

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing: September



Are you ready for September and October? There will be plenty of opportunity for our buglers to participate in special-occasion services. August saw many of you taking part in the many "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive" events that were held in almost every state of the union. I thank you for being a part of this ever growing demonstration of patriotic remembrance. If you were a participant in any or the Spirit of '45 events, we want to hear your stories.

Right here in my home town of Berwyn, I was privileged to be the bugler for several of the presentations of the Traveling Vietnam Wall. I was joined by our own Doug Carmichael on these occasions.

For September we should all do our part to recognize "Patriot Day", 9-11-14, by participating in a special ceremony or program..... or organize your own, as many of our members have been doing for years. The remembrance might be a single ceremony on that day, or it may take the form of a special ceremony at each of the four significant times of tragedy on that fateful day in 2001. This is the option that several of our members have been following. Again, if you are part of such a remembrance ceremony, share your stories with us. I have been contacted by the city of Oak Brook, Illinois to be a part of their Remembrance program at 11 AM. I am seeking opportunity to do a program that evening.



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Things that may interest you

September 19 is “National POW / MIA Recognition Day”. Be sure to fly your POW/MIA flag on that day, and if possible, do something to demonstrate a special remembrance of those who have suffered the fate of POW or MIA.

Then the last Sunday of September, 9-28-14, is “Gold Star Mothers Day” in the United States; established as the last Sunday of September each year. Some of our members have the opportunity to give a special presentation in their own church on that day, but all should try to do something to honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Remember that I have a limited supply of Gold Star Mothers Memorial flags that are free to you for the asking. These flags can add to the visual impact of your presentation. BAA has players in all 50 states as well as in several foreign countries. We are doing a fantastic job of getting the word out all across America, and requests are coming in to us in ever increasing numbers while our mission acceptance rate remains very high. For this I thank you all. To continue serving this mission of BAA, we need leadership in every state to oversee the affairs and issues of that location. Our State Directors must be fully engaged in managing their list of registered members as well as doing all in their power to assure that every request is filled with an able volunteer. While this does not require 40 hours of work every week, it is important that matters not be left to chance or ignored for any length of time. The majority of our Directors are doing a terrific job, and we must encourage and enable them to the best of our ability. Any Director that feels overwhelmed or unable to manage all that requires attention should merely let us know. We will find the help that is needed.

Individual members will need to be responsible for keeping their contact information current as well as maintaining playing proficiency so that they are ready to serve a bugling mission when the opportunity presents itself. Should you have a flare for marketing and want to place an information and display table at state-level VSO meetings, we will supply some funding and materials to help.

We should all join in prayers for those serving in harms way to protect our way of life and our freedom to worship as we wish. We must also remember the families of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for that same cause.

Tom Day
Founder
Bugles Across America

This letter was recently sent to me and I just wanted to share what fine work Jeff Jones is doing down in Texas. It just goes to show that there are more ways to serve our veterans and BAA than just sounding Taps. Getting the word out about what BAA offers and why are are here, helps veterans and their families.

- Tom Day

Dear Mr. Day,

My name is Jeff Jones and I have been a member of BAA for the past eight years. Due to my work schedule you won't see my name as signed up for missions, however I do volunteer as a bugler in this area whenever needed. I also take every opportunity available to speak as to the value of volunteering for BAA. In the past I have spoken to school groups, facilitated the article written about Steve Kowalski which appeared locally as well as in Stars and Stripes, and I was featured in Pest Management Professional. (April 2009, "Put the Bug in Bugler)

This past year has been no exception to my gift of gab in speaking about BAA. In November 2013, I was asked to do a presentation at the Grapevine Texas Elks Lodge about BAA and bugling to a veterans group at a Thanksgiving dinner. My original belief was that I was the only going to speak for a few minutes, and only found out a week prior to this engagement, that I was the featured entertainment. Utilizing my collections of trumpets, bugles, a vuvuzela, and Alpine horn and a euphonium, I was able to provide an entertaining evening of bugling military history, and of course the history of Taps.

Several months later, I was again called upon to repeat this performance at the state leadership meeting for the Texas Elks Lodge. Once again I took the stage and repeated my performance. Upon completing my night, the Texas Elks presented me with a check in the amount of \$150 to be sent to BAA.

Thank you for starting BAA, and for providing the resources to volunteer.

Jeff Jones
Little Elm Texas

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 interested in leadership 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.

The September 11th Memorial Taps Foundation



Dear “Bugles Across America” member,

We are rapidly approaching the 13th anniversary of the attacks upon the United States on September 11th, 2001.

This will be the fifth year of our “September 11th Memorial Taps” ceremonies to be held in your city or town if you choose to participate as so many have on the previous anniversaries of that fateful day.

As in previous years, we ask that you will participate in whatever manner you can. Many of you have been able to organize small ceremonies that involve their local fire departments and various police departments and other first responders. As always, the intention of the “September 11th Memorial Foundation” is to honor all the innocent victims of that “Second Day of Infamy,” but especially the various members of “First Responders” that lost their lives trying to save as many innocent victims as they could.

This day needs to continue to be memorialized so that no one will ever forget them. So many communities have put the memory of September 11th, 2001 out of their minds and the “September 11th Memorial Taps Foundation” was established to remind Americans to “Never Forget and Never Surrender.”

We ask that you participate by rendering Taps at the exact times of the attacks in coordination with the hundreds of other buglers nationwide. Some buglers just step outside their homes or at the side of the road while traveling while others launch full scale ceremonies in conjunction with their local first responders.

The ceremonies will begin at 5:46 AM to coincide with the actual attack times in New York.

The exact time times of the attacks were as follows, all times are Eastern Time Zone. Please adjust to your appropriate time zone.

At 8:46 AM Eastern Time zone, (5:46 AM Pacific Time zone) American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the New York World Trade Center.

At 9:03 AM Eastern Time zone, (6:03AM Pacific Time zone) United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower of the New York World Trade Center.

At 9:37 AM Eastern Time zone (6:37AM Pacific Time zone) American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, just outside the borders of Washington, D.C.

At 10:03 AM Eastern Time zone (7:03AM Pacific Time zone) United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in a field near Shanksville, PA, after the passenger made a heroic attempt to regain control of the aircraft from the hijackers. Who can forget those last words spoken by Todd Beamer, "Let's Roll" as the passengers on board flight 93 resisted the terrorists who commandeered their flight.

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

We ask that you also render "Taps" for one additional ceremony in order to remember all the military members and innocent victims that have died as a result of all the terrorist attacks since that fateful day. Please feel free to take a moment to say a prayer of your choice on behalf of those victims as well.

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

Please send me an email to september11thmemorialTaps@yahoo.com outlining your plans and location and feel free to call me for any further information. Thank you for your service and all you do for our nation.

Sincerely yours,
Fred Speckmann
Founder, "September 11th Memorial Taps Foundation"
775-378-5023



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!

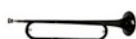
Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is a small image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into either dialogue or a photo. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle.

“How do I enter?” Find the bugle, note the location then copy and paste the official entry form to your email. The form can be found on page 8 or on the BAA web site under the [Bugler's Post tab](#). Fill out the required information and email it to findthebugle@gmail.com

“How will I know if I won?” Three winners will be selected randomly from a drawing of all correct entries on **September 30th**. Winners will then be contacted by email.

“What can I win?” 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**.



The bugle may be presented in any orientation; in other words, it may be horizontal, vertical, or at any angle.

Good luck, happy 'bugle hunting'!

Legal Fine Print

- * Only one entry per person per contest period, and must be submitted on the official entry form to the designated email address.
- * Entries must be in by midnight PST on the 30th day after publication of that newsletter.
- * Selection of winning entries 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.

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



We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #17 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

Bruce Walker of Matawan, New Jersey

Ryan Ostreng of Byron, Minnesota

Constance Snively of Lebanon, Pennsylvania

As promised, they were immediately notified and asked for their choice of 'prize store'. Each received a \$50 gift card for the store of their choice, and will be in the running with 1 in 9 odds of winning the grand prize drawing.

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: Louisiana

State Director: Reagan Moon

How long have you been with BAA?: Five years

Why did you join?: I hated seeing Taps sounded on boom boxes and MP3 player fake horns by fake Taps buglers. I feel our Vets deserved better, as well as the real thing, and wanted to help.

How long have you been playing?: For five years now.

What is the hardest part about being a State Director?: The hardest part was after my initial posting as the State Director was getting the rosters for both Louisiana and Mississippi up to date and current and attempting to contact everyone on the rosters by phone. (I'm caring for Mississippi until Mississippi has a director) Once the rosters are up to date and current, things pretty much all fall into place. You still will have the occasional "fire" that needs to be put out from time to time, like a last minute bugler replacement, but most of the time it all works out for the good.

What is the best part about being a State Director?: First, helping to bring some closure to the people who have lost a loved one, as well as honoring that loved one in the setting up a BAA mission bugler for them. Tied with this would be all my State buglers, both Louisiana and Mississippi. I very much enjoy working with and talking to them as well as meeting them when I can.

What has been your best experience with BAA?: There have been many. All my Taps services are special in their own unique ways. All the Vets I sound Taps for are very special to me and sounding Taps for all of them is such an honor for me.

What is your goal for your state?: I would like to be more hands-on with the buglers from Louisiana and Mississippi. I would like to travel more and meet these buglers in person.



Personal likes, dislikes and other personal information you don't mind sharing:

Likes....There are so many. To name one: The fine, dedicated people in the BAA organization.

Dislikes....So few, who cares. To name one: I really don't care for the backwards looking American flag worn on the BAA uniform. I like it the way it was worn from WWI through Desert Storm and beyond. The way I wore it in my 20 plus years of service to our country while in the U.S. Air Force, on the left shoulder right side out, the right looking way.

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

Thank you BAA. Thank you Tom Day and Julie Day for all you have done with this great organization that has become a distinct honor for me to be a part of!!!!!!



OUR NEW STATE DIRECTORS

James Quakenbush - Alabama Assistant State Director

James (Jim) Quakenbush was born in Albany, GA and grew up in Panama City, FL. After completing high school, he attended Gulf Coast Community College in Florida to earn his A.A. in Music Performance.

Jim enlisted in the Marine Corps (1983-1991), serving in the Marine Music Field as featured soloist and lead trumpet in all facets of performance groups, along with his basic military duties which included administrative clerk, platoon sergeant, training officer, and marksmanship instructor.

Upon detachment from active duty at the end of Desert Storm, Jim continued his professional music career in the private sector, performing with Albany Symphony (GA), Barnum & Bailey's Circus, Montgomery Symphony (AL), as well as a studio musician, frequent pit orchestra member and private instructor.

Jim returned to Troy State University to complete his degrees in Music Performance and Psychology. There, he served as Principle Trumpet in the TSU Wind Ensemble, lead trumpet on the field and vocalist with the Troy Jazz Ensemble.

During his career, Jim has been privileged to perform Taps over 1000 times and still believes the opportunity to do so is the **highest** honor a bugler may receive. Besides his ever growing involvement with Bugles Across America and "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive", he serves as an active member of Band of America's Few, The American Legion, Alabama National Cemetery Support Committee and various other paramilitary social organizations.

He currently resides in Montevallo, AL, home of the Alabama National Cemetery, with his bride of 20 years (Beky) and works as a trumpet instructor and freelance musician for both live and studio commitments.

Bill Dalton - Missouri State Director

My name is Bill Dalton. When I am not playing in my church orchestra or attending jazz concerts, I am busy working as an insurance Catastrophe Director responding to policyholders that have suffered property damage from hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disaster that seem to occur more and more frequently.

I have been playing trumpet for over 47 years. As a Boy Scout troop bugler, I played at many different scouting events and functions honing my bugling skills to the point that I was able to play at military funerals in my home town as a young scout. I continued to play through college and at one point thought that a career in music might be in store. fortunately or unfortunately depending on your outlook, that did not occur.



In 2002, I heard about Bugles Across America and appreciated the mission of the organization. I have been an active member since that time and have enjoyed sounding taps at military honor funerals as well as Memorial Day events, and Veteran Day events. It is truly an honor and a privilege to sound Taps for those that have sacrificed so much to protect our freedoms. I am looking forward to serving BAA as the Missouri State Director and supporting the Mission of BAA.

Roy Zanni - California Assistant State Director

I was born and raised in Wallingford, Connecticut on a family farm but have lived in San Diego, California since 1977.

My mom bought my first trumpet when I was eight and I played thru high school in the concert band, concert orchestra and many musicals.

I enlisted in the USMC right out of high school in 1966 and auditioned for the Parris Island band during boot camp. I was good enough to play but there weren't any trumpet openings at the time.

Drum major suggested I audition at the USMC "Field Music School" which was the training grounds for all Marine Drum and Bugle Corps at the time. Passed the audition and got orders to go to the Field Music School after boot camp. I then spent 8 weeks there becoming a VERY squared away Marine learning every bugle call that every bugler needed to memorize and know in those day. (Reveille to Taps.) A typical number of bugle calls required to be played every day was 19. After school I got orders to go to Washington DC at 8th and I and was privileged to play for the best Military Drum and Bugle in the world. Duty there included Friday night parades at the barracks for dignitaries as a well as civilians, white house details and Taps details at Arlington National Cemetery. I lost count after 200 Taps details during my active duty days.

After the Marine Corp days I went back to Connecticut, picked up the trumpet again and ended up playing for 4 different bands at the same time. (City Symphonic Wind Ensemble, City Band, Polish and Spanish bands.) Then marriage, family and work interrupted my musical playing for about 25 years. After the kids were grown and gone the music bug bit me again and I discovered BAA. I joined immediately and have never looked back. Today I enjoy playing as many events BAA sends and some extra ones that come my way as well as playing in a local community band.

Thank you BAA for allowing me to give back to our vets who deserve all we can give them.



Common Mistakes Members Make

*Are you a **REPEAT OFFENDER**?*

One of our jobs here at BAA is to answer emails that come in. Requests, replies, stories, emergencies... whatever it may be, there are a few things that would really help things run a bit smoother. *"But wait.. Isn't that your job to do this?"* A few emails here and there may not seem like much, but when you have 6000 members and only 2 National Coordinators, the workload adds up. We can assist... but the web site is designed to be member friendly so you don't have to wait on us to help you... you can take care of it.. and we can work on the emergencies!

Thank you for understanding,

Jen Day and Howard Reitenbaugh

1.) When you can *NOT* play a request... Please don't reply. The request email even says, *'please don't reply'*. Requests are sent out via automated system to all buglers in a 100-mile radius of the event. We don't often check the automated email box.. but when we do.. people are telling us why they can't volunteer for it. Can't volunteer, just hit that delete key!

2.) Updating or deleting your profile... easy as 1, 2, 3 To update your contact information or to unsubscribe from BAA emails.

1.) Log in with your username and password.

2.) Click on your name in the upper right corner. Profile page appears.

3.) Click the red **'Edit Profile'**

* **Address:** The screen that comes up will be where you can update your address. Click **'update'** at bottom left if changing anything.

* To update **email**... click on **'Manage User Credentials'**... a new screen comes up, change your email and click **'update'**

* To **unsubscribe**... click on **'Manage User Credentials'**. Click **'UnRegister'**

3.) Emergencies.. Please contact your State Director. Sending an email to any official BAA email will **not** reach us in time to help you. If you accepted a request and have a medical emergency keeping you from sounding Taps, Contact your State Director ASAP! If you don't have your director's contact information, log in to the BAA site, under the **'Contact us'** tab you will see **Contact Directors**. Click that. Fill out necessary information. An email will be sent.

4.) If you don't see something you're looking for on the BAA web site... Log in. Some things are only shown to members that are logged in and not the general public.

5.) You lost the information for the request you volunteered for... log in, click on the **'My Events'** tab. Ta-da!

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

INCLUDING... YOUR FIRST TAPS.

Bugles Across American members... Thank you so much for answering my request for your personal stories of the first time you remember playing Taps. I had such a wonderful response in fact that if you don't see your story in this issue... it will be in the next issue! I didn't want to leave out all the other great stories that were sent in too, so i've combined them. Enjoy!

If you still have a story you'd like to share.. please do! Email your 'publish-ready' story to BAA.JenDay@gmail.com .. and a photo of you or the event is desired but not mandatory. Thanks!

Thomas Winnick - New York

July 19th 2014. My 45th Birthday. It also would have marked Chris Liebling's 70th birthday. Instead of celebrating his birthday, his family had gathered in Greenlawn Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. With his family and honor guard, quietly waiting to say good bye, I sounded Taps for the first time. The cemetery, which was absolutely huge, was empty except for us.



Chris was an interesting fellow, from what his family told me. He was a contractor, a Vietnam Vet, and a man who believed in dreams. Enough so, that he once gave a stranger \$2000 to finish an album he had been working on. That stranger turned into a life long friend of 25 years.

Chris's wife Anne was so happy to have a live bugler, her family brought me along after the ceremony to celebrate his life. They sang songs, they drank (a little), and they included me into their fold, to share in the joy which was Chris Liebling's life. They honored me, as much as I felt honored with the opportunity to serve Chris in this last gesture from his country, one soldier to another. Thank you Chris, for serving your country.

How did my first mission for BAA make me feel? It was the best birthday I have ever had.

Larry Icenogle - Ohio

I've been playing trumpet for more than 50 years now, through high school, college, 30 years in the Army and still playing in retirement. My first memory of playing *Taps* dates back to 1964, when my father was commander of our local American Legion Post 479 in Arthur, Illinois. He told me that he wanted me 'to get really good at playing *Taps*, so that would be one less thing he had to worry about when planning military funerals and ceremonies.' Ours was a small town in central Illinois (pop. 2,100 when I lived there, 1957-67) and our house was located adjacent to the cemetery, so I was able to walk to every funeral and ceremonial detail through my graduation from high school.



When I returned to Arthur 25 years later, for my father's funeral, I was permitted (by the high school band director) to 'personally audition his best trumpet player' for the honor of playing *Taps* at the cemetery the next day. The funeral was in August, hence school hadn't started, but the young man I worked with was a rising sophomore who not only did an exceptional job at my father's funeral service, he also became the American Legion Post's bugler of choice until his graduation."



David Rodriguez - California

The first time I played *Taps* I was fourteen years old. My father, who is a pastor, wanted me to learn *Taps* for a Memorial Day service at church. I was nervous, as one could imagine, that I was going to have to play *Taps* in front of an entire church congregation, for the first time, having only picked up the trumpet the previous year. It was both an exciting and daunting task that I had to undertake, fortunately enough, I had put in the time and conjured the courage to sound *Taps* on the Sunday

that we observed Memorial Day and to this day, you can hear my sound *Taps* in church and at the grave sites of the men and women whose families have allowed me the pleasure of honoring them and thanking them with my rendition of *Taps*.

Stan Smith - California

My first time playing Taps (other than practice and doing some Boy Scout bugle calls while camping and growing up in La Jolla, CA) was circa 1955-56 (I was 13 or so, I think) while my Dad was assigned to a special project at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

While there I took lessons from a great old trumpet teacher (he was younger then, just out of the Army after Korea), Joe August, who had also conducted his own small dance band in the Catskills and Adirondacks, other summer resorts in and around New York and New Jersey. I have pictures here in my real estate office of him with his Catskill dance band, playing and conducting, and him playing Sousaphone in the Massed Bands of the First Army, Plattsburg, New York, August 22, 1939. In the dance band picture he's holding the trumpet he used when we played Echo Taps in Newport!

He asked me to play Echo Taps at a 4th of July ceremony near Newport's Town Hall and central town square; we practiced a bit beforehand to get the proper tempo and delay effects; I was assigned the Echo part and stood out-of-sight near a corner behind a great stone building, I think it was the Mason's or VFW hall. Even though I'd played trumpet and sat Principal Trumpet in elementary and middle school bands and orchestras, I was still nervous.

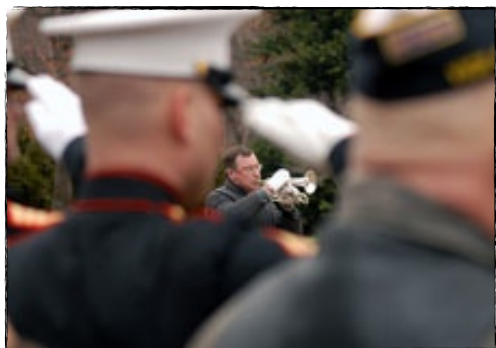
We did fine and the assembled people thanked Joe and me profusely. When Joe clapped me on the shoulder and back and said job well done, I beamed. It felt good to get that kind of praise from my main critic at weekly trumpet lessons!

Years later, after attending Cornell University and playing in their Big Red Band, and having played in the 4th Division Band at Ft. Lewis and the US Army Europe Band (33rd Army Band) in Heidelberg, a carton arrived in the US mail. When I opened it, to my surprise and dismay, Joe's daughter had selected me to receive one of his horns, a very gently used but lacquer-worn King cornet, circa 1940's vintage. It wasn't the trumpet he used in his big band work or to accompany me at those weekly lessons or for that Echo Taps service, but it was his prized big band cornet solo horn! His daughter had tracked me down through the Cornell University Big Red Band Alumni Association after all those years!

I wish I could say it was the same horn he'd used at that first Taps service, but I can't. It sure brings back memories though.

Gerry Schuck - Virginia

I started playing the trumpet again after a 30 year hiatus, in May, 2005. The reason for the return was self-preservation. (I had had a heart attack in 1987, which destroyed 1/3rd of my heart. In February, 2005, they inserted an ICD in me and I began thinking that it was the beginning of the end.) Playing trumpet had always been my passion, and I needed to get back to it. Having a passion for something really changes you mentally and physically. Almost ten years later, I've only been to the hospital to replace the battery in my ICD.



Well, two months after I started playing again, I heard about Tom Day's mission, and I needed to be a part of that. I contacted the local American Legion, and they asked me to sound Taps at a funeral the following week. It didn't go perfect, but it was very rewarding. They say that you have to fail in order to succeed. So, I kept that in mind over the years and didn't get too discouraged if it didn't go as planned. (My wife reminds me now and then that I don't walk on water!)

I have now sounded Taps for over 450 Veterans, and a few times I've been told that I was one of the very best that they have ever heard.

Never forget your passion. It's beneficial to you, and to others that you share it with.

David Mumma - Texas

I earned a bugling merit badge in Boy Scouts and of course Taps was one of the bugle calls that were required. I joined the Navy after High School. In 1964 we returned to Long Beach after a seven month WestPac cruise. After we tied up, all those who were not on duty left the ship. Our Chief Electricians Mate had just left the gangway when he collapsed on the pier. He had requested burial at sea. The night before the burial, his casket was placed on the quarterdeck. I had the mid watch and it was disquieting to have him there knowing that I was to sound Taps for him the next day. We got underway at 0700. We steamed out past Catalina Island. His family (wife and two children) were aboard. The crew was dressed in Dress Whites, seven of the crew from the engineering department served as Honor Guard. When it was time for Taps I stepped forward, although extremely nervous I raised my horn and began. It was a very poignant moment for me and had very wet eyes. It was a moment I will never forget.

Dan Hughes - Kentucky

The first time I played Taps was in high school. My sophomore year, a local funeral home contacted my band director and asked if a couple of trumpet players could sound Taps in echo for a deceased Marine. A junior trumpet player and I volunteered. The Marine was a recent graduate of another local high school, so several of our friends knew him. We got to the cemetery and met with the funeral director. We decided where we would stand, relative to the grave site, to provide the best echo effect. We didn't practice in our spots. Heck, it's just Taps. My friend would play, I would echo...simple.



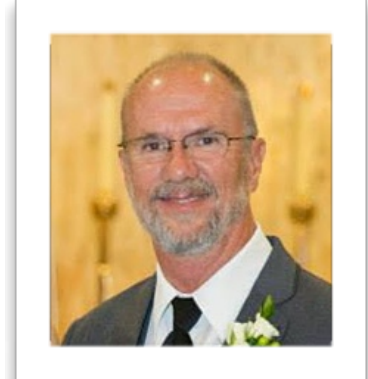
When the service was finished and the volleys cracked the gloomy air, my friend played the first three notes, I played the first three notes...and I couldn't hear ANYTHING else but me. You see, we were standing about 30 yards apart. It never occurred to us to test this arrangement or even simpler, to stand back-to-back or side-by-side, playing one toward and one away. As I held the C, I looked over at him to see if I could get some sort of visual cue. Nothing. So I just put a tempo in my head and played, hoping that our stupidity didn't ruin the honor we were there to provide to the Marine, his family, and his friends.

When the notes ran out, we looked at each other with wide eyes and stood still respectively while everyone moved to their cars to leave. The funeral director thanked us for playing as did the leader of the honor guard. No one mentioned if it was good, bad, ugly. Thankfully, I guess we pulled it off. Since that time, I've only played echo Taps one other time. I actually had a 2-valve G bugle (thinking I was playing alone) and the Army trumpeter had a Bb trumpet (thank you transposition exercises in college!). We stood side-by-side with one facing the funeral party, one facing away. Lesson learned!

Bill Ebbitt - Michigan

When I was in high school, the local VFW would pick me up from school to play Taps for veterans funerals and then return me to school. This was in the late 1960's. Most veterans I played for were World War II or Korean War veterans.

My first one though, I was called to play Taps for a Vietnam War veteran. This was a young man from my home town who was only a few years older than myself. I did not know him personally, but his father owned the local sporting goods store in town. We all knew him.



I was directed to go to the local funeral home and join the active Army Honor Guard group. Again, these were young men only a few years older than myself.

As I boarded their bus they said hello to me and in a few minutes we left for the cemetery ten miles away. As we moved along I was surprised and disappointed in these men. They were very informal. I was afraid that they would do a poor job at the service. As we approached the cemetery their tone quieted and they began to check their uniforms and prepare for the service.

As the bus came to a stop and the door opened, you could have heard a pin drop. They were, to a man, the most professional, precise, and respectful group I had ever seen. I was never so proud to be a part of a ceremony as I was that day. I can only imagine how difficult it was to be a part of an honor guard that was responsible to provide this difficult, yet so important service on a daily basis.

I rode back to the funeral home with their commanding officer after the service. I did not get a chance to thank them for their work. I have been honored to play at many, many funerals over the years. I am proud to continue to do so as a member of BAA.



Chuck Roots - California

There was a memorable moment when I played Taps, but it wasn't the first time. I began playing trumpet in 4th grade at Mount Kisco Elementary School, New York in 1957. I progressed well enough to become first chair in our concert band which played in a lot of different venues. Frequently we were invited to perform for various civic groups where I would play a solo, or if it was a national holiday event, I might be asked to play Taps.

In my sophomore year at Wellesley High we were living in Wellesley, Massachusetts. On Memorial Day that Spring (1964) the concert band was asked to perform in the center of town for this occasion. The high point of the event featured Taps. What was different, and therefore why it is so special to me, is the way in which we performed Taps. Two of us were selected to play. The one trumpeter was to play Taps from the crowd in the center of town, and I was to be his echo standing unseen on a hill overlooking the assembly. The sound was hypnotic. Of course I could not see what the reaction was from my perch atop the hill, but I heard later that it was a very moving experience.

Later in 1969 while I was going through infantry training in the Marine Corps, I was selected to be the company bugler. I was responsible for blowing Reveille every morning at 4:30 am, and then each evening I would blow Taps at 10:00 pm. It was very cold in the hills of Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, so I would sleep with my mouth piece clutched in my hands pressed against my chest so it would be warm to my lips when I got up the next morning to blow Reveille. When we graduated from infantry training, one of my fellow Marines came over to me and said, "I'll never forget the sound of you playing Taps every night when we turned the lights out and hit the rack. But . . . I won't miss hearing you play Reveille!"

I loved it!



Elliott Oppenheim - Montana

The Scoutmaster told me, "When we go to tabletop, you play, OK?"

"What is 'tabletop'?" I asked. This was my first time. Vinnie Nugent, one of my friends, burned to death in a storage closet fire he and his brother started. Vinne's parents were devastated. I was a Cub Scout, maybe ten or eleven, just before going into Boy Scouts. My trumpet career was new; death was new; Taps was new.



Vinnie's death was terrible and our Troop 103, Levittown-Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, formed the honor guard for this lad's funeral. In my blue uniform, I felt pretty sturdy but there were many people...so many. A kid of that age, with no experience, with not much of a centered pitch...what did I know of those twenty-four notes? ... and splitting one...

I think the angels that took Vinnie to heaven helped me along the way that day. It went well. Those Arban lip slurs paid off handsomely and now, as I approach seventy, every time I play Taps I always think of Vinnie Nugent, my childhood friend and the first time I played Taps, and the reason we pay our respects ... with a live bugler.

Allan Smith - Pennsylvania



I have been a member of Bugles Across America since July 2003. My full-time job involves a lot of travel in the eastern United States, and I don't get to volunteer for missions as often as I would like to. I do my best especially for the ones that are close by, when I am home.

My first mission, came as a result of my father passing away in February 2004. My stepmother suggested I play Taps after my father service. It certainly was an emotional test for me. I knew my father, who was a noncommissioned officer during the Korean War era, would've been proud of his oldest son that cold February day. That is one of my best memories that I will take with me forever.

Linda Loncaric Aricò - Pennsylvania

My first time playing Taps came about as a result of my mother's visit to the local doctor's office. In the waiting room, my mom struck up a conversation with a woman who said that her husband, the commander of the local V.F.W., was in dire need of a bugler for a military funeral which was to take place in a couple of days.

As the proud parent of a high school trumpeter, my mom immediately piped up that her daughter would be honored to volunteer. When my mom returned home, she told me that I'd better start practicing Taps because she had promised that the day after tomorrow I'd be standing at our front gate, bright and early, to catch a ride with the veteran who would drive me to the V.F.W. Post.

The next day, my band director hurriedly taught me how to play Taps. When I got home from school, I practiced until suppertime and after supper, until bedtime. I hardly slept a wink that night.

The morning of the funeral found me at the kitchen table sleep-deprived and not eating breakfast because there were too many butterflies in my stomach. I think my mom was as anxious as I was but my dad wasn't. Since he was a veteran, I thought he could offer advice and he did. His last minute encouraging words were, "*You better not make a mistake.*" With his directive ringing in my ears I was soon out the door and waiting at the front gate. While I was rehearsing Taps in my head for the umpteenth time, the Post Commander pulled up and we were on our way.

When we arrived at the V.F.W. Post, the vets were gathered at a table discussing the cemetery layout and where I would be stationed for Taps. While they talked, they sent my way a steady stream of NEHI Orange, that sweet sugary pop that came in a glass bottle. I told them that one drink was plenty but their hospitality required that I have one more, and one more, and just one more. Too shy to ask where the restroom was or for a glass of water to give my mouth a quick rinse, I arrived at the cemetery with all that pop sloshing around in my stomach and a sticky residue in my mouth – the perfect combination for a musical disaster.

My immediate concern, however, was that I was beginning to feel faint from not eating breakfast. I just hoped that I wouldn't pass out before it was time to play.



At the cemetery, I was directed where to stand to sound Taps and where to hide to play echo. When the firing squad completed their gun salute I couldn't have been more nervous. I swallowed hard and tried to get some saliva running. I said a prayer asking God to calm my nerves ensuring that our soldier received the dignified ceremonial tribute he justly deserved. I respectfully did my best and was so relieved when told that I had played a hauntingly beautiful rendition.

I continued as the V.F.W./American Legion bugler throughout my college years. Now, more than 40 years later, I am a proud member of Bugles Across America. I stand very privileged and humbled to be the individual who honors our fallen veterans by sounding that final farewell.

Tony Cusumano - Pennsylvania



I attended Xavier Military High School in New York City. I was one of several buglers and we played Assembly, To The Colors, Mess Call, Retreat and Church Call on occasion. We even did ruffles and flourishes at Mass rather than bell ringing. I was a sophomore the first time I played Taps. A fellow schoolmate had died and I played Taps at his funeral mass. I continue to play at military funerals in my area for the VFW, The American Legion and BAA.



Jodi Wiman - Illinois

I vividly remember the first time I played Taps for a military funeral. I live in a very small town and our local American Legion Post 219 handles all of our military funerals with the exception of active military. I was in seventh grade at the time and our school received a phone call from the Post Commander, explaining that their bugler had started going South for the winter and they needed someone to fill in for him. Our band director picked me and I was both excited and nervous.

The funeral was two days away and I honestly didn't even really know what Taps was at that age. Between my mom and my band director, I quickly learned the notes and the meaning behind them. The day of the funeral, the Post Commander came to the school to pick me up in a long, white Cadillac; the smell of Old Spice was permeating every ounce of air in that car. We would go to the Legion where the other members were waiting and we then departed for the cemetery. It was bitterly cold and windy and the cemetery was up on a hill. As it turned out, the funeral was for a man from my church. Other than nearly freezing, it went well, I suppose, because I became their winter bugler that day. I have been their full time bugler now for the past 15+ years.



Being in such a small town, I have blown Taps for many families and loved ones I personally know as well as many I don't and each and every time it is just simply an honor. I try to spend time with the people who are my fill-ins so that they understand the meaning and are able to convey that meaning when they play. Simply put: playing a trumpet is the best way I have to honor our military and I'm proud to do it.

Tom Day - Illinois

For four days this past August, the city of Berwyn, Illinois hosted The Traveling Wall (aka The Moving Wall). It's a half size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that is in Washington DC.



I had a chance to play there many times as BAA was one of the sponsors. These photos show me playing during the final flag raising and also of me holding the Gold Star Mothers flag, designed by yours truly several years ago when the City of Chicago asked me to lead the Gold Star Mothers in the Memorial Day Parade downtown.

I asked the Gold Star Mothers if they had a flag and they said "no". So I designed one and now it has been given to over 200 Mothers in Illinois and Georgia and now Chip Stickler, the State Director in Maryland, is working on getting them to the Moms up there. BAA also has a Gold Star pin that is given out as well.



Steve Bow - Ohio

Recap of July 4th D-Day Memorial Group Taps Event

On July 4, 2014, organized by Steve Bow, Assistant State Director BAA, Ohio, five members from Bugles Across America participated in a Group Taps at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. At 1100 hours on 4 July under sunny skies, a beautiful summer breeze, and in front of a nice crowd, the Buglers positioned themselves around the memorial grounds and sounded Taps in a round style, beginning with one Bugler on Taps and ending with one Bugler on the last note of Taps. The effect was amazing. After which, the Buglers stood under the Overlord arch and played a harmonized and unison Taps for the visitors. Steve, Carol, and Jim were interviewed by the local TV affiliate, WSET ABC 13 out of Lynchburg, VA. We received awesome news coverage of our event by the station.

The Buglers who participated were James Herward, Virginia, Andre Royal, Virginia, Harry Decker, Virginia, Carol McCutcheon, Assistant State Director, Ohio, and Steve Bow, Assistant State Director, Ohio.

Steve started organizing the event a few months earlier and obtained permission from the D-Day Memorial committee for BAA to participate. Steve played Taps solo there in 2013 to honor a family member who died on D-Day of who's name is on one of the commemorative wall plaques that circumvent the Memorial courtyard. This year, he thought the Group Taps would be even more meaningful to honor those particular Veterans on the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, but also it being the 4th of July to honor all Veterans who died for our Nation to give us a July 4th to celebrate.

The memorial asked us back whenever and however we want to do a group event next time. This no doubt has become a new BAA tradition but most importantly, a tradition to honor the Veteran, no more and no less.



Martin Gerhard - Minnesota

Blowing Taps near our trusty C-47 Aircraft named "Boogie Baby". To date I have over 50 jumps from the old war horse...what an honor!! The [WWII Airborne Demonstration Team](#) is always recruiting new members and could use a few more jumping buglers!!

Next jump school is coming up in January!



Tom Laffey - California

There is now a 40-minute documentary about honoring veterans at Martin Luther King High School in Riverside, California, that shows me sounding Taps. I'm representing both Bugles Across America and the Southern California Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

There is a high school event now in it's 14th year called, "King High Remembers." The event coordinator and originator is Mr. John Corona, a History teacher at MLKHS. His late father was in the 1st Cavalry Division in the Philippines in WWII. The event has become really big, with nearly 300 veterans and over 600 students in attendance.

There are, to the best of my knowledge, currently four high schools in Southern California that hold veteran remembrance days. I sound Taps at two of them - in full Class A, "Army greens".



David Chorazy - Oregon

No story but here is a picture from Memorial Day I thought you might like.

Carl Copp - Massachusetts

This photo (to the right) was taken in 1937 when I joined the Mt. Vernon, New York, elementary school band. During the 75 years after that I continued to play the trumpet.

I have bugled with BAA since 2002 and participated in almost 300 ceremonies, burial, memorial and concerts, the latest being for a fellow Marine Major at Bourne National Cemetery on July 15, 2014.



Now about to celebrate my own 84th birthday, I look forward to continuing honor our veterans as long as I still can.

Bill Posey - Virginia

I grew up in Fairfax County, VA, in the late 60s and early 70s and one of the biggest occasions for playing Taps was at Mt. Vernon on George Washington's Birthday. There were groups going in and out at about 45 minute intervals having wreath laying ceremonies. Most had a bugler or two from nearby military bases or high schools.

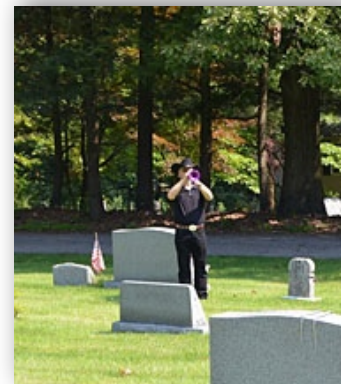
I and another player from my high school were "hired" to play Echo Taps for some group or other. The other guy elected to play the echo part, so he vanished into the forest near the grave and I lost sight of him. I had no idea where he was or how far away he was, so when it came time to play it was not a given that it would work out. I played the first three notes and paused, waiting for the response. Not there. Seemed like forever, but I finally heard the very faint echo. It turned out that he has gone about 50 yards into the woods, a little too far for an effective performance!



Tim Wygant - Texas



I come from a family of brass players. My dad, my sister, my younger brother and I are all trumpeters, and my older brother, is a trombonist. The five of us all participated in the Echo Taps Worldwide event on Armed Forces Day 2007 at Arlington National Cemetery. As fate would have it, that event would prove the last opportunity we would ever have to play our instruments together as my dad passed away suddenly in April 2013.



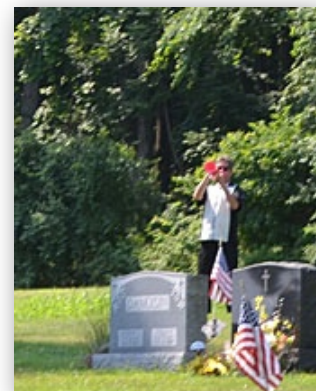
Dad had long wished that all of his descendants would be able to get together at one time for a full reunion, so at the time he died, my siblings and I decided that at the interment of his and mom's remains (Mom passed away in 2001), we would arrange for that gathering. During preparations for the graveside service, we agonized how we would commemorate Dad's military service and his special position as leader of the band.

My sister and I came up with the idea of a unique sort of a Missing Man Formation where we would place Dad's trumpet on a stand at his and Mom's grave, and sound an impromptu Echo Taps in age order from a distance, beginning with my elder brother and ultimately ending with my younger brother. My brothers immediately warmed to the idea.

Dad always had a unique sense of fun and humor about him, so in respect of both that fact and the solemnity of the occasion, we decided to sound Taps with a twist: My elder brother would sound Taps on a soprano slide trombone, my sister would sound Taps on a bright red pocket trumpet, and my younger brother and I would sound Taps on our plastic Warburton Tiger trumpets; mine in purple and his in pink. That would keep us all in the same register. Now I realize that there is no official way of sounding Echo Taps, and there certainly isn't any

official way of sounding Echo Taps with four players, but we somehow pulled it off. We decided to start our individual Taps following the first three notes of our elder sibling then take a natural cadence. It worked, and needless to say, there was not a dry eye at the cemetery, especially ours.

Dad would have been proud.



Keith Cerrato - California

My mind wanders as it always does on the way to the cemetery, sitting in the back of the white government van bursting with Marines in dress blues. Some half awake, heads bobbing with every bump in the road. I think about many things, like lunch, how hot it is, and my discharge date. There are so many thoughts running through my mind that I painstakingly try to remember how Taps sounds. I hum the melody as we bounce along to some squalid cemetery. Once there, we unload the gear, and the rifle detail begins their practice, while I begin my bugler ritual. Buzz, sing, play, and buzz again. Polish. I play the same warm up routine every time, as if to superstitiously avoid any wrong notes. It is a humid day, as it usually is during the summer in New Orleans. The sweat begins to gather in pools in various parts of my body; streams are forming and I can feel the rivulets beginning to bury themselves into my skin. We

always arrive early, too early, just to stand, sweat, and wait. Before the ceremony, I wander around avoiding any source of human contact, finding comfort in a grave marker:



PFC Malcom Wood
World War II
USMC
1925-1943

Who was this man and so many more like him? I never know the name of the service member I am playing for, but I somehow feel a connection to all of them. My time in the Marine Corps was almost up and I remember every funeral I have ever performed at. I've only thought of this as a job until this moment. There is something deeper, something that grabs at my soul when I hear this poetic call and witness this chilling ceremony. I notice the family beginning to gather and I quietly take my place, out of sight; they only need to hear me. I struggle to look stoic and proud. I find comfort in being alone, but my heart races as the rifles rip the silent air. People gasp as they crack. Crack! Crack! Crack! The first note sounds and everything quiets down. With this soothing melody, I put forth my life's work for everyone to hear. In every note I play there are years spent toiling with this brass beast, and as I sound the last note, no one claps. I do not seek attention or praise, for this is my duty. The rifle detail begins to fold the flag and passes it to the next of kin. My job is done. I march solemnly back to the white government van. We pile in, faces red and drive off. I strain my neck to get a last glimpse of the scene, trying to burn it into my memory. I don't know if I shall ever see these marble stones again, as we bump along, heads bobbing in rhythm.

Gus Brown - Florida

I have two stories to share..

1.) I played with a few members of Legion of Brass for a late Post Commander of a large American Legion post called Harvey Seeds Post, in Miami 1969. This post had over 3000 members at the time.

Echo Taps was desired, however, the requested buglers could not hit a note so we hid behind two trees and played Taps as the two fake buglers pretended to play. One of the buglers forgot to bring his horn down and kept "blowing" for a few more seconds after the song was finished. He had to be nudged to bring down his horn. We didn't realize until then that he was hard of hearing. Several guests chuckled and the story has been re-told for many years.

2.) In 1969, I played Taps on a Navy Cutter for an Admiral buried out a sea off Port Everglades, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. We had a six-gun salute then Taps. This day happened to be a very windy day. When the ashes were thrown in my direction, I got covered with the Admiral's ashes. Although the sailors kept their command of attention, you could see the grins, & smiling during the mishap.

Sometimes God and the angels bring down a little humor during times of mourning. No disrespect intended. We all need to laugh and be filled with joy.

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 November 15th.

Please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

Spirit of '45 Events!

Spirit of '45 - Indiana

Our Spirit of '45 event this year in Martinsville was scheduled for August 10th... the day that dropped 1.25 inches of rain on us. The event was postponed until the following weekend.

We had a very good show that was rain-free!... but attendance was down from close to 200 on the 10th to less than a hundred on Sunday...but we made sure our Greatest Generation was properly honored.



We had seven buglers scheduled to sound Taps this year, only four could make it the second weekend. Three of us are Bugles Across America volunteers and I'm happy to say that the fourth will be joining BAA next month. It was hot and muggy but Taps was sounded, our fallen were honored and over 200 balloons, with names of our fallen and veterans passed were released as Taps was sounded.

Bruce McKee
 Veteran, US Air Force
 Bugles Across America, Bugler
 Keep the Spirit of '45 ALIVE!!, Organizer



[Two-Minute Video](#) of Ending Ceremonies

Spirit of '45 - Alabama

The Spirit of '45 Express hit Mobile, Alabama and did so with a bang to pay tribute to the USS Alabama and held a program on the steps of the Alabama Capitol building on Montgomery. Echo Taps were sounded on the Capitol steps, photo opportunities next to the Avenue of Flags and an Eternal Flame next to the Capitol.

From The Montgomery Advertiser: [Auston and Bonnie O'Neill talk](#) about their Spirit of 45 tour of the country.

After Mobile, the Express headed on to Montevallo and the National Cemetery for a short tour of the grounds as well as a 3-bugle Echo over some of the grave sites there, then on to Birmingham and Brookdale.

The Brookdale Place Retirement facility graciously donated a cozy room for Auston and Bonnie to get a good nights rest on a real bed with a real shower.

Brookdale Place is also the residing place of Dr. Fran Carter, the founder of the Rosie the Riveter Foundation. Her her service and the service of her recently deceased husband, Taps was sounded during a short memorial. The Express then departed and headed to Mississippi.



Dr. Fran Carter and Alabama Assistant State Director Jim Quakenbush

Thank you to all of you for helped me coordinate their time in Alabama. The hospitality shown in your assistance has been great and I know Auston and Bonnie appreciated it greatly.

The Spirit of '45 Express is being funded on faith and donations. Gas is their biggest need. A tank of gas for the Express is about \$350. If anyone can reach out and make some good things happen, it would be helpful to this great couple.

Musically,

Gene Ramsay, BAA Alabama State Director, dcigene@aol.com

Warren Hegg, National Director for Keep the **Spirit of '45** Alive, warren@Spiritof45.org

Auston O'Neill, aeoneilljr@aol.com

Spirit of '45 - San Diego, California

San Diego had a nice turn out for our tribute at the Homecoming statue. Ed Riley, San Diego chapter president of the Navy League was with us as well as two representatives from the Purple Heart and members of the United Veterans council in San Diego. Our tribute lasted about an hour because everyone spoke about family members that they wanted to honor that day. I, of course, included our dear Jerry Coleman and Ernest Borgnine as well. Everyone said they loved the tribute.

- Linda Laurie
National Events
Coordinator
Spirit of '45



BAA- IN THE NEWS

BAA's own Hartmut Hausser served as the bugler for the Grave Adoption Ceremony held at Flanders Field National Cemetery in Belgium. Hartmut made an overnight stay and drove 250+ miles to be in place to serve this mission.

Flanders Field post gets American graves adopted

Published on [The American Legion](#)



On Aug. 16, a very special ceremony took place at Flanders Field American Cemetery in Belgium, the nation's only such World War I cemetery. The event served as the culmination of a campaign to pair citizens with the graves of U.S. war dead who are far away indeed from their homes and families. And a big part of the campaign was played by American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02.

More than 400 adopters, family members and friends were part of the ceremony. U.S. Ambassador Denise Bauer spoke and presented the mayor of nearby Waregem with his Certificate of Adoption. Each of the 368 graves, and 43 names from the Wall of Missing, now has a volunteer who has agreed to keep the grave tended and place flags for Memorial Day and Remembrance (Veterans) Day. Adopters received a certificate and challenge coin.

"Last October, the superintendent of the cemetery, Chris Arseneault (a Legion member), asked me if The American Legion could implement an adoption program for the graves of World War I American soldiers," Post BE02 Commander Joseph Schram said. "He stated that the other two American cemeteries (Ardennes American Cemetery and Henri-Chappelle American Cemetery) already had adoption programs but Flanders Field did not. With the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I in 2014, we decided to wait for August to conduct the adoption ceremony."

The program kicked off in April, after a visit to the cemetery by President Barack Obama. Schram said that more than 100 applications came in in the first week, and all the graves had a volunteer by the first week of August. There's even a waiting list. Many adopters are from the area, especially from Waregem.....

To read the entire 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



As extreme weather events continue to strike our nation, preparedness should be a year-round activity. In 2012, FEMA conducted a survey and found that despite the increase in weather-related events, nearly 70 percent of Americans had not participated in a disaster preparedness drill or exercise at home, school, or work within the past year.

America's PrepareAthon! is a grassroots campaign for action to encourage individuals, organizations and communities to prepare for specific hazards through drills, group discussions and exercises. The campaign urges individuals and organizations to take simple, specific actions to increase preparedness for a disaster.

This fall, National PrepareAthon! Day takes place on September 30 to complement and support National Preparedness Month. This year's theme is "Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare." Join millions of Americans who will bring attention to the importance of preparedness, build awareness of local hazards, and encourage individuals and communities across the country to practice preparedness actions.

America's PrepareAthon! provides a variety of free resources and guides to help workplaces, schools, houses of worship, community-based organizations, and the whole community practice specific preparedness activities necessary to stay safe before, during, and after an emergency or disaster.

We encourage every member and their families to participate in America's PrepareAthon! because being prepared for disasters is a shared responsibility. It takes the whole community working together to effectively withstand and recover from natural disasters.

Sign up to receive local alerts and warnings. Receiving timely information makes a major difference in knowing when to take action to be safe – whether at home, school or on the job. The [Be Smart - Know Your Alerts and Warnings](#) guide, located on the America's PrepareAthon! website, provides valuable information about emergency notification systems and how to stay safe.

Join the movement! Once you've decided how you plan to participate, be sure to register your activities on the website at www.ready.gov/prepare. CAP members and units are encouraged to participate.

To find out more about National Preparedness Month and America's PrepareAthon! go to www.ready.gov. Participate in the conversation by using #PrepareAthon and #NatlPrep

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
- * Indiana
- * Mississippi
- * Montana
- * Nebraska
- * New Mexico
- * North Dakota

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

Internet Service Provider and Firewall Problems

If you receive email through a service provider such as aol.com or you have firewall software such as Norton's Internet Security or Anti-virus, please add our email address, info@buglesacrossamerica.org to your address book and unblock email list. The emails that are auto-generated to notify you of bugler requests, as well as important notices sent from time to time, and our newsletter The Buglers Post are sent to you from this address.

In an effort to control SPAM these companies are blocking certain emails before they reach your inbox or discarding emails into a separate folder other than your inbox based on certain criteria. If you have any questions on this subject please feel free to contact us.

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 Michigan on Facebook](#)

[BAA: New Jersey](#)

Gear & Decorative

[Scentsy "God Bless" Warmer](#)

[Scentsy "One Nation" 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.