

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing: Members and Marketing



Fellow Members of Bugles Across America.

We finished 2013 with no debts, and a decent amount in reserve. Now into our 14th year, we have never charged a fee to join or any dues, but we receive donations from all across America. This is a result of what you are doing out there... sounding

Taps in the cold and the heat, sunshine or rain, large cemeteries of note and small rural plots. The members of BAA are unselfishly serving to honor the veteran at the request of their families.

We get many notes from families and acquaintances to express their gratitude for the presence of our buglers. Here is just part of one recently received from Texas. "The day of the funeral, the weather was very, very cold and we had blowing rain. I salute Ms. Barbara Riedl, for her dedication and braving the weather. Ms. Riedl did a super job".

Yesterday I got a phone call from Lt.Col. Tom O'Connell, the head of a JROTC Marine program in Chicago. Tom's relative had passed away, and upon request for a bugler, BAA member Mark Carlson played at the church service. Tom was delighted with the Mark's performance and the availability of a live bugler through BAA.

Everyday when I sit down and look at my email, I see all kinds of requests from all over the country. They are being filled very quickly and at a remarkable rate. Wow, you are all great. Thanks.



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Things that may interest you

Soon after we found our new web administrators we asked all State Directors to audit and clean the rosters in their states. We used to have 7,500 names, but not all were active or intended to serve as buglers. So, with the State Directors' help we now have about 5,000 ACTIVE members. We can also boast that in the time on the new web site since October 2010, we have processed well over 11,000 funeral/action requests. Merely by chance, Ohio Assistant Director, Steve Bow served the 11,000th event.

In The Bugler's Post, Vol 6, we published a story on our BAA Medals. We are including that page with this issue. It has details on the meaning and availability of those medals. *Please see page 4 for details.*

At this time, in the BAA Closet, I have two female uniforms and one male BAA uniform including a new cover/hat. These are, as always, free while supplies last. Your requests should be in email to me at tomjday@sbcglobal.net . Just tell me what you need, and if I have it, I will send it. I still have a nice supply of the new BAA flag.

We often talk about MARKETING the mission of BAA and your availability in your own area. You are welcome to take our tri-fold brochure and put your own picture on the front flap and use it for this purpose. Remember that there is a nice BAA letterhead template under the Education tab (For Buglers) that you can use to prepare a letter of introduction. You will also find a template for one style of BAA business cards at that location.

I'm sure that when the winter weather departs, we will see an increase in the requests. Get the chops in shape and be prepared. Thanks again for all you are doing out there for the men and women who have served our country.

I want to personally congratulate Virginia & DC State Director John Blair for the incredible work he put in this past year while managing the BAA affairs for his areas. This is just one example of the tremendous effort of our BAA family.

For 2013 in VA & DC there were:

184 Total Requests, 137 Accepted (74%)

* 134 Funerals

* 89 requested by VAARNG with 61 accepted (69% acceptance rate)

* 24 requested by USCG, 15 accepted (63%)

* 21 Private requests, 17 accepted (81%)

- * 21 Private requests, 17 accepted (81%)
- * 29 Memorials (Veterans Day, Memorial Day, etc...), 24 Accepted, (83%)
- * 21 Honor Flight missions, 20 Accepted, (95%)

One individual in Virginia, former Director Gerry Schuck, did 65 funerals and 13 memorials. And to make the point of promoting personal availability, not all that number came through the BAA Request System.

Respectfully:

Tom Day

Founder

Ever Wondered What Each of the BAA Ribbons and Medals Mean?



The Taps 150 medal: This blue and grey ribbon medal was designed by myself and given to those who do an event for the year 2012 and Taps 150.

The red ribbon: This is the Remembrance Medal and ribbon. Fred Hart who crafted the statue at the Wall and others in D. C. gave me permission to use the art work. The red means that a person has done good things for Veterans and their families.

The white ribbon and Col. Joe Day medal: This is in honor of my Dad who served in Marine aviation and the 108th Army Air Corps. To old for WW2 he was asked to start Civil Air Patrol in Illinois Dec 1-1941. He recruited 4,000 high school cadets who became Pilots and crews for the Army Air Corps . One Cadet that Dad got into West Point went on to be a 4 star general in the Air Force. Don Kutyna. Dad was honored by the President on the 50th anniversary of CAP. We again give this to people who go that extra step to better themselves and others.

The blue ribbon: Shows membership in BAA.

The red, white and blue ribbon/Medal of Valor: This indicates that this person has done more for this country, than asked.

The gold ribbon: This is for BAA buglers who take the time to make themselves the best bugle players that they can be. This is our medal and our own BAA Buglers Hall of Fame. Not to be confused with the Buglers Hall of Fame with the Drum and Bugle Corps program in Bridgeport, CT.

The blue ribbon with the red and white stripes: This is a ribbon and medal I designed for all our members. We were awarded this medal in January of 2011 by the Freedom Foundation for the work BAA does. I was presented the award but felt it was because I could have only earned it with the help of each member of BAA. So I designed this medal and ribbon to thank all BAA members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2015 Leadership Conference



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

When: August 22 & 23, 2015

Where: The Mayfair Banquet Facilities in Westchester, IL

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

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

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

The convention will include two trips:

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

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

Seminars currently scheduled:

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

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

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.



Find The Bugle Contest!

We had a wonderful response to our first Find The Bugle contest. Thank you to every one who entered.

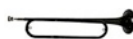
In an effort to encourage everyone to thoroughly read the **Bugler's Post**, we will be continuing this contest in every issue. Hidden somewhere within the content of each issue is a small silhouette image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into dialogue or illustration by our editing staff. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle.

“How do I enter?” When you have located the image, simply note its location and copy and paste the official entry form to your email. You can find the form on page 8 or on the BAA web site under the Bugler's Post tab. When you have filled in the required information on that form, simply email it to findthebugle@gmail.com

“How will I know if I won?” All correct entries will be held for a random drawing on **March 30th**. We will randomly select (by assigned number, not name) **three winners**. Winners will be contacted by email to notify them of their winning entry selection, and they will be awarded a prize.

“What can I win?” 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 Grand Prize 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'!

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



Our initial launch of the **Find The Bugle** contest has come to a close, and we want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

Bill Kuhn of West Virginia
Thomas Thibault of Pennsylvania
Ray McKean of Arizona

As promised, they were immediately notified and asked for their choice of 'prize store'. Each of them received a \$50 gift card for the store of their choice, and they are now in the running with 1 in 9 odds of winning the first award of a major prize that will be a carefully selected horn from the legendary "BAA Horn Closet". This prize is awarded to a random selection of one of the nine prize winners from the first three FTB contests. We will then begin a repeat of the process for the second half of the year.

Now, while we did receive many correct entries, we were actually expecting many more, considering that the newsletter is sent to thousands of recipients. If you didn't take the time to read the **BUGLERS POST**, and failed to send in your entry..... well, "Ya can't win, if ya don't enter"!

All non-winners for the year are eligible to enter each contest period; that is each bimonthly issue of our newsletter the **BUGLERS POST**.



State Director Spotlight: Iowa

Assistant State Director: Jerry Mays

How long have you been with BAA?: I joined BAA in Sept. of 2007, so about 6 plus years and have enjoyed every day.

Why did you join?: I have always been very patriotic, and although I never served our country in the military I served our country two years in the Peace Corps in the South Pacific. Being a bugler with BAA, is my way of saying thank you to all who have served our great country in the military and have put their life on the line for our freedoms.

How long have you been playing?: I started playing cornet in the 5th grade and have played ever since. Both in marching bands in High School and now playing regularly with BAA and also at my church on Sundays. I now play both trumpet and bugle.

What is the hardest part about being a SD?: I would say the hardest part of being an Assistant State Director is making sure that all Veterans services are covered if at all possible with a live bugler. Although, it has been a hard task breaking down the posts that are using the digital bugle. I have had success, but it has been difficult. It has been worth every mile.

What is the best part about being a SD?: The best part of being an Assistant State Director, has been meeting and visiting with all of the other members who like me are committed to our goals and service.

What has been your best experience with BAA?: First, although it was the hardest thing I have ever had to do, I was honored to play for a fallen soldier who died in Iraq after only being there two weeks. Second, I was honored to represent BAA when asked to accompany an Honor Flight to Washington DC, and play Taps at the WWII Memorial for the Veterans from both Iowa and Wisconsin.

What is your goal for your state?: My Goal for Iowa is the same as all others. To recruit members and to make sure they are qualified to play tribute to our veterans who deserve the very best we can provide. Also to see that as many funerals as humanly possible are covered by BAA.

Personal likes: Besides playing Taps at Military Funerals and hymns at church on Sunday, I spend my time volunteering at Effigy Mounds National Monument as a Park Ranger giving tours. I also volunteer as a tutor at an elementary school, and I volunteer one day a week at a local food bank.



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Is there anything you'd like to share with your audience?: Lastly I would like to say thanks to Tom Day, for this wonderful opportunity to provide military honors for our veterans. I am truly honored to be a member of BAA.

Assistant State Director: William Hall

Bill Hall has been playing Taps since high school. Currently he represents both BAA and AMVETS Post 28 in Clinton, IA. In addition to honoring veterans at both private memorials and public ceremonies, as a Clinton County Sheriff's Reserve Deputy, Bill also honors law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Some of his most memorable ceremonies have included organizing and playing Cascade Taps at the Rock Island National Cemetery, the annual Quad Cities Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, the North American Police Work Dog Association National Workshop Memorial and honoring the service of Viet Nam veterans every year during The National Moment of Remembrance. Without a doubt, his most memorable ceremony was sounding Taps at the Georgia National Cemetery to honor the service of his father, a World War II Navy veteran who served on the minesweeper, USS Instill.



OUR NEW STATE DIRECTORS

Carla Beaudoin - Assistant Director, Maine



Carla started playing the trumpet in the 5th grade and played all the way through High School and for the first couple years of college at the University of Maine in Orono, Maine. After college, her trumpet sat in its case for several years until she joined a local Community Band and she hasn't put her horn down since. She is now a musician in the Italian Heritage Center Concert Band and a brass quintet called Quintessence.

Carla has been a member of BAA since 2001. Around that time a friend of hers died in a snowmobiling accident. Carla knew this man had served in the US Army and she was assured by her friend's widow that he was getting full military honors. When Carla attended the burial ceremony at the cemetery, she listened to the gun salute but she didn't see a bugler. What she did see was a member of the honor guard bend down to turn on a boom box with a rendering of Taps. She SO wished she had her trumpet with her because she would have been honored to play for her friend. What happened next changed her life and is the reason she is a member of BAA today. She saw an article in People Magazine about Tom Day and how he started Bugles Across America because he didn't think the boom box renditions of Taps were good enough for our Veterans. Immediately after reading that article, Carla signed up to be a member of BAA.

Today, Carla lives in Gorham, Maine with her husband Marc, a dog and two cats. She is passionate about her role as an official BAA bugler and is ready to take that important role a step further and assist her State Director Peter Duston in helping the dedicated buglers in Maine honor our veterans.

Steve Bow - Assistant Director, Ohio

Steve Bow is a native of Columbus, Ohio. Steve graduated from Westerville North HS in 1985 and attended The Ohio State University, graduating in 1990 with a BS degree in Metallurgical Engineering. Steve currently works as a Technical Services Lead Specialist for a major US steel supplier providing flat rolled sheet steel to automotive applications.

Although Steve has a technical background in his career, music has always been his passion. Steve started trumpet in 6th grade and has been playing now going into his 36th year. Steve still plays regularly in his church for special services. Over the years Steve has played in many church performances, musicals, jazz bands, and other venues. In school Steve was active in marching band (including 4 years in The Ohio State Marching Band from 1985-88), orchestra, concert band, pep band, and jazz band. In HS Steve won various awards for jazz performance and OMEA. In addition to trumpet, Steve also sings lead in a local rock band in Cincinnati called Timestamp. He and the lead guitar player were friends in metallurgy at OSU and also in the Ohio State band together.



Steve is married to his beautiful wife Christina of 23 years, and have two beautiful children Claudia 14 and Mitchell 10. Claudia is also a trumpet player in 9th grade and takes lessons from Steve. Mitchell is playing drums and xylophone. Mitchell is playing on the drum kit and takes lessons. Both children are straight A students. Christina also graduated from Ohio State and went to HS with Steve. She loves being a mom and listening to all their music in the house! In addition to family, Steve also has his own part time military nose-art business, STB Aviation Art Concepts LLC.

Steve is thrilled with his new position with BAA and will serve the veteran with honor. Being from a military family (Steve's Dad, Ken is US Army LT Col ret.) Steve understands the meaning of Duty, Honor, Country.

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

Lance Williams - Minnesota



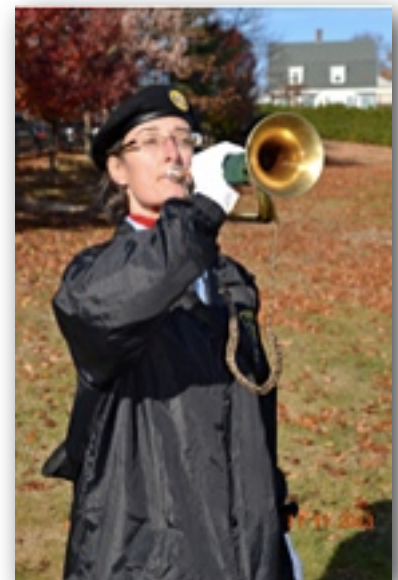
My wife and I had two unforgettable visits to Gettysburg National Military Park. Once in Sept., 2010 and again in late Oct. On both occasions, the site was not busy, and we had ease of visit in all locations. While enroute towards home in Minnesota, on Oct. 24, after visiting Washington, D.C., I knew I had to pay my respects by playing Taps at Gettysburg. At sundown, my flugelhorn sounded Taps at Little Round Top.

I realized that sounding Taps at the nearby First Minnesota Memorial was also called for. A few minutes later, those men were also honored.

The First Minnesota fought alone in a critical defensive battle on the 2nd day of the Gettysburg battle. In those few minutes, about 80% were killed or wounded while repelling a Confederate force up to 10 times greater in numbers. It remains one of the highest battle casualty rates in military history.

Kimberly Shaw - Massachusetts

This past Veterans' Day in Dedham Massachusetts, I had the honor of taking part in the dedication of a new memorial to the "forgotten" Korean war. Here is a link to the article from a local paper, which had only recently been forwarded to me. Even though I was not in BAA uniform, the [Dedham Patch](#) photographer got a rather nice shot of me, among all the other photos of this moving event.



Larré Robertson - Idaho

Here I am (far right) after just doing Honors for a veteran in Boise, Idaho. Cold and snowy. Notice the snow piled on one side of our uniforms. The wind was really blowing this day.



Max Gonano - Pennsylvania

I recently sounded Taps at a funeral two homeless vets at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies for the MIAP (Missing in America Project). I think it might have been the coldest weather in which I ever played. I looked at my phone as we got started and it was 13 degrees + a BITTER BREEZE.

It wasn't the "warmest" sound I ever produced - but at least the notes came out without "cracking" all over the place (lucky because the TV cameras were rolling). Got to see it on the news - darn, I really did look as cold as I felt. Does Jamaica need any BAA members?

This proved to me that I am making progress - my sound is darker and more open (though it didn't sound exactly that way on Tuesday). Before, that temp would have tightened my sound a lot. George Rawlin and Greg Spence deserve credit.

Soon, I will be playing for a large Coast Guard "Change of Watch" event - Hooray! It's inside! For this one - it's not just Taps. It's Assembly / To The Color / Attention / Church Call / Taps (and anything else they want). Should be interesting. I actually played a CG Change of Watch when I was in the service. They sent us up to Yorktown. A CG Admiral gave the best "mission" speech I ever heard. At the end, The Band joined in the applause.



Here is the [TV coverage and a couple articles](#) about the new law. Hope it helps MIAP.

Walter Salvari - California

Scoutmaster, BSA Troop 58

On December 28, 2013, during his visit to Southern California, Tom Day and his family visited Mt. Hollywood. At the Griffith Park Observatory, they were met by Boy Scouts of America Troop 58. The troop's buglers stood in formation at the Observatory's Memorial Obelisk Plaza and performed a Regulation bugle salute, which was followed by Tom playing Taps. Afterwards, everyone took advantage of the opportunity, and hiked a section of the Observatory Trail to the Berlin Forest area, where the scouts played some of their Unit's standard bugle calls, with Tom joining in. Everyone had a great time meeting him and his family. It was indeed a great honor for Troop 58.





Larré Robertson - Idaho State Director

I thought I'd share a picture of my truck. I've completed approximately 274 missions in 2013.

Rich Castonguay - Maine

My Name is Rich Castonguay I live in Quincy, MA. I'm relatively new to BAA just joining last spring. I just wanted to submit some info about my first mission and how much of an honor it was to give back to those who served this great country and for their families as well. I got the call for a bugler request in York Maine in Oct. This was perfect as is a favorite destination of mine to vacation and relax. Also the request was for a Saturday and since I work Monday through Friday, I cannot usually fulfill a mission on those days.

So everything was lining up just right for my very first mission. It was a beautiful fall day with the leaves just starting to turn color and fall to the ground. I was greeted in the cemetery by three Marines and we went through the details of what and how things where to take place. I have to be honest, after the firing detail did their part and I was to come in with Taps an overwhelming feeling hit me of how significant this was and I was almost brought to tears at the same time. I forged on and I did crack a note or two (aka the buglers tear) and although my performance was not flawless it was still an honor to have provided Taps for a hero who served our country. I can't quite describe the feeling I got when the three Marines in dress blues shook MY hand and thanked ME for MY service. A very emotional experience to say the least and one that I am so very glad to have been part of.

This photograph is me playing Taps on my very first mission in York Maine.



Johnathan Pitstick - Ohio

A more powerful transitional moment cannot be found that eclipses that of life and death. My bugle helped me to honor a former military serviceman when I accepted a mission to sound "Taps" at a funeral. Offering this service marked my transition to adulthood not only within my family and community, but also within myself. My family has an extensive background in military service, and I take pride in their contributions to our country. This experience provided me with a sense of familial inclusion, allowing me to tap into my family's rich military history. Honoring a fallen hero with my breath and my hands gave meaning to my years of musical training and gave me the opportunity to serve my nation as an involved citizen and volunteer.



I auditioned for Bugles Across America months ago but had been unable to accept a mission until recently. The request came for a Thursday service at 1:30, about 60 miles from home. I struggled with the enormity of the decision of whether or not to accept. Doing so would mean that I would leave school early, missing Physics, AP Calculus, and two important rehearsals. Not accepting would mean that I would continue to carry the burden of fearing the unknown. I spoke with my teachers and parents, who encouraged me to accept the mission. I had blessedly little previous experience with funerals, and none that were military related. Anxiety and insecurity inundated my fears as the event approached.

Upon arriving at the cemetery, I began to realize the value and significance of the service I was offering. As the funeral procession arrived and the grieving family came into view, I was overwhelmed with respect for this man's sacrifice. The service began, and all I felt was the beating of my heart as I tried to concentrate on nailing my first note. Suddenly, I heard the 21 gun salute. I watched for my signal, then lifted my horn and began to play. The first note emerged loud and clear, and my vision narrowed as I played with everything I had in my heart: love of country, family, life, gratitude of opportunity, and the kindness of people toward a scared kid trying to find himself. In that moment, this kid grew up. I knew I had played to the best of my ability, and took pride in a genuine compliment and gratitude expressed by a veteran after the service.

In the future, I will carry myself with confidence as I continue to honor our country's heroes with the long, majestic, and haunting notes of Taps. As I face many changes this year, this experience will help me remember the strength I hold within me. The sacrifices of others have provided a future of opportunity. I will be proud to accept any mission to sound Taps and represent the gratitude of a nation.

Martin Gerhard - Minnesota

Just finished a week long jump school in January with Bugle in hand...we trained and graduated 11 more parachutists who joined our team to Remember, Honor and Serve our Veterans. The long days were brought to an end with Taps of course!

This June, we will participate in the 70th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France. I will travel with Bugle and Parachute to honor those who fought on June 6th, 1944. We will jump from C-47's together with several European Airborne Teams. I would love to represent BAA in Normandy and play Taps at whatever ceremony needs a live AMERICAN BUGLE PLAYER! If there are any other BAA members who will be there that you know of, please let me know via email so we might coordinate a meeting! I will be camping in a military encampment in a farm field not far from the various Drop Zones and festivities near St. Mere Eglise.

The D-Day Celebration will be a huge event. I am very fortunate to have to opportunity to travel there, jump on to one of the very same DZ's from Operation Overlord, where thousands of American's gave their lives for not only our freedom, but the freedom of Europe! My goal is to play Taps at the Cemetery at Omaha Beach and where ever else I can answer the call.



BAA Bugler Gerhard with Jump Master Captain Roycroft during JMPI

The picture enclosed is of one BAA Bugler getting a "JMPI" (Jump Master Parachute Inspection) on an early morning jump in January by Jump Master Captain Rodney Roycroft. It was very cold that day at Frederick Army Air Field, especially in the C-47 flying with the cargo door off. Hitting the 120 mph wind upon exit was a bit of a shock, but once under canopy, even 10 degrees felt warm while floating down to earth with the sun coming up over the horizon! Perhaps the adrenalin rush might

have a little something to do with it as well...

We are always looking for new members. No military or civilian jump experience needed. Just the desire to do something extraordinary to honor our Veterans, very much along the same lines as the mission of BAA. Instead of a Bugle, you strap on a Parachute and fling yourself out of a C-47 from 1500 Feet!

Details can be found at www.wwiadt.org

The next jump school will be offered in July.



Paratrooper Trainees marching to the C-47 for a morning training jump. Frederick Army Air Field, Oklahoma. January 2014

Peter Dustin - BAA State Director, Maine

BAA bugler Kimberly Shaw of the Boston (MA) area was in Bangor, Maine visiting family for Christmas and had a date to meet several of the USAF Honor Guard of the 101st Air Refueling Wing at the Bangor Air Base. While there, she got some training on funeral protocol and Flag folding by SrAm Evan Duane and 1LT (retired) Peter Duston, BAA State Director. NCOIC of the Honor Guard, SSgt Erin Hartley was standing by. Considering the severe ice storm in progress that day, Dec 23rd, it's a wonder that anybody actually made it to the base for the training. We wish to commend Kimberly for her obvious dedication to the cause of providing the best funeral honors to our veterans!



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 April 15th.

Please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

BAA- IN THE NEWS



Interesting People: Tom Day

WPTV interviewed Tom Day on their television program, Interesting People with host, Ed Sutkowski.

Tom Day discusses Bugles Across America, how BAA started, where we are today and why BAA does what we do. He enlightens his audience with the history of Taps, tells fantastic stories of his experiences sounding Taps and how he helps the families with closure.

We learn about Tom's family, where he started, his passions, and how he feels blessed and thanks God every day for the opportunity to honor our Nation's finest.

The program aired on December 27th, 2013 but the interview can be viewed on the [WTVP YouTube page](#).

Honoring a Tradition - Saving Live Taps

Rochester Homepage

On December 29th, Alfred Monk was laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery in Rochester. The Navy sent two sailors, the American Legion sent an honor guard and a volunteer bugler played Taps.

"It's very heartwarming." said Alfred Monk's son, Tom. "It's also sad. Tradition. All those things rolled into one."



Across the country, nearly 2000 veterans die every day. Now, some fear the time-honored tradition of live Taps, will die with them. Ten years ago, the Pentagon began using recorded Taps to keep up with the pace of dying veterans, and the mounting casualties of the wars overseas. Today, 4 out of 5 military funerals use boomboxes and digital bugles. a fact some find unacceptable.

"That cannot be, that my father could have 100 guys who could play Taps for him, but somewhere around the country, somebody who may have fought right alongside my father, was being put to rest with a tape recorder," says Rochester trumpeter Tom Allen.

Allen is the son of a World War II veteran. He's one of 300 civilian musicians who travel around the state to play live Taps.

"If only 20 percent of families are going to get a live bugler at their funeral for their hero, what's it going to be like in 50 years, when all these kids who signed up after 9-11 are in their 70's and 80's? If this tradition just disappears on our watch, this generation of brass musicians, that's just not good enough."

In New York State, people like Tom have helped fend off federal cuts that eliminate live Taps altogether. But even sympathetic lawmakers admit it's an uphill battle.

"I got calls from veterans groups all around New York State, from one end to the other, saying 'please get this money restored, it's not expensive', and we have," says Senator Chuck Schumer.

For the full article and video, [Click Here](#)

Bugles Across America honors veteran at Maple Knoll Village

Contributed By: Megan Gresham, Cincinnati.com
Thursday, December 12, 2013

Maple Knoll Village, a continuing care retirement community in Springdale, is proud to be home to many of this country's most dedicated veterans. One veteran in particular, Bob Hans, continued to give back after returning from World War II.



For many years Bob used his musical talents to serve as a Bugler at local veteran functions. A bugler is often asked to perform a rendition of the 24 notes in Taps at funerals of veterans, memorials, on Veteran's Day and other special occasions. Bob served as a bugler with the American Legion in Greenhills before moving to Maple Knoll. After moving to Maple Knoll Bob served as the head bugler in the Veteran's Day program for six years. This year Bob passed the torch to a new Bugler, Stephen Bow, for health reasons.

Stephen was contacted by Maple Knoll and jumped at the opportunity to visit our campus for the Veteran's Day celebration. After meeting Bob, Stephen knew that Bob deserved to be a member of The Bugles Across America. Stephen contacted the State Director and National Director to present Bob with an honorary pin and patch. On December 10th, 2013, Chaplain Nancy Vilaboy oversaw as Stephen presented Bob Hans and his wife Betty with this honor.

Stephen's dedication and big heart did not go unnoticed by Maple Knoll residents. Bob Hans shares, "I am completely honored and overwhelmed that Stephen took the time out of his life to do this for me".

Stephen explained to Bob how every veteran and bugler should be honored for what they have done for this country. Growing up in a military family Stephen always knew he wanted to give back as well. By joining Bugles Across America he is able to do so. Stephen recently performed at the John F. Kennedy 50th anniversary Memorial Service in November and plans to continue providing a presence at Maple Knoll.

Valentines for Veterans Concert in Nashville at the Country Music Hall of Fame...A Great Success!

by Larry Wiseman

One of our greatest supporters is [Help Hospitalized Veterans](#), and on Saturday, February 8th, BAA was a co-sponsor with HHV for a concert entitled Valentines for Veterans, A Salute to America's Gold Star Families. For many years, my wife Susan and I have dedicated our lives to honoring the Veteran, first, by performing her original music all over the USA, her as [The Tribute Lady](#), and ultimately we both became involved with BAA in 2005. I was the Georgia State Director, and she the Assistant Director for 4 years. Susan's inspired music, and our work for BAA have been a perfect fit over the years, and we both have served as National Coordinators, doing a lot of work(promoting the cause of Live Taps), both in Georgia, Washington, DC, and several other cities in this great nation.



In December, we were contacted through Tom Day by Help Hospitalized Veterans to be a part of their concert series called Valentines for Veterans. To date, they have put on over 65 of these concerts, free of charge, to give back to the lives of our Veterans. They pick top name acts, who agree to perform at a deeply reduced rate, like Aaron Tippin, Lee Greenwood, Darryl Worley, Little Anthony and the Imperials, Jefferson Starship, the Chi-Lites, Gary Lewis and the Playboys, The Platters, and Darryl Singletary. To kick off this year, they started in Nashville. Their concert promoter Frank Cimorelli, called me, after hearing Susan's Gold Star Family Tribute songs, and asked if we would consider opening the show for Aaron Tippin and Darryl Worley. Well, you can guess what our answer was, as we never, in our wildest dreams, thought that we could ever be involved in something of that magnitude and honor. We gladly accepted, and began working with Frank to make it all come together.

We drove to Nashville a couple of days before, and checked into the gorgeous Omni Hotel, adjacent to the Hall of Fame. We had contacted both Tennessee State Director David Cox, and Assistant Director Donna Butler to invite them to be involved in the event. Donna helped us start the show sounding Echo Taps with me, and David was to man a Bugles Across America promotional table. Unfortunately, David had an emergency appendectomy a few

days before, so he was unable to attend. This is where BAA volunteer Phillip Corbin stepped up, to come and set up the table and man it through the entire concert; we are indebted to him for his dedication.



L-R Diane Hartman CEO, HHV, singer Darryl Worley, Susan D. Wiseman AKA The Tribute Lady, singer Aaron Tippin, Larry Wiseman, Lee Greenwood, Jack Meagher, Chairman of the Board/Help Hospitalized Veterans, and Concert Promoter, Frank Cimorelli, HHV

A few days before the show, we were informed that they wanted to plug in a surprise artist for the show; Mr. Lee Greenwood, "God Bless the USA". We were very excited about this, as we had opened a Veterans show with him a few years ago in Georgia. On Saturday afternoon, we arrived at the Hall of Fame for a sound check, which went very well; Susan used a background track, which she mixed, but we were concerned, as our CD burner copied the track in the wrong order. We were relieved, however, as the professional engineers at the HOF knew precisely how to sequence the tracks the way she needed them to be. After the

sound check, we went to our dressing room, and saw Mr. Greenwood, whose dressing room was next ours. It was indeed great to see him again; after a brief visit, we went upstairs to a reception especially held for the Gold Star families. There were over 100 Gold Star family members there, and about 30 Gold Star Mothers. This was the best part of the trip for us, as we were able to love on, and cry with these beautiful people who have given the most precious thing to them... to this country...their sons! We explained to them that we really do not know how they feel, but that we were there to honor their children's sacrifice, and to honor them, with hopes that something we said or did would help in some small way.

We then proceeded to the HOF stage where the show began with several introductions. Another sponsor of the event was [Soldier's Wish](#) whose CEO Marine Kevin McDugle was in attendance to grant the wish of a Gold Star Mother; great organization. Bugles Across America was presented with an award by HHV; Donna Butler and yours truly accepting. Then the show started with Susan's Hometown Heroes, Echo Taps, The Land of the Free (because of the brave), It Is the Soldier, John's Song, White Dresses, Gold Stars, and then Chad's Song (If I Could Change the World). She got a standing ovation! As we walked off the stage,

Susan's final words were God Bless the USA. This was perfect timing, as the MC Laura Lynn, announced the surprise artist, "Mr. Lee Greenwood!" The house came down at that point! Lee performed God Bless the USA greatly, and after that, country artist Lucas Hoge performed some of his hits, followed by a combined acoustic concert by country music greats Aaron Tippin (Where the Stars & Stripes & The Eagle Fly) and Darryl Worley (Have You Forgotten? (9/11))

Aside from what this night did to represent BAA, the most intense rewards that we received from it was in knowing that we were able to touch the lives of many of the 800+ people in attendance, especially those Gold Star Families, and the other Veterans, to whom we owe endless gratitude to be living in this Land of the Free, Because of the Brave!



L-R Susan D. Wiseman, Lee Greenwood, and Larry Wiseman

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

BRASS FROM THE PAST



ALEXANDER D. GOODE



GEORGE L. FOX



CLARK V. POLING



JOHN P. WASHINGTON

The Saga of The Four Chaplains

It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche.

Hans J. Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier the Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the alarming information. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been blasted and sunk.

The Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the Dorchester. The U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes, a fan of three were fired. The one that hit was decisive-- and deadly--striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line.

Danielsen, alerted that the Dorchester was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC Comanche, however, saw the flash of the explosion.

It responded and then rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited.



Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them.

Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety.

"Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.



One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves.

"Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act.

Ladd's response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains--arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains. "Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes."

That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA.

A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

Story reprinted with permission from <http://www.fourchaplains.org>



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



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: 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.