles Across America. These requests for bugler support have been rapidly increasing in rate of submission, and of ultimate importance..... BAA members have been then voluntarily stepping up to serve these requests in equally increasing numbers and in an amazingly timely manner. We continue to hold a fantastic percentage of requests being filled. Several of those have been with only mere hours of advance notice.

You should know that during the sixteen-days of the government shut down, a secretary at the Army Hq. in D. C. called me and quietly said; "Tom I can't talk too loud, as we are not supposed to be working, but I need help. Honor Flights are coming from all over and the Military will not come to the Memorial. What can you do?" What did BAA buglers do? We were at the WWII Memorial in fifteen minutes, and continued to take care of all the Honor Flights for those 16 days. Quick research shows that BAA buglers have been there to support these Honor Flights at least 26 times, while many others were done without going officially through our national request system.

Twelve people were tragically killed at the Navy Yard in Maryland. One was a lady who was a government employee. Her family wanted Taps LIVE. No one in the Military would do this. BAA played for this lady killed on duty working for our Government. It was done because we made the effort to find law that provided her casket deserved to be draped with the flag. When Ambassador Anderson was killed while serving in Benghazi, Taps was played at his memorial service by a BAA member who happens to be a relative. BAA also played for the Navy Seals lost.

These specific examples of selfless acts and the thousands of other honors done make me say. "God Bless Bugles Across America and all her members".

Do Good Things, and Tell People About it; everyday a little better.

My sincere thanks to each of you. Together we will have a great 2014.

Tom Day Founder



Find The Bugle Contest!

We are making strides (without apology) to encourage everyone to thoroughly read the Bugles Across America newsletter, **The Bugler's Post**, therefore we are initiating a fun and worthwhile **contest** that will begin with this issue.

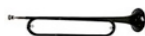
Hidden somewhere within the content of each issue will be a small silhouette image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into dialogue or illustration by our editing staff. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle. When you have located the image, simply note its location and then go to the provided link to access the official entry form. (Please see page 4 and 5)

You will copy and paste that entry form to your email. When you have filled in the required information on that form, simply email it to findthebugle@gmail.com

All correct entries will be held for a random drawing at the end of that issue's contest period (30 days from publication date). We will randomly select (by assigned number, not name) **three winners** for each contest period. Those individuals will be contacted by email to notify them of their winning entry selection, and they will be awarded a prize. All winning entries will then be placed into another category and will be eligible for a Grand Prize selected by drawing and awarded every six months.

Winners will receive a \$50 gift certificate for their choice of T&T Uniform, Glendale's Parade Store, Amazon or Barnes & Noble. After three issues (six months), those six winners will be put 'in the hat' for a drawing that will produce one winner of a nice, reconditioned horn to be chosen by Tom.

Here is an example of the image you will be looking for in each issue of **THE BUGLERS POST**.



Note that the size is approximate as shown here, and the image may be presented in any orientation; in other words, it may be horizontal, vertical, or at any angle.

Okay, here's all the 'legalize fine print' that we must publicize to keep all things on the up and up:

- * Entry is limited to one per individual per contest period, and must be submitted on the official entry form to the designated address for the ***Find The Bugle*** contest.
- * Entries for each contest period (each published issue of the newsletter) must be received no later than midnight Pacific Time of the thirtieth day following publication / distribution of that newsletter.
- * Selection of winning entries, as done by newsletter staff, will be final.
- * *Newsletter staff and BAA National Officers are not eligible for contest entry.*
- * Bugles Across America, nfp will not be liable for any misdirected or incomplete entries.
- * No substitutions for awarded prizes will be made.

Entry form can be found on the following page or downloaded from the BAA web site.

For the web site download, please find the tab titled [Bugler's Post](#). On that page you will find the downloadable [link](#).

Good luck, happy 'bugle hunting', and remember that our aim is to encourage folks to really explore the newsletter and discover all the great content provided there.

Happy New Year from the friendly publishing staff of THE BUGLERS POST.

I Found The Bugle!



In the Bugler's Post, **Issue #:** _____

I found the BUGLE hidden on **page:** _____

in the: _____

(describe the specific location , such as article, paragraph, line number or picture)

Name: _____

Email: _____

(This email address will be used to notify the winner)

Telephone: _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

All entries must be by email submission of this Official Entry Form, and must be received no later than midnight Pacific time, thirty days after the publication of this Bugler's Post issue. Entry sequence will be determined by the time stamp indicated upon arrival of form.

By presenting this entry, I agree to all terms and conditions of the contest and prize winner selection described in the official rules as presented within the Bugler's Post.

Bugles Across America, nfp, is not to be held liable for any misdirected or incomplete entries, or for communication circumstances beyond our control. Entry is limited to one per person, per issue or contest period.

Copy and Paste this form into your email. Fill in the blanks and email the entry to findthebugle@gmail.com



Happy Holidays!

The latest issue of "CAP Vector" is now available at: www.capmembers.com/cap_national_hq/capvector "CAP Vector" is a quarterly, online news and information tool designed to "get the word out" about CAP initiatives, events and programs.

Also, the latest digital version of the Civil Air Patrol Volunteer, the 40th edition published since the magazine was launched in 2006, is now available at http://www.capvolunteernow.com/cap_volunteer In addition to the cover story about Civil Air Patrol's inclusion in a new, permanent display at 1st Air Force at Tyndall AFB, Fla., there is a feature about CAP's recurring role in helping train Department of Defense and other Federal agency personnel to defend America.

CAP's new NCO program is also featured in the January issue, along with reports about two of the organization's disaster relief missions in 2013 – the response to historic flooding in Colorado and an unexpected blizzard in South Dakota. Be sure to check out the news video on page 7 that accompanies the Colorado flooding story.

As 2013 comes to a close, CAP wants to thank you for your outstanding service to your communities, states and nation. We hope that you and your families enjoy the holidays and have a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2014!

Sincerely,
CAP National Staff

State Director Spotlight: Indiana

State Director: Richard Benjamin

How long have you been with BAA?: Since 2003

Why did you join?: To do the right thing for veterans.

How long have you been playing?: I started playing trumpet in the 5th grade

What is the best part about being a SD?:
Sounding Taps at the smallest of ceremonies.



What has been your best experience with BAA?: Playing Taps and paying tribute to our fallen heroes is always an honor and a privilege.

What is your goal for your state?: Continued increase of communications on our Facebook group.

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

I've been known to carry a bugle at mountain biking and trail running events that pass isolated cemeteries and sound Taps before proceeding. Luxury item on Appalachian Trail section hiking, bugle. I dislike antiquated automated systems that maintain status quo and do not continuously improve.

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

Keep physically active, join a Team Red, White & Blue in your local area, if you can or think you can/should. Conn Visible Embouchure mouthpieces are nice for cold weather events – do not drop them.

Assistant State Director: John Stoffer

How long have you been with BAA?: Since 2002

Why did you join?: A boom box was used at my uncle's funerals and it just made me sick.

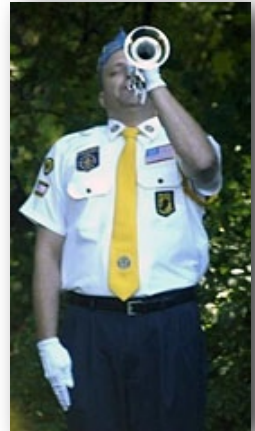
How long have you been playing?: 40 years

What is the hardest part about being a SD?: Finding a bugler to fill a request in a day or two.

What is the best part about being a SD?: Working with DAV, American Legion, and our Service Members

What has been your best experience with BAA?: Playing Taps and paying tribute to our fallen heroes is always an honor and a privilege.

What is your goal for your state?: To recruit additional qualified members.



Assistant Director: John Van Zandt

How long have you been with BAA?: Since 2000, or 2001.

Why did you join?: To help in any way possible with the mission of BAA.

How long have you been playing?: Since the 1990's.

What is the hardest part about being a SD?: Email communication instead of in-person or phone contact.

What is the best part about being a SD?: To further the goals of BAA.

What has been your best experience with BAA?: Completing requests as a bugler for BAA.

What is your goal for your state?: To continue recruiting active buglers.

Personal likes: Music, and Genealogy.

Is there anything you'd like to share with your audience?: The SD positions are a very good place for members to contribute to this very worthwhile organization.

OUR NEW STATE DIRECTORS

West Virginia: Michael Wilson

I have played trumpet for almost 60 years now, having started when I was 11 years old in the music program at Buckhannon-Upshur Junior High School in my home town of Buckhannon, WV. I continued to play through high school and college at Glenville State College where I majored in music Ed. – emphasis on trumpet.

During high school, I sounded Taps many times as the bugler for the local VFW and DAV honor guards, at military funerals and memorial services all through Upshur County.



Since I am the son of a Marine who was combat wounded, but survived into his 86th. year, I have always been involved in honoring our veterans in service to our country. I joined BAA a few years ago, and have been privileged to sound the honor on several missions, two of which, one for the 103 year old father of my cousin's wife, who volunteered for the engineering corps and was ahead of Patton's push into Italy during WW II – and the service last year for the father of SM Hise of the Georgia National Guard, were very moving. Both were unforgettable and an unbelievable honor for me to play.

In addition to the missions I have undertaken, I also go to the family cemetery every Veteran's Day to sound Taps. Just me, my deceased relatives and friends. It is a very meaningful time for me. I have also instituted a memorial service in our church on the Sunday nearest Veteran's Day, sounding the honor in remembrance of those veterans who have passed and in appreciation of those who are currently serving our country. It has been a great success and has been met with gratitude by our congregation.

I hope to continue serving with BAA for many more years, to honor our deceased veterans.

Nevada: Lisa Phillips

My name is Lisa Phillips, I'm a 1st Lieutenant currently stationed at Nellis AFB, Nevada. I'm originally from Northern Utah where I first started playing the trumpet in the high school band. My love for bugling started when I was a freshman at Norwich University, the Military College of Vermont, and was told that since I played the Trumpet I was to report to Bugle Training the first week of school. After teaching us freshmen how to play Taps we were required to fulfill the duty of it being played at 11:00 PM every night during the school year. That is where my personal relationship began with honoring all those who lived and died for my freedom. It's an honor to serve this great organization, I look forward to the challenge!



BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES



V. Koltunowiz and B. Caggiano

Bob Caggiano - New Jersey

These were taken at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington, NJ. Judging from the comments we received both from the Priest who conducted the service and family members, our presentation of the Army song, Taps and God Bless America were really appreciated.



B. Caggiano, V. Koltunowiz, and
the Army Honors Team

Bill Vann - California

10-10-2013 in Petaluma, California for the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Wall. An experience I will never forget. I played an Army Bugle from WWII with the inscription., 2nd ARB 51st Infantry.



Photo by Ron Close

It was given to me by LTC Joe Rippitoe before I came home from Arlington at the 150th. It's beaten up pretty bad and has a rip in it, but plays beautifully.

It's my understanding that it went to Africa and France in WWII, then Korea and later to Vietnam, where it was given to LTC Rippitoe by a Bugler in his unit after being played for a fallen 1st Cav soldier.

John Cogan - Vermont

ST. ALBANS RAID

The Civil War entered Vermont, Oct. 19, 1864, when 22 Confederates spread terror from the north, robbed 3 banks and shot up the town. Stealing horses, they fled back into Canada. There, after trial, they were freed and the banks partially reimbursed.

For the fourth autumn in a row, the events of that day 149 years ago will be remembered on its Saturday afternoon anniversary. At 3 p.m. in St. Albans City, bugler & Navy veteran John Cogan will sound the Civil War bugle call "Assembly" at the downtown TD Bank on Main Street across from Taylor Park. TD Bank is the successor to the original Franklin County Bank, which was robbed at gunpoint at 3 p.m., October 19, 1864--a cloudy, dreary day.



While that bank and two others nearby were being held up, more Confederates were assembling townspeople on the street and keeping them, under threat of harm, at the park. Witnesses reported that the leader of this action, Lt. Bennett Young, shouted: "This city is now in the possession of the Confederate States of America!"

Less than an hour later, the Raid was over and the Confederates were on their way to Sheldon, Enosburgh, and back into Canada with armed citizens in pursuit.

After the bugle call at TD Bank, this year's remembrance will conclude with the sounding "Taps" at Moonshadows Gifts, 89 North Main Street. Elinus J. Morrison was mortally wounded just to the north of Moonshadows at Miss Beatty's Millinery Shop, which is now a parking lot across from City Hall. He was the only victim of the raiders who paid with his life that day.

stalbansraid.com is an excellent local website about the event. On the website is information about the St. Albans Historical Society Museum's planned events for the 150th anniversary of the St. Albans Raid in 2014.

**Editor's note: This may be from an article in the St. Albans Messenger.
I was not able to verify this**

Dave Dubinsky, USMC D&B - Massachusetts

I have enjoyed fulfilling requests that have come my way within the greater Boston area. I regret that my personal schedule limits my involvement within this very worthy cause.

Recently, however, I had the honor and privilege to perform at an event which took place at the Massachusetts State House honoring our Gold Star families. I performed our National Anthem and Taps to a very appreciative group of military families, state and city representatives and fellow veterans.

Yesterday, I was honored to provide patriotic music, on solo trumpet, as part of a ceremony honoring the new Director of the Boston VA Hospital. I performed a medley of armed forces theme songs, concluding my personal salute with a rousing rendition of my "Alma Mater," The Marine Corps Hymn. Other tunes that I performed included America, the Beautiful; God Bless America; You're a Grand Old Flag; the Trio to Stars & Stripes Forever; and Yankee Doodle Dandy.

I always enjoy bringing the personal, human aspect of compassion when performing Taps at graveside. Families often share their appreciation with me after the fact. We, all, are committed to supporting the surviving family members of a fallen or deceased veteran.

David Matayabas - Massachusetts

On Wednesday, July 17, a dedication took place at the new Scouter's Memorial Chapel at T.L. Storer Scout Reservation in Barnstead, NH. (Boston Minuteman Council)

The chapel was the result of many year's work by dedicated Scouts and Scouters. The building was designed by a Scout alumni, and many more contractors contributed time, money, and supplies to the project.



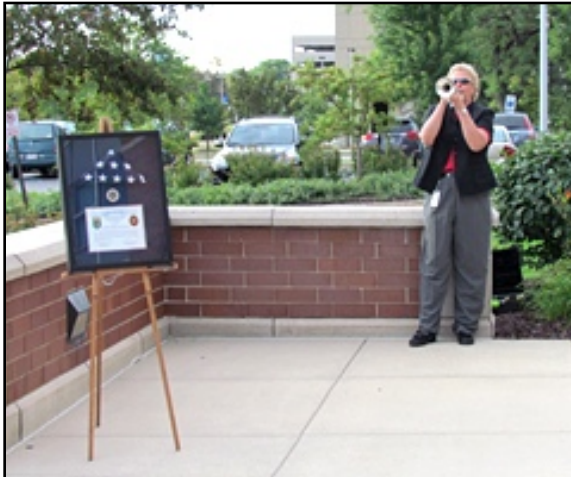
The ceremony featured a US Navy Chaplain, a VFW honor detail from Medford, MA, and a first responder from the Boston Marathon who is also actively involved with local scouting. The chapel was dedicated in the name of two Scouts who went on to military careers and made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan. An honor roll of deceased Scouters was read, and several more names were added by the audience in attendance at the ceremony.

The evening wrapped up not long before sundown with BAA bugler and District Scouter David Matayabas sounding "Taps" from the rear of the chapel, while a scout bugler answered with "Echo" from across the lake. It was an ethereal end to a solemn evening.

Rebecca Seevers - Wisconsin

The press release issued by MCW is below. As a result of playing Taps on Sept 11, our student veterans group has asked me to play Taps at their Veterans Day celebration this month.

Bugling, flag flown in Afghanistan to help MCW community honor 9/11



On Wednesday, Sept. 11, Rebecca Seevers, MS, will play Taps in front of the MCW flag pole at 7:46 a.m., 8:03 a.m., 8:13 a.m. and 9:10 am to honor those who lost in their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. Those times correspond to the times of the four plane crashes that day.

Seevers, MCW Director of Environmental Health and Safety, is playing Taps as part of the September 11th Memorial Taps Foundation, which brings together buglers across the country to honor those who lost their lives as a result of the Sept. 11

attacks. She has played trumpet for many years at weddings and church celebrations, and likes to volunteer her skills to honor the military.

On Sept. 11, the Medical College also will display a flag flown in an operating room in Afghanistan in the MCW Alumni Office. The flag was flown on Aug. 3, 2013, in a U.S. military operating room in Qalat, Afghanistan.

Christopher Hart - Mississippi

When I arrived at the cemetery yesterday, I saw a sailor carrying a real trumpet. Turns out that he's a musician in the Navy, so we opted to play Echo Taps at the site. Had a good chat with him before the family arrived.



This is from a funeral I played a few years ago

Howard Reitenbaugh,
National Coordinator, Pennsylvania State Director

Boalsburg, PA--- It was an honor to be invited to serve as bugler for the Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony held on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Military Museum this year. The simple yet impressive ceremony took place beneath the imposing guns from the battleship USS *Pennsylvania*. This mighty 'battlewagon' was present at Pearl Harbor on that fateful day 72 years ago. *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) was in dry-dock in the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard at the time of the attack.. She was one of the first ships in the harbor to open fire as enemy dive and torpedo bombers roared out of the high overcast. Repeated attempts to torpedo the caisson of the dry-dock failed, but *Pennsylvania* and the surrounding dock areas were severely strafed. The crew of one 5 inch gun mount was wiped out when a bomb struck the starboard side of her boat deck and exploded inside. She was pockmarked by flying fragments, including a part of a 1,000 lb torpedo tube from a nearby destroyer, that was blown onto the *Pennsylvania* forecastle. She had 15 men killed (including her executive officer), 14 missing in action, and 38 wounded during the attack. Arriving in San Francisco for repairs on 29 December, she returned to action 30 March 1942 and served proudly in many Pacific campaigns through the end of the war.

The remembrance ceremony in Boalsburg was served by a Color Guard detail from the Marine Corps League "Nittany Leathernecks" Detachment and a Rifle Squad from American Legion Post 245 of State College. Yours truly was in line to sound Taps at the conclusion of the rifle volleys.

One very poignant moment came during the ceremony. In attendance as an honored guest was a man who had served on the *Pennsylvania*. With the aid of crutches and leg braces, he stood proudly throughout the service. Standing but about 15 feet in front of us, he rendered a salute as the Colors were presented and the rifle volleys echoed. He held that salute until I hit about the seventh note of Taps..... then his hand slowly fell to his side and his head bowed as

tears began to flow. I can only be thankful that I caught sight of this only in my peripheral vision, and was able to continue those 24 notes of honor. At the conclusion of the ceremony, all I was able to manage was a warm handshake and a sincere "Thank you for your service" before turning to find my car.



William Toalson - Illinois

Taps at Ft. Sheridan on Oct 5th.



Bruce Carver - California

At the Fresno Civil War Revisited event October 20th I was introduced to two descendants of The Harrisons' of Harrison's Landing where Taps was written. After a short conversation one of the event coordinators decided playing Taps and telling the Taps story after the last battle would be a good idea. My bugle instructor who introduced me to BAA a couple years ago, was in the crowd. Having played Taps with him recently at Gettysburg, he volunteered me to play. Sometimes just standing by with a bugle, or Clairon in this case, is all it takes. So for the decedents and the massed crowd we did the presentation and performed Taps. The Harrisons went back home happy. This is an amazing organization.

Jim Gallombardo - New Jersey

13-year old BAA bugler Mason Preuninger and I sounded "Echo Taps" today in Scotch Plains, NJ for Korean War Army veteran Charles Mobus, Sr. According to his son, Mr. Mobus spoke for years how he liked "Echo Taps" and wanted it for his funeral during Military Funeral Honors.



Bill Rigby - Alabama

This was on Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territory. The occasion was the British holiday of Remembrance Sunday, which coincides with our Veterans Day. I also played Reveille, which the Brits pronounce ruh val' ee; again it is different from the US version.



Here is a group photo of British Sailors, Royal Marines, and Royal Overseas Police Officers (ROPOs).

Les Langford - Utah

Performing Taps on Veterans Day 2013
Pleasant Grove Cemetery - Memorial Gardens
Pleasant Grove, Utah



"Dear Mr. Day,

I would like to thank you for the wonderful and very informative assembly you presented to the Park Students. I have never seen the students or staff so quiet and attentive to someone speaking to them for over 30 minutes!

Additionally, I truly enjoyed speaking with you beforehand and hearing about your very interesting life and journey to develop Bugles Across America. Your passion for this project is so evident and it was fascinating to hear about all the people you have met through your career. I wished we could have spent more time talking.

Again, thank you for sharing your knowledge and love of the flag and our country with the students and staff of Park School."

*With much appreciation,
Marlene Grossman
Principal, Park School
Evanston, IL*



Jim Gallombardo - New Jersey



Frank Hughes is a BAA Assistant State Director and very active bugler for us. He also has been sounding "Call to Post" aka "Riders Up" at Monmouth Park (horse racing at the Jersey Shore) for 40 years.

I just wanted to share a message that I received regarding Frank.

*"Mr. Gallombardo; On behalf of the Wanamassa Fire Company & First Aid Squad. We wish to thank you and Mr. Hughes for Sundays "Taps". Mr. Hughes was **outstanding.**"*

"My name is Allyson Vietti and I am a third grade teacher from Riverton, Utah. Last week our third graders (about 100 of them) presented a Patriotic Program which included many songs and speaking parts honoring and our



*great country, our flag, the constitution, and of course those brave men and women who have fought and are fighting in defense of our freedom. The title of our program was "Freedom is not Free". As part of this program we decided that it would be really nice to find someone who could play the song "Taps" for us on the bugle. I looked around and asked around to no avail. Finally, I went on the internet and found an organization called Bugles Across America. I went to the website and quickly put in some information thinking that nothing would come of it, and was greatly surprised when, within 24 hours, I had received a response! **L. Brent Christensen** answered my e-mail and said he was willing to come and play for us! I was so excited! I told my colleagues that I had found a bugler and we all were giddy with excitement!*

*We had two different performances. **DeVaughn Simper** played for our morning program and Brent Christensen played for our evening one. As they played those 24 simple notes so beautifully and precisely I had goosebumps and couldn't control the tears brought on by such a beautiful and meaningful tune! Both came dressed in military uniform. Both were as professional and courteous as could possibly be expected. DeVaughn was even talked into staying after our program for a few minutes and teaching the kids about the history of Taps and telling a few other facts about America! He really went above and beyond the call of duty!*

Brent was so good to work with. I e-mailed him several times to make sure arrangements were made and that we were singing in the same key as he would be playing! He was so patient with me and so fun to work with! I have never had a better experience than having them come play for us! We have since received many, many compliments about our program from faculty and parents and many kind words about these wonderful men who added so much to make it successful! I am very grateful for them and their willingness to continue to serve their country by keeping children and people educated about the importance of the military and all of its aspects! What a great program this Bugles Across America is!

*Sincerely,
Allyson Vietti
Rosamond Elementary School
Third Grade teacher"*

Jessica Johnson - Maine

I woke up to a windy 4 degree day. I took hand warmers and stuck them all over my body. I get to the cemetery for the ceremony and it was 3 degrees and at this point really windy. The ceremony began at noon. Here I am in nothing but my Class A's with hand-warmers stuck to my body. Needless to say the hand-warmers were not doing their job. Its getting close to my first number. Suddenly I realize that my valves are starting to freeze and my spit valve is sticking from the cold and I can't open it. Despite my best efforts, I try to remain motionless and keep my mouthpiece warm at the same time.

I am shivering like crazy and my toes feel like they are going to break. I was cued and begin to play America the Beautiful when I realize that I can't feel my lips. I think every note I played started with some kind of crack. The ceremony resumes after my piece and eventually its time to play Taps. Let me just add I have never been so cold in my entire life. I play Taps, it definitely was not my best rendition but under the circumstances I think it was better than America.

The applause was incredible. The audience was so grateful for me being there and I must of gotten a hundred hugs and thank yous. Then there was this one man. He approached me

with tears in his eyes and fell into my arms uncontrollably sobbing and thanking me over and over again for playing Taps for his loved one. It was one of the most powerful, heartfelt moments that I have ever experienced. It was at that moment that I forgot about the weather and the cold and realized that, that one moment made the whole thing worth it. It's amazing how grateful people are for a trumpet player sounding a live rendition of Taps for their loved ones. It was such an honor to be a part of that ceremony.



Walter Salvari - California

Scoutmaster, BSA Troop 58

As a member of Bugles Across America and Scoutmaster of BSA Troop 58, I lead our boys in performing a bugle salute to honor our President Kennedy's memory, ending with the playing of Taps, which was very well-received by all present.

I decided to have us perform atop Mt. Hollywood, near The Griffith Park Observatory, where all trails leading to the Observatory meet. For those present, it was very impressive to hear the sound of our veteran Rexcraft Regulation Bugles from the mountaintop overlooking our great city of Los Angeles. For me, as well as Troop 58 Boy Scouts, it was our way to honor the memory of a great President. Our effort was indeed a great learning experience.

We did enjoy the opportunity to participate as a Boy Scout bugle corps in this BAA-sponsored event, and as always, I will personally continue to serve to the best of my abilities.



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 February 15th.

Please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

BAA- IN THE NEWS

Volunteers ensure bugles still sound when day is done

[The Press of Atlantic City](#)

Posted: Monday, November 11, 2013 12:05 am

By BRIAN IANIERI, Staff Writer

Heather Berchtold recalls one of her first times playing "Taps" at a veterans ceremony a few years ago - and the older man who afterward shook her hand and thanked her for the beautiful rendition.



"There were tears in his eyes," said Berchtold, 19, of Galloway Township, one of a strikingly small number of active bugle players for veterans in South Jersey and the nation. "It's only 24 notes, but it's so moving, and it means so much after all these years of being passed down from generation to generation. And I'm one of those people passing it down."

"Taps" is the solemn bugle-call signaling the end of a day or a life. It is played often on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and at veterans' funerals.

Berchtold, who studies hospitality and tourism management at Stockton College and works at a local winery, is one of those people helping to place more renditions in the hands of live bugle players.

Berchtold volunteers for Bugles Across America, a national group with a New Jersey chapter of about 100 buglers who play at request at veterans' burials and ceremonies.

"We went to a funeral where they had military honors and the recording was played. And the recording was great, but it was a recording. I really started thinking about it. I wanted to play it. I wanted to honor that person live. And that's how I got into it," she said.

"Each time after I get done playing and I see all those reactions, it hits me, and it makes me feel great. And now I'm honoring those veterans: past, present and future. They each hit a certain place in the heart," she said.

Taps is believed to have roots in a French bugle signal called "tattoo," which notified soldiers to return to their garrisons after a night of drinking, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Its U.S. history traces to the Civil War and to Union Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield in July 1862, who asked that the song be played instead of the prevailing infantry tune at the time, "L'Extinction des feux," the department said.

It was likely played shortly after that day at the funeral of a cannoneer, and was played months later at Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson's burial.

By 1891, Army regulations required "Taps" to be played at military funerals, the department said.

The song has special resonance among many Americans.

James Gallombardo, state director for Bugles Across America's New Jersey Chapter, said the volunteer organization works with the military, funeral homes and veterans' families who request live buglers through its website, www.buglesacrossamerica.org.

Many of these volunteers, including Gallombardo, have not served in the military but want to pay tribute to veterans through their musical abilities.

"We owe a great debt to our veterans and military, and being able to do this and leverage some of our talent to really minister to their families at their final farewell - it really is a big deal," said Gallombardo, 50, an IT professional whose father was a World War II Navy veteran.

"It's the final farewell to the veteran," he said. "And being able to be in that position is really quite an honor. No matter how many times I do it, I'm always nervous. I never want to crack a note. I want to play it with reverence and respect, because it's the one and one time only to get it right for that veteran."

And the younger generation can help lead the charge of keeping live buglers an active part of Taps, he said.

One recent funeral Gallombardo played was for an Army veteran of the Korean War, who had spoken to his son about having echo "Taps" played at his funeral. Two buglers play about 50 yards apart.

"The other bugler who was echoing me was a 13-year-old Boy Scout," Gallombardo said. "We know in about 15, 20, 30 years we're not going to be around to perform the service. We'll need the younger generation."

R.I. buglers know privilege, pitfalls of playing Taps at veterans' funerals

[The Providence Journal](#)

By JOHN HILL

Journal Staff Writer

EXETER — If a Rhode Islander who served in the military is being buried somewhere in the state, odds are that Michael Jackson, Donald Chilton or Sgt. Jessika DeFreitas will be there.



If the funeral is at the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery here, it'll probably be Jackson. He'll be in the dress-blue uniform of the Air Force sergeant he was in the 1960s, standing at attention behind a three-member honor guard. They'll be lined up outside the chapel or the columbarium, waiting for the ceremony inside to end.

When it does, the three honor guards will snap to and fire off three volleys in memory of the deceased. As the last shot's report fades out, Jackson will say a little prayer to play true and then slowly lift his bugle to his lips.

For the next minute, he will play Taps, the 24 notes that for more than 150 years have marked the end of an American serviceman's funeral.

After the last note dissolves, the mourners will file out and talk among themselves softly. Some will shake hands, others embrace, and then they'll leave. Jackson and the honor guard will remain on station, though, because in about 10 minutes, another hearse will pull up, and they will finish that funeral, too.

"They deserve it," he said of the deceased men and women that his playing honors. "They earned it."

As a piece of music, Taps is relatively simple. It has only 24 notes and the pace is unhurried.

But those who have to play it say the challenge isn't what they play, it's where.

"You're all by yourself; there's not much room for error," Chilton said. "Then there's the gravity of performing it for a family that's mourning. If you just miss one note ..."

And it happens. Nov. 25 will be the 50th anniversary of probably the most famous missed note in Taps history.

To read the rest of the article and view the slideshow: [Click here](#)

Alabama State Director, Gene Ramsay, takes part in Wreaths Across America ceremony.

Veterans honored during Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo

by Tamika Moore, on December 14, 2013



MONTEVALLO, Alabama -- Several hundred people gathered at the Alabama National Cemetery today during a ceremony to commemorate the lives of veterans and their families and to celebrate servicemen and women who are still serving.

Some 2,400 wreaths, brought down from Herrington, Maine, were placed at every grave marker, during the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony. The ceremony happens at national cemeteries on the second Saturday of every December and took place at several Alabama cemeteries today.

"This is a bittersweet day for most of us. We're a nation at war. We're still at war, the war that is not going to be over for some time, and we are celebrating the Christmas season," said Major General James W. Darden, the Alabama Ambassador for the Chief US Army Reserve and keynote speaker of the ceremony.

"This ceremony won't replace the empty chair at the table at Christmas, it won't replace the empty heart that we feel, but you will know that your loved one has not died in vain, it is for a great cause, and that there are people still in this nation that represent a grateful nation," he said to family members and volunteers in attendance.



BAA members Jim Quakenbush and Gene Ramsay and Marine, Gene Newman.

After his address and the playing of Taps by Bugles Across America- Alabama, a bagpiper led family members of those buried at the cemetery to pick up wreaths to take their loved one's marker. Volunteers laid the remaining wreaths. The wreaths will adorn the graves until January 12, 2014.

The sixth annual Wreaths Across America at the Alabama National Cemetery will be held one year from today, Saturday, December 13, 2014. By then, it is estimated that the number of graves will increase to over 3,000.

For the full online article: AL.com

Wisconsin buglers to pay tribute to man who sounded Taps at JFK funeral

By [Meg Jones](#) of the Journal Sentinel
November 15th, 2013



Keith Clark was known as a perfectionist. So it was out of character when, next to a grave at Arlington National Cemetery, he made a mistake on the sixth note of Taps.

Some said it was Clark crying. Others said it was the collective lump in the throat of America. Clark would later say it was just a flub when his E note went off-key.

It was his rendition of the mournful farewell tune for fallen heroes that was heard by millions on live TV half a century ago.

The man whose grave Clark stood near was President John F. Kennedy.

Clark died in 2002 at the age of 74. He, too, is buried at Arlington. And, yes, Taps was sounded at his funeral.

Among buglers who sound the 24 notes of Taps at countless funerals across the nation, Clark is an icon. So in his honor, more than 100 military and civilian buglers from throughout the United States, including Wisconsin, will gather at Arlington on Saturday.

A ceremony at the cemetery's amphitheater at 10 a.m. will feature music by the U.S. Army band and speakers including Clark's daughter. Several original members of the U.S. Air Force Pipe Band, who played "Mist Covered Mountains" at Kennedy's funeral, will reprise the tune.

At the end of the ceremony the director of the U.S. Marine Band will lead the buglers in a four-part rendition of Taps. As of earlier this week, more than 120 buglers had registered to travel to Virginia to honor Clark.

Bill Seaman of Oak Creek is using vacation days from his job at Walgreens and paying his way out to Virginia to participate Saturday. He also attended last year's gathering at Arlington to commemorate Taps' sesquicentennial, which drew more than 200 buglers.

"For a civilian to have an opportunity to play at Arlington, it's like a singer singing at Carnegie Hall. It's just awesome," said Seaman, Wisconsin director of Bugles Across America.

Bugles Across America provides musicians to sound Taps at no cost for veterans' funerals. Seaman has about 250 buglers, ranging in age from teenagers to retirees, who travel throughout the state.

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

Bob Lewis - Delaware

As a bugler for the 2nd Delaware Volunteer Infantry Re-enactors and a member of **Bugles Across America**, I played Taps at this rededication ceremony

Federalsburg rededicates Civil War monument on 100th anniversary

By Dustin Holt. Star Democrat.com

FEDERALSBURG, MD — Federalsburg rededicated its Civil War Monument Saturday, Nov. 2, at Hillcrest Cemetery on Bloomingdale Avenue — 100 years after it was dedicated to the memory of the soldiers buried there.



The marble infantryman is the only one of its kind on Maryland's Eastern Shore. There are 47 Union soldiers buried in Hillcrest.

The ceremony included musicians who performed some of the songs played in the original ceremony.

A re-enactment group also took part of the rededication as the names of the 47 soldiers were read to the crowd.

For the full article, [click 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

Alaska BAA State Director, Gene Horner, sounds Taps for Wreaths Across America Ceremonies at Fort Rich on Saturday.



Harry Dillon III takes "break a leg" to a new level; what dedication!

"Sounding Taps for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony in Tyrone, PA. 45 min before this photo was taken I fell and broke my left leg. I stood through the service and still played. I even damaged my 1860's era bugle. Dedicated to my duty..."

Two great photos from Ohio BAA member Steve Bow.





Three weeks ago, I, Howard Hudson, had the privilege of sounding Taps at Arlington National Cemetery as a one of the buglers taking part in the 50 year commemoration of Taps played at the President Kennedy funeral. Lynn and I shared a wonderful experience with many of our fellow buglers, family and friends.

BAA member Don Chilton, USNavy, Retired Portsmouth, R.I.



Major Howard Reitenbaugh, USAF, Ret. BAA State Director in PA., and National Coordinator, sounding Taps at Valley Forge

HAPPY 238TH BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS!!!
November 10th!!





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
- * New Mexico
- * 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.

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 Pages

[Bugles Across America](#)

[BAA Bugler Directives](#)

[BAA on Facebook](#)

[BAA on YouTube](#)

BAA Individual State's Facebook Pages

[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](#)

Gear & Decorative

[Scentsy Patriot Collection](#)

[Scentsy "God Bless" Warmer](#)

[Getzen](#)

[Kanstul](#)

Organizations

[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.