

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing



WOW, here it is May 2015 and all over the country people are putting together programs for Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. PBS has recently come to BAA to find a Bugler for a Civil War movie spot. Dave Kloke in Elgin, Illinois, has duplicated the train car that carried Lincoln's body to Springfield, Illinois for burial. I

understand there will be over a hundred Civil War Buglers and re-enactors to march from the train station with the carriage to the area where Lincoln is actually buried.

I'm working with two Chicago High Schools, Schurz and Phoenix, to improve their drill performance for the city championship meet on May 2nd. If any horn players in this area are interested in helping me judge the event please call (708) 484-9029. The event is at Gately Stadium on the South side by Lake Michigan. The top five units will perform at Daley center prior to the Memorial Day Parade on May 23rd. This year we will have 150 Flags in the lead unit and I have 100 Marine Cadets and 50 Army cadets. Chicago has the biggest parade using 6,600 JROTC Cadets and I have the American Legion Band from Joliet in the lead and followed there after by the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps Alumni Corps.

June 14th is Flag Day and we are planning a Flag Day Show in Berwyn, Illinois sponsored by Meijer Food Store.

As always, thank you all for responding to bugler requests and being there for the families of the fallen. God Bless you all.

Tom Day, Founder



IN THIS ISSUE

1 BAA BRIEFING

A message from Tom Day

2 WANTED

Special request from the editor

3 UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking for more places to serve?

4 THE BAA LEARNING CENTER

Now open for visitors!

5 FIND THE BUGLE

Find,! Enter! Win!

8 STATE DIR. SPOTLIGHT

Michigan

11 SILVER OR ECHO TAPS

Is there a difference?

13 BEHIND THE BUGLE

Your stories told

23 LETTERS OF GRATITUDE

Thanks from the families

25 BAA IN THE NEWS

BAA spotted in the news

33 FACT OR FICTION

Discovering the facts

34 KEY NOTES

Becoming a responsible member

37 THE SUPPLY CLOSET

Available items

38 NOTES, LINKS, ETC

Things that may interest you

W A N T E D : MEMORIAL DAY STORIES AND PHOTOS

May 25th is Memorial Day and is undoubtedly one of BAA's busiest days of the year... and the Bugler's Post issues following Memorial Day are **full** of heartfelt, humorous and wonderful stories and photos about your experiences and is a joy to read. However, this can only happen if you send me your stories.

Please send me your stories and photos to BAA.JDay@gmail.com . Please make sure they are edited and "print ready" and the photos in Jpg form.

Thank you,
Jen Day, Newsletter Sheriff and BAA National Coord.

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.

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 BAA Bugle Leaning Center in nearby Berwyn to see what we have to offer and work with and to see over 135 horns going back to the 1800's.
- * To Oakwood Cemetery in Chicago where 4000 Confederates are buried. (Optional)

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.
- * A presentation on current BAA protocols including NO discrimination of members.
- * A review on Director's duties regarding the maintenance of their state.
- * A Question and Answer session

****** A note to Directors. Please let us know if your coming to the conference. ******

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.



The BAA Learning Center is open for visitors!

What's inside:

Over 140 horns: Specialty and historic

Different types of mouthpieces

Military memorabilia

Uniforms from 1776 to today that you can touch

Bugle and military history

History books and maps from all US wars.

CDs and DVDs you can watch in the Media Room

Historic Drum and Bugle Corps media

Bugles Across America medals and patches

Copies of BAA's newsletter, Bugler's Post

A Congressional Gold medal

Stories from Tom Day himself!



"The house looks wonderful. It's one of those places that you could spend all day there and the next time you visit, you still see something new." - Allison Petty



Hours: By appointment. Please call (708) 484-9029

Admission: No fee but donations welcome

Parking: Street Parking. Please be aware of street cleaning hours on Friday

1818 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Illinois, 60402

For tour information: (708) 484-9029

Find The Bugle Contest!



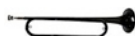
Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is a small image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into either dialogue or a photo. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle.

“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 **May 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 nine 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 and deliver the prize)

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

and the WINNERS are...

We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #21 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

Steve Bow of Ohio

Norman Schell of Nebraska

Mitchell Milligan of 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.



Baffled as to it's location?



State Director Spotlight: Michigan

Assistant State Director: Ernie Richardson

How long have you been with BAA?

Since March 1st., 2013

Why did you join?

I went to a friend's father's funeral who was a veteran. The ceremonial bugle was used and I hated it. I could have sounded live Taps for him. I did an internet search and discovered BAA.



Ernie Richardson (center) with his service dog, Ruby

How long have you been playing?

I was eight years old when I started playing and started in band in third grade, 63 years ago.

What is the hardest part about being a State Director?

Watching a mission sit there and not be accepted. This happens very seldom in Michigan. Our BAA buglers are truly dedicated to the mission of BAA and very few Taps missions go un-filled. One frustration has been one particular funeral home that waits till the day before the funeral to request a BAA Bugler and also has several times had a family member decide to sound Taps and did not let us know that our BAA bugler was not needed. In one instance, the BAA Bugler drove almost 100 miles one way only to have to stand down. I felt very bad that he had wasted his time and gasoline needlessly.

What is the best part about being a State Director?

The great people who are BAA Buglers in Michigan.

What has been your best experience with BAA?

Sounding Taps for Veteran's Funerals and seeing the reaction of the family to live Taps. Also, for the past two years we have sounded 4-part Taps for Veterans Recognition Night at the Michigan State Fair and plan to do so again this year. We had BAA Buglers drive from the west side of Michigan to participate in this. I am so grateful for that level of commitment. We have grown in numbers from the first year to last year and I have high hopes that we grow even more in numbers for this year's State Fair Veterans Recognition Night which will be Thursday, August 27, 2015. It's great fun to meet with some of our great Michigan BAA Buglers.

Spotlight Feature: BAA Member, Ed Bilger

We all know how important it is to have a good accountant for our taxes, especially with all the details a NFP must know. Our go-to guy... Ed Bilger.



Ed heard about BAA from a friend and has been a member of BAA since 2002. He originally signed on as a bugler but with the lack of leadership at that time in the northeastern states, I asked if he would like to step up as a regional director for the Mid-Atlantic states (PA, DE, MD & DC). With his experience and connections in drum corps, he helped spread the word on BAA and it's mission.

In the beginning, Gene Horner, our Alaska State Director, and his wife put together the basics for our 501c3 but it was Ed who knew what needed to be done to be approved by the Illinois Secretary of State.

Ed has a degree in accounting and has been preparing taxes for companies since the 1980's. He's registered with the IRS as a tax accountant as well as a Paralegal and Notary Public in Pennsylvania. He has taken additional classes to stay fresh in non-profit accounting, legal procedures, grant writing and fundraising. With his banking and financial experience, he has been able to keep BAA alive with funds. In 2009, Ed got us set up with Network For Good to process our online donations.

Since 2002, our first corporate year, BAA has only been audited for two different years. If you've never been audited before, let me tell you, getting that letter from the IRS immediately hits you with a bad feeling, even if you know you haven't done anything wrong.

The IRS said that for these two years I missed page B (listing of contributors over \$5,000) and were charging me \$20.00 a day for these two years. The total charge was well into the thousands. I mentioned this in the BAA forums and one of our volunteers said they saw the return on GuideStar.org and it showed the "missing" pages. The IRS had the information right there! So we, with BAA's Power of Attorney, contacted the IRS, showed them it was their mistake and got our money back... with interest.

A few years back a trumpet player from the Boston area said he wanted to own the BAA web title and was getting requests and charging \$300 per funeral and then bragging about it on the net. This guy did not know that Ed and I put together and registered BAA as a trademark. Another one of our players in Illinois saw this and happened to be a trademark atty. Ed sent

the Boston guy a “Cease and Desist” letter return receipt requested. He called us “unprofessional”. Ed contacted the people he had listed and found out they never signed up to do what this fellow said they would do. He got his list from trumpet conventions around the country. The people were angry to the point of stating they were thinking of suing for misrepresentation. We got the Boston boy to retract his attack and even were invited to the Trademark Attorney's convention in Texas and tell our story in a Pro Bono clinic. Here I always thought Pro Bono was the third part of the Sonny and Cher team, I kid, of course. What's life without humor?

This wasn't the first time someone was trying to profit from the veteran's families. Back in 2006 in Pennsylvania, someone was charging people a fee in order to make a request for a bugler. Turns out he was one our own. His company wasn't even registered with the state. Ed notified the state of the unregistered business and the casualty officers up and down the Eastern Seaboard that wasn't BAA. They replied that they were already aware of this person and thanked Ed for the update. Ed asked to make BAA a legal entity in Pennsylvania as a “foreign nonprofit”. That meant BAA would have another office with the permission of the parent office.

Ed was in junior drum and bugle corps known as the Philadelphia PAL Cadets. He played trumpet as well as other brass instruments throughout school and was a bit of a history buff. His corps played Taps as part of their show. A few of the horn players, including Ed, were asked to give honors to the casualties during the Vietnam War.

In 2011, Ed arranged trumpet parts for 28 horn players, coordinated, then directed them at a Spirit of '45 event in Washington D.C. at the WWII memorial and opened the pre-parade Memorial Day ceremony on the steps on the National Archives in front of national television.

Ed was also part of the big Echo Taps program in the Finger Lakes region of New York State and is also our Point of Contact with the World War I Centennial Commission to restore cemeteries where Vet's of the Revolution and Civil War and First World War are buried and have fallen in disrepair.

He is now working with our New York State Director assisting the Spirit of '45 folks in identifying the WWII monuments and memorials across the country. The memorials will be rededicated with BAA buglers sounding Taps on August 16, 2015.

Remarkably, Ed does all this and still serves at funerals and memorials sounding Taps and sometimes actually serving as Flag Folder if the honors team doesn't show up or only one does. Ed does it on foot or by bus. He does not drive because of the abundance and proximity of public transportation in Philadelphia.

Mr. Bilger will be at the conference in August and tell us about current BAA projects.

Thanks Ed, for all you do.

Tom



ECHO Taps/SILVER Taps

Trumpeter Sam Young
Kansas Bugles Across America

Recently, while chatting with another bugler, he said “Silver Taps”; I asked what it was since I had never before heard the term. He described it as

what I knew as Echo Taps: two buglers standing an unspecified distance from each other with the lead bugler playing Taps while another bugler plays the echo – and not playing the complete Taps after the lead bugler completes playing Taps. He said the term Silver Taps had been around for a long time. So I started researching Silver Taps.

Silver Taps originated at Texas A&M in 1898 to honor deceased A&M student Lawrence Ross. Per a Texas A&M website: Silver Taps is one of the oldest and finest traditions of the Texas A&M student body and is the final tribute paid to an Aggie who, at the time of death, was enrolled as a Texas A&M student.

The special music "Silver Taps," composed by Colonel Richard J. Dunn, was played by two buglers during the 1930's. The unwritten arrangement is passed from bugler to bugler.

Today Silver Taps ceremony includes the Ross Volunteers Firing Squad firing three volleys and six buglers playing "Silver Taps" three times – once each to the North, West, and South. It is not played to the East since the rising sun will never again shine on the deceased Aggie.

Further web research revealed the following schools also have ceremonies called Silver Taps.

Tarleton State University's ceremony includes a roll call, candle lighting, placing flowers at the base of the Military Memorial, Taps, and a 21 gun salute. I was not able to learn how Taps is played during this ceremony.

Norwich University's ceremony includes the Corps of Cadets with the Regimental Bugler playing Taps and the echoing bugler echoing each series of notes.

At **New Mexico Military Institute**, Echo Taps also includes the Corps of Cadets with a bugler playing the first 3 notes of Silver Taps and the echoing bugler echoes those notes. This continues following each sequence of three notes.

Other sites, plus various books I have read about Taps, revealed that when other units and buglers, Union and Confederate, heard Taps they began to play it to signal the end of the day/ lights out and to honor their deceased unit members. Now that was an echo to really hear – multiple buglers playing Taps, and not in unison.

Looking at the Bugles Across America website, Tom Day calls Echo Taps as two or more buglers, spaced some distance apart, each playing Taps to create an echo effect.

Jen Day, in her email to me, said she had never heard the term Silver Taps.

That takes me back to the beginning, for which I recommend the following action when a bugler is requested to play Silver Taps or Echo Taps: ask the requestor to explain what they actually want played.

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

Thelma Paul - Michigan

I have had the honor and privilege of playing Taps for our fallen soldiers for about seven years. Starting with the Traverse City VFW Post 2780 Honor Guard, and then about two years ago becoming a member of Bugles Across America. What an exciting and learning journey I have been on.

In 2012 the local newspaper did an article about me and the 150th Anniversary of Taps. The article, along with a picture, was part of their Memorial Day weekend edition. A recording of me playing Taps was also put on their website.

This past year I have played Taps for 2 flag raising ceremonies. First at the Traverse City Veteran's Coalition golf outing held on Flag Day. The second, also for the Traverse City Veteran's Coalition, was in the middle of a Northern Michigan woods during a corn toss benefit. Proceeds from the benefit went to help local veterans. The accompanying picture is of that event. Also, I was part of the BAA group that played four part harmony Taps at the 2014 Michigan State Fair in August.



In my little community of Manton, during a moment of silence at a local dance, I was asked to play Taps in remembrance of those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. I also rode on the city's float during our Labor Day Parade, playing Taps as it went past the Judges stand. They announced who I was and gave a brief description of BAA. For the past three years I have played Taps for the Wreaths Across America Ceremony organized by our local Civil Air Patrol, and held on the 2nd Saturday in Dec.

I am a member of the Cadillac Philharmonic Club, where I initiated the office of Patriotic Leader. As the Patriotic Leader I started having the flag displayed during each meeting, and opening each meeting with the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance. I have played Taps for them and have recruited the Cadillac Honor Guard to do a flag folding demonstration. At another meeting the Captain of the Cadillac Honor Guard set up the "Missing Man Table" and explained the significance of the table and empty chair.

As a member of Post 2780's Honor Guard I participated in approximately 50 funerals and

ceremonies during 2014. The ceremonies included playing at nursing homes, schools and their bus garages, the Northwest Michigan College, at cemeteries on Veterans Day, the National Guard Armory, Memorial Park dedications, and at the airport to receive home our fallen soldiers. I quite often play the National Anthem at various events. I have given another BAA member a few tips on playing Taps and how to play Amazing Grace on his cornet. An employee at a local music store I frequent, told me customers come in and want to learn to play the trumpet or bugle only for the purpose of playing Taps.

Promoting BAA is important to me. I talk to people all the time about what we represent. I have had family members come up to me at the cemetery and tell me how happy they were when they saw me standing there with my trumpet because they didn't want a recording. They explained that they were never given that option while making the final arrangements. Some tell me they feel cheated when they find out their family member might have had a mechanical bugle. Whenever I have the opportunity I hand out a flyer and business card from our website. I am currently working on getting our Michigan four part harmony Taps group invited to the Traverse City Cherry Festival. I am very proud to be a member of BAA.

Bob Chavanne - New York

This day was from a BAA mission in New York City to honor our great first president, George Washington.



Frank Dorritie - Maine

These two photos were taken in California in 2014 at Duncans Mills and Ft. Point, for the filming of a Civil War documentary. I played Taps for it as well as other period calls.

The photo on the right shows a French Clairon. Many of these were imported for use by both Union and Confederate troops.



The photo on the left is a German-made replica, also of a common type carried by infantry of both sides. It features a "pig-tail" crook to lower the pitch to Bb, matching the key of the Clairon. This was standard.

As we are wrapping up the events of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War it's appropriate to recall that the 24 notes of Taps were co-written by bugler Oliver Wilcox Norton and Gen. Dan Butterfield, and adopted for use during that conflict.

As you know, by a recent act of congress it has been designated "The National Song of Remembrance".

Keith Mayo - Alabama

Today I worked with three young Marines from Montgomery I&I as we paid respect to a friend and member of my local Marine Corps League Detachment. The family had requested MFH and the USMC sent three men. Two to fold the flag and one to hold the ceremonial bugle. I was at the church early to help stand guard over our friend's casket and when the funeral director told me the family had contacted the Marine Corps. I left the church and made my way to the cemetery a few miles away. I found the grave site being prepared and got the full scoop on how things were to happen. I then waited for the Marines to arrive from Montgomery. They showed up about one hour before the burial service. I introduced myself and discovered none of the three had ever been to this cemetery before and had only a few MFH under their belts (they were all Corporals with under four years time in The Corps). I asked permission to have the "bugler" stand down and then proceeded to take them to the grave site and help in the run through. The Marines were totally professional and were more than glad for the help I offered.

The burial came off without a hitch and those three young Marines stayed around after the service (on a beautiful Saturday no less!) to meet the family and get to know us old guys in the Marine Corps League. At every Army service I'd done, the detail gets the heck out of Dodge as quickly as possible. These Devil Dogs stayed around to talk and have pictures taken. As sad as I was to see my friend be buried I was thrilled by the support of the Marines from Montgomery, their whole-hearted willingness to work with me and their professionalism. If there's such a thing as a great funeral, this was it.

I gave the Marine in charge of the Montgomery detail a copy of my "press package" which includes my business card, a copy of the BAA letter of introduction and some newspaper clippings about my performing Taps. They had no idea whatsoever of the existence of BAA but now the I&I Staff in Montgomery knows about us. Had the deceased not been a friend of mine he would have had the recording of Taps played for him. A case of my being in the right place at the right time gave me a chance to promote Bugles Across America.



Is It Live... or A Recording? (Honoring America's Heroes II)

by Larry Ballenger, California

The missions that we are offered through Bugles Across America (BAA) come about when we buglers around the country get an email which tells us what date a playing of *Taps* is being requested, at what location (Forest Lawn, Rose Hills, Riverside National Cemetery, or one of a number of places throughout Southern California.) The name, branch and rank of the veteran is given, and the date and time. There is a place we can respond, online, that we will take the assignment. We get about 5-6 requests a week, and lately I have been able to take about two a week. Each is unique.

In the last two weeks I have played four times, one for the Coast Guard, one for the Army, and two for Marines.

The first Marine was a WWII and Korean war fighter pilot. The request was made by his grandson, himself an active duty Marine 1st lieutenant stationed at Camp Pendleton. He had simply Googled "buglers" and BAA came up on line, and he made his request. Because of my Marine connection to my brother, and because the ceremony was going to take place in an historic cemetery in my city, I responded to the request quickly, and got it. (It is entirely possible another BAA bugler may beat you to the punch. Yet sometimes a request goes a long time before being taken.)

Then began an interesting saga illustrating the interaction between our volunteer organization, the military, and the family and the cemeteries.

The lieutenant immediately emailed me to say how grateful he was that there would be a live bugler playing *Taps* for his grandfather. There would also be a USMC honor guard, and a flyover of T-6 vintage warbirds. It really sounded impressive, and I was gratified to be able to participate. I returned his email, and assured him I know where Mountain View Cemetery is, and that I would be there at the appointed time.

On Monday the grandson emailed me to express his apologies that they would not be using me after all. He had learned that the Marine honor guard would be bringing their own bugler. He appreciated learning about BAA and he was sending a donation to the organization.

Two days later, sitting in an elementary school performance of our Los Angeles Police Department Band, my stand partner in the 2nd trumpet section put me on alert.

On Tuesday he had gone to the graveside service of his very good friend, another Marine officer. When he saw the USMC honor guard team arrive in their van, he approached them, introduced himself, and asked to meet the bugler. When he discovered that the team was using a recording bugle, Dan (an Army vet himself) said, "With utmost respect, the family would prefer not to have *Taps* played by recording. I am a trumpet player, and bugler, and a close friend of the deceased. I am prepared to play *Taps*, with your permission." The Marines gladly complied.

The thing is, there are not enough live buglers around these days. Since, by statute, every military veteran is entitled to (1) a flag, (2) a headstone (3) a military honor guard from his/her branch of service, when *Taps* needs to be played before the folding of the flag, if a live bugler is not available, a recording is used. It's an ingenious device: an unobtrusive CD player fits right into the bell of a standard bugle, the "bugler" puts it to his lips, and flips a switch, and a recording of *Taps* from Arlington National Cemetery is heard. It is better than nothing... depending on your point of view.

The lieutenant thought not. When I heard Dan's story I texted him from our school performance. I alerted him to what I had just learned. His grandfather's service was to be the next day. Within 30 minutes he had texted me back saying, *"I just learned that the Marine honor guard is bringing a recording bugle. That would be devastating for my family. Please come ahead. Thank you SO MUCH for alerting me."*

So the next day, in a beautiful old tree lined cemetery in Altadena, I stood 100 yards away under a giant oak tree. The vicar finished, the Marines fired their 12-round volley, two more marched to the flag, folded it, and the crowd came to attention. The Marine bugler, called off by the grandson-lieutenant his own commander, stood respectfully holding his *faux* bugle. All active duty service personal and veterans rendered one last hand salute to their fallen comrade.

And I played his last 24 notes.

Postscript: After folding the flag, the USMC knelt to present it to the widow "on behalf of a grateful nation." And just as they did, the four T-6 warbirds flew over, one peeling off from the others in the "missing man" formation. It was just as the lieutenant had ordered, and coordinated, for his grandfather.

It was an honor to be part of it.

[Larry's Blog](#)



The Idle American

America for Me...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Saturday, January 24, 2015

A candidate for political office--pontificating for the "umpteenth" time on the campaign stump--spewed out words at 200 per minute, with gusts to 250. At full bluster, he used the oft-quoted line about "standing on the shoulders of others gone before."

"If his shoulders are as slick as his speeches, you won't find any footprints on 'em," one critic muttered.

This is, however, a great truth worth revisiting. Many shoulders of folks who've gone on—as well as those still serving in military and public service posts—have helped America "stay stitched" during a time when more values are on trial than we have enough gavels for....

Upon exiting movie theaters recently—*Unbroken* and *American Sniper*—the quote's sobering message came to mind. I thank God for the many shoulders that help us stand tall in a world where hunkering down beckons regularly.

"One nation under God" thoughts followed. Patriotic memories flooded, including attendance at a high school football game in Mineral Wells, Texas, some 25 years ago. When the band played the National Anthem, the entire place was pin-drop quiet. I was thankful for schools where patriotism is held high, and for Fort Wolters, a long-time military base that no doubt has fostered attitudes of gratitude. (Their Viet Nam Memorial Wall is a point of community pride, with many visitors from throughout the state and beyond.)

At Sunday School, a fellow class member, spoke proudly of his grandson, Spencer Seay of Cleburne. Spencer spent seven years in the US Army, including two tours in Iraq. He and wife Lauren recently drove to Dallas for the national premiere showing of *American Sniper*....

Their experience warrants re-telling: Seated next to them in the packed-out theater were several teenage boys. They were boisterous during previews, and Lauren worried that they might spoil the film for Spencer.

At movie's end, she realized they had heard NOTHING from any of them--except for the times they wept.

Urging others to see the movie, she cited Chris Kyle—on whose life the movie centers—for his love of God, family and country. She recommends the book, too. I've moved it to the top of my "to read" list....

Also recalled was an organization called “Bugles Across America.” founded in 2000 by Tom Day. He’s a Marine veteran who works passionately to arrange for live buglers to play Taps at funerals anywhere in the nation upon request at no charge.

As the organization’s president, he has founded a museum next door to his home near Chicago, IL. When distance is not too great, he plays Taps at burials—5,500 to date and five already this month.) He’s usually accompanied by his 32-year-old daughter who has Cerebral Palsy and Autism.)

If you want some “red, white and blue” cheer, visit the website. Tom—and some 7,500 volunteer buglers—ages 9 to 92—across the land. They are real live heroes of our Uncle Sam, even if few were born on the Fourth of July....

Growing numbers of folks are learning about BAA. The website provides contact information for families who want Taps played live at memorial services. (It is estimated that 3,500 veterans die monthly, and 40% of their families are requesting BAA buglers.)

Irrespective of faith, creed color or conviction, “whosoever will” are granted bugle tributes. Yes, sometimes wrong notes are hit, but aren’t they during life, too?

Tom remembers one service that went awry....

Learning that he’d play Taps for a highly decorated Viet Nam veteran, he decided to affix the shiny bayonet to his rifle. (He customarily fires a three-shot salute prior to Taps.) The first shot sounded strange, and on the second one, the barrel exploded, sending the bayonet 15 feet into the air, “stabbing” the earth seconds later at the priest’s feet. (“God, just help me to get Taps right,” he prayed.) The rest went well. The family wanted to make pictures. The priest laughed, saying he couldn’t wait to get back to the rectory to tell the nuns.

We intend to invite our six grandchildren to accompany us to Chicago to meet Tom. They, my wife and I want to meet a patriot who has “been there, done that”—and still is....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com. Archives: venturegalleries.com

Val Koltunowicz - New Jersey

Once again I had the distinct honor and privilege of sounding Taps to honor and commemorate those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in defense of this country. Pearl Harbor Day December 7th, 2014 I was on board a Staten Island Ferry along with many members of various VFW and American Legion Posts in and around the Staten Island, New York metropolitan area.

Each year we board the ferry on the Staten Island side and on the way over to Manhattan we begin the proceedings with a prayer led by the chaplain, I then played the Star Spangled Banner, we recited the Pledge Of Allegiance and there were opening remarks by Commander Mark Kelly, Gold Star Post #1365. Also in attendance were various dignitaries including Col. Paul H. Dietrich (Ret) as well as New York State American Legion representative Frank Peters.

Once the ferry is on the New York side and passengers disembark and new passengers are on board we proceed back to the Staten Island side. We pause directly in front of the Statue Of Liberty where I sound Taps as a ceremonial wreath is tossed overboard in remembrance of all of those lost on Dec 7th 1941. We then proceed inside and I perform a "Military Medley" for the Veterans. The repertoire consisted of "Anchors Aweigh", I always start with this song on Pearl Harbor Day, then "The Caissons Go Rolling Along", "The Marine Hymn", "Semper Paratus", this year we were honored to have a contingent of a special Coast Guard Unit on board as they were deployed in the New York Harbor Area for Special Operations. I continued with "The US Air Force" and then I invited all to sing along as I played "God Bless America" to conclude the program.



It was a truly moving experience and I am so happy to have been a part of this program for the last 4 or 5 years and look forward to seeing all again next year on Pearl Harbor Day.

Val Koltunowicz, BAA NJ Bugler along with Col. Paul Dietrich(Ret)

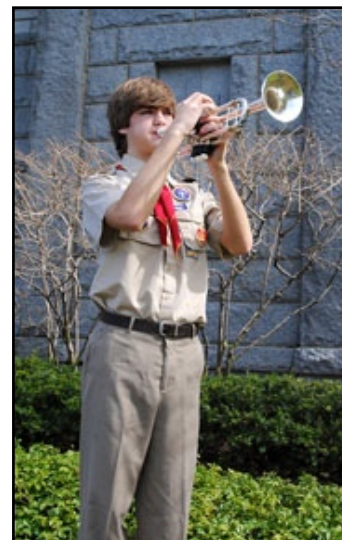
Alex Lenhart - Ohio

Last September, I traveled to Toledo, Ohio, on my first mission. I was not nervous on the trip there, but I did think a lot about what to expect. During the summer, Carol McCutcheon had carefully reviewed with me important details and expectations of buglers – I went through those details in my head. Shortly after arriving at the cemetery, an honor guard from the local VFW post arrived. Included in the honor guard were veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and Viet Nam. They were very interesting and I enjoyed talking to them. The World War II veteran explained to me what his different ribbons and medals represented.

What I did not anticipate was the moving comments from the honored veteran's family. That really made me realize the meaning of Bugles Across America.

As we got ready to leave, the funeral director came over, thanked me, and handed me a check. I explained that I felt honored to be there and no check was necessary, but he was very determined that I take it. On the ride home, my dad and I talked about what to do when that happens. I remembered something I saw on TV about a Fisher House that was to be built for families of veterans who are hospitalized in Cleveland. I decided to give the money to their cause. A friend of mine told me, several days later, that they liked the idea of helping veterans' families too. I talked to our high school principal, who talked to our student council, and pretty soon a school-wide fundraiser was held the week of Veterans Day. We raised \$1,500 to help build a Greater Cleveland Fisher House. What I thought was neat was that the students were talking about how important veterans and their families are.

Every time I go on a mission, I am reminded of how important our veterans are. I am so happy to be part of Bugles Across America.



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 June 15th.

Please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

Letters of Gratitude



In March 2006 my father Capt Charles E. Sharp, Navy, Ret., passed away. While we were trying to make arrangements for his funeral we had no idea about finding a "real" bugler. My sister searched the internet and found you. I just want to say thank you and let you know how very much we all appreciate what you do. My husband, retired Marine Corps, and I ride with the Patriot Guard and render honors for our vets. We can all tell when it is a real Bugler playing. The vets always shed a tear hoping that one day you will be there for them. Not a recording, but a real person. Thank you for your service and respect for these men and women.

Sandi Chars

To: Bryan Kautz

Subject: Capt. Joe Morgan service today

Thank you so much for honoring our family with your gift of the most wonderful live performance of Taps I have ever heard. No kidding. We wondered if there would be a recording or whether it would be a bugle or trumpet, and today as we pulled up to the graveside and passed you beneath those flags, Joe's widow, son and I all three saw you and had a steep intake of breath. You made our celebration of Joe's life and lament of his death a more beautiful, eloquent and meaningful life event than it could've been without your contribution. Endless thanks for giving of yourself to this memory we'll hold in our hearts the rest of our lives.

Nancy Scott

On Jan. 8, 2015, Bugler Ryan Shannon played live Taps at our Dad's funeral with military honors. Our Dad served in WW II, as a land based high speed radio operator, in U.S. Army Air Corps in the China-Burma-India Theater. He was stationed in several villages in the northeast province of India.

This was the first military honors funeral I have attended. Ryan, the Bugler, was very respectful and performed beautifully despite the cold and drizzly weather.

Thank you to Ryan and your organization for providing a memorable time in our family's life!

Sincerely,
Lee Bush

BAA- IN THE NEWS

Riley renders 24 notes of respect, thanks and honor to veterans

Gloria Austin, Houlton Pioneer Times

November 6, 2013

He stands off in the distance as the solemn melancholy sound from his horn wafts its somber tune. Its 24 notes invoking sentiment that is strangely recognized by all.

Taps is played most often at military funerals. However, for those who have never donned a uniform or been on a battlefield, the tune is as sobering, revered and moving because of its significance.

Gerald “Butch” Riley has been performing Taps for the American Legion Post 47 Honor Guard since 2004. “It is an experience to play Taps,” he said. “To have the privilege and the honor to render ‘Taps’ particularly at a military funeral. I feel I am part of a team at that time of highly skilled, dedicated professional military personnel, giving honor to veterans. I am signaling that honor to the family.”

Riley, who served in the U.S. Army for three years, doing two tours overseas in Vietnam, was honorably discharged in 1969. He served as a communication center specialist assigned to a MACV (Military Assistance Command Vietnam) advisory team in the Central Highlands.

Riley took trumpet lessons from Joe Robinson and played in Houlton High School’s band. He picked up his trumpet after 28 years when he joined McGills Community Band in 1990. “I have been trying to play the trumpet for 50 years,” he said with a smile.

In 2004, Riley joined Bugles Across America, a group of trumpeters/buglers who volunteer to play live Taps at military funerals.

“The founder of Bugles Across America believed deeply that veterans should have a live bugler playing Taps whenever possible as opposed to a recording,” explained Riley.

Shortly after joining the organization, the American Legion Post 47 was forming an Honor Guard with a volley salute and a bugler.



"I offered to bugle at the Memorial Day ceremonies and Veterans Day, along with any other occasion they might need somebody to play primarily Taps or other bugle calls such as 'To The Colors' when necessary," Riley said.

In 2000, the Department of Defense issued a regulation allowing veterans who were honorably discharged to be entitled to military funeral honors, consisting of at least two members of the military and the playing of Taps.

The American Legion Post 47 Honor Guard underwent training with the Army National Guard to become an approved provider of military funeral honors.

"I have been in every cemetery in northern Maine," Riley said. "I have rendered Taps or bugle calls probably about 200 times. That is minimal compared to the number of funerals that the military provides honors to."

The Buglers Across America motto translates "Sound the honor. Honor the sound." That is what Riley does each time he plays.

"I feel pride and humility," he said. "It is a sense of privilege I am able to do that. The bugler is always off in the distance. I watch these young military men and women, whether they are Army, Air Force or Navy, fold the flag and render the honors to the veteran and family and I can see the family and they are focused on these folks and it is very meaningful for them.

Then when it comes time for the bugler to sound Taps which is merely 24 notes that can evoke a lot of emotion — when it is my time to do that or any bugler's time — you know you are rendering an honor for that veteran that the family will remember. It's a final act of gratitude."

It has been projected that in the next year, a half million veterans will pass away.

"Imagine the workload of the military honor teams," Riley noted. "It is really a privilege to work with these service men and women that render these honors. They do such a good job. You won't find the detail performed any better in Arlington than right here."

So, as the notes drift, a long tradition of tribute to veterans is marked with distinction through a melody.

"Playing Taps is an honor and we try to make it the best that we can," said Riley. Taps to a veteran is special. It is recognizing and expressing gratitude to comrades. Comrades in Arms who have passed. For others, the solemn tune is just a poignant reminder of the price of freedom.



Extraordinary People: Live Taps for Clark Terry

Rochester News

On March 15th, Rochester trumpeter Tom Allen traveled to Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx to play Echo Taps at the gravesite of jazz icon Clark Terry.

He volunteered for this tribute, just as he did for a tribute at Riverside Cemetery in Rochester, two years ago. Tom played live Taps at a military funeral for Alfred Monk, who served in World War II. Across the country, nearly 2000 veterans die every day. Some fear the time-honored tradition of live Taps, will die with them.

In the early 2000's, the Pentagon began using recorded Taps to keep up with the pace of dying veterans, and the mounting casualties of the wars overseas. Today, 4 out of 5 military funerals use boomboxes and digital bugles. "If only 20% of families are going to get a live bugler at their funeral for their hero, what's it going to be like in 50 years, when all these kids who signed up after 9/11 are in their 70's and 80's?" Tom asks.

Tom is one of 300 civilian musicians who travel around New York State to play live Taps ---- which is what brought him to the Bronx.

Clark Terry was once called the greatest trumpet player who ever lived. He was also a navy veteran of WWII.

When Terry died and was laid to rest in February, some of the best musicians in the world gathered for his funeral. But at the cemetery, the Navy played a recorded version of Taps. To make things right, Tom and other trumpeters arranged a final bugle call. "If this tradition just disappears on our watch, this generation of brass musicians, that's just not good enough," he says.

Fifteen days after his military funeral, Clark Terry got the real but rare tribute of live Taps.

Click for [video](#)

[Please click](#) for BAA New York's video of the event.





Volunteer Buglers Help Ensure Final Tribute for Veterans

The Gadsden Times - Tuesday, March 17, 2015

It's not easy to find something beautiful in a time of sadness and mourning, but a military funeral qualifies.

Those who sat transfixed before their TV sets more than a half-century ago saw the full ride on President (and war hero) John F. Kennedy's final trip to Arlington National Cemetery — a horse-drawn caisson pulling the casket; the riderless horse with boots reversed in the stirrups; a missing man fly-over by fighter jets; and a 21-gun salute.

However, any honorably discharged U.S. military veteran is eligible by law, if the family requests it, to have at least a two-person honor guard at his or her funeral to ceremonially fold and present the flag that was draped over the casket, and to play Taps.

The problem is, there aren't enough buglers to go around these days. The most frequent substitutes — using a pre-recorded version or a battery-powered, speaker-equipped Ceremonial Bugle that allows a non-musician to, basically, fake it — just aren't the same as a real, live, uniform-clad person playing that mournful tune on a real, live bugle.

Enter Bugles Across America, a nonprofit organization founded 15 years ago by Tom Day. It has over 4,600 volunteer buglers on call, ready to play Taps — at no charge — at military funerals upon a family's request. All it takes is a call from a funeral home representative or visit to buglesacrossamerica.org.

The volunteer can either wear a dress suit, a Bugles Across America uniform or, if he or she is a veteran of the military, a dress uniform from that branch of service.

One of those volunteers is Gadsden's Keith Mayo. He is a retired employee of the state Department of Corrections and was in the USMC for twelve years. He's a trombonist in "real life," and his musical résumé includes the Kings of Swing and the Gadsden Symphony Orchestra.

He began looking for ways to help veterans after last year's funeral of Col. Ola Lee Mize of Gadsden, a Medal of Honor recipient, and heard about Bugles Across America from a friend.

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

Small crowd lays wreath for 70th anniversary of bloody Battle of the Bulge

By Bill Trotter, January 25, 2015

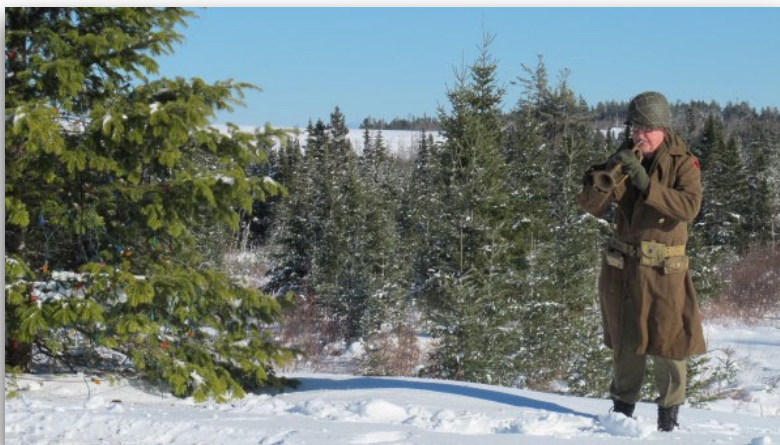
COLUMBIA FALLS, Maine — A small group of people gathered Sunday to commemorate a battle of World War II known as one of the largest and bloodiest of the conflict.

Gathering by a perpetually lit Christmas tree, a symbol of the Battle of the Bulge because of its timing around the holiday, about a dozen people hung their heads in prayer, members of local Boy Scout Troop 139 stood by as a color guard, and Peter Dunston of Cherryfield, an Army veteran who dressed Sunday as a World War II soldier, played Taps on a bugle. Sunday marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the battle, which raged from mid-December 1944 until January 25, 1945.

Following the brief ceremony, the group went to the Wreaths Across America offices in Columbia Falls for refreshments and to discuss the famous battle.

The Christmas tree, located near the Balsam Valley Amphitheater on Route 1, is maintained by Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit group that every year delivers thousands of Maine-made Christmas wreaths to graves at Arlington National Cemetery and to veterans' monuments throughout the country. The tree is a symbol of Christmas Day 1944, when thousands of American troops were separated from their families and unable to celebrate the holiday while fighting against the German army's unsuccessful westward push in the Ardennes forest near the border of France, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Article taken from [Bangor Daily News](#)



Younger Generation Honors Fallen Soldiers at Wreaths Across America Ceremony

January 25, 2015

Erica Stapleton



Wreaths Across America is a Maine-based non-profit organization dedicated to honoring veterans killed in war.

Sunday, they honored World War Two soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge..

The battle of the bulge ended seventy years ago today, January 25th 1945.

Although ultimately victorious, U-S troops suffered tens of thousands of casualties during this 6-week long fight.

Many gathered to pay respect for those fallen heroes, including a younger generation.

"A lot of people don't know about it, they've heard about it once or twice but they don't understand what it was or know what went on or how the soldiers, what kind of conditions they were under," says Jacob Ender, a Cherryfield Venture Scout.

Battle of the Bulge, revered as one of the most decisive battles in WWII, was a turning point for American troops and allied forces fighting in western Europe. Seventy years later these soldiers are still remembered.

It's their stories that we really try to remember and teach our kids especially so that they learn all that we have and they have just didn't come for free," explains veteran and scout leader Peter Duston. "We do not want them to take it for granted, we want them to remember."

This is just one faction of U.S. troops honored by Wreaths Across America. Their mission:

Remember, Honor, Teach, is exactly what's

happening at this ceremony. Remembering the heroes, honoring their cause and teaching younger generations about sacrifice.

"It was significant because it's Battle of the Bulge and it teaches you that freedom isn't free and it's nice to remember that and take a moment to step back and get that perspective," explains Venture Scout Sarah Eaton.





Including kids in ceremonies like this one helps bridge the gap between generations.

"It has a great impact on them," Duston explains.

"They go away with the message that there's something bigger than just them and their school and their little lives. That goes back to something that people before them helped, helped them to enjoy, helped them to have."

"We helped with the flags and my brother helped out with the wreath," explains Chase Stafford, a boy scout from Troop 139 in Milbridge.

"I like to be the right example," explains Jeremiah Stafford, Chase's father. "I'm active duty Coast Guard as well out of Jonesport and to help reinforce the fact with the young ones that the ability to go to school, play sports is something that's free. People have given us that opportunity and pass that along to those who have actually seen the front lines or what it actually does and remember that it does happen and they need to do their part to remember that."

The ceremony at Columbia Falls was held at what is called the 'Perpetually Lit Christmas Tree.'

That tree is lit all year long and it pays tribute to the veterans who are away from their families, serving the United States during the holidays.

For the online article and video, [Click here.](#)



Group of Buglers Give Veterans Proper Goodbye, Families Closure

Perry Schaible, WKRC Cincinnati
February 27, 2015

It's just 24 notes. 24 tough notes to play, and often tougher to hear.



Soldiers first played Taps for a fallen comrade in 1862 during the Civil War.

It's still the last goodbye for members of the military.

Many times a recorded version is played. But, members of "Bugles Across America" believe the fallen deserve more -- at the very least, a living, breathing musician to play military funerals live.

"We always play to the casket," Carol McCutcheon said. "We know that we are burying someone's loved one in the highest respect that we possibly can."

Carol McCutcheon joined the organization last year.

"My brother died while he was serving in the Navy and he had live Taps at his funeral. It was beautiful, it was memorable, and it was the final salute that the Navy gave him before he was buried," McCutcheon said.

Peter Sturdevant has been playing funerals for seven years. Last year alone, participated in 170.

"We feel that having a live bugler gives the family closure in a way that a recorded version really can't do," Sturdevant said. "Because, when I pick up my horn to play, it comes from (heart) and it honors the veteran in a way that is so emotional and it gives the family closure."

The great thing about "Bugles Across America" is that it's all free for military families.

The buglers are 100 percent volunteers. Right now there are 190 players in Ohio.

For more on how to request a live bugler click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to read more

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



“One of our Alabama Post members was informed by a guard member that Echo Taps is no longer allowed. The only reference I could find is AR 220-90 and AR 600-25 which are Army regs. However, as I read it, they do not pertain to other services, the V.A. and V.S.Os. What is the scoop?”

FICTION

It is true, and has been for many years now, that all service branch regulations indicate that Echo Taps is not approved for military funeral honors. Please understand that this is more an outcome of the very limited numbers of military musicians available for such duty than it is of maintaining some stipulated tradition. It would not do, on one hand, to indicate that there are not enough military 'buglers' to cover all missions (hence their fall-back on a recorded version of some sort), and then turn around and assign more than one bugler to any one given mission.

You, however, are absolutely correct in noting that these Army (name the branch of service) regs do not apply to or constrain other providers..... such as VSO honor guards or Bugles Across America. We will, if requested and have the resources available, sound Echo Taps at military funeral honors. With this caveat, however,..... if serving with a regular military honor guard in the role of supplementing their honors detail to provide a live bugler, the detail leader may remain adamant about adhering to his military regulations that deny the sounding of Echo Taps. We will then abide by that detail leader's instruction. We are, in these particular instances, on duty to serve under his/her leadership and direction. Even in these cases, some detail commanders will allow the sounding of Echo Taps, if we are otherwise prepared to do so, and it can be shown that it was the request of the family. Some National or Veterans Cemeteries will not allow the Echo Taps for military funeral honors as a way of maintaining uniformity and holding to the tight schedule they normally are operating under.

Howard T Reitenbaugh
National Coordinator
BAA Pennsylvania State Director



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

Pins and Patches: Please advise all that the "Bugle Pins" we have now are not made of steel and will break when bent. I'm currently trying to find a new supplier for our BAA pins and patches. Please be patient.

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.

Horn Accessories: I have three "Warm a Horn Covers" and three Kelly 7c Mouthpieces.

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.

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.

States in need:

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

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 "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.