

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing



Greetings to All,

I would remind you of the very obvious, we are well in to the hot season for many of us. Be sure to dress appropriately for the heat, and stay well hydrated. We don't need anyone getting sick.

As always, I need to remind all Buglers, when you accept a mission you are then to contact the requestor directly. Preferably by phone, but at the very least by email. Let the requestor know YOU are the Bugler; you understand the mission; you know where you are to be, and when you are to be there.

Not to alarm anyone, but always be aware of your surroundings, and keep a sharp eye out for anything that might appear to be strange or out of place. All too sadly there are folks in America that may not agree with what we do, or that the veteran deserves to be honored at all. I offer this just as a sort of "Word to the Wise".

As you have had the opportunity to read in the previous issues of the newsletter, BAA is having its second members' conference on the third weekend of August. While this has been announced as a program for Directors, it is open to anyone that may be interested in taking on a leadership role with BAA. The morning sessions will be at the Mayfair Park Conference Center in Westchester, Illinois. The afternoons will be at the new BAA Learning Center in Berwyn where all will have the opportunity to view the display items and the BAA items that are available for Directors' use in his or her state. The evening meal will be provided with soft drinks.



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Things that may interest you

Presentations will be made by Tom Day, Howard Reitenbaugh, Edward Bilger, Jim Gallombardo, and possibly others. This is to be a program of fact-finding, idea sharing, information presentation, as well as answering questions about how to best manage the administrative responsibilities for your state. Bring along your laptop or tablet computer, as we intend to make much of this interactive.

Many of the attendees have reserved rooms at the Hampton Inn Westchester, so I am certain that there will be many informal 'round table' discussions and swapping of war stories taking place there in the evenings. This will be a great opportunity to put face with name and to get to know these folks that are part of 'your' team. This hotel is close to the Convention Center, and they advertise free shuttle service to nearby facilities. The entire experience will be a chance to share ideas that could make BAA even better.

August will also be the time of the American Legion National Convention to be held this year in Baltimore, MD. A BAA booth will be set up and manned by Maryland Directors Chip Stickler and Dean Martin. Those not coming to the Chicago leadership meeting are welcome to contact Chip to offer your help there.

Julie and I will be at the Elks National Convention in Indianapolis from July 2nd to the 8th. BAA will have its own booth with horns on display and informational materials and handouts. I will open each day in the vendors and display area with "To the Color" and close each day with "Taps". Anyone in the area is more than welcome to join us there.

Be safe on the 4th of July, celebrate and cherish our freedoms, and as always may God bless you all for helping the families of the fallen in their time of need.

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.

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. ******



Join the growing community of organizations and individuals that are planning and joining events and activities this year to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of "the Greatest Generation's Greatest Day" - August 14, 1945 - the day World War II ended and America began laying the foundations to ensure a better future for their children and their children's children.

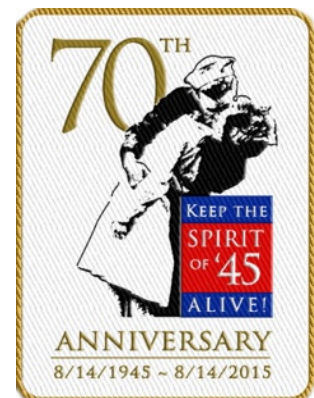
Commemorative events and activities are being organized in hundreds of communities throughout the country. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible to register to sound Taps at these events.

The 70th Anniversary Commemorative Weekend will conclude with a tribute in the form of a global wreath laying ceremony on Sunday, August 16, that will take place at more than 1,000 WWII memorials, National Cemeteries and other locations around the world. BAA buglers, you are particularly needed here. It will be from 10-11 am in your respective time zones.

All participating buglers who document their participation will qualify for this 3" patch.

To find and register for an event near you,
please visit <http://sof45-calendar.org>

Thank you,
Warren Hegg
National Supervisor
"Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive"
www.Spiritof45.org
Follow us on Facebook!
(408) 857-5252



Know of an event?

Submit events to JenDayBAA@iCloud.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!



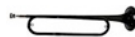
Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is a small image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into either dialogue or a photo. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle.

“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 **July 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 #22 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

Bernadette Cartin of Pennsylvania

Don Kyle Collins of Connecticut

Lynn Stroth of Maryland

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.

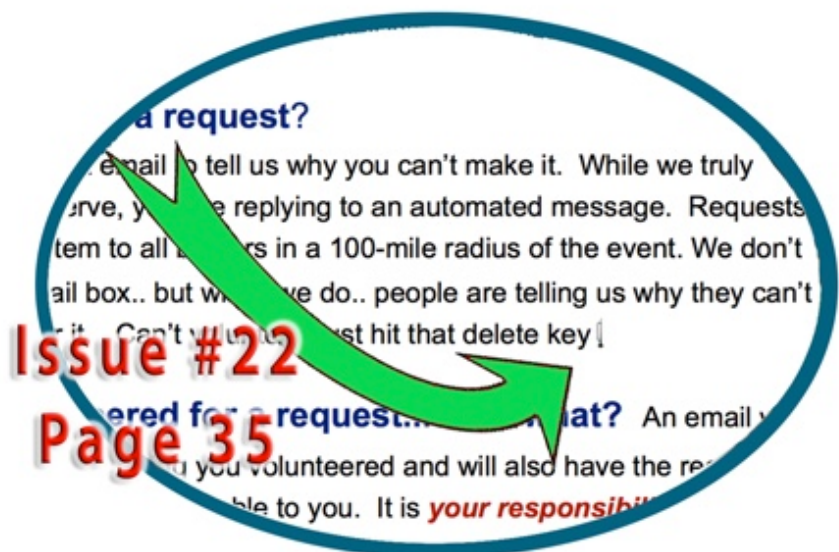
The winner of the third **Grand Prize**:

Steve Bow - Ohio

(selected from the nine winners of latest semi-annual contest period) is:

He has received a horn from the BAA Horn Closet, as selected by Tom Day.

Baffled as to it's location?



State Director Spotlight: Minnesota

Assistant State Director: Jerry Mays

How long have you been with BAA?

I joined BAA in Sept. of 2007, so I have been a volunteer for almost eight years, and have enjoyed it every day. I have always been very patriotic, and although I never served our country in the military I served our country two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the South Pacific. Being a bugler with BAA is my way of saying thank you to all who have served our great country in the military and have put their life on the line for our freedoms.

How long have you been playing?

I started playing cornet in the 5th grade and have played ever since. Both in marching bands in high school and now playing regularly with BAA and also at my church on Sundays. I now play both bugle and trumpet.



What is the hardest part about being a State Director?

The hardest part is making as sure as possible that all Veterans services are covered if at all possible with a live bugler. Although it has been a hard task breaking down the barriers at the posts that are using the digital bugle. I have had many successes, but it has been a difficult journey worth every mile.

What is the best part about being a State Director?

Meeting and visiting with all of the other members who are committed to our goals and service.

What has been your best experience with BAA?

Although it was the hardest thing I have ever had to do, I was honored to have played Taps for a fallen soldier who died in Iraq after being there only two weeks. I was also honored to represent BAA when I was asked to accompany an Honor Flight to Washington DC and play Taps at the WWII Memorial for the Veterans from both Iowa and Wisconsin.

What are your goals for your state?

To recruit members, and to make sure they are qualified to play Taps for our veterans who deserve the very best we can provide. Also to see that as many Veterans funerals as humanly possible are covered by BAA.

Assistant State Director: Derek Berg

My name is Derek Berg from Rushford, Minnesota. I've been playing trumpet since I was five years old, became an accomplished trumpet player, and now enjoy using this gift for those who have served this great country of ours.

I became Assistant State Director for Minnesota in early 2011. Every funeral I play for, I feel is an honor and privilege. I could not serve in the military so I try to serve those who did. I also play "To The Color" for flag burning ceremonies. I am a member of the Sons of the American Legion and wear their uniform for bugling locally. I am a regular member of our local Legion Honor Guard, Murphy-Johnson Post #94.

I work full time as a quality control technician for Peerless Chain, Inc. in Winona but if possible, I am willing to take vacation or switch shifts to be able to play.



BAA Spotlight: Aidan Peterson, BAA's Youngest Bugler

by Howard Reitenbaugh, Pennsylvania State Director & National Coordinator



I am so very proud of one of our newest Pennsylvania buglers, Aidan Peterson. I can admit that I was a bit leery when he first signed up (4/11/2015) and I found out he was a 9 year old third-grader. But when Assistant State Director Max Gonano interviewed him (and mother, Amy), then heard the young man play..... well, Max was extremely impressed with his mature and absolutely terrific sound. I find that Aidan's trumpet teacher is the principal trumpet for the Philadelphia Orchestra; Aidan has played with Chris Botti; he has played concerts with adult orchestras, and has done many solo performances.

He accepted a request for a Coast Guard service that was held in Bensalem, PA. His mom said that it would work out perfectly as it was on their way for his tryouts for summer music camp..... Oh, he's already attended that summer camp for three years on trumpet, but this year he was going for cello!



When he took the mission, I talked to mom, and I did give the funeral home and CG a heads up that the bugler was going to be a young man, but that I had complete faith in his ability to sound Taps in a totally acceptable and dignified manner.

That evening I received a wonderful message regarding his mission. It makes this old man very proud and very happy to know that "The end is not in sight" as far as young people wishing to honor our heroes and veterans.



A Message From Aidan's Mom...

I'm a very proud Mom as Aidan does such amazing things all the time. His motto is, *"I may be small, but I can do big things,"*. Aidan is taught the value of giving back to the community with acts of service. He volunteers at nursing homes, where he meets veterans and hears their stories. He also understands the healing power of music because he volunteers to play in hospitals too. "I want to volunteer with Bugles Across America to honor my country and the acts of service of so many brave men and women.". Aidan plays the trumpet and cello, he is in the high school string ensemble and

has played with Grammy award winners, internationally, and with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

Roy Zanni - CA. Assistant Director

This photo is of me playing Taps at Miramar National Cemetery here in San Diego, taken by the local newspaper which appeared on their website. I also had about 5 seconds of local network time across the stations. Normally that's not a big deal but I've been playing Honor Guard details there for the last couple years (10-15 details week.) This year they couldn't get any military band to play so BAA was asked to play Taps. Pretty cool and good publicity for BAA.



Paul Grustans - Minnesota

A few years ago I volunteered to play Taps for a funeral service in a small, residential neighborhood cemetery. Across the street were homes and large yards. Yards filled with dogs! As soon as I started to play, one immediately sang out in response. Then his buddy in the next yard joined him in answering my second phrase. A third culprit entered on the next phrase. I felt absolutely powerless to do anything about it! The family and friends of the Veteran began to laugh and I did all I could to keep from bursting out in laughter myself! Somehow I made it through, but the "trio" kept going for a few more measures. I looked over at the family and they were wiping tears of laughter from their eyes, and then I too joined them in wiping my own. After the ceremony, they said their father loved dogs and the canine ad lib to Taps was a perfect fit to the memory of their Dad!

Jim Doepke - Florida

Here I am assisting in Military Honors aboard US Coast Guard vessel off Ft Myers Beach, Florida.



Jerry Riley - Maine

On May 13, I had the privilege of rendering Taps for a retired Master Sargent of the USAF. What made this unique to me was that the ceremony took place in Tobique, New Brunswick, Canada.

The USAF honors team (SSGT's Douglas Bishoff and Sterling Zephyr) travelled 120 miles from the Bangor, Maine Air National Guard Base to Houlton, Maine where they picked me up for the remaining trip. This involved crossing the Border, clearing Canadian Customs, then driving another 60 miles or so to the Tobique First Nation Maliseet Indian Reservation.



This was a first for me and for the AF team and I would be interested to know if these events are common along the border states.

This is the three of us standing at the entrance sign to the reservation. The picture was taken by a Tribal Guardian..the equivalent of our Game Wardens.

Manuel Florez - New Mexico

I had the great honor of sounding Taps during my visit to Normandy, France during this year's D-Day festivities. I received permission to play at the American Cemetery at Coleville-sur-Mer, near Omaha Beach. I played at dusk as the Stars and Stripes was lowered for the day.

The cemetery people were so friendly and they said they were delighted I had traveled all the way from New Mexico to render Taps. Although a solemn ceremony, I was happy and moved to have taken part in that part of the ceremony. I will always remember this event.



Bill Seaman - Wisconsin

On Armed Forces Day, several Wisconsin BAA buglers came together at Wood National Cemetery to honor our Veterans by playing unison as well as 4-part Taps.



David Cox - Tennessee Director

I had received a family request for a Marine veteran's service at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. When I arrived at the appropriate time it was apparent that the Marine Honor Guard had not been informed as to the family's request for a live bugler. I was however kindly received and after a few introductions one of the Marines asked me if I was good at it (bugling). "Well some days are better than others" I jokingly replied. A little bit later another Marine asked me if I needed to warm up, but I simply replied "No, I'm good to go". It was at this point that it occurred to me, they don't know if I can sound Taps or not. The Army or Navy, and especially the Coast Guard all know me, but this is my first time with the Marines and they're not so sure. The dress uniform is sharp, the horn is polished, but can he play? I went over and introduced myself to the Marine "bugler" as she stood in her position away from the others. She had not one but two digital bugles with her. We had a nice conversation about her service with the Marines and I gave her a little history lesson on the bugle call Taps. I informed her about the two versions, the Sousa version her Marine Corps uses and the Butterfield version the other services use. I told her I would play it the Marine Corps way today, something her electronic bugle couldn't do. After a warm-up break in our vehicles we reassembled as the mission was to begin. As we came to attention, she stood a few feet away from me holding one of her digital

bugles. As best as I could, without turning my head, I confirmed with her that she was not going to play. "Yes", she said, "they just want me at the ready in case you can't finish it." Well, I did finish it beautifully and without error. I respect their attention to detail and their desire to see that everything is done correctly and look forward to working with them again someday.



Photo attached: Sounding Taps at my father's funeral, Lloyd Cox, USN WWII. On left is my "wing man", BAA bugler Maj Andy Addison (USAF ret). When sounding Taps for a loved one it is always good to have a back up bugler at the ready, just in case you can't finish the call.

Mark Winey - New Jersey Assistant State Director

Here are few moments I wanted to share

Memorial Day 2015

This Memorial Day I had an opportunity to volunteer with local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7856. I was honored to be escorted around town for a half day with the VFW rifle team.



We provided a rifle volley and Taps several times throughout the morning:

- Raritan Township's Memorial Day ceremony
- All four cemeteries in the township where veterans are buried
- Memorial service in front of the VFW building.

When I volunteer they rarely know my name. That is perfectly fine with me. I don't do this for the recognition; I do this to provide recognition.

Memorial Day was different. A local reporter asked me for my name... so I was glad that I carry my Bugles Across America card in my wallet. He mentioned our organization in his article which appeared on NJ.com and also in print in the Hunterdon County Democrat newspaper.

Memorable Moment – Honoring a family member

October 29, 2014

Herb Amory was a warm, funny man with a quick wit. When I learned that he passed away, I encouraged my sister-in-law to request a Bugler through the website. I quickly accepted my first mission to play for a family member.



Unlike other missions, I received a lot of feedback since I was part of the family. His daughter told me *"I didn't get much comfort from the eulogy, the prayers during the service or receiving the flag... but Taps... that did it for me."* It really drove home the importance of these missions.

This is what I wrote that day on my Facebook page:

"I've often had the honor of playing Taps for veterans that I have never met.

Today I had a rare privilege... sounding Taps to honor a family member.

Today was different... today was hard.

- Rest in Peace Herbert R. Amory"

Memorable Moment – Playing at Arlington November 16, 2013

As a civilian, it was a rare privilege to be invited to sound Taps at Arlington National Cemetery. For the 50th Anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's funeral, over 100 bugler volunteers from across the country were in

attendance.

There were moving speeches honoring Sergeant Keith Clark, Principal Bugler of the United States Army Band, who sounded Taps for the President. The ceremony included performing an arrangement of Taps in four part harmony and Echo Taps sounded across the entire cemetery.



About Me

I've been playing Taps for years. Growing up I played Taps a number of times at memorials and funerals for local officers and firemen. I picked up the trumpet in 1979 in elementary school and enjoyed it from the beginning. My grandfather was a trumpet player. In high school, I used money he left me to buy my Bach Stradavarius model 37, which I still have today. While in high school, I played in several groups, including the Moonglowers, the oldest continuously operated high school jazz band in the state of New Jersey. In 1988, I was accepted to Ithaca College Bachelor of Music program.



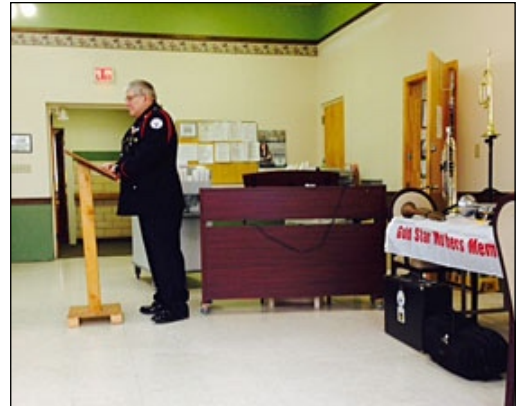
Although I transitioned to a different major and career, music continues to be a big part of my life. While I no longer have the endurance to play long concerts, I am grateful that I can easily play 24 notes to honor our veterans.

Chip Stickler - Maryland State Director

My wife and I were invited to attend a dinner / meeting at Michaux Manor in South Mountain, Pennsylvania. The Activities Director who invited us, Pam Smith, is formerly the Choral Director at the Academy where I have been the Instrumental Music Director for many years.

We set up a display of some of my bugles and trumpets, a Gold Star Mothers Flag, and some cards and brochures. I was given the opportunity to speak about our organization, and how we honor our veterans. On completing the talk, I sounded a slow, lingering Taps.

I then opened the floor to questions, and was blown away by the reception. For the next 35 minutes, we answered questions and listened to their stories of relatives, loved ones, and friends who have fought for and served this country.

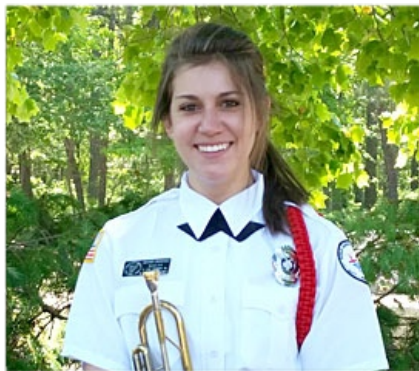


When the meeting was over, I invited them to come up and take a close look at the horns and to speak with us. For the next hour and fifteen minutes, we shook hands and were thanked for what we do. We received an invitation to return on Memorial Day to offer a musical tribute there to our fallen heroes.

As of now, this will be the third tribute on that day. Maryland Assistant Director, Dean Martin and I are booked to lead our standard group, plus as many of our BAA Buglers who decide to join us at 10 a.m. for the well-attended Memorial Day Ceremony at Rest Haven Cemetery in Hagerstown. Then a standing invitation to lead the ceremony at Fahrney Keedy Home and Village in Boonsboro, at 2 pm. At 6 that evening we will lead the Memorial Day Ceremony at Michaux Manor. As you can see, BAA-Maryland Division is becoming very active, and we are quite pleased, to say the least. It is a privilege to be associated with this group.

David R. Beering - Illinois

This is a photo of me at Operating Base Jalalabad, Afghanistan. This photograph was taken just prior to my sounding Taps at dusk at the base in January of this year. Not pictured, but behind me to my left is a wall that has inscribed on it the names of every US service member killed in the line of duty while stationed at Jalalabad. The base does not typically have Taps as a part of their daily ritual, so this event took a bit of organizing. I was particularly concerned that we didn't make anyone upset with the presentation of Taps at dusk. The base Mayor (a US Army Captain) was very accommodating, and offered that *"It would be a treat"* for the base to experience live Taps. Needless to say, it was a very meaningful experience for me personally, and it was a privilege to honor those men & women who were/are serving our country so courageously.



Heather C. Berchtold - New Jersey

I had the honor of sounding Taps on May 25, 2015 at Germania Cemetery, Galloway Township, NJ

Howard Hudson - California State Director

This was on the page of the Santa Barbara News Press on Tuesday, May 25.

"Bugler Howard Hudson plays Taps as the flag flies at half-staff."





Annual Echo Taps event at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

by Howard Reitenbaugh,
Pennsylvania State Director

Armed Forces Day 2015 saw a grand group of Bugles Across America volunteers

gather on the beautiful grounds of Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in central Pennsylvania for our ninth annual Echo Taps event. We have held this with as few as six buglers, but the participation has been growing steadily since the early days. This year we had 31 buglers in the line for the cascade Taps. We had guys and gals, we had our youngest bugler at the age of 9, and our oldest..... well, let's just say he's a good bit older than that. *I'm only as old as I feel!*



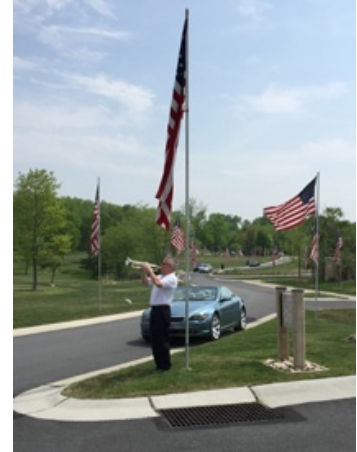
Registration began at 0930 on Saturday morning in the lobby of the Administration Building. The cemetery Director and his staff have been terrific hosts over the years as they accommodate us with space and set up assistance. As soon as one enters the grounds, a trip of soul-stirring site is begun as the roadway is lined on both sides by hundreds of flags waving in the breeze. This "Avenue of Flags" continues through the roadways within the cemetery. The grounds are immaculately manicured and everything seems to be 'in place' and 'inspection ready'. As the participants arrive, my wife checks them in, assigns them a 'posting' by number, hands them a map of the cemetery that shows their assigned position, gives a quick briefing on the protocols for the day, determines if they are planning to join us for the luncheon meeting afterward, and generally takes charge of the often confusing gathering within the lobby. Bev does a great job while I am busy with the folks in another room for last minute music preparation and rehearsal.



By 10:30 we ask our participants to grab a bottle of water we've put on ice so they can remain hydrated, and then proceed to their assigned position. By following Bev's verbal instruction and the handy map she's given them, they will look for the small orange marker flag with their number on it. We were prepared for the several 'extras' that came in this year by extending side-loops in our line of numbered positions. That way, if they were needed... no problem.

If the extras were not needed, there would be no observable break in the flow of cascading Taps.

With all buglers in position, the cascade, as always, begins precisely at 1100 as the number 1 bugler begins to sound Taps. As that bugler completes the 21st note, they are now turned toward the next bugler in line who will then begin. That way the one bugler's last three notes are in unison with the next bugler's first three notes and a clear, discernible sounding of Taps continues throughout the grounds. The buglers are positioned approximately 100 yards apart..... with some 'fudging' to accommodate terrain so that each bugler is within sight of the participants on either side of them. With 31 buglers taking part, the cascade continued uninterrupted for over 20 minutes until the last bugler's notes faded away. All buglers remain in position until that ending. My salute is a signal that they can break ranks.



After the Taps cascade has concluded, all participants then gathered within the Pennsylvania Memorial to present a musical tribute program. All but two of the Taps buglers took part in this program. One of our buglers, Brant Kenny, took over as our maestro to direct the music. The program began at 11:45 with a trio playing our National Anthem. We then played the service songs in the properly prescribed order, as we invite all military or veterans in attendance to stand as they

hear the song representing their service branch. The Trumpet Choir then performed a three-part arrangement of "Il Silenzio" that was arranged for us by Assistant State Director Brad Hersch. Brad is still facing a long and painful road of recovery, and we once again missed having him with us.

This number was followed by "Within Sacred Walls", a six-part Erik Morales composition that was originally commissioned to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the International Trumpet Guild.

There could hardly be a more appropriate setting for this number to be played than we have here within the space of this hallowed memorial.

Our speaker this year was Bob Snook, Commander VFW Post 7463, New Bloomfield, PA. Bob reminded us of the sacrifices that were made over the years by all those whose grave markers surrounded us, as well as our obligation to maintain a morally strong and civilized nation for our descendants.

We then had eight trumpets play the four-part Silver Taps, followed by a benediction given by our honorary Chaplain for the event, Sgt. John Tate, USA (ret).

As in all previous years, we close the program with a multi-verse arrangement of "Amazing Grace" that I put together. It opens with a solo cornet verse, followed by a three-part trumpet verse. This then segues into an up-tempo variation on the theme with the bass trumpet lead. The 1st and 2nd part trumpets play one verse and then a flugelhorn duet closes. Well, not quite. When everyone thinks it has ended, a lone trumpet from out of view plays an 'echo' verse.

Time to pack up our gear and head to the nearby restaurant that has served as our luncheon meeting spot for the last four years. This is time for renewing friendships, as well as getting to know some new folks. I usually have some awards to hand out along with an abundance of Thank You's for the participants. By about 2:30, Bev and I are heading back to the cemetery to pack up our display area and make a final sweep of the grounds to assure we have not left anything behind. About two and a half hours later we get home, unpack and start planning for next year.

Remember, this event is not restricted to Pennsylvania members, so anyone out there that would like to join us..... put May 21, 2016 on your calendar. We'll be there.



Group picture of the Trumpet Choir

David Burkhardt - Colorado State Director

I want to say again “Thank you very much” to those of you who were able to participate in BAA’s sounding of Echo Taps this Memorial Day at Fort Logan in Colorado. Eleven players performed in response to the request “Calling All Brass”. It was a nice day.

Our Governor John Hickenlooper was present and gave a speech. On the way out, I received compliments and thanks from members of the public for our presentation.

It is a testament to your fine playing and professionalism that we continue to be invited back to Fort Logan for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Those of you who were new to this event: you did a great job learning the ropes. I am grateful to those of you who have many of these under your belt: your support and expertise are valued beyond words.



Steve Ferrari - Massachusetts

I started playing a few years ago for my dad who is 90. My dad had been a bugler since he was ten and with my mom, been involved in Drum and Bugle core. The horn in this photo is what he first learned on 80 years ago.

He was drafted as a senior out of high school and served in the Army under Patton. He was respected for his bugle skills and taken care of in Germany through the battle of the bulge.

My mom was a drummer for the old Indian Crow band and played the “Star Spangle Banner” with the group years ago at Fenway Park for the Boston Red Sox.

As for me, my parents are both still alive and I would be darned if anyone other than me was going to play Taps for my dad, and I absolutely refuse for it to be a recording. That’s when I decided to learn how to play Taps. I now have 3 bugles, 2 trumpets and have learned a few hundred songs and love it to death.

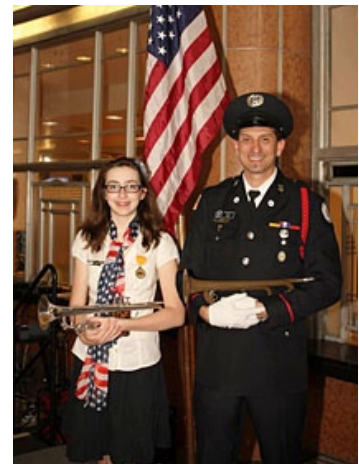
I never would have imagined this was all going to happen to me and at the same time I found BAA. I registered, bought this beautiful uniform and while I can’t accept as many as I’d like, I do what I can.

Steve Bow - Ohio Assistant Director



Armed Forces Day

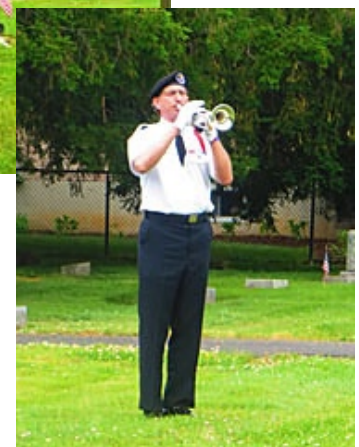
The Armed Forces Day event was at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal and we had, I believe, twelve buglers from Ohio that participated in the Group Taps both days. My dad, Lt Col Kenneth Bow and my mom Judy helped cover the BAA Table we had set up on both days. We were asked to return next year and participate again.



Proud father as my daughter Claudia sounded Taps

Memorial Day

I had a wonderful morning representing BAA and sounding Taps four times today in inclement weather. The Loveland Memorial Day parade avoided the rain but the ceremony didn't - I was drenched. We play rain or shine! I played on my 1943 bugle, Kanstul Bb Field Trumpet (Bugle) and my Getzen Doc Severisen Custom to close the morning out. Nothing but the best for our fallen Veterans.



ALL photos by Claudia Bow and Mitchell Bow.

Paid It Forward

by Judith Shellenberger, Pennsylvania



On September 12, 2014, I received a bugler request email. I immediately answered the call to play Taps on October 16 at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery for Vernon Arthur Dukes. For the past 10 years I have traveled there to perform "Echo Taps" on Armed Forces Day. In June, I have also performed "Taps" at this beautiful, serene cemetery for my brother in law, 1st LT, James E. Shellenberger, USAF. Shortly after my name was confirmed I had a call from the daughter of Vernon Dukes, Lynne Galloro, who asked if Alan Tolbert could join me that day. I learned a wonderful story

that day and I want to share with BAA members.

Vernon A. Dukes was always interested in music and learned to play the horn as a child in Clymer, PA. His uncle bought him his first trumpet as a child. He enlisted in the US Navy on November 9, 1945 after graduating from high school in Indiana, PA. He served as a Second Bugler on the USS Philippine Sea (CV 47) and then as First Bugler on the USS Leyte (CV 32).



Vernon received the *American Area Victory Award* and an honorable discharge on September 25, 1947. After his Navy days, he continued to stay active in music, playing his horn in jazz bands and also playing the organ and directing choirs at various churches that the family attended over the years. In later years, he had to give up some of his music activities because of his health. He decided to donate his horn to a local middle school music program in Shippensburg, PA, which turned out to be the program where Alan Tolbert was learning to play the horn.



Alan is now a junior at Shippensburg Area Senior High School in Shippensburg, PA. He has played the trumpet since fifth grade and has participated in every trumpet-involved activity that the high school offers. He came in contact with Vernon's daughter, through his current private instructor and former middle school teacher, Mark Wilson. Vernon Dukes had donated his old Getzen trumpet to the Shippensburg Area

Middle School and it was given to Alan. Lynn thought that it would be very nice to have Taps performed on her father's old horn.

Alan became involved in military honors and has been a Civil War re-enactor since late June of 2008. He became involved in reenacting through a local event and took an interest in being the bugler for the group. The National Civil War Field Music School is a living history school that takes place in an authentic Civil War encampment for a weekend in June. The first year he attended he won the "Most Outstanding Musician Award". After playing Taps at Arlington for the 150th Anniversary of Taps, his interest in honoring our fallen heroes took off, and so did his young music career. Coming from a very religious family lifestyle, Alan has made the connection between God and music. When asked what Taps is, he said, Taps is God's way of saying that He loves each and every person; that Taps is God's way of saying through music that He cares for the person that has passed".



The family of Vernon Dukes felt blessed to have Alan play their dad's horn and bid him farewell. Vernon Arthur Dukes himself would have been very happy knowing such a fine young man as, Alan Tolbert played for his final send-off on earth. I was honored to have been there to hear him play for a kind and thoughtful Veteran that "Passed Forward" his trumpet to a new generation of Buglers.

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 August 15th.

Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com

Letters of Gratitude



"Mr. (Kenneth) Fitzgerald,

I would like to thank you again for your participation! The ceremony couldn't have turned out better for my father-in-law, the weather breaking, sun coming out, the rifle salute, Taps, and flag folding and presentation. It's a great service you're doing. I will make a contribution to Bugles Across America!

Best Regards,
Lilly Norvell"

"I just wanted to say that I pray for all of you and your continued success. I just buried my dad last August and Taps was played and it meant a lot to us. God bless all of you and America too!! Please give Tom my best regards. He is the epitome of a soldier and an American Hero.

- Jeff Cordray"

"Just a simple Thank You for what you do!

- Chris"

"I just watched Fox News Sunday and saw the segment on your organization. Just want to thank you for the amazing service that you provide. I am a Vietnam Vet and have always believed that EVERY Veteran should have a live rendition of Taps. I am happy to know that my family will have Taps played at my burial. Thank you Tom. You are a true Patriot and one hell of an American. God bless you and all those amazing individuals that provide this service and God bless America.

- Randall Justice"

*"Thank you for what you do around the country. Four years ago someone in your organization played at my brother's funeral. It was awesome and I never thanked you! Thank you dear servants of God! You are blessed. Thank you and God Bless you all.
- Winola Swinks"*

"God Bless you and your group for your dedication to our veterans. I just found out about your organization on Fox News and will be making a donation today. I'm sorry it couldn't be more, but I will try to donate whenever I can in memory of my father in law, Colonel Hugh H. Pattillo and all our fallen. Thank you so very much.
- Elizabeth Pattillo"

*"We did not get to meet our bugler at my father's funeral on December 8, 2014. I believe her name was Robin (**Nethercott**). Please let her know that we were very grateful to her for taking the time out of her day to play. It made the day very special. Thank you.
- Jay Mays"*

"Dear Mr. (Frank) Hughes,
I wanted to meet you on Friday and I wanted to thank you in person on Friday but you left before I got a chance to. I didn't know how long it would take me to regain my composure. I also wanted to offer a donation to BAA or anything towards your travel expenses. So I just wanted to send a thank you note. I really appreciate you volunteering your skills and time. Thank you for honoring my Dad. You play very beautifully and everything was perfect. It sounded amazing. It was emotional. My family member said you were in a black suit, thank you for that and for enduring the heat. My family and I are very appreciative. You got a lot of compliments. You were also the easiest of all the arrangements I had to do for Friday so thank you for that too. Please take care. God Bless and best wishes for a happy and healthy future.
Sincerely,
Katie Finn (Kevin Finn's Daughter)"

"Just wanted to send you a pic of our family, including Lynn Alexander, our bugler. Mr. Alexander was wonderful, and made our memorial to our soldier very special. The event helped my family "finish business". Thank you for all you do.
Greg Lowrey"



*"On May 20, 2015, our family was fortunate enough to have Bruce Walker play at my husband's funeral service. He was a proud veteran and we were all so pleased with the bugler. Thank you so much,
Barbara Chambers"*

My husband Steven Aldrich passed away June 19, 2015, just six weeks after being diagnosed with a brain tumor. His long-time coworker and friend Paul Hobbs is one of your members. Paul's playing of Taps at my husband's funeral was so beautiful. It was a benediction- I closed my eyes and let the music enter my entire being, an assurance that despite all of the turmoil, fear, and sudden loss, all is well and God is near. Thank you so much for all that you do to minister to our veterans and their families.
Becky Aldrich

BAA- IN THE NEWS

Volunteer Buglers Providing Final Service to Veterans, Families

May 25, 2015, by Melissa Riopka
WHNT 19



HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (WHNT) – It's been fifteen years since Congress determined any honorably discharged veteran was entitled to receive military funeral honors, that included the playing of Taps. However, it quickly became apparent there were not enough buglers available to provide this final service.

In a report, the Department of Defense noted there were only about 500 buglers in the entire US military, while veterans were dying at the rate of more than 1,800 a day. In response, the DoD authorized the use of a digital bugle to render Taps at military funerals. The alternative, while effective at providing a quality recording with the look of a live performance, proved disappointing to many veterans' families.

Determined no veteran should go without a live rendering of Taps at his or her funeral, Tom Day founded Bugles Across America in 2000. Families pay nothing for the service. The national non-profit now has an estimated 5,500 bugler volunteers across the country. There are 77 registered buglers in Alabama, including Sergeant First Class David Beier. Beier serves as assistant state director of Bugles Across America.

Speaking about the importance of Taps, he says, "This is the last opportunity we have to say thank you and goodbye."

The services of these buglers are in high demand. Although Beier is based in North Alabama, he is frequently asked to travel outside the area to perform at military funerals.

"It's about that veteran...that gave the ultimate sacrifice," Beier says, adding, "to provide my talent to play those 24 notes is satisfaction enough for me."

Bugles Across America is always looking for new volunteers.

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

A day of remembrance

May 24, 2015

Meredith Colias, Times Correspondent

MERRILLVILLE | In between the gravestones and American flags, a small crowd quietly gathered to pay their respects to the fallen at Calumet Park Cemetery on Sunday.

As the American Legion rifle squad completed the three volleys, speakers asked the crowd to remember servicemen and women who died in service to the United States.

Originally known as Decoration Day – marking a tradition of decorating soldiers' graves – Memorial Day grew out of the Civil War as an occasion to honor war dead.

U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky told the crowd that those who struggled and died under the stresses of modern combat – even from causes like suicide or accidents – needed to be equally honored.

“It is a day to remember people’s unwavering service to all of us,” he said.

But, like Veteran’s Day – which honors all service members – many took pride in their living family member’s military service.

Christina Torres, 29, of Griffith, who brought her daughter Aubrie, 6, and stepdaughter Miranda, 10, said she took pride in her father’s Army service – who she surprised by taking to the ceremony - and wanted the weekend for her children to be about more than just cookouts.

The hour-long ceremony that included the laying of three wreaths and a color guard was organized by the American Legion First District.

The Merrillville High School Symphonic Band played a collection of military service songs and patriotic tunes.

According to the Pentagon, about 4,400 service members have died in Iraq and over 2,200 in Afghanistan.

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[Click here](#) for entire article



Bugles Across America and Post 66 Bugler/Historian Griffith, Tom Cushing plays "Taps" at the American Legion First District Veteran's Memorial Service in Calumet Park Cemetery on Sunday afternoon.



Bugler Honors Deceased Veterans With a Personal Touch

Pia Hallenberg
The Spokesman-Review

Taps is 24 notes that can make the toughest soldier cry. It's a musical recognition of a life ended, a goodbye that hangs in the air as friends and family wipe their tears, look up and know they must live the rest of their lives without someone.

Since 2001, retired Army Reserve Lt. Col. Philip Kowzan, has played Taps at military honor funerals in the Spokane area. His debut came unexpectedly at longtime friend Ivan Brayman's funeral.

"They had a recorder there and I said, 'No, you're not using that, not at my friend Ivan's funeral,'" Kowzan said.

A lifelong trumpet player, he got his trumpet out of the car, took a deep breath and played for his friend one last time.

"I wasn't in uniform or anything," Kowzan said. "I'm not even sure I did it right."

That was the only time he played Taps in 2001.

But since then, he's played at 1,259 funerals, sometimes playing at three services in the morning and another three in the afternoon. "I did seven one day," Kowzan said. "That's a lot."

Every funeral Kowzan has participated in is meticulously recorded in a little black notebook, its cover worn from being carried in his pocket. When he ran out of notebook pages, he switched to a small three-ring binder.

He tries to get the funeral program and the obituary from each service, and he's working on creating a leather-bound scrapbook that will be given to the Washington State Veterans Cemetery.

[Click for full article.](#)

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 JenDayBAA@iCloud.com

REFLECTIONS

Twenty-Four Notes

by Jim Hixson - Illinois

Three Rifle Volleys break silent air,
Stance Attention must be held,
For Duty, Honor, Country,
No more stories to be told.

The Bugler presses to his lips
With solemn prayer, don't trill.
Twenty-four most somber notes
pronounce,
Goodnight, Thank you,
Farewell.

Bill Boland - New Jersey

I have been a volunteer with Bugles Across America since August 2014. I have had the honor of serving 18 mission so far and recently jotted down some thoughts about my experiences in the form of a poem.

**A Bugler's Prayer**

It's only twenty-four notes.
Less than a minute long.
Yet the call is unmistakable.
It's for the brave and the strong.
Each time I raise my horn
I fear a note might crack.
I want it to be perfect.
It's my way of giving back.
Each time a veteran passes
It reminds me of my dad.
I know that what I'm doing
Would surely make him glad.
Though I know when I sound Taps
It starts the flow of tears.
I do it with pride and honor
For their service throughout the years.



My father played Taps quite a bit in St. Ignace, MI, upon the death of a veteran. He would always hide behind a tree or bush when performing Taps. This may seem a silly question, but in doing some research, there's no information on buglers hiding behind anything when they perform Taps, and I was wondering if you could verify that perhaps this wasn't the usual practice, or part of Taps protocol.

FICTION

It is clearly stated in all the current service branch directives on military funeral honors that the bugler is to be within sight of the funeral party/family. Any early decision to place the bugler out of sight was probably based on some belief that the "sound coming out of nowhere" was aesthetically pleasing or mystical. This was also done to mimic the Taps that was played over a loudspeaker system or later a tape on a boombox hidden behind a nearby tombstone..... and, **why** would we want to mimic or copy the undignified presentation of a recorded Taps!?

A real bugler (which we would all wish was used 100% of the time) is to be "in formation with", not necessarily in line with, the rest of the military honors detail. If a rifle detail is part of the honors team, they are not hidden behind a wall or over the crest of a hill out of sight. The bugler is to be just as much a part of the visible (as well as audible) tribute to honor the veteran.

While proper protocol calls for the bugler to be within sight, that does not in any way mean the bugler is to be the 'center of attention'. No more so than any other part of the funeral honors detail. Seen and heard, not front and center.



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?



From the request details, you have the requestor's contact information available to you. You are advised to print that page just before clicking "Volunteer" It is now **your responsibility** to contact the requestor as soon as practical to let them know you are their bugler and to get any further information you may need. If you failed to print that detail page before clicking on "Volunteer" you can always retrieve it from your My Events log on the tab bar, but remember you must be logged in to see that.

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

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 Tom Day 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
- * 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 JenDayBAA@iCloud.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.