

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing: November



Once again, November is proving to be one of our busiest months as many Veterans Day related services are taking place at locations all across the country. Many of these result in formal requests coming in to our Request A Bugler system, while probably just as many are being served by BAA members as a result of direct and

individual contact.

Several years ago I suggested that BAA members contact veterans and senior-living facilities in their area to offer participation in ceremonies to honor their veteran residents. Well it sure worked. We have dozens of homes asking for buglers all across America. Thanks to those who have sought out these missions and been there for our Heroes. Many times the Veterans' families are at the performance and remember BAA when the Veteran passes on.

Many schools are also doing special programs or assemblies to honor the veterans, and they invite local veterans to attend or be a part of the program. BAA then receives an invitation to be there for the purpose of sounding Taps in remembrance of those who have gone on before. For example, as of this writing, I have no fewer than 9 specific programs on my schedule between November 5th and 18th. While November 2012 was the busiest so far, with 17 ceremonial programs in the month, there remains time for more to come in for this year. I can only wish and anticipate that many of you are also carrying a heavy and busy schedule of services to honor



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and remember our departed veterans. Of course, this is in addition to the many, many requests that we receive to participate in military funeral honors for individual veterans.

Of course we also have the Thanksgiving holiday. I would wish that all of you lift your face and say a hearty THANKS. That's what I do after every mission I serve and at the end of the day before I hit the sack. A quick 'look' around the world would make it very obvious that we, in the United States, have much to be thankful for.

Before the next scheduled issue of this newsletter, we will also have the opportunity to take part in the many and varied Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremonies that will take place on and about December 7th. This is another date that we, as a nation, have committed to always remembering to acknowledge the sacrifice that was made by so many of our serving military as well as unsuspecting civilians.

Most of you know I live at 1824 Cuyler in Berwyn, IL. If you were to Google that address you would see an old brick bungalow (about 100 years old). My Family has lived here for 30 years, and we enjoy the area. During those 30 years the building that might show in the picture at 1818 Cuyler, has been occupied by many people over the most recent several years. It was a Section-8 FHA rental, a drug house and even more. It finally went into



foreclosure sale, and Mrs. Day and I said, "That's enough". In early September we bought it from the tax buyer, and are now in the process of making it the only BUGLE Museum and Educational Resource Center for Military Funeral Honors. It is leased to Bugles Across America for an absolute minimum amount. The refurbished building will house all kinds of Bugles and memorabilia, lots of Drum Corps stuff and Bugle books, BAA medals, pins, patches and flags. Scouts and their leaders can stop by to get info on how to earn the Bugling Merit Badge on the way to Eagle Scout. Others will be able to watch Drum Corps and BAA tapes and much more. Any previous Bugle or Trumpet Museums have moved out of country many years ago. We are planning a Grand Opening on March 7th, 2015.

More news for the Civil Air Patrol followers. I was a cadet and senior member, and I still belong as a patron active member. My entire family was active from the time CAP started in December 1941. My Dad, LTC Joe Day was the founder of CAP in Illinois and Wing Commander at one time. One Cadet at his O'Hare Squadron was Don Kutyna from Lane Tech High School in Chicago. Joe Day got Don into West Point, and Don went on to be a

four-star General. On the 50th Anniversary of CAP I took my Dad to our nation's capitol to receive an award from President Bush Sr. A Few years ago Congress said they wanted to honor the original members and the Air Force has just informed me that I will be invited to Washington in the near future to receive The Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of my Dad.

I will take this time and opportunity to wish all of you a very happy holiday season as we rapidly approach the end of another successful year in the mission of Bugles Across America. A big thank you to all those who continue to support our honorable mission. If you are one of our volunteer buglers, please be sure to directly contact the requestor as soon as you can after accepting a mission. We need to assure them that BAA will be there to provide the requested honors. God bless all the members of BAA that make it possible for us to continue to serve our veterans.

God bless America, and fly the flag..... OURS!

Tom Day
Founder



Find The Bugle Contest!

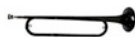
Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is a small image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into either dialogue or a photo. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle.

“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 5 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 **November 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 #18 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

Joan Caffrey-Stocker of Phillipsburg, New Jersey

Christopher Gregoire of Baltimore, Maryland

Gary Lied of Keysville, Virginia



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**.



WERE YOU STUMPED?

The bugle was hidden on page 36.

Issue #18
Page 36



State Director Spotlight: Maine

State Director: Peter Dustin

Why did you join BAA?: I met Tom Day at a WWII Memorial Dedication and was recruited!

How long have you been playing?: I started as a Boy Scout Bugler over 60 years ago.

What is the hardest part about being a State Director?: In the past, the former BAA web site was confusing and I'd receive conflicting communication and directions from former BAA staffers. I'm pleased to say that things have improved.



Maine Directors Carla Beaudoin and Peter Dustin

What is the best part about being a State Director?: Providing Taps to veteran's families who really appreciate the final salute. It is a privilege knowing the special folks who volunteer their time to stand out in cemeteries in the cold, snow and rain to provide that final salute on "Behalf of a Grateful Nation".

What has been your best experience with BAA?: Recruiting Scout buglers and other young buglers to keep bugling alive .

What is your goal for your state?: To get buglers together for training and fellowship. Three buglers thus far have been trained with the help of the Maine State Honor Guard (101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor ANG Base) in funeral procedures. We would like to train more buglers in funeral protocol so that they are available to help if necessary. One of our newer buglers wears her military uniform as a veteran and is trained to fold and dress the Flag and then play Taps allowing two uniformed military to cover a funeral when they Honor Guard is short handed. After I recruited Gary Torressen to take over as State Director in New Hampshire, the military honor guard did not show up at his first funeral at the State Cemetery. He had to learn quickly how to fold with the cemetery director - a retired Army officer. I orient all new buglers to be ready for anything - be flexible at a funeral and not assume that everything will go perfectly. I will be handing the State Director job over to the Assistant State Director, Carla Beaudoin, as soon as she is ready to accept the job.

Assistant Director: Carla Beaudoin

How long have you been with BAA?: Since 2002

Why did you join?: I saw an article about Tom Day in People magazine. I had just attended a friend's funeral. He was to get full military honors. Taps was played from a boom box and I just wished I had brought my horn to play it live. When I saw the article, I signed up that day.

How long have you been playing?: Since the 5th grade. So....44years.

What is the hardest part about being a State Director?: Being so far away from all my Buglers. It's challenging when a mission has been accepted, then the bugler is unable to go. We have to scramble to find another bugler. This involves phone calls and emails well into the night.

What is the best part about being a State Director?: It's being able to see, right away, all the requests in my state. I also enjoy being able to see who has accepted the mission. This way I can thank them personally for their service.

What has been your best experience with BAA?: Attending the Taps 150 event in 2012 at Arlington. I got to meet, (and hug) Tom Day. He greeted me like an old friend when I walked up to him in my brand new beautiful BAA uniform. He is one of my "rock stars". This was an experience I will never forget.

What is your goal for your state?: To have more of my buglers accepting missions. We have a lot on the roster, yet only a handful have been accepting the missions. I would love for all of us to meet each other, or at least for me to meet them all.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?: BAA has brought me all over the state of Maine. I have met people during their saddest moments, and yet they can still laugh. As I stand waiting for graveside services to begin, I listen as folks gather to remember and talk about their lost loved one. This has shown me there are good people wherever you go. Once in a while someone will approach me and thank me for my service. Thank me! Imagine that! I am there to honor the man or woman who fought for my freedom, for this, I give thanks.

OUR NEW STATE DIRECTORS

Larré Robertson - BAA National Coordinator



I've been a member of Bugles Across America since 2009 and while I now sound Taps for our veterans and their families in Idaho, Oregon and Utah, I've had a long and proud history with Taps.

In 1971, I had been charged with sounding TAPS for Gen. Patton in Luxembourg for his memorial service at the Luxembourg American Cemetery. In 2012, I was honored to sound for Gen. Patton's son buried in Arlington for the 150 Taps celebration. What an honor.

While I was stationed in Europe with the USAREUR band in Heidelberg, Germany from 1970 to 1972, I was fortunate to play a set with Maynard Ferguson and his band.

Today, the local military branches call me almost on a daily basis to sound at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery and local cemeteries. I am fortunate to sound from 275 to 350 funerals a year. What an honor and privilege to sound for these veterans and their families.

I also have the distinct honor to work with three of the most dedicated people I know in BAA. Tom Day, Jen Day and Howard Reitenbaugh. I had the privilege to fill in for Howard while he took some much deserved time off this summer. To even try and walk in his shoes is daunting. What a job Howard does for BAA. Jen is a sweetheart and is always on top of things for BAA. And what can one say about our founder, Tom Day, unbelievable dedication to our veterans.

I thank Tom, Howard, Jen and Larry Wiseman for the opportunity to serve YOU the men and women that make up BAA. Because of your dedication to our veterans and their families we are successful beyond imagination and touch the lives of countless families across this our great nation of ours and around the world.

Keep up the very important work we do with distinction and honor.

SOUND THE HONOR - HONOR THE SOUND

Don Whitworth - Delaware State Director

Donald has over four decades of executive, managerial and supervisory experience – including being a “key” participant in activities ranging from comprehensive research and complex analysis of reports, operations and fiscal matters. This experience is within both the private sector (automotive manufacturing) and the public sector (government administration); as well as, the financial services arena.



His experience includes planning, administering and compliance to budgets, as well as preparing, reviewing and monitoring budgets. Additional experience includes analyzing and forecasting costs and expenditures. In further addition is the planning and successful execution of the transfer of substantial assets, equipment, personnel and materials – both cross-continental and internationally.

Additional managerial and executive experience includes: Development, preparation, training and review of procedures; and, hiring, staffing, training and development of personnel. All of the aforementioned accomplished within multi-cultured, internationally-diverse and cross-functional (departmental and divisional) environments).

Donald is very heavily involved in Delaware’s civic and non-profit organizations, at the leadership (i.e. Board of Directors) level. He is also an U.S. Air Force veteran, having served during the Viet Nam era.

He has been married for over 47 years to Beatrice Whitworth and has four adult children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Donald has been involved as a participant, booster, parent and avid fan of competitive drum and bugle corps for over five decades. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Jersey Surf Drum & Bugle Corps from Mount Holly, NJ and is a playing member of the Westshoremens Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps, Harrisburg, PA.

He is also a professional singer, member of his church’s Men’s Chorus and plays trumpet and flugelhorn in the church Orchestra.



KEY NOTES: BEING AN INFORMED AND RESPONSIBLE MEMBER

My contact information has changed. How do I update my email, phone number or address?

It is vital that your contact information is current and it is **your** responsibility to update when necessary. It is also really easy to do.

- 1.) **Log in** with your username and password.
- 2.) Your name is 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"**

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

It's that easy!

IMPORTANT! If you've moved to another state, it's of extreme importance you contact your new State Director to inform them. State Directors are only sent notifications of new registrants, not if someone has "moved in".

Regarding Requests

How do I volunteer for a request?

Double check your schedule and if you are available, 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.



What if I can't volunteer for a request?

Please do not reply to the request email to tell us why you can't make it. While we truly appreciate your willingness to serve, you are replying to an automated message. 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!



I've volunteered for a request... now what? An email will be sent to you confirming you volunteered and will also have the requestor's contact information available to you. It is **your responsibility** to contact the requestor ASAP to let them know you are their bugler and to get any further information you may need. If you don't see an email with the requester's contact information, please check your spam folder.

I've volunteered for a request and now need to cancel.

Canceling is a violation against the Directives for Buglers you agreed to when you registered. Do NOT volunteer for a request before you have checked your schedule. If it is a family emergency, contact your State Director **immediately!** Not showing up lets down the family of the deceased and is grounds for membership removal.



Help!! I've lost the email with the 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!

Other F.A.Q.s

How do I contact my State Director?

Log in to the BAA web site and use the Contact Director option under the Contact Us tab. You will only see the [Contact Directors](#) option if you are logged in.

IMPORTANT! If you've moved to another state, it's of extreme importance you contact your new State Director to inform them. State Directors are only sent notifications of new registrants, not if someone has "moved in".



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.

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.



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

There is no way 'record' missions that don't come in through the request system. We have never kept count of individual's missions on BAA register or archive. Many members have kept a personal 'log book' of their missions, and this has been more for personal reflection and memories than anything.

I've lost the information for the request I've volunteered for!

Log in, click on the '**My Events**' tab. Ta-da!

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

George Alexa - Virginia

I am happy to report that there are two Honor Flight Missions that I accepted in Arlington, Virginia and for me it is an Honor. There were 200 WWII Vets on the first flight and an additional 250 WWII Vets on the second flight. Over a year ago I played for three Honor Flights. Thank you for BAA.

Kimberly Shaw - Massachusetts

I consider myself a newcomer compared to so many of you! I first sounded Taps at the age of 47, eight months after starting trumpet lessons, and a month after passing BAA auditions. To be fair, I *had* played brass before, two years of baritone horn in high school a long time ago and occasional shofar-sounding at High Holidays since then, but no trumpet until I saw an old horn in a second hand shop and took it home.

Six months after starting lessons, I found out about BAA from a fellow shofar player, and was thrilled to have a way to "give back" thanks with my new instrument.

It was lovely day in November of 2012, and I had managed to walk right past the gravesite I was supposed to be at. I had no idea that the burial site would be so tiny, a two-foot square of astroturf beside a waiting headstone. There was no clergy, and not even an honor guard, only the family, that small urn, and myself. Nerves kept my pulse pounding and stomach aflutter while I listened to people tell of a father who turned his struggles into a gift for creating gardens where people could find solace. At last, it was time to sound those 24 notes -- and the first couple notes came out shaky and false. A perfect rendition, it was not. But the ceremony was just right, concluded with some bulbs being planted at the site with help of a little grandkid, and with the grand, beautiful outdoors as witness. It was humbling and an honor to be there for this family, and for all those families for whom I've sounded Taps since then.



Being "4-F" from birth, I didn't get to serve in any of the branches. It's great to find something that I *can* do. Thank you BAA, for giving us a way to serve in our own way! May I always be able to "honor the sound".

David Bailey - New Hampshire

I first played Taps in public when I was in the sixth grade. It was at an outdoor Memorial Day observance in Hanover, New Hampshire and my elementary school band was participating, riding around in the back of a farm truck in the parade. I was selected to play Taps and as the time to play got nearer I got more and more nervous. I cracked the top note but the "cute" factor won out and people thought I had done a marvelous job.

I remember that every time I play Taps at a funeral or at a music camp I teach at in June each year, or during a Memorial Day or Veterans Day observance. I think about how playing Taps that first time had felt important, terrifying, and embarrassing all at the same time. I think about how far I have come since that first time back in 1963. I'm still trying to get all those 24 notes to sound perfect each time I play them while thinking about the impact my playing is having on those who are hearing me, especially at funerals of people who have served our country so well.

It all goes back to that first time when I performed it as an 11 year old and really felt the power that music has over people.

Lynn Bolger - Alabama



I became an official member of BAA July 29, 2003. My first call for funeral duty came in August 2003. I was more than humbled and honored to be a part of this calling. Being a military veteran I know the importance of Taps for those who request this service, as well as, for the lost veteran. When I arrived at the funeral site I was greeted warmly by the family who requested my service, took my place, and played Taps as directed. However, there was a lot more emotion involved from myself, the family and all others attending, that came as a complete and overwhelming surprise to me. As I began to play, tears began to flow from the family, then others, then myself. I managed to finish strong, holding it together for the family, and at the same time understanding thoroughly what Tom Day means when he says "Taps, the hardest 24 notes".

Elijah Grochalski - Pennsylvania

The first time I sounded Taps for my community was for a flag pole dedication ceremony. I believe it was July 2, 2013. I was still wearing the green Army Service Uniform, I was still only a Sergeant, only had 5 ribbons, 3 arcs and only 1 cord.

I was scared to death. When I arrived at the location to learn that a detachment of the Marine Corps League was in charge, so I was truly scared of these retired Marines.... until they all shook my hand asking who I was and we all sat and chatted for a while.

However, as we chatted, time flew by, and we were getting closer and closer, I was starting to get scared again.... and in the back of my mind, I knew if I screwed up, they would kill me.

Now came the time where I had to play. I just played Taps in the key of G.... and I still screwed up. The last time that I had the D-G-B eighth notes, instead of playing a B I accidentally went up to a D then back down to a B, and my sound wasn't the best.

I actually never really talked to those Marines afterwards, only one of them, then I had to leave. Let's just say that I never received a call to play Taps for them again.

After that, I had sounded Taps on five occasions, then I joined Bugles Across America. Every time I played Taps after that day, Taps sounded better and better, which I thank God for it everyday.

Doug Kroll - California

I found a photo of the first time I played Taps. It was the mid-1960s and I was on the staff of my local Boy Scout Camp in Northwestern Illinois. I was in high school and played Taps every night to end the day. Later, I attended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut where I was a duty bugler, and have been playing every since.



Dave Hollinger - New Jersey

I had played cornet since 4th grade. As a freshman and sophomore in high school, I had always played second chair. When I became a junior, the first chair player had graduated, and by default I was first chair. One day, I received a note to see the band director. Of course I was somewhat concerned, "What could he want?" I wondered. When he told me that he had a request to play Taps, of course I said "Yes."



As a curious person, I had somehow acquired a book of bugle calls that I had practiced just because it was fun.

I don't remember the specific day or the specific person, but it must have been a day in the Fall. I was expected to take a couple of hours from school. I drove about a mile to Memorial Park in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. I made sure to wear good slacks and a nice shirt. Of course I was nervous, but my music training and a variety of performances meant that I knew I just had to do my job.

That was the first of many times throughout my junior and senior year. Each time and for the many years afterwards, I felt a sense of responsibility and a feeling that I should "give back" something to those experiencing a loss. I still have those feelings today.



Manuel Florez - New Mexico

I started playing Taps in high school when I was about 15 years old. I helped out the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans chapters in my hometown of Artesia, New Mexico. Thankfully there weren't that many services but I practiced a lot because I didn't want to embarrass the vet's family... or me!

The time that really stands out in my memory is when I had to play Taps in a summer rain squall that came up rather suddenly.

We still continued on and got a good soaking before it was over. The warm heartfelt thanks from the family members made it all so worthwhile. and I continued offering my Taps services all through high school, college and in the U.S Army as an Army bandsman. Today I am 70 years old and still provide Taps should anyone have need of it.

Alan R. Nieuwsma - North Dakota

When I first started playing Taps, our local VFW needed a Bugler to play at the 5 local cemeteries on Memorial Day (1969 or 1970). Here I was a 12 year old riding a school bus with these veterans from cemetery to cemetery listening to their stories and admiring their service to our country, I remember two of the men talking, and one I assume a WWII veteran asked the other about serving in the Korean Conflict, to which the Korean Vet replied, *"Conflict my a** it was a war!!"*

I was honored to play Taps at many of the Memorial Days to follow and got to know these men who had served in wars long past. Most of all I learned to respect the flag and about love of country, and that the ceremonies were not about them but about those who had served and did not return to love and laugh and raise their families, to watch their children grow and have grandchildren.

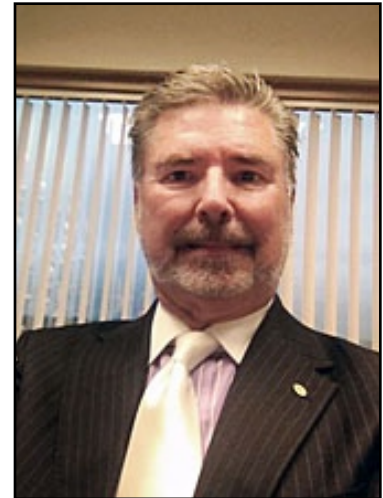
I left home after high school, went to college and played in many bands, and over the years when I attended funerals of fallen veterans and would hear Taps played it would take me back more than 40 years when as a kid I played Taps to honor our local fallen veterans. So when I retired a year ago I was asked if I would be willing to help out at a funeral of a local veteran to play Taps. I didn't know if I could still do it but after some practice, I have to say I didn't sound too bad, and now I get asked regularly to play and I am so honored to do so.

When I heard about BAA on the news, I talked to my friend John Hanson about it. He told me that he had met Tom Day at an event sometime ago and recommended I join. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and thanks to all of our veterans, because freedom isn't free!

Ashley Lord - Georgia

My first Taps assignment was a few years ago here in Georgia. The funeral was at the Georgia Military Cemetery in Canton, Georgia. I arrived early to be sure and get set up. The deceased was a Navy Captain.

When I met with the funeral director at the office there, they told me that the military had their own bugler and I would not be needed. I asked them if that was the recorded bugle version or a real bugler. They told me that they did not know, but I could go down to the mausoleum, where the honor guard was setting up and inquire. When I arrived, I asked the military personnel if they had a real bugler or a recorded version. They were very happy to tell me that they only had the recorded version and it would be such a help if I would play Taps, since that would allow them to have an additional person to conduct the flag presentation.



At this service, which was outside, the family was seated on the front row, with the wife and daughters. When it came time to play Taps and I began to play, a woman on the second row behind the immediate family began to cry and whale incessantly. I could tell she was very emotionally moved by the playing of Taps. The family was very appreciative and thanked me for playing Taps after the service. Later I was informed that woman was the sister of the deceased and that the Navy Veteran was once a bugler in the Navy.

It was very humbling and satisfying to know that the playing of Taps was appreciated so much.

Glen W. Dorow - Texas

The first time I played Taps was in 1955. I was a sophomore in high school and one of my class-mates and I played Echo Taps, very nicely, because we were able to take the time necessary to locate the second playing at a proper distance for the Echo.

The funeral was for one of two Ohio National Guardsmen killed in a vehicle accident while in convoy on return from summer training.

Sarah Gamblin-Luig - Missouri

I work at the Soldier's Memorial in St. Louis, or rather I work in the basement of the Memorial in the city's emergency operations center. There aren't many people who work in the building (6 to be exact), so we know each other pretty well. It didn't take too long for everyone to know that I play trumpet, and the subject of me playing Taps came up right away. It did take a little longer for a

request to come in, but it finally happened in May of 2013. Soldier's Memorial plays host to many events throughout the year, in 2013 one of the city's largest events was relocating to the memorial. Rather than using the memorial as a backdrop for the event, St. Louis PrideFest opted to include the building and museum as part of the weekend festivities and even organized a wreath laying ceremony to open the festival. I was asked to render Taps as part of that ceremony, the first of its kind since the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

The week before I was to perform, I took my trumpet to work and during lunch. I practiced in a few different places near where the wreath would be laid, to find the perfect spot for sound and presentation. When Saturday came, I was ready, nervous and excited for my first time. I warmed up and did a few run-through downstairs in the solitude of my office. As the start time of the ceremony approached, I went upstairs and walked through one of the galleries of the museum. I looked at the pictures, the uniforms and even a few trumpets of those who had come before me, those who I was about to honor. The ceremony went as planned with speeches from a retired Master Sergeant and a retired Lieutenant Colonel who then laid a wreath at a cenotaph honoring those who perished in World War II. Once the wreath was laid, both men raised their hand to salute, my signal to play.

Afterwards, I went straight home and signed up to join Bugles Across America.



[Video of me playing](#) Taps in 2013 at Soldier's Memorial

Paul McGrath - Missouri

A few years ago my wife did some genealogical research on our family I learned that Cole Younger (American Confederate guerrilla during the American Civil War and later a leader with the James-Younger gang) was my Great Grandmother's cousin and we learned that he was buried at Lee's Summit Historical Cemetery, just one mile from my house. Cole spent his final years living in Lee's Summit after he repented of all his wrong doing. He was said to have spent much of the time in his later years sitting on his front porch, Bible in hand preaching to people.



So the next Memorial Day we easily found his grave. As we approached the grave a little boy and his mom were visiting the same grave because the little boy had just finished studying about Cole's life at his school. The boy and mom were pleased to listen to me play Taps as if I were sent there to play just for them. I told them I was with BAA and what we do and why. I'll always remember that day.

Bernard Schuller - Florida

My career as a bugler started in Boy Scouts. I learned all the calls in the merit badge pamphlet and used many of them, including Taps, at Boy Scout camp.

When I went into the Navy, I continued bugling, earning the rank of Bugler First Class. I served on the flag ship of the Atlantic Fleet and on the staff of the Admiral Mitscher. Since then I have played Taps for many funerals, including those at national cemeteries and have proudly assisted Bugles Across America when requested.

Max Brady - North Carolina

My first official playing of Taps was an afterthought, instead of a first thought. My wife and I were traveling to Europe, first time for both of us. We flew from Charlotte, North Carolina to Berlin, Germany. Our first stop was Herrnhut, Germany, the birthplace of our small protestant denomination (Moravians). After leaving Herrnhut, we drove across Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and France on our way to Normandy, France. Before we left North Carolina, I decided to try to find solders from my hometown, hopefully Moravian. I found four, one at the Netherlands American Cemetery, two at Henri Chappell, Belgium and one at Normandy, France. I planned our trip so we could visit all of these graves and pay our respects. I wanted to pay my respects, but how? Well, I'm a trumpet player and Taps seemed to be a fitting response to the occasion.



I emailed the cemetery at Omaha Beach to make sure it would be OK to play Taps; they asked if I would come and play Taps for the Flag Lowering at the end of the day. This was quickly becoming a trip of the heart. At each cemetery, my wife and I would find our local soldier. We would spend some time and then I would play Taps. Our final stop was Omaha Beach (Normandy) Cemetery. After playing Taps, the staff asked if I would like a picture of myself with the American Flag that had just been taken down and folded. I felt I had learned to play the trumpet for this particular moment.

Ten thousand american solders, plus/minus, are buried at each of these cemeteries. The next day I played at Utah Beach at the Monuments and Museum there. The director there offered me the american flag that had been flying that day at Utah Beach; it is one of my most prized possessions. Sometimes it's the small things we do that make an impact on people.

Mark Pettey - Florida

In 1971, my middle school band director, the late Carl Grissom, was contacted by the local National Guard office and asked if he had any students who were interested in playing Taps for an upcoming military funeral. Mr. Grissom understood my passion for playing the trumpet and knew I would rise to the occasion, so he recommended me for the opportunity.

Three days later, two National Guard officers showed up at my school, and asked my principal to excuse me from classes for about two hours. They brought with them a complete set of military khakis, boots, and overcoat all in my size, and asked me to change into them in the school restroom. We then set off in a car provided by the Guard, and headed far out of town into the county. We went up a steep road into the hills with many twists and turns, and eventually arrived at a very, very old cemetery with graves dating back to the Civil War.

They walked me over to an area just beyond the sight of where the funeral party would be standing, and told me to wait until I heard the gun salute. Once I heard the gunfire cease, I was to play Taps. It was a bit chilly that fall day, and I stood shivering between the trees, waiting for the ceremony to start. I could hear the pastor's voice faintly just over the ridge, and after a few minutes, the guns sounded. Just before I began to play, I heard several women begin to sob and cry. I got an enormous lump in my throat, realizing for the first time the seriousness of what I was about to do. I took a deep breath, and managed to get through the entire piece without a mistake.

Not long after that, one of the Guardsmen that had picked me up at the school came over to tell me it was time to go back to the school. We rode back in the car, and they asked me to go to the restroom and change back into my school clothes so they could take the military uniform with them. When I came out of the restroom and handed them the uniform, the older Guardsman handed me a check for \$7. I told him he did not need to pay me, as I was glad to have helped them. He said, "this is what we would have paid one of the Guardsmen to do this, if we had one that could play trumpet as sweet as you do!". I was very humbled, and shook the hands of both soldiers, thanking them for giving me the opportunity to help with the ceremony. I walked back to class feeling ten feet tall, but at the same time feeling very emotional inside, knowing how the family of the deceased had felt when they heard the guns and the trumpet.

The National Guard called me twice more after that, each time having me travel with them to play for funerals. After that, they had someone join the local Guard who was a capable trumpeter, and he contacted me to tell me they no longer needed my services, but that they had enjoyed working with me. To this day, I will never forget that cold fall morning 40+ years ago in that old cemetery, and what it felt like to be a part of the tribute that is paid to a soldier who has passed.

Tommy South - Virginia

My first time to play Taps was when I was about 15 years old. A VFW commander in Abilene, Texas called our high school band director, W.G. Reed, and asked if he had anyone in his band who could play Taps. Mr. Reed laughed and said, "I certainly hope so." There was to be a funeral with military honors at our local cemetery in Merkel, Texas, and they needed a bugler. So Mr. Reed asked me if I would do it.



It was an extremely cold, windy day in West Texas, and there was nothing at all to break the force of the wind blowing over Rose Hill. The VFW commander told me to stand some distance away behind a small cedar tree and to play when I saw him salute. I almost froze standing there waiting to play, and keeping my trumpet warm enough to do so was quite a chore, but I made it.

Not long afterward, in November of 1963, I played Taps for the second time. Our band did a half-time memorial salute to JFK, and I played Taps as part of it. It was very moving and a lot of pressure for me, especially since I had watched JFK's funeral on television and heard a "real" bugler crack the top note.

The photos here aren't from either of those occasions, obviously, but are more than 50 years later. In April of this year I had the privilege of playing Taps for an Honor Flight group from Austin, Texas. I had been wanting to do an Honor Flight ceremony for a long time, and when saw one from Texas, knew this was the one. It was an honor for me, not only to play Taps, but also to get to chat with some of the vets following the ceremony.

By the way, I'm still playing the same horn that I had in high school, a 1960 Selmer K-Modified. I had just had it fully restored when I did the Honor Flight ceremony, and you can see it in the photos.



Edmond D Bridges - Utah

In October of 1953, I had the honor of being accepted into the US Army through an audition for an assignment to an Army Band. After basic training I was given the choice to be assigned to the 10th Division Band at Ft. Riley, Kansas or the 5th Army Band, Ft Sheridan, Chicago, Illinois. "Duh"....*Chicago, Chicago, that wonderful town.*

I reported for duty around the 1st of January, 1954. The band had a roll call of about 120 members with 36 trumpet players, and they all played well. Some were downright amazing and included symphony players from several cities that were drafted during the Korean "Conflict". "Trumpet Newbies" were assigned, on a rotating schedule, a week of Funeral Detail with a full dress Honor Guard from Ft. Sheridan. All were packed into a "Chevy" station wagon and sent off for up to three services a day.

We had a designated driver. *Why??* The Honor Guard and Bugler were always invited to the after-service wakes and we were sure to attend after the last service of the day. Those wakes were usually held in a lounge or tavern with a home-made spread of fine sausages, rye bread, all sorts of food, deserts and no lack of liquid refreshment to wash it down. Talk about "boiler makers". *Poor, poor, Designated Driver!*

I had never played Taps but had a run through with the 1st Sergeant. "*Just use any valves like open G, 1st, 1and 2, etc., It does not matter.*" he said, "*but you may feel more comfortable using 1 and 3.*" I knew all the keys and could play all the notes with fine form, but **not** my first funeral under pressure! This 19 yr. old may have cracked one or two notes the first day----- but I will not admit to any more. I still play Taps in the key of D but use fingering for better intonation.

Doug Carmichael - Illinois

I recently played Taps in a rare manner. It was one in which the church allowed the military honors to be performed in front of the altar instead of wheeling the casket outside the sanctuary after the funeral. I played Taps from the choir loft in the rear of the church. I've only done that once before and the reverberating acoustics are amazing when playing into the sanctuary like that. I wish I could produce a sound like that during graveside services!

The director for that funeral just sent me an email. Its always nice to hear someone compliment your Taps!



Myself with Tom Day at the 9/11 ceremony in Oak Brook, Illinois, two years ago.

Mr. Carmichael,

I did not get a chance to see you yesterday after the funeral mass. I just wanted to let you know what an outstanding job you did at the church, I think it may have been one of the best renditions of Taps that I have ever heard.

I was with the family later in the day, and they were so pleased with your efforts as well.

I hope I have the opportunity to work with you again.

Thank you and take care,

Mike L.

Shawna Huso - Arizona

I got to have the honor of playing Taps for my father last October. It was the hardest detail i've ever done. I was fully prepared, doing just fine, until the rifle volleys. I started bawling my eyes out, but managed to make it through the song. Everyone was so supportive after. It was definitely my best detail.

Duke Scales - Florida

When I was in Boy Scouts back in the mid 1960s, I was the "Troop Bugler" and then recruited to play Taps at military funerals when I was in the 8th grade. However, I hadn't really touched a bugle or trumpet since until I saw a TV news segment on Bugles Across America. This was shortly after my father, a WWII vet, passed away and we were fortunate enough to have a live Taps performance at his funeral.

Realizing how important it was to experience live Taps moved me to "resurrect" my trumpet after 40 years of not playing. Beyond volunteering to sound Taps, I'm a board member of Space Coast Honor Flight in Melbourne, Florida. (The Honor Flight program flies WWII vets to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials.)

These photos are from a recent trip in June. We have a pre-flight ceremony during which I'm privileged to contribute several bugle calls. The man standing next to me in the Marine uniform is Cash Adams, a WWII vet and Iwo Jima survivor. The other photo is of myself and Jim Sullivan, the Naval Armed Guard WWII veteran I escorted on the trip.



Ron Bearden - Alabama

In July, I read a Facebook post about a World War II Veteran who had passed away that day. This Veteran was the grandfather of a couple of my former band students from the mid-90's. The family had contacted the Casualty Assistance Center in Alabama about getting an honor guard for the funeral service of this veteran.

Evidently, the Casualty Assistance Center has some strange rules. In order to request an honor guard for Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, the request has to be made by 2:00 PM on Friday. This Veteran passed away shortly after 2:00 PM, so the Casualty Assistance Center would not provide an honor guard for the Sunday funeral (Sunday, July 13th).

On Sunday morning, a member of the family messaged me on Facebook with a request, *"I know it is short notice, but my Grandfather passed away on Friday. His funeral service is today. Could you come and play Taps?"* My reply, *"I'll be there."* I have always considered it an honor to play Taps for any veteran. There was no way I would miss this opportunity to give some comfort to this grieving family.

As the directors from the funeral home began to fold the flag, I played Taps for this fallen veteran. After the funeral, the entire family approached me to thank me for being there to play for their loved one. I had not seen this family in many years. I felt very honored that they would ask me to play for their family member and veteran.

Last week, I contacted Congressman Robert Aderholt's office in Washington, DC about the shameful rules the Casualty Assistance Center has concerning notification of the death of a Veteran. The staff member asked me to send an email to Congressman Aderholt with information about the veteran and the problem the family experienced with the Casualty Assistance Center. They promised to look into it. I hope Congressman Aderholt can put pressure on the Casualty Assistance Center and get them to change their notification rules so ALL veterans can get the respect that they deserve.

Rick Treville - Florida

Let's Blame The Organist

Several years ago in the middle of a Florida July day, I arrived at my Taps assignment in a very large, old downtown Orlando church. A row of built-in wooden seats in the back of the narthex had some deep storage space underneath it. So I removed my trumpet and slid my case down there, out of sight.

Soon several of us realized that a soft, steady, and annoying electronic pitch was coming from somewhere around the church. It sounded exactly like a stuck organ key. The funeral service was about to start, so the organist was quickly summoned and told to fix the problem. In a few minutes he came down the balcony stairs and proclaimed, *"It is not my keyboard!"*

Next, a church elder appeared (wearing a dress shirt and tie) and announced that he would go into the loft/attic area to check the organ pipes. In four minutes he returned, dripping in sweat, and reported that the pipes were silent.

As the church staff scratched their heads and muttered, I reached down and pulled out my trumpet case. Then I really heard this electronic sound! So I opened the case, turned off my Korg electronic tuner, and quickly left the narthex to take my position.

Never discussed it with anyone...



Peter Duston - Maine State Director

Ten years ago on Memorial Day weekend, George Cropley and I took the “troop” train from Portland, Maine to Washington, DC for the dedication of the WWII Memorial. The train was packed with WWII veterans and their families headed to the event. I was accompanying my friend George who was still receiving a WWII pension as the handicapped child of a soldier killed in combat. As we walked the Washington Mall the day before the actual dedication, I met up with Mel Tukey, a veteran from Maine who was in his West Point Band uniform and had his trumpet with him. His trumpet attracted Tom Day who was there to provide Taps for the ceremony. Tom asked us to be part of the Echo Taps detail and since I didn’t have my horn with me provided a borrowed bugle used to play Taps at President McKinley’s funeral. I was also in uniform as a retired soldier. Tom was in his USMC uniform. He explained what BAA was all about and we joined on the spot. The next day events were a huge disappointment for us as our passes didn’t get us into the actual VIP site where we would play Echo Taps so we missed out. Mel, however, played WWII era tunes on his trumpet at the Maine Pillar for a couple of hours following the ceremony – what a party that was. While walking through the crowd, former President Clinton bumped into us and spent quality time thanking George for his loss so many years before.

When I was a 12 year old Boy Scout, my substitute trumpet teacher, Gerry Scott taught me to play Taps and a couple of other bugle calls so I could be our troop bugler. More than 60 years later, I am still the bugler for our Scout council and wear on my sleeve that first Bugler Patch. Summers, I teach Bugling Merit Badge to scouts at Camp Roosevelt and they serve as the bugler of the day. Bugling is alive in Maine. Gerry Scott, by the way, was called to active duty and deployed to Korea. He went missing in that terribly cold winter of 1951 reportedly captured by the Communists but was never returned at the prisoner exchange after the cease fire.

I was the unit bugler during Army basic training and played Taps on and off for years at Memorial Day. I re-enlisted in the Army Reserve when I was 47 and served until they retired me at 60 at West Point where I helped train cadets. Back in uniform, I began to play Taps for many of the local veterans funerals in Maine where we summered and New Hampshire where we taught and was the bugler for the Navy Honor Guard out of NSG Winter Harbor, Maine for years until the base closed. After 2004, Washington and Tom Day, I became a BAA bugler and am also attached to the Base Honor Guard at the Bangor Air Base playing Taps for many of the Air Force funerals in Maine. Since I am uniformed as a retired soldier, I am also able to fold the Flag and play Taps when they are short handed.

Words cannot express how proud and humble I feel being a bugler for a veteran's final salute. I get especially emotional when it's one of the "greatest generation" – WWII. In my local area, I play Taps at most of the veteran funerals and we have a high percentage of veterans per capita in Maine. Being State Director for Maine and also for NH for a time has been a privilege but I am ready to hand it off to our ASD, Carla Beaudoin who epitomizes the dedicated bugler that she is. Are you ready, Carla? Both Carla and one of our newer buglers, Army veteran, PFC Jessica Johnson are called directly by the Air Force to play Taps when one of the regular Air Force buglers can't make it. Jessica, wearing her military uniform has been able to assist with Flag folding if the Honor Guard is short handed. The USAF Honor Guard Commander, now recently retired, is one of us and now that he has the time, we expect that he will be playing at more funerals. Congratulations on your many years of service, COL John Thomas.

My most memorable Taps? My Aunt – a WWII Marine and my Uncle – a "Coastie" wanted to be buried at sea. Usually, there are no family allowed aboard a military vessel but my cousins had political pull so we were aboard a US Coast Guard vessel out beyond the 5 mile limit. As the ashes in their biodegradable floating pillows slid over the stern accompanied by 8 bells and the presentation of two Flags, I played Taps on the flying bridge seriously rolling back and forth in the trough holding on for dear life with one hand, holding the bugle with the other. Two other Coast Guard vessels stood off a distance forming the regulation triangle formation with all the ship's company at "present arms" as Taps was played.

Bill Mayfield - California

Many years ago, when BAA was getting started, I got phone call from a retired Marine Colonel. He asked if we could Echo Taps at their reunion to be held in San Diego. Of course I said we would. He was such a nice gentleman. Anyway, that night at their reunion I kept asking to meet the Colonel. Finally, I meet him. He was in a wheel chair with both legs amputated at the knees resulting from combat received in Vietnam. He was so nice to me. I will never forget that evening.

Charles Noyd - Nebraska

I started playing Taps for military funerals and Memorial Day services in our town when I was about 14 years old. My dad is a Vietnam veteran and he has always been on the rifle team, so he got me involved. I was pretty much the full time bugler for 20 years. The past 5 or 6 years I've been called in a few times a year to play when the high school kids are busy. It's always been such an honor to do this for our veterans and I've learned so much about these guys and what they went through in their time of service.

I've got memories from hanging out with these veterans and doing the funerals that can bring many different emotions. One of the first times that I played Taps was at a small rural cemetery surrounded by lilac bushes. The commander got the squad in position and told me where to stand so that he could give me a nod when he wanted me to start playing Taps. The squad did the gun salute and a large owl came out of the lilac bush I was standing under. It came so close to my head that I could feel the wind move past me. I dove for the ground with trumpet in hand. I still had to get back up and play Taps, but the squad never did recover. Several of them couldn't hold still because they were laughing so hard. Over the years I've played in the hot Nebraska sun, in the wind and the frigid cold winters. So cold that my horn would barely work. I've also had cows and deer try to run me over at rural cemeteries.



I never served in the military, but I thank God for everyone who has served this great nation and I'm honored to give them live Taps at their funerals. Unfortunately our local American Legion has decided that it's too much to ask for me to take off work to play Taps, so they bought a recording that they've been using the past year. I voiced my disappointment to them for not even asking me to do Memorial Day (which I have off). We'll see what happens.

Stan Engle - Oklahoma



George Washington in Philadelphia

I spent Memorial Day 2014 in Philadelphia



Playing at Christ Church cemetery on Memorial day (where Benjamin Franklin and five signers of the Declaration of Independence are buried.



Playing Taps at Betsy Ross' grave

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

Letters of Gratitude



Dear BAA,

My family and I want to extend our thanks

to your organization and particularly to Jim

Gallombardo, who was the bugler at our Dad's August 30 burial service. His talent and presence there added to the dignity of the ceremony our Dad, the Marine, deserved.

Sincerely, Jane Van Fleet and family

Today, we buried my step-father, Dero S. He was 96 years old and a WWII veteran. We were honored to have not one, but two, buglers from your organization appear for the funeral service. Our thanks to bugler Jordan Whitmer, who came from an hour away to play the final farewell, and our thanks to Bob Smither, who drove 2 hours from Missouri, "just in case" the other bugler couldn't make it. Our family was deeply touched.

Many, many thanks, Mary H. & the S. Family

I would like to acknowledge the gratitude that the family of Bernard C. felt this past Saturday at the burial service for our dear loved one. Everyone was touched by the presence of Mr. Jim Timmons, the gracious man that he was, to offer his services of playing the Taps on his bugle. Taps played is always an awareness of the commitment that the deceased had fulfilled during their time in the services when conditions were threatened to those serving. I appreciate the promptness and the delivery of confirmation during the arrangements of this service. Please let Mr. Timmons know we enjoyed conversation with him and his gift of volunteerism.

Deepest Acknowledgement, Patricia

My father was a proud, modest veteran of WWII. He specifically requested that a live bugler be part of his "sailing" away. Our bugler, Don Triglia, brought grace, honor, and distinction to the scattering of my parents' ashes. I'd like to make a donation to your organization.

Thanks, RJ. B.

My dad started playing the bugle that I have today when he was ten. My grandfather got him to join the drum and bugle core in Farmington, Maine. As he was drafted into WWII at 17 he became a bugle instructor and later a bugler for Patton and the 6th army which went to the battle of the Buldge. He turns 90 this year and still can play a little.

I remember watching him as a child play Taps at many of the military honors and funerals. I also decided there was no way after hearing a cd at military funeral that my dad would go out in life that way and learned to play the trumpet and his old 80 year old bugle a longer type in the note of G.

Thanks again for getting the BAA started.

Sincerely, Steven F.

I want to personally thank Mr. Roy Zanni for performing "Taps" at my father's interment service at Ft. Rosecrans Cemetery, Point Loma, CA on Monday, May 5, 2014 at 1:30pm. His timing was perfect as two fly byes were seen at the same time he was playing "Taps". A perfect closure my dad's time spent in the Air Force.

Sincerely, Stacey D.

We cannot begin to thank you enough for the wonderful man that is Bob Chavanne. Except for the gathering and family itself he was truly the highlight of the event. I cannot imagine anyone more sincere, dedicated and passionate to such a worthy cause as the one championed by Bugles Across America. Attendees were asking where did you come up with such an exemplary individual.

Sincerely, Dr. Jack E.

John Blair, State Director, Virginia & District of Columbus. Thank you for your rendition of TAPS at my father's, Arthur B. Sr., funeral, Friday, October 17, 2014. Your service will not go unrecognized. Bugles Across America will be talked about for years to come. I have already given your contact information to others that may need the services of this organization. Thank you for a "JOB WELL DONE." God Bless

BAA- IN THE NEWS

Holliston Auxiliary Police Honored Three Officers

Holliston Reporter

On September 10, 2014, The Holliston Auxiliary Police honored three officers for their off-duty activities worthy of recognition:



Sergeant Joseph Cibotti: was honored for his participation in Bugles Across America, an organization created and dedicated to the purpose of providing a live bugler to serve in honoring veterans at military funerals. The families of veterans who are privileged to hear his bugle play Taps at their loved ones funeral can only feel the sense of honor and dignity rightfully bestowed upon those who have served our country. The Holliston Auxiliary Police express deep pride and admiration for his participation in such a worthy endeavor.

[Holliston Reporter Article](#)

Taps Sounds The Final Farewell

Air Mobility Command

Posted 10/6/2014

by Staff Sgt. Amber R. Kelly-Herard
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs



10/6/2014 - **SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.** -- During an 80-degree fall day, Jefferson Barracks was silent save for those mourning their losses and a three-volley rifle salute followed by Taps amid perfectly-lined tombstones.

Since 2000, Congress has authorized a recording of Taps to be played because of a military bugler shortage. The family of Navy Aviation Cadet V5 Stephen W. Kohl, who served 1943 - 1947, requested a live playing of Taps through the organization Bugles Across America.

Seeing the request, Col. Brian A. Reno, 618th Air and Space Operations Center (Tanker Airlift Control Center) Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, volunteered to play his cornet at the funeral.

"I've been playing with Bugles Across America for about 4 years and I try to play as often as I can, which ends up being a few times a year," said Reno, who volunteers to play within a 100-mile radius of O'Fallon, Illinois. "It's an honor and a privilege to play Taps. Every Veteran is entitled to it, and I'm happy to oblige, because it's always better live."

In a note to Reno, Matt Kohl, the son of Stephen who made the request via Bugles Across America, wrote, "Thank you for your beautiful bugle playing, it's something I will carry with me forever."

Reno is one of 5,000 Bugles Across America members who volunteer to perform at funerals for the more than half-million veterans who pass away every year.

The Euclid, Ohio, native played the trumpet while in high school, but quit playing after his first year of college.

"I picked it up again 11 years ago and now I play regularly at church and in a few jazz bands around St. Louis," said Reno.

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

Funeral Homes Looking for Buglers

ABC 23 News, WIFR.com

October 9th, 2014

ROCKFORD (WIFR) – If you’ve ever been to a veteran’s funeral or memorial, you can probably recall hearing a person with a bugle playing Taps, but some funeral homes say they’re having a difficult time finding these musicians to play for these ceremonies.



However, one local woman is keeping the tradition alive and says it’s important that she honors our fallen heroes.

24 notes is all it takes to say ‘Thank You’ and to remember those who have served our country. For **Alicia Smith**, nothing compares to playing that melody.

“There’s nothing like a heartfelt rendition of Taps. Those 24 notes are just so important to the families and to just the sense in pride to this nation.”

Smith is a part of a dying breed of buglers that can play Taps, a talent that’s becoming harder and harder to find.

Fitzgerald Funeral Home Director Fred Muehlfelder and says that while arranging veterans ceremonies over the last 10 years, they sometimes have to revert to using an electronic bugle or play a CD.

“We try to make it as honorable as we can and we do. Our volunteer veterans organizations step up rain or shine, hot or cold and the only part that they have trouble with is finding a live bugler,” Muehlfelder said.

Smith, who is a national award-winning bugler gives her time to work with the veterans of foreign wars post 1461 in Belvidere. She says it’s an honor to be able to volunteer for the fallen service men and women and their families.

“Not only have they lost a loved one, but we’ve lost one of our own. It just gives me a sense of pride and honor and just the satisfaction that I can do something.” A feeling of satisfaction that Smith hopes can be passed on to more buglers.

Muehlfelder says that it can be a lot more difficult finding a bugler during the week. But he says the organization, Bugles Across America, which is based out of Berwyn, Illinois is a big help connecting funeral homes all over the country with a more than willing musician.

For the video, [click here](#)

Below is an article I wrote for my blog and for the newsletter of the Los Angeles Police Department Concert Band. I am very pleased to be able to serve in Bugles Across America.
- Larry Ballenger

Honoring America's Heroes

Larry Ballenger, Pasadena, CA
4 September, 2014

The mission of Bugles Across America (BAA) is a simple one: to play a live rendition of the bugle call "Taps" for every military veteran.

All over the country, trumpet players and buglers voluntarily respond to an e-mail notification of the funeral of a veteran which gives the date of the service, the location, the rank and branch of the person being honored, and the name and phone number of the person who has made the request. I joined BAA in 2007, a few years after I retired and began playing my trumpet again in various community concert bands. BAA buglers typically get 3-5 requests a week, and my schedule and the locations usually allow me to take four or five missions a month. I have sounded Taps at most of the Los Angeles area cemeteries, including Forest Lawn(s), Rose Hills, Mt. Sinai, San Fernando Mission, Victor Valley, and many times at the Riverside National Cemetery, a large installation which these days (rumor has it) has more burials per day than even Arlington National in Washington D.C.



Three recent soundings in the summer of 2014 are a little bit atypical, but worthy of reflection as we approach Veterans Day in November. Often buglers have little or no direct contact with the family of the service person being honored. The family finds BAA on line or through Google, requests our services, someone takes the mission, and the bugler shows up, reports to the military honor guard to check our cues, sounds Taps and leaves quite anonymously. The family, though appreciative, has other concerns in the moment.

But on 19 August I accepted a mission with an unusual specification. In the small space on the email for "comment", the request said, "My father requested that there be 3 buglers to play Echo Taps", the way he remembered it being played each night when he was a Marine on Iwo Jima. "Echo Taps" is often done, with two buglers standing at a distance from each other, the second Echoing the first by about a phrase. It is quite moving. But no one, in BAA or any of my bands, had ever heard of a triple Echo. (We even wondered if this old Marine, who was on Iwo Jima by his 18th birthday, had a faulty or overly-active memory). But he had

requested it, and his daughter even called our BAA state director, and he and I assured her that we would pull it off if we could. So I recruited two of my fellow trumpet players from the Los Angeles Police Department Band, and in the company of a full Marine honor guard, all in full dress blues, we played it without a flaw. Including the Marines there were ten of us in the honor guard, and no more than twenty in the entire group of mourners.

A day or two later I volunteered for a mission at Riverside National Cemetery for a US Army private. I soon got a phone call from his daughter. (The BAA mission order includes the bugler's phone number). She was almost in tears, asking, "How does this work? I just Googled "buglers" and got BAA. How much does your service cost?" When I assured her that we are all volunteers and do not accept any fees for this service, she said, "I called some guy who plays bugle and bagpipes and he was asking \$250!" Well, I assured her, he isn't BAA. At Riverside I reported to a full US Army honor guard, with rifle team, and we saluted another WWII soldier.

Then, in another few days, another request came in. (It's not that I am usually able to do this many so close together, but late summer is slow...) This time the memo section of the request said, "The family requests military presence at the chapel as well as the cemetery. The decedent may be the last remaining WWII B-24 bomber pilot." I doubted that the military honor guard would be at the chapel, and they weren't, but I reported anyway, and had the privilege of hearing the story of a bomber pilot who flew 50 missions in the Solomon Islands at the age of 21 (Guadalcanal, Truk, Tarawa, Iwo Jima), then came home to pioneer Salem Christian Homes, a sheltered residential network for developmentally disabled children and adults. (Two of his four daughters had disabilities) He was remembered as a member of the Greatest Generation, and a notable citizen, husband, and father. Then we walked over to the graveside where I played Taps while a US Air Force honor guard stood saluting and then folded the flag which had draped the coffin, and presented it to his family.

The World War II greatest generation heroes are leaving us now at a rapid rate. They are in their 80s and 90s. By statute, every veteran, regardless of branch or assignment, is entitled to a gravestone, a flag, and a military honor guard, with the playing of Taps. It is a great privilege to be part of that.

For a video of Taps being played at the service for Sgt. Lee Ballenger, USMC, see <http://youtu.be/HtBXSyNGCRs>

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

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:

- * 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.

Internet Service Provider and Firewall Problems

If you receive email through a service provider such as Earthlink or AOL or if 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.

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

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[BAA Bugler Directives](#)

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BAA Individual State's Facebook Pages

[BAA New York on Facebook](#)

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Organizations

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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.