

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing: Happy New Year!



It all started in 1999 when I heard about the new law assuring Veterans the right to have a Military Funeral. I was working on a reburial of a Civil War Union Solider, Pvt. Michael Keegan, which was to take place 11-11-1999. I came across a web site of Civil War Buglers. One of the buglers was a high school student, Sean D. Smith from

Naperville, IL.

We then located a former Marine in Tennessee, who put together a web site used just for communication and comments. Then a data man in Chicago called and asked me if I wanted a new and bigger site. That one lasted until the summer of 2001, and then we were left searching for another web provider. This is when Howard Reitenbough found ITArchitechs down in St. Louis.

I must say it has been like a dream come true. Thousands of men and women of all ages and colors and walks of life coming together to build what we have today. Ladies and gentlemen, together we have done over 100,000 military funerals; together we have made so many families of the Fallen so very PROUD of their Veteran; together we did what the government. would not do. We did this without one penny of government or taxpayer funds.

I thank you all for this. To all the generous people who have contributed to the cause in support of BAA. We have over a million hours of Volunteer time.

God Bless You All.



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On Dec. 10, 2014, I had the honor of traveling to Washington D. C. to receive the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of my father, Col Joe Day for being one of the founding Civil Air Patrol members.

If you're not entirely familiar with the Civil Air Patrol, it is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. A nonprofit organization with 59,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft.

CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 70 lives annually. Its volunteer professionals also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs.

My father served in the Marines Air unit in 1936 and then joined the Army Air unit with the 108th . He finished both tours and when WWII started, he wanted to join up again. The government said, "We need your experience to start Civil Air Patrol in Illinois". Joe Day recruited 4,000 Cadets, many whom went on to be Army Air Corps Pilots and crew members during WWII.



My dad and I

The story of CAP's World War II service and its members' wartime experiences can be found on the organization's [Congressional Gold Medal website](#).



The story of the medals ceremony can be found at the [Air Mobility Command website](#).

This award is now on display in our BAA Bugle Collection at 1818 Cuyler Ave. Berwyn, IL.

At this time, due to city regulations, I can't call it a "Bugle Museum", but that's what it is. I've begun reclaiming my basement and moving everything over to the new location that will be on display. Our first official guest will be drum corps great Larry Pawlowski, a former Cavalier who has worked with many corps and took Minnesota Brass to a National Championship.

This Bugle Collection now features The Monette Bb one of a kind bugle, the Larry Mysel Bb/G, of which only 2 exist, The Aman/Kodak 1943 Tenite bugle in G, and the New Plastic Trumpet

Tiger. We also have the horn that sounded Taps when President McKindley died. We have stories of the horn player who rode with the Lincoln Burial train 150 years ago. There are also many varieties of 1-valve, 2-valve, and 3-valve horns. Shelves display books and written history of the Bugle as a form of communication in use for hundreds of years. The display incorporates a place to watch bugle media and Drum Corps videos and listen to CD's.



The new "Bugle Museum"

This BAA collection of horns, related materials, and militaria is coming together and is ready to view should any of our players be passing thru Chicago. Please call me at (708) 484-9029. The official opening is still March 8th 2015. As soon as it's fully ready I will share photos with you.

Our "Gold Star Mothers Flag" is being presented to deserving Moms in many regions. The beautiful Gold Stat Mothers pins are also being distributed in special programs.

Look for several special opportunities to sound Taps in 2015. We have heard plans for reenactment procession of the Funeral Train for President Lincoln that will travel from Washington D. C. to Springfield, IL.

I remind you of the Directors meeting in Illinois on the third weekend in August.

The second year of WW I anniversary events marking 100 years.

Tom Day
Founder



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.

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

Know of an event?

Submit events to BAA.JDay@gmail.com for inclusion into the next newsletter. Please have event information in the format and worded as you'd like to be published.



Find The Bugle Contest!

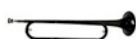
Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is a small image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into either dialogue or a photo. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle.

“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 6 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 **January 31st**. 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 #19 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

Sister Sue Kilduski of Chicago, Illinois

Lynn Bolger of Mobile, Alabama

Lawrence Busch of Lancaster, Wisconsin

Each received a \$50 gift card and was placed 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.

And now for the Second Grand Prize drawing!

Out of our 9 recent contest winners, one person was selected at random to be the lucky winner of a nice horn from "The BAA Horn Closet". This winner was.....

Bruce Walker of New Jersey

Congratulations to all our winners!



Bruce with his new horn

WERE YOU



State Director Spotlight: Maryland



State Director: G.P Stickler

Music is in my blood. My whole family is musical and would get together on Sunday afternoons after church. As I grew, I wanted to play with them. At age 4 my dad gave me an old "Indian" Trumpet that I still have. Lessons began by age 6 on trumpet and piano. By 17 years of age I won 1st place in nationals. I became a Music Major in College, ended up with my own traveling Dance/Jazz band, and did studio work for years in Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, and Nashville.

The bottom dropped out for live music during the disco years, so I hit the road as a trucker, hauling many loads for the Military, and still playing on the weekends. I moved to Hagerstown Maryland in 1987 and later, met and married my wife Leslie. I was injured on the job in 2003 and It was really the best thing that could have happened to me. Needing to change careers, I went back to school, and eventually became the Instrumental Music Director for an Academy in Western Maryland.

In 2012, my best friend since birth, Dean Martin and I attended Maryland's Trumpet Day. There, we picked up a brochure about BAA, and after speaking to a representative, I joined on the spot. Dean followed soon after.

A short while later, Tom Day put out the word, that there was a need for State Directors, and I contacted him. Dean became my Assistant Director and nearly 3 years later we are still on the job.

A Common challenge that we face is having dozens of members on our rolls, yet only a handful are active. This has raised a few questions... The obvious one is- Why did they join in the first place? Were they hoping their situations would change? We were really curious, and have gotten kind of creative with our interview process as a result.

Our goals are to have every member take at least 2 missions in 2015.

We are proud to be part of this Organization, and Dean and I take this job very seriously. Tom Day entrusted us with the State of Maryland, and we are doing our best to give those we serve, the respect that they deserve.

Assistant Director: Dean Martin



How long have you been with BAA?: March of 2012.

Why did you join?: Chip Stickler (Maryland State Director) and I went to Maryland Trumpet Day and got the opportunity to talk to a representative of BAA. The more we listened to the rep, the more we decided to explore this organization. Chip enrolled right away while I decided to do some research on this organization. But after seeing how sharp Chip looked in his BAA uniform and how much the family of the deceased appreciated live Taps instead of recorded Taps, I knew it was for me.

How long have you been playing?: Playing a trumpet for 50 years in front of live audiences, I felt there would be no "stage fright." But playing for people having a good time is easier than playing for people that are grieving. But the more missions I accepted the easier it got.

What is the best/hardest part about being a State Director?: The hardest part is not understanding why people want to join BAA and never take a mission. What's the up side? Knowing we have the best buglers in Maryland that we can trust.

What has been your best experience with BAA?: Every mission seems to be a little different, but the most rewarding experience is having Bugles Across America members only playing Taps on Veterans Day in front of a large crowd for the city of Baltimore and then having the Baltimore director approach us immediately afterwards and reserved us for next year. Chip and I are so proud of our team for all they do.

What is your goal for your state?: As we are proud of our team, Chip and I feel setting goals for the future is a necessity. And yes we have some serious challenges ahead of us. As American Legion, funeral homes, cemeteries, churches, and towns rely on our services for missions and events, our biggest concerns are the lack of participation by some of our members. Our goal is to expand our service but we need everyone to chip in and help. Remember, it's not for your Maryland State Directors, it's for the people who put their life on the line to keep freedom in the USA.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?: As long as Tom Day, Howard Reitenbaugh, Larré Robertson, Jen Day, and our Maryland bugle team has trust in us, Chip and I will continue on doing what we think is right.

OUR NEW STATE DIRECTOR

Indiana State Director

Congratulations to our new Indiana State Director, Rich Adams! While he's new to Indiana, he's no stranger to BAA leadership. Rich has been the State Director for Kentucky until his recent move to Indiana. He will still be watching over things in Kentucky until a replacement director can be found.



"I have been playing since 1976 and have been sounding Taps since the days I was a member of the Sons of the American Legion drill team (7th - 10th grade). Fast forward many years later to 2001 when I heard about BAA. Already being a strong believer in Tom Day's mission, I didn't need any convincing to sign up.

Being a State Director, I get to witness the pride and honor that the buglers in my state get by serving. It's incredibly uplifting. What I'd really like to see for BAA and my state is for our buglers to help spread the word to increase the awareness of BAA.

A little bit about me personally... I love spending time with my wife and kids, drinking coffee, sci-fi tv/movies and reading a good book. I dislike cancer. I had been diagnosed with lymphoma in 2010, but after several rounds of chemo I am now cancer-free. I spent a brief stint as a US Secret Service Agent working out of the World Trade Center prior to the 1993 bombing.

I am an Army vet and father of 3 young girls... in high school. I played trumpet in the Union Barrack-Aides, a volunteer USO type vaudeville troop that was in service from the 1940s through the 1980s. Early on, they entertained service members overseas and in the late 70's and early 80's, they put on volunteer performances at American Legion parties, nursing homes, etc. For my service in the Union Barrack-Aides, Governor Martha Layne Collins bestowed upon me the honor of being a Kentucky Colonel. "

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

Edwin Muller - New York

A good friend and Navy veteran passed away recently. As promised, I played Taps at the funeral, held at the Pinelawn National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York. Roses had been distributed to all the mourners as they approached the ceremonial canopy, but I didn't take one as I was busy preparing to play and carrying the trumpet. After I played Taps, the tiny granddaughter of the deceased (about 1 1/2 years old) slid down off her mother's lap, walked across in front of the seated family members and handed me her rose. No one there had prompted her to do this, Perhaps it was her way of thanking me or maybe it was her grandfather expressing his thanks through her. Everyone was quite awestruck.



Les Langford - Utah

I have been performing Taps at funerals and memorial services for 20 years. As a Vietnam veteran, a retired state trooper and an active leader in the Boy Scouts of America, I wear three different uniforms depending on the occasion.

The Utah Highway Patrol called upon me to play at Retired Colonel Dennis Nordfelt's funeral on September 6, 2014.

This past October, I wore my Boy Scouts of America uniform to play during a flag ceremony.

On October 3, 2014, I played at my uncle's funeral, a World War II veteran and on November 11, 2014, I played at the Pleasant Grove, Utah Veterans Day Services.



Murray Gordon - Illinois

In 1944 and 1945, the 6th Bomb Group was based on Tinian Island in the Northern Mariana's, from which it flew typically 12-hour missions over Japan. The Group was part of the 21st Bomber Command, which included several other groups on Tinian, including the Enola Gay and Bockscar, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atom bombers, which ended the Second World War, without the need to invade Japan.



In early October 2013, my wife, Judi Gravdal, and I were in Milwaukee for her medical society meeting. As we walked in, we saw the "Welcome 6th Bomb Group" reunion banner. My WWII history book immediately said "Tinian, and then the Enola Gay and Bockscar." Wow, I thought, these are the guys who flew daily missions of 3,000 miles round trip."

On Saturday evening, we were sitting at the bar of the Hilton Garden Inn, eating a very late dinner and watching a Wisconsin football game. A woman came to the bar and asked for another case of beer for the reunion party. We spoke with her while she waited.

There were now three generations of descendants of these veterans who attended each year to pay tribute. She said they had been there since Thursday, and the reunion ended on Sunday morning with a memorial service. I asked if they had a bugler sound Taps. For other reasons, I had with me two horns, a Bb and a C. She said it had never been done, but invited me to discuss it with the organization's president. He was honored, and asked me what the charge was. I told him no one should take money for honoring the air and ground crews of Tinian. He introduced me to two men who had fueled the Enola Gay and modified its conventional armaments for something about the mission not fully explained. The two were in wheel chairs, spoke very softly, and thanked me for volunteering. I said, thank you for ending the war, and for bringing home so many fathers who otherwise would have died during Operation Downfall, the invasion of Japan slated for 1 November 1945.

The next morning, I appeared as directed and waited for my cue. A minister spoke. I don't remember much of what he said, except that he hoped that we had inherited some of the DNA of these members of our Greatest Generation.

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As I played, I was thinking of my own father's service during the Battle of Bulge, as a 38 year-old combat engineer during Europe's coldest winter on record. I think my rendering went alright. I wasn't listening. I was also thinking about how one of the two men had told me the night before that he expected this was to be his last reunion.

I know I worry about a lot of things, but the strategy I use for managing this anxiety is to think of these men flying a 1945-era B29 3,000 miles, with heavy flak over Japan, and nothing but the Pacific Ocean underneath them, and of my father lowering himself down the side of a troop ship halfway across the English Channel onto an LCT headed toward France. Compared to that, playing the trumpet or getting through a work day isn't much.

Dale Kline - Wisconsin

Recently I had a mission go very well. Very clean Taps. The daughter of the deceased came up to me and said she had been praying for a live bugler and she's sorry that they only gave one days notice. She said they would have postponed the funeral if they did not have a live bugler. She then went on to say that her dad was a Navy vet and played trumpet in the Navy Band on board the USS Midway!!! Wow! What a connection I felt. I was a Navy musician aboard the USS Kearsarge during Vietnam. This was such an honor and a proud moment for me to sound Taps for a fellow Navy musician. He had his Trumpet laying in front by the casket. Neat huh?



Me and Tom Day

Mark Riebs - California

Taps being sounded at the flag retirement ceremony at American Legion Post 280 in East Pasadena California on 11/11/2014 with Venturing Crew 561; Brandon Harris, Drew Mather, Bryan Rose, Mark G. Riebs, (BAA) and Bailey Shen (Troop 125) with American Legion Members.



Mark G. Riebs, Venturing Crew 561, Honor Corps Advisor and Bugles Across America Volunteer dedicates Colors to ALL fallen Boy Scouts who served their Country.



David Hollinger - New Jersey

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2014, Beverly Bolger, Program Coordinator for the Rehabilitation Residency Program at JFK Medical Center in Edison, New Jersey, conducted a ceremony to salute both veterans in the hospital and those who lived in Edison. The ceremony was held in front of the outpatient clinic. I was pleased to be able to honor our veterans as part of Bugles Across America.



James Quakenbush - Assistant State Director, Alabama

The Governor of Alabama and I during the Wreaths Across America, State House Ceremony on December 8th, 2014.

Bel Felix - South Dakota

On December 13th, 2014, I sounded Taps for Wreaths Across America at the Black Hills National Cemetery.



Jacqueline Bledsoe - Missouri

As the result of an email from my dad about the history of Taps, I have been a member of Bugles Across America for quite a number of years. I have played Taps at many Memorial and Veteran's Day Ceremonies and several funerals - including my grandfather and great uncle. I don't talk about it much -- it's one of those "it's the least that I can do" sort of things. I am humbled to be a live bugler and honor Veterans in this way.

Given today's technology and the ability to record almost everything, I finally have a recording of one of my performances. With respect to the students performing in the Cascade of Trumpets, the audio is all my playing -- I'm certain they are in much better practice than I am -- and while not my best performance to date, given the weather conditions, I'm willing enough to share it. Do what you can to honor a Veteran -- even if it's playing a squeaky cornet rendition of Taps.



Jacqueline Bledsoe plays "Taps" in front of Memorial Union during the wreath-laying ceremony.



Trumpeter Jacqueline Bledsoe tries to keep warm on an unusually chilly Veterans Day.

For full Veterans Day performance and Cascade of Trumpets article, [click here](#).

David Breth - New York

The first time I ever played Taps was a number of years before I became acquainted with Bugles Across America. A church organist I knew contacted me. One of their parishioners had died, and she asked if I could play for the memorial service. The gentleman had been buried at Arlington, but the family was holding a service at their church for local friends and family.

I agreed to play, but had some reservation about it... stage fright. I doubt a lot of trumpet players would admit to it, but it is a very real thing, a very personal thing, and I had to learn to get past it. It was never a problem to the point where I would refuse to play or be unable to perform, but I used to get the shakes when I'd solo, and it took a lot of effort for me to control it and eventually eliminate it.

When at a funeral, I knew if I got emotionally involved during the service that it would be "death" as far as playing was concerned. My father had sung at several funerals over the years, often times for friends, and always described how he had to divorce himself from the situation. I needed to do the same, but I knew I needed to control some circumstances.

I prepared myself, and when the time came, I closed my eyes....and played. It went every bit as well as I had envisioned it could. There was no wavering. There was nothing but a very nice, clear, sound. It was a well-played rendering. I was so pleased and relieved. It would never again be necessary for me to go through such machinations to play Taps, but for that first time, it was a necessity. As it turned out, this was a big step forward for me in eliminating my stage fright, and it all-but eliminated my anxieties about playing Taps.

As previously mentioned, I always close my eyes when I play Taps, but that doesn't mean I don't observe the "before and after" with the family. I've seen families who were smiling and swapping stories at graveside, fall to dead silence after Taps is played. I've seen widows, sons and daughters, completely overcome with sorrow at the playing of those closing notes.

The sounding of Taps changes things instantly. Whatever distractions there might have been during the days that preceded the service, or might have occurred during the service, those are gone on the first note. They disappear. The realization of the loss is brought into clear focus, and it happens in an instant. There are times when the idea of playing Taps can almost sound cliché, but in the moment it is sounded, the emotion is raw.

J.C. "Monty" Montgomery - California

I was given the honor to play Taps at the 9th Annual Patriot Park Healing Field located in Cathedral City California. The Opening Ceremony was held on November 8, 2014 and ended November 15.



I played Taps for the Opening Ceremony, the Closing Ceremony, and each day at dusk as over 6,400 American Flags represented the veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

The Healing Fields, a National Organization, performs this same service across the USA. Please visit their website www.healingfield.org to find out more

The Cathedral City Rotary Club sponsored the event headed by Ms. Betsy Hayes, (President Elect) along with many local merchants.



It took over eight hours, but each veteran's name was read to honor their sacrifice.

Many local area volunteers including, The Cathedral City High School Band and Choir, ROTC,

Rotarians, and individual civilians all gave of their time for this worthy event.

My Biography

My Father gave me his trumpet and I started playing at age seven. That old Conn Trumpet fell apart, so my dad took me to Whittaker's Music Store in Long Beach CA in 1960 and bought me an Olds Super trumpet.

I took private lessons and played in the Stevens Jr. High School Band (1960-63), Long Beach Polytechnic High School, (under the direction of Robert Dill) Band, Orchestra, Wind ensemble and Dance Band (1963-65) and Neophonic Stage Band at Long Beach City College under the direction of Ron Logan 1969-70.



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I formed my own Jazz group in 1970-72 and played in local clubs, private parties and events in the Southern California Area. I gave trumpet lessons to many students. Back in 1968 we entered The Battle of the Bands at the Hollywood Bowl as a Jazz Quartet. We got to the finals and were playing against a group called The Richard Carpenter Trio. Two nights before the event, I got into a fight with the sax player and he refused to go to the finals. The rest is history, The Richard Carpenter Trio won the small combo division and went on to become one of the most popular groups in history THE CARPENTERS. (I always wondered what if?)



In 2000 my daughter was getting married and hired a jazz trio from Stanford University. Since I was paying the tab, I told her she could hire the group under one condition " That she let me sit in with them and play a couple of tunes". Game on! I had my trumpet completely restored and had my father's name, my name and my Son's name engraved on the Bell of my Olds Super. I practiced hard for the event and got my chops back. We brought the house down with Thelonius Monk's Straight No Chaser and Miles Davis' " All Blues". It was a very memorable moment for me.

I joined BAA in 2012, but due to my health was not able to perform. I am now in better health and am ready to serve when needed. Playing Taps is by far my proudest moment in my musical career.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve.



Don Chilton - Rhode Island

On December 13th, MUCS(SW) Don Chilton, USN, (Ret.); SKCS Arthur C. E. Perry, USN (Ret.), Private in Artillery Company of Newport; SPC William Chilton, USA, 88th Army Band, Rhode Island National Guard, performed Echo Taps for Newport Rhode Island's first annual Wreaths Across America ceremony.



Roy Zanni, BAA California Assistant Director

I was honored to sound Taps at the Spirit of '45 press conference held in San Diego on December 17th, 2014



Roy with the San Diego Hospice committee of WE HONOR VETERANS



Roy and Linda Laurie, National Events Coordinator for Spirit of '45

Misty Johnson - Wisconsin

I had the honor of playing my bugle at the Badger Honor Flight send-off on September 13th in Madison, Wisconsin.

On this day, 84 WWII and Korean War Veterans and their guardians flew to Washington DC to see the memorials in their honor. The Bugler to my right has played on the VFW Honor Guard in Madison for more than 20 years. The gentlemen to my left are from the Oregon-Brooklyn VFW Post # 10272; I have been the bugler for this post since 1994.

This is my second year bugling the send-off for the group; bugle calls include "Reveille", "To the Color" and "Charge". Badger Honor Flight just completed its 17th flight this fall; the first flight was in April of 2010.

Find out more at [Badger Honor Flight](#)



Buglers at Badger Honor Flight, September 13, 2014,
Madison, Wisconsin

Raymond Keel - Alabama

I work very close with the Honor Guard Squadron at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama. They call me when a live bugler is needed. Last August I received a call from them requesting me to sound Taps the next day. I was available, so of course I accepted the mission. I went online to review the obituary as I always do to put the information in my missions log book. I discovered that the deceased was a member of the same church I attend. That made me feel very honored to sound Taps for a brother in Christ as well as a Veteran.

The next day I arrived one hour prior to the service, as requested, to warm up and go over the order of service with the Honor Guard detail. Just before the flower truck came to lay the flowers at the grave, an Army Veteran arrived in his dress blues. He is my friend Jon who attends the same church, and we play in a few of the same bands. We both are surprised at seeing each other. I thought he was attending the service to honor the deceased as a fellow church member and Veteran. Jon said, "What are doing here?" I replied that I was requested by the Honor Guard at Maxwell Air Force Base to sound Taps at this service. Jon stated, "I'm supposed to play Taps. I was asked a few days ago by the family." I told Jon that he should go ahead and sound Taps because he was requested first by the family. "You can use my bugle if you like", I said. He kept looking at my bugle and asked if it was a real bugle? "Yes", I replied. We talked about doing Echo Taps. Jon went and got his trumpet, as we wanted to see if we were in the same key and tune up. We decided to play Echo Taps to see how we would do. After playing we asked the Honor Guard how it sounded. They said it sounded very good. I told Jon if he wanted to do Echo Taps I would be willing, but he must ask the family first since their wishes must be met. The family was overjoyed at the possibility of us to doing Echo Taps. I did the lead (nervous and trembling) while Jon did the Echo (actually the harder part). We did not make any mistakes. Jon is an excellent musician and has done Echo Taps before. This is the first time I have ever played Echo Taps other than with my grandson just messing around to see if we could play it, but I feel that this event was an especially honorable service for our fellow church member and veteran. I do not believe it was mere coincidence for us both to show up for this service.

Michael Timson - California

I sounded Taps at a recent service at Holy Cross Cemetery in San Diego.

- 1.) Both the Army and Navy Honor Guard were present
- 2.) Both came with fake bugles
- 3.) Both wanted to do Echo Taps with me LIVE

I indicated that my Live Taps is on a B flat instrument and would not work with Echo coming from “fake bugles”.

Both Army and Navy “buglers” paused... for a long time... then smiled and said, “Cool! We’ll sit this one out!”

That was a very Merry Christmas for me!



Do you have an unusual, memorable or funny story to share regarding an event or request you played Taps for? The Bugler's Post wants to publish your stories.

All stories must be written, edited, **ready for publishing** and a photo is desired but not required. If you don't have a photo from the event, one of you works nicely as well.

The deadline for this is February 15th.

Please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

BAA- IN THE NEWS

Organization recruits volunteers to play 24 notes honoring veterans

Bugles Across America buglers honor veterans by playing Taps

Author: [Dave Delozier](mailto:ddelozier@wisctv.com), ddelozier@wisctv.com

Published On: Nov 11 2014 09:19:32 PM CST



MADISON, Wis. - A tradition that started as a result of legislation passed by Congress has turned into a program dedicated to providing the honor due to veterans when they pass away.

[Bugles Across America](#) was founded in 2000 after Congress passed legislation guaranteeing veterans the right to at least two uniformed members of the military to fold the flag and play Taps at funerals.

When there were not enough buglers available to play Taps, it was played on a CD player. The founder of Bugles Across America, Tom Day, set out to change that by providing veterans with the honor he believed they deserved. In the years since, Day has recruited more than 7,000 volunteer buglers who play Taps at veterans' funerals.



"It is worth it. It is worth it every time I put on the uniform and come out to play Taps again because to me it is a memory, a memory of the lost loved one, it is a memory of a soldier, a fallen soldier who served his country with honor and dignity," said Dale Kline, a volunteer bugler from Madison.

Kline has been volunteering to play Taps at veterans' funerals in Wisconsin for the last two years.

"The 24 notes of Taps are probably the most solemn notes anybody will ever hear," Kline said.

Bugles Across America now has volunteer buglers in all 50 states and a growing number overseas. The growth of the organization is necessary to meet the demand.

The Department of Veterans Affairs expects more than 500,000 veterans to pass away every year for the next seven years. Because of that, Bugles Across America is continuing the recruiting effort.

For article and interview video, [click here](#).

Penn State students serve veterans on the home front

By Jessica Butterbaugh
November 10, 2014

Whether attending in person or watching a portrayal on television, a military funeral service is sure to evoke an emotional response, especially when a family is presented a folded flag, and Taps and a rifle volley are heard solemnly in the background. For volunteers like Penn State freshman, Andrew Ungarino, it is an honorable experience to be a part of the ceremony, that honors those who have fallen, and an experience that will never be forgotten.

At the age of 16, Ungarino was playing the trumpet for his high school marching band when his teacher realized he had a special talent — he could play Taps like a professional.

“Mr. Dilliot taught me how to play Taps and how do it respectfully,” Ungarino said of his high school music teacher. “I started playing for services at our school and parades, and then Mr. Dilliot told me to look into Bugles Across America.”

“For me, it is something I do out of respect for our veterans and their families. It’s the least I can do for them after everything they have done to help us.” — Andrew Ungarino, freshman at Penn State Beaver

An organization with which Ungarino was unfamiliar, [Bugles Across America](#) is dedicated to providing military veterans and their families with their final military rights — a flag folding ceremony and the playing of Taps. Established in 2000 as a result of Congressional legislation that states that every qualified veteran has the right to military funeral honors, Bugles Across America seeks to provide a live playing of Taps during military funerals and memorial services. Since its inception 14 years ago, the organization has grown to include more than 6,000 members who range in age from 12 to 92.

“The legislation states that veterans are entitled to the playing of Taps on a CD player,” Tom Day, founder and president of Bugles Across America, explained. “But, after everything our veterans have been through and have done for our country, I felt that they deserved a live playing of Taps by an experienced bugler. That is why I started Bugles Across America.”

Before being placed on the active bugler list, a musician must audition by playing Taps for a Bugles Across America state director who oversees auditions and manages buglers in their state.

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



Andrew Ungarino, right, received an award for his solo performance of Taps during the annual Veterans Day parade in Pittsburgh, Pa

Transitions – Taps: An Emotional Salute

Positively Naperville.com by [Barbara Blomquist](#)

Monday, November 10, 2014

November 11 is Veterans Day, an official United States holiday that honors men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Besides honoring our living veterans, it has become a tradition to also honor our fallen veterans with the sounding of “Taps.”



The 24 notes of Taps, composed during the Civil War, is an American tradition that is sounded at Military Honors and Memorial events. Naperville resident Richard Yndestad, a member of Naperville Post 43 of the American Legion, has been sounding Taps at these events for the past five years. Richard is also a member of Bugles Across America and volunteers as a bugler at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Ill.

I met Rich in a yoga class that is offered free for veterans and their families at the VFW.

Richard has sounded Taps more than 1,500 times and considers it an honor to sound a “Final Salute” as a fitting farewell for our veterans. His interest in playing the bugle call started at a funeral of a close friend.

Two members of the Military were present to fold the flag, but Taps was played on a boom box, he recalled.

“I felt that just wasn’t right,” Rich said. “...And decided take up the trumpet to learn to play it live.”

After months of practice, he joined Bugles Across America, a nonprofit organization that provides live buglers for Military Honors and events.

According to Tom Day, founder of Bugles Across America, there are 250 buglers in the Chicagoland area and 5,000 nationwide.

I am always moved when I hear Taps and I’m glad Richard, and buglers like him, honor veterans with real rather than canned music.

For online article, [click here](#).

Bugler plays solemn notes of soldiers' final farewells

Scott Craven, The Republic | azcentral.com
November 10, 2014

From mouthpiece to tip of the bell it's 15 inches long, two loops of brass tubing designed to produce loud, clear tones easily heard over cannons and gunfire.

It often is played in short bursts, a memorable staccato associated with brief commands. It is utilitarian rather than elegant, dutiful rather than graceful.

And yet with the correct series of precisely controlled breaths, it can create one of the nation's most exquisite melodies, an instantly recognized series of tones that evoke memories and emotion.



In the hands of someone like retired Army Sgt. Vernon West, the bugle is a work of art. Each week, he uses it to bid the final goodbye to American veterans.

West has lost count of the times he's stood alone among grave markers, watching, waiting to play a tune now associated with just one act. More than a thousand, certainly. Surely more than 2,000.

Each is as important, as meaningful, as the last.
Each is as important, as meaningful, as the next.

As the last note of Taps decays, caught by an errant breeze and carried away, mourners remain silent. Ten seconds, stretching to 20. Allowing the moment — the farewell — to sink in. Such is the power of a bugle call that for more than a century has bid goodbye to hundreds of thousands of men and women. All served their country. Some gave their lives.

The bugle's streamlined, uncomplicated design uses no valves. The horns were designed for calls, rather than for music. As such, the design is simple and ordered. The horn is easy to learn and difficult to master.

Vernon West hurriedly buttoned his crisp, lint-free black jacket, the one that had been draped neatly from a hanger in his back seat. He reached into the back seat of his car (license plate: Taps 1) and pulled his silver-plated bugle from within, the instrument cushioned by dress uniforms, a change of clothes, a book or two and about 30 unopened packs of white gloves — clutter indicative of a life often spent in six-hour chunks at a cemetery.

For full story and video, [click here](#).

Wreaths Across America ceremony held at Culpeper National Cemetery

Star Exponent by Vince Vala

December 17, 2014

Due to the efforts of the Blue Knights Virginia-II Chapter and local volunteers, more than 1,000 wreaths adorned grave sites in Culpeper National Cemetery Saturday at the start of the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony to honor the nation's military service men and women.



This year's event was emceed by Blue Knights Secretary/Treasurer Keith Chase, who welcomed the crowd to the new section of Culpeper National Cemetery, where the ceremonial wreath placement was held before an enthusiastic crowd of onlookers.

Chase told the crowd that 1,017 wreaths were placed in the cemetery by local volunteers during the hours proceeding Saturday's ceremony, noting that each grave stone represents a person and a family that

sacrificed to serve the nation.

Kimberly Wright, director for the National Cemetery Administration's Office of Field Programs, said more than 700,000 wreaths have been placed in United States National Cemeteries in the U.S. and around the world during this year's observance.

Wreaths Across America officially began in 2008 with wreath ceremonies at 300 locations across the nation, in Puerto Rico and in U.S. cemeteries in 24 foreign nations.

Chase thanked the local volunteers and sponsors who helped make this year's local event a reality. "Today, we are one of 900 cemeteries dedicated to showing our support for our military," Chase told the crowd. "America has always been the first to stand up to answer the call for freedom, and we are here to say thank you."

Chase told the audience that the Wreaths Across America's mission is to "Remember, Honor and Teach" - to remember the fallen, to honor those who are serving and to teach the nation's children to respect the sacrifices made by the nation's service men and women and their families.

The featured speaker during this year's event was Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia of the United States Marine Corps, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

.....

The ceremony wrapped up with **Gerry Schuck** of Bugles Across America playing Taps.

[Click here](#) for the full online article



Delta Salutes America's Veterans

Georgia bugler and retired State Director and National Coordinator, Larry Wiseman played for a Delta Airlines video! Great job!!

Here is what Larry says about the experience.

"On my drive back from our little place in Tennessee, I received a call from the manager of Delta Corporate Communications, who asked if I would be willing to perform Taps for a

video, paying tribute the the Veterans, both living and passed.

Every year on 9/11, several BAA members, some of whom are Delta employees, perform Echo Taps in the TechOps facility, so corporate has a good knowledge and respect for BAA.

I met the video crew at 0530 on the Friday before Veterans Day, and we advanced to the roof of the building to do about 50 takes of Taps; video guys like to have a lot of effects to choose from. Afterwards, we set up a remote studio inside the building to record a "quieter" version of Taps, that was later sequenced into the video.

I was so honored to be any part of the piece, but only regret that more time was not spent on the Delta Honor Guard; an awesome group of volunteers who devote their own time to escorting many KIA's who arrive in the Atlanta area on Delta aircraft. Anyone can do a search on You Tube for the Delta Honor Guard, to get a full appreciation of how they care for these Heroes.

My late father was a Delta employee for 33 years; many years before my career there, and I can remember when the big Fly Delta Jets sign was created in the early 1960's. I know he was smiling down on me as I performed in front of that big iconic sign.

Click for [Delta Salutes America's Veterans video](#)

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

Letters of Gratitude



On behalf of the family of James L. Bearfield, United States Navy Vet, I would like to express appreciation to Mr. Joe Cibotti who played Taps graveside at the Newton, Mass Cemetery on 30 OCT 14. My brother served 1968 - 1973. Among his duties was time aboard the newly commissioned USS John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier. He was always proud to be a Plank Owner of the ship. Jim was proud of his Navy service. Proud of his country. And no doubt proud to have an Honor Guard of Sailors from the USS Constitution and Mr. Cibotti playing Taps. You sent him off with honor and tradition. Thank you! - Larry Bearfield

I am a 21-year army vet and I ride with the PGR to honor military veterans at their funerals. I attended a funeral on 28 November, 2014 in Enterprise, Alabama and was so happy to see one of your buglers at the graveside service. The military honor guard in this area always does a great job with their portion of the ceremony, but it usually not accompanied by a real playing of Taps. The volunteer from your organization looked sharp in his Air Force dress uniform and performed beautifully. Thank you for your mission and dedication to honor military veterans. They are truly deserving. Keep up the great work. Sincerely, - Kenneth McGettigan

I'm writing to let you know how much we truly appreciated your presence at my husband's funeral. No one knew where you came from so I asked the Horn & Thomas Funeral Director and they gave me the name of your organization and was told that you are all volunteers. My husband had 61 years, volunteer service in the Pawling Fire Department so we truly understand the commitment of the buglers. Again thank you all so much for honoring William with your playing. Sharon A. Boo

Dear Mr. Day,

Yesterday I had the honor of meeting bugler Hartmut R. Hausser and hearing him play Taps at a ceremony in France commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Seingbouse. In November of 1944 units of the 80th Infantry Division helped liberate this small city and some paid the ultimate sacrifice. In honor of this ceremony, the U.S. Consul General from Strasbourg was present along with local politicians, French, U.S, German and Austrian military representatives and about 200 citizens of Seingbouse. A memorial stone, bearing the emblem of the 80th Infantry Division and a commemorative plate, was dedicated at the site where several soldiers fell during the battle. I can not say enough about how great it was to be a part of this ceremony, and how much everyone appreciated the performing of Taps by Bugler Hausser. I also want to say how great it is that you founded such an honorable organization. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Robert Stanaback

MSgt (ret.) U.S. Air Force

I would like to pass on my sincerest thanks to Bugles Across America for the participation of Hartmut Hausser here in Europe. He supported a ceremony in Seingbouse, France, on the 30th of November, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the village in November of 1944 during WWII. The French paid tribute to the men of the 80th Infantry Division who fought and died liberating their village. A monument was dedicated on the spot where several men were killed on 30 Nov 1944. Hartmut played Taps after the wreath laying ceremony during a moment of silence. The U.S. Consul General from Strasbourg was also present and the playing of Taps was a very special moment for the over 200 guests who were present. Hartmut did a superb job!!!

Thanks and best regards,

Tom Favia

SFC, U.S. Army Retired



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 requestor'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!



The BAA Supply Closet

Horns: For anyone in need of a Bugle, Trumpet, or Cornet, we may have one or two available. Send an email to explain why you need gear.

Uniform: I also have a like-new T&T produced rain coat with all patches and liner, size 44 regular.

Medals: The re-supply of medals will be in January. I have some on hand, but not a big supply of each.

Horn Accessories: You may have seen an item called Warm-a-horn, this is like a cover for the bell of the trumpet to keep the it covered in the cold. I have five for the first five requests.

I have five7C Kelly mouthpieces in black for the first five that need them.

Educational: For those who do School programs I have free copies of my booklet called "A Very Special Red, White, and Blue" which is a workbook on the history of the American Flag. I am also working on putting the Flag History on DVD in 2015. This program has been a hit at the many schools where I have shown it.

Please send email requests to me at TomJDay@sbcglobal.net

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:

- * Kentucky
- * Mississippi
- * Montana
- * Nebraska
- * New Mexico
- * North Dakota
- * Wisconsin

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.

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 veterans 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.

Please feel free 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. Let them know that we are available at NO cost to the directors or families.

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.