

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing



My fellow buglers,

As we begin to close out another year and enter the winter season, I want to thank all of you for your dedication and service with Bugles Across America as we continue to answer the call to honor the fallen veteran at the request of their families.

In early 2000, it was my goal to reverse a statement made by one of the President's cabinet members, saying there were not enough buglers for veteran's funerals so a recording of Taps would be used. Since then, BAA has grown to over 5000 members and we have sounded Taps at over half a million events. In these fifteen years we have done these events at no cost to the people of America. These tributes have been presented with real breath... from the heart.

In this 25th edition of the newsletter, I would like to send our sympathy to Mr. Ed Bilger, my other right hand man, on the loss of his father this last month. Ed's dad was a WWII Vet. Ed had been with BAA and doing BAA's taxes for fourteen years as well as attending meetings in D.C. and doing services in the Philadelphia area. Ed is highly qualified and well trained in marketing, accounting and Not For Profit legal work. I consider it gift to have Ed on our staff.

Speaking of great staff, I want to thank Mrs. Jen Day for all her work on this incredible newsletter. A few years ago it was said that we needed a BAA newsletter, and she stepped up with the Bugler's Post. (Thanks Jen, Dad) I've had each one printed, double sided and when you stack all of them together, that's over 18 inches of fantastic facts and stories. What a great



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reminder of the history you are making! An electronic copy of this newsletter is sent to every registered BAA member on a bi-monthly basis, and it is available to the public by a link on our website home page

This month we have Veterans Day with the many and varied opportunities that presents for sounding the Call to honor the departed veterans. The number of requests I'll be doing far surpasses previous years. So far I have four events on my schedule from the 6th thru the 11, and certain to pick up a couple military funeral honors during that time as well.

November also brings us Thanksgiving, and I extend my deepest and sincere appreciation for all of you, for my family, and without question all of the kind supporters who donate to make it possible for BAA to continue our mission.

To celebrate the start of our sixteenth year, we will raffle off two new Andalucia Advance Series trumpets. Here is how the giveaway will work. Those who have their own BAA business card can send one to me at 1824 Cuyler Ave, Berwyn, Illinois 60402 from now until December 31st. On New Years Day, I will pick two winners.

These are large-bore Bb soprano bugles. They are beautiful and the designer is a former Blue Devils World Champ trumpet player. The horns are based on the great King 20 soprano. Cases come with the horns as well as shipping to the winners. It only takes one card to enter! Good luck.

Please say a prayer for our members across the country who have suffered catastrophic weather related events. A special prayer goes out for our buglers in South Carolina, as they have been suffering catastrophic flooding.

I am also pleased to say that we as we enter out 16th year, BAA is debt free.

God bless you all and have a great Christmas,

Tom Day
Founder



**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

To Contact or Not to Contact..... There IS No Question!

You're on the Bugler List for BAA; you've received an email telling you that there is a request for a bugler that is within the area of contact. Okay, now what do you do? Well, for starters, you check the location to see if it is within your own personal travel limits. Then you check the date. Look closely and check your calendar. If there is any conflict with either of these issues, you merely delete the message. Don't try to do a "Reply" to this message, as it will not be seen.

At this point you can take a closer look at the request details by clicking that link in your email notification that says, "[Click here to see more details about this request.](#)" Now you are able to see full details, including the name and contact information for the Requestor and a map of the location. If the mission has already been accepted, you will see a statement telling you that it has received the maximum number of volunteers. That would be one volunteer. If you see some form of Error Code, it means that particular request has been removed from the system for some reason.

Now it is "Decision Time". If you cannot serve the mission, delete the message. If you wish to accept the mission, first select 'print' for this page, then put in the required Capcha Code and click on the Volunteer button. You will get a message on the screen that thanks you for accepting the mission.

Nothing to do now except polish your horn and your shoes and show up for the service, right? **Not exactly!** At this point you are to make direct contact with the requestor as soon as practical. This is why you printed a copy of the details page, so that you'd have the information readily available to make that contact. Of course it is always available to you on your my Events log at the website.

Why is this direct contact so vital? Well, it gives yet another reassurance to the requestor that they have secured a volunteer bugler. It allows for confirmation of the service location and plans. It allows for exchange of alternate contact information when necessary.

Now to the other side of this coin. Our individual members are NOT to contact the requestor directly, for any reason, unless they have already accepted the mission through our request system. We've had some members contact a requestor to merely say, "I can't serve this request." Remember, if you are not able to serve a particular request, just delete the notification email. We've had some members contact the requestor to question a date, a time, or a location. If you think you see a problem with the details of a request, please pass your thoughts on to your State Director. The Director will make contact with the requestor, if necessary, to clarify the information. We don't want a busy event planner or, even worse, a grieving family member to be fielding calls and questions from any number of "inquiring minds". Much better for them to receive just one call from one person, and that person be someone that can actually do something if information needs to be changed or clarified. The State Director will appreciate your concern, and they will know how to handle the situation.

So, "*Should I contact the requestor?*" **Yes**, if you are the bugler of record by virtue of formally accepting the mission through the system. **No**, if you have not accepted the mission.

That's pretty simple.

State Director Spotlight: Nebraska

State Director: Joe Fuchs

It happened twice - and it won't happen again. As a bagpiper, I have played at quite a number of funerals over the past 25 years. There was an occasion when the electronic bugle was used - that was once. Then another time it happened - that was twice for the electronic bugle at a funeral that I played. Now I carry my bugle with me to funerals because it won't happen again if I can be of service. In fact, I have "double dipped" - bugle and bagpipe - at some funerals.



I joined BAA several years ago out of a desire to be able to provide a live bugler for funerals and memorial services. When the 101st Airborne held a national meeting in Omaha a few years ago, I was there with my bugle. That turned into a standing request to play at the 101st Airborne Memorial in Omaha each year on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. A live bugler is a fitting tribute to those who have served our country.

My experience with the bugle goes back to my youth. I purchased my first bugle with money I earned by mowing lawns. With that I could achieve my goal, and did, of earning the Boy Scout Bugling Merit Badge. I still have my first bugle and also acquired a couple of others over time.

Earlier this year, I noticed in the BAA newsletter that there was a request for a State Director in Nebraska. I contacted Howard Reitenbaugh and eventually was appointed as State Director. Since there had not been a State Director in the past, my first action was to contact each bugler and non-bugler in the State and confirm their interest in supporting BAA. The next steps include contacting funeral homes and service-related associations to let them know about BAA. A new national cemetery is scheduled to open in the Omaha area in the Fall of 2016 and my goal is to have buglers at the ready in the event that there is an increase in the number of requests.

I attended the BAA leadership conference this past August. It was nice to meet Tom Day, members of the leadership team, and other State Directors. I enjoyed hearing the stories and learning some tips. A trip to the Learning Center was most enjoyable and should be on everyone's "must see" list when you are in the Chicago area.

NEW STATE DIRECTORS

Bill Bohart - Kentucky

I have been with BAA for approx. 7 years and have been playing for 34 years. I started playing when I was 8 years old in the Salvation Army and played throughout school including High School as well as was able to play in several select and honor bands. I am a 9 year Army Reserve Veteran and am honored that through BAA I am able to give back to my fallen brothers and sisters in arms. I am honored to take on the roll of State Director for Kentucky.



John R. Dingman Sr. - Wisconsin

Hi, my name is John Dingman Sr. I am 57 years old. I started playing musical instruments at the age of 9 and have played on and off since then. I was in the U.S. Navy from 1976 to 1986. I have been happily married for 31 years and have 4 children. I am currently the Bugler for the Racine Honor Guard and we do 2-8 MFH a week. I found out about BAA through the Getzen Company. I noticed that our State did not have a current Director so I asked about the position and what it involved, and then I volunteered to do it if Tom wanted me to. I am excited about



the opportunity to serve with the BAA team, and I am extremely honored to have the opportunity to serve as State Director. I am sure there are others more qualified than I, and I do not take the responsibility or the position lightly. Any help or advice that one could render on how to increase the awareness of BAA in our State would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to serving with all the members of BAA in Wisconsin.



Find The Bugle Contest!

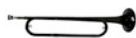
Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is a small image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into either dialogue or a photo. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle.

“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 the following page and on the BAA web site under the [Bugler's Post tab](#). Fill out the required information and email it to findthebugle@gmail.com

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

“What can I win?” A \$50 gift certificate for 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 Day.

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



We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #24 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

Barbara Riedl of Texas

Richard Kurtz of Ohio

Paul Taylor of Idaho

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?



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It's a Mystery!



Hello Bugles Across America! We need your help!

A BAA member recently came across an enigmatic photo of a 1931 bugler. Her interest began because the young man pictured bared such a striking resemblance to her father (himself a Green Beret).

We would love to discover the identities of these unnamed servicemen.

This is what is known about the photo.

1. It is posted inside the Disney Family Museum, in the San Francisco Presidio. It's the first thing you see on your left as you enter the museum.
2. An online caption reads: Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Captain Peter J. Lloyd, 30th Infantry photograph album, GOGA 353-10.
3. Something difficult to make out is hand written on the bottom right corner of the photo: It looks like two crossed flags, then 9CA (or H), 7723.
4. Another internet caption reads: GOGA 35340-216 Oldest and youngest buglers of the 30th Inf 164.

If you have any information regarding the identity of these men in the photo,
Please email me at JenDayBAA@iCloud.com



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Captain Peter J. Lloyd 30th Infantry Photograph Album, GOGA 35310

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES



Donna and Heather Berchtold - New Jersey

On September 19th, 2015, Heather represented Bugles Across America and sounded Taps at the Salute To Our Veterans event. This was her fifth year doing so.



Taps

Heather Christine Berchtold
Bugles Across America

Steve Bow - BAA Assistant State Director, Ohio

Got a really nice letter in the mail from my cousin-in-law who is a member of the Patriot Guard and respects BAA tremendously for what we and I do. He sent me this patch with a note that really touched my heart.

"Steve,

You may not be a veteran but to me and my fellow veterans, you are one helluva soldier. Thanks for what you do, you put your heart and soul in every mission. I think you and I know our country thanks you! I'm sending you a patch for brotherhood and honor.

John"



Christie Hill - Alaska

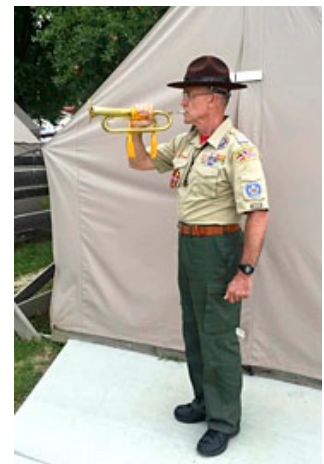
Living in Homer, Alaska can be tough at times, especially for a Bugler. For instance, memorial services at Hickerson Memorial Cemetery in January where the ambient temperature is hovering just above having frosty nose hairs but slightly below the post-nasal drip. I'm always nervous no matter what the circumstances were. Be it so windy tears are streaming down my face, or so cold I have to hide my horn inside my American Legion Post 16 jacket with knees shivering while I wait to play my part.

Our Honor Guard stands tall and poised to let the "lead fly", now it's my turn. I always wonder, am I going to mess this up today? I'm such a perfectionist when it comes to Taps and our National Anthem, as I should be, but sometimes a bit too much. I shiver and shake and most people say they can't hear it when I mess up but I can. The first 3 years I played the bugle I was "ok" as I was self taught and learned by ear how to do it. There were about two years that I didn't play but was asked back and have since then almost perfected it. I learned a new trick! Don't drink anything for about 30-45 minutes before playing and it makes it so much easier to hit the high notes. I was always hydrating myself before I played (as I would for choir) but it seemed to mess me up and I wouldn't always hit it.

I feel a great sense of great pride being able to play Taps for our local Veterans. I have even been asked to play at a Memorial Day BBQ in remembrance of fallen soldiers. I have been and always will be a Bugler...

Les Langford - Utah

During August 2015, I had the opportunity to attend the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Training Center, Philmont, New Mexico. I brought my vintage BSA regulation bugle and played; To The Color, Assembly, Tattoo and Taps. The Philmont staff said it was a rare treat to have a live bugler. Bugles Across America members that are affiliated with the BSA should be certain to take their bugle when they attend Philmont, Woodbadge or any BSA camp.



Robert Caggiano - New York

I recently had the honors of sounding Taps for one of WWII's "Greatest Generation".

Vincent Richard Falcone

Vincent Richard Falcone flew 50 missions during WWII in the B-24 Liberator Bomber "Miss Kay" as a "right wing gunner/radio operator" in the 461st Bombardment Group (H), serial # 44-10550 or # 44-18350. It is a "J" model. He is shown in the center row kneeling.



Top L-R: Fortuna, Anthony R. 'Tony' (E); Haas, Howard G. (B); Littell, Donald R. (N); Anderson, Alan M. (CP) (replacement for Herbie Hartford) [KIA at Linz]; Spencer, James H. (P)

Bottom L-R: Troupes, Ernest C. 'Ernie' (TG); Viselka, George J. (BG); **Falcone, Vincent R. 'Dick' (Right Wing Gunner)**; Baril, Donald J. 'Don' (LWG); Hagie, Thomas M. Jr. 'Tom' (NG)



Vincent Richard Falcone was the recipient of the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters. Born September 9, 1921, died June 9, 2014



Air Force Honors Team with BAA Bugler Bob Caggiano



Greg Murphy - New Jersey

My wife and I went on a coach tour of Italy this summer. To keep my chops up, I brought my mouthpiece and buzzed on occasion.

The tour was run by InSight Vacations, and hit all the key locations from the Italian Lakes to Capri.

While we were entering Florence, I saw a large cemetery off the road and thought that it must be the Florence American War Cemetery. This was confirmed by our tour director. I mentioned to her it was too bad it was not a stop on our tour. She told me that we would be making a stop later on the tour to the Cassino War Cemetery in Italy. I told her of my involvement in BAA and that I played Taps at military services and regretted not having my horn with me, as I would be honored to play at Cassino. After brainstorming to try to figure out how and where to get a horn, she simply said "Why don't you just sing it?". I told her Taps indeed has words, and that again it would be my honor to do this.

As we arrived at the Cassino War Cemetery and Memorial, the tour director gave us the background of the battles and losses at Cassino, and the stories of the over 4200 servicemen buried at Cassino. She then handed the tour over to me.



I called any on our tour who have served to step forward to be part of the honor guard. Three joined me. I told them "gentlemen, you know the drill". I gave a brief story of BAA, what I do at military funerals, and what Taps means. I also let them know I usually play the song, but since I did not have a horn I would be singing it. I called the Honor Guard to attention, we saluted, and I sang the 24 notes with the written "Day is done..." lyrics. I was very proud of my guard and their precision & professionalism.

We spent the next 15 minutes, walking the grave sites, sobbing, and acknowledging it was my honor to perform this service.

The tour director said, out of the 20 years she has been giving tours she has never experienced anything like this and she will always remember it. It was beyond moving and is now up there in the top 3 most memorable service I have ever performed.

[Click here](#) for the YouTube performance

Christopher Hart - Mississippi

This was sent to me following a Spirit of '45 event held in Baton Rouge last month. It was attended by the Ex - POWs. Their stories really made me appreciate their sacrifice and their service.

I took along a picture of my father receiving his Bronze Star from Lt. Gen. Robert Eichhelberger, in 1946. One of the volunteers was related to the general and requested a copy of the photo.



June Pallesen - Iowa

My son Cody is a 3rd generation bugler with BAA (his grandfather is Gerald Pallesen). This photo was in the paper with this caption;

"Cody Dias of Le Mars (Iowa), 14, with Sons of the American Legion Squadron #241, plays the bugle during the Memorial Day ceremony at Graceland Park Cemetery in Sioux City, Iowa on Monday, May, 25, 2015. (Sioux City Journal Photo by Justin Wan)"

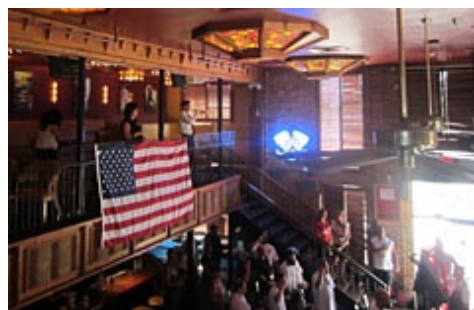
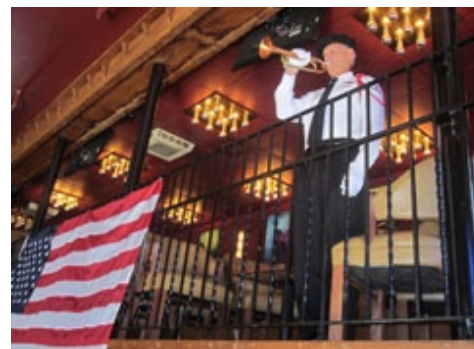


Rick de Treville - Florida

On September 19th, 2015, I sounded Taps for the organization One Team One Fight for PTSD.

This fund-raiser in Daytona Beach was a very nice event and I truly appreciate the experience. The beautiful Kanstul copper bugle was a gift to me from Tom several years ago – through our mutual friend John Murphy. John passed away a couple years ago. He was my bugler mentor.

I still work full time, but pick up opportunities to sound Taps whenever I can.



G.P. Stickler - BAA State Director, Maryland

American Legion National Conference, Baltimore MD, August 27, to September 3rd, 2015

I arrived at Baltimore's Convention Center a day early to set up the booth and get things ready. It became obvious that I did not have nearly enough brochures. I had nearly 300 on hand when I arrived, and by the time I had the booth finished and ready for the opening the next morning, I had already given out 60 brochures to interested people from the surrounding booths.

Thankfully, I had brought my printer with me, and made a bee-line to Office Max for paper and ink cartridges.



At 7am I was setting up the horns and the flags and by the time I was done setting up, I had given out 40 more brochures.

The interest in what we do, and the fact that we do not charge for our services was a continued source of amazement to the Legionnaires. They would stop to look at the Bugles, and would say something like, "We have one of those at our post (pointing at the Bugles), and any of us can play it." I would say, "Oh, you play, the horn too?" Then I would get a response like, "Well, no, it sort of plays itself. We just stand there and hold it." This gave me the opening line to say, "Let me ask you a question. When you pass on, who gets your flag?" They would usually say something like, "Well, my wife, or my family, why?" At that point I would get right up into their faces, look them right in the eye, and say, "Would you want your wife or family to be handed a flag that says, made in Vietnam?" I would get a response like, "Hell No!" That's when I would ask, "Then why are you handing that deceased Hero a FAKE Taps? We, BAA are willing to provide Military Honors for Free, and there are nearly 6,000 of us currently available at your request." That usually got a response like, "Do you have a card and how does it work?"



By the end of the week, I had given out about 1400 brochures, nearly 1000 business cards, 8 Gold Star Mothers Flags, all of the bags of candy that I had in a bowl on the display,

It was a great week for our organization, and a personal eye opener for me. I was blown away at the amount of interest that booth generated. It was amazing.

Kimberley Shaw - Massachusetts

When traveling, I like to take along a pocket trumpet or cornet, so that I can stay in practice for unexpected jam sessions, bugle requests, or upcoming marching-band gigs back home. But the sort of events that would call for tunes such as Taps do not usually pop up *during* vacation!

This August, I was fortunate to be on a cruise from Istanbul to Athens. The island of Crete was on our itinerary, with a chance to visit the British WWII cemetery there. I'd been reading about the Resistance movement in Nazi-occupied Crete as described in "Ill-met by moonlight" (highly recommended!), and decided to include it on my Crete excursion. When it turned out that a number of our shipmates were British and ANZAC veterans, and that they knew I was a bugler, it felt more and more right to take my traveling cornet along and to sound Last Post there. Fortunately, I'd learned it to fill a BAA request for a Canadian serviceman earlier this year. But unfortunately, I did not remember it as accurately as I needed to. If any of you are familiar with offshore internet access, you know how pricey, slow, and capricious it can be! I just needed to get to this sheet-music version that I knew was online and reliable ... And which refused to print out. One quick pencilled transcription later, the *proper* version of Last Post / Rouse was working its way back into my lips and brain.

And the reviewing session continued practically to the tour bus, where our guide was thrilled to have a "real bugler" (even an out-of-uniform one) sound Last Post.

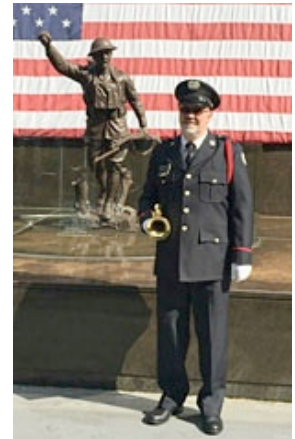
Once on site, I did not expect the sheer numbers of the gravestones there, from England, Australia, New Zealand. Nor did I realize how many of them were for unknowns, with no names carved on them. Just as it began to get to me, I took in a breath of the warm, sunny air, and began to sound the call.

Perfect, it wasn't, but as I headed back to the bus, some of the vets who were present came up to me. As they thanked me, they made it clear that to them, it was "well done". It makes me glad to continue to "sound the honor" and "honor the sound".



James Gould - Illinois

On Aug. 8th 2015, I had the honor to sound Taps for the opening ceremonies for the 2015 Valor Games Midwest at Soldier Field, Chicago. This competition is an opportunity for veterans and service members with physical and visual disabilities to learn about and compete in a variety of Paralympic sports. Activities include shot-put, discus, archery, cycling, rowing and powerlifting. Individuals who qualify to compete are those with any disability rating from the VA including amputation, spinal cord injuries, visual impairment, traumatic brain injury, permanent orthopedic injuries, and those with PTSD



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

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

The deadline for this is February 15th.

Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com

Letters of Gratitude



"Daniel Grotte did a wonderful job playing at my stepfather's memorial service last Sunday in Huntsville, TX. I cannot tell you what a special moment that was to hear the beautiful sound of the trumpet playing "Taps." Thanks for helping coordinate this. We will send a donation.

*Sincerely,
David Winkler"*

"Hi Chris (Hart) - Thanks again for playing Taps at our ceremony yesterday. You did a beautiful job & I really appreciate you taking the time to join us. I have attached a picture of you.

*Sincerely,
Lea Evans"*



"Just wanted to say thank you for the service you provide. As a captain for the Patriot Guard Riders, I've personally requested a bugler for a veteran's funeral and attended other services where one of your buglers played Taps. Yours is a wonderful organization providing a needed service and I applaud you. I've heard live buglers, Air Force and civilian, render Taps imperfectly and it was still superior to the "electric bugle" used at so many services. Thanks again for doing this.

Bert"

"Steve (Bow),

On behalf of the 16th Armored Division Assn. we want to thank you for being with us on 9-11 at our Memorial Service. Taps is such a haunting melody and echoing Taps is doubly so. You and Col. White did an outstanding job. Most of us were teary eyed as soon as we saw the Patriot Guard and all the flags.

We were so pleased with the whole service - short but meaningful. We were so blessed to have so many contribute their talents to our gathering.

And we also thank you for attending our banquet and we know you enjoyed Gen. Cherry's program. We all did.

*Once again, thank you for all that you did.
Sincerely,
Mickey and Kathy"*



"Greg Murphy was perfect!!! Mom said she never heard Taps played so well. I'm thankful for all your help.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Stadtmuller Gag"

THE HEART OF THE VOLUNTEER

Adapted from article by Larry Wiseman

Over the last fifteen years, the volunteers of our organization have experienced a myriad of “highs and lows” when it comes to Honoring the fallen. In the early days, Tom Day gave the call to his friends to come alongside him to begin the journey. That journey has brought us to where we are today.

Along the way, we have experienced a lot of respect shown to us all, and we have also experienced discouragement and even disdain from some corners. One often wonders why we would see disrespect, when our main focus has always been to honor the fallen. The reasons are obscured from us in some cases, but very obvious in others.

With the invention of the Ceremonial Bugle came another method to provide Taps for the veteran without the need for a sometimes seemingly difficult search for a real bugler. All would agree that the use of this Ceremonial Bugle is a real step above a boom-box sitting on the ground, and without question much better than silence. Since the recording is of such high musical quality, a person holding it merely has to press a button to sound like the great trumpeter, Woodrow English, who recorded the track for the digital chip. The only problem is that it is not personally presented from the heart for that particular occasion in honor of the veteran. Consequently, when our buglers are requested to sound Taps, those who would otherwise present the digital horn have, on some occasions, resented this stranger who shows up, claiming to have the real deal. What they don't seem to understand is that we don't just “show up”; the call is given by way of a request submitted for us to provide a Taps bugler, and we answer that call.

Another source of discouragement is that for many years, and still today but to a lesser degree, much of the general public and even some funeral directors have never heard of BAA. We are constantly striving to overcome this by virtue of expanded publicity in print and by word-of-mouth. Because the skill level of our volunteers ranges from that of beginner trumpet student to very experienced professional, many have doubted if we can even send a competent bugler to the graveside.

In recent years, with the development of specific directives, BAA has called on State Directors to hold their volunteers to a high standard of performance and presentation, through mandatory interviews and auditions. Many states have developed mentoring programs for those who are in need of improvement or instruction. While we realize that with over 4,600

buglers, it may be virtually impossible to determine the skill level of all, but we are now more confident than ever, that the vast majority of our buglers can sound Taps properly. Every reasonable effort is made to assure that any BAA bugler answering the call to serve is fully capable and prepared to sound Taps in a totally respectful and dignified manner.

Then, there is a small element of “elitists”, who seem to think that they must find ways to exclude BAA from the Honors, possibly because we don’t all have uniforms, or they may not think we play well enough to be counted in their “clique” of honor guards or even play-for-fee professionals. Thankfully, this group is small in number, and their attitude will always be overcome by a positive and courteous presentation by our buglers and the organization as a whole. At the end of the day, if the family requests our bugler to be there, we take it seriously, and strive to fulfill our commitment with the highest degree of honor and service.

Now here is the good news. Since the beginning, BAA has had the wonderful and distinct honor of working with both the military and VSO honor guards alike, totaling over 350,000 funeral services. As we have worked through our “proving grounds” many have come to respect us, and have welcomed us with open arms. This has served to bond us into a family, mutually serving a common cause. There are still areas where our buglers are struggling to break into the system, and are performing almost no services. This is where we work together to encourage those volunteers, and guide them to employ the various techniques for success, that others have found helpful.

Ultimately, the heart of the matter lies in the hearts of the volunteers that make up BAA. Our volunteer spirit is contagious; our volunteer spirit is diligent. Tom Day has a now famous quote that has become his mantra for success, “Do good things, and tell people about it”. This is not a statement of arrogance, but rather a constant reminder that what we do is a good thing, and telling others about it only brings more awareness of our ultimate motive to honor the veteran. This sentiment is expressed in our organizational motto as “Sound the Honor ~ Honor the Sound”. Volunteering to sound Taps is possibly the most unique charity of all. The letters and phone calls expressing thanks; the hand-shakes, the tears of gratitude, the hugs, and words of appreciation from grieving families tell us that what we do is an outreach of love that can never be measured by human standards.

I would like to leave you with some selected quotes about volunteers that truly describe the **heart** of Bugles Across America...

"Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

Unknown

"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." *Margaret Mead*

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

Elizabeth Andrew

"The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others."

DeAnn Hollis

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."

Booker T. Washington

"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

James Doolittle

"Don't ever question the value of volunteers. **Noah's Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.**"

Unknown

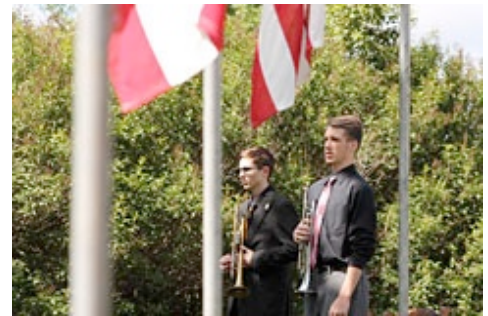
BAA- IN THE NEWS

KHS band students step up to play Taps at military funerals

By Josh Moody, Hub Staff Writer, Kearney Hub

KEARNEY, NE — Students at Kearney High School are stepping up to fill the need for buglers at military funerals.

Rick Mitchell, KHS band instructor, said he has played military funerals for several years and he discovered there is a shortage of buglers. Because of the shortage, an electronic bugle is often used to play a recorded version of Taps. That didn't stand well with Mitchell.



Kearney High School students Bailey Premer, left, and Caleb Hardy wait to play Taps, a traditional military bugle call. The two students have recently been performing Taps at military funerals because of a shortage of buglers.

"There's no reason why any veteran who has sacrificed for our country should have to have a recording played at their funeral," he said.

So Mitchell decided to do something about it — he volunteered. Mitchell said that since learning of the shortage, he's played Taps at dozens of military funerals, but when he found himself unavailable to play at a funeral, he turned to band students Caleb Hardy and Bailey Premer to fill the void.

"The fact that we were chosen to be a part of that is really an honor," said Hardy, a senior. Premer, a junior, said families regularly express their gratitude to the students.

"I'm just amazed with how friendly and grateful everyone is," he said.

Mitchell said veterans at military funerals "really liked the fact that young people were doing it." He also said that his students had stepped up to the task.

"I've really been impressed with the professionalism of these guys," Mitchell said.

Mitchell added that Hardy and Premer perform well under the pressure that comes with playing at a military funeral.

.....

[Click](#) for full online article

The Twenty-Four Most Important Notes He Will Ever Play

by Andrew Books
September 12, 2015

He did it the first time because he was asked, but it's turned into much more than that. It's become the twenty-four most important notes he'll ever play. Each time he puts the trumpet to his lips to play the C major triad, those within earshot stop to remember. They stand in silence, paying tribute to the heroes who have fallen in the name of their country. Those who have served salute. Some will weep. Most will stand, listen and reflect.



At The Camp

Tom Swigert is an Assistant Scoutmaster for his son's Boy Scout troop and sounds Taps on a regular basis for the group's outings. It's a task he enjoys and one he accomplishes with ease given the musical accomplishments he's developed over the span of his high school and collegiate experiences. As a member of Bugles Across America, he performs at funerals when he can.

A few years ago, he went camping with a few other scout families for fun. Having heard Tom play for troop gatherings previously, the Scoutmaster asked him to bring his horn. Taps at night was a personal favorite of hers, and this would be the perfect opportunity. For two springs, Hartman Creek State Park in Wisconsin heard him play Taps on Memorial Day weekend. Tom would find a spot where he wouldn't be seen as he liked being the "invisible bugler" performing his unheralded duty. Not being identified also worked in his favor in case someone would take offense. Ultimately, he relished the satisfaction of knowing he was using his skill to honor those who were so deserving.

On Labor Day weekend of 2011, he camped with the same families in a different town where he again sounded Taps at nightfall. Practicing his customary methodology, he found a spot well within earshot of the campgrounds that would secure his anonymity. Right on time at twenty-two hundred, he played.

The very next morning while tending to the campsite, he was approached by an elderly gentlemen who had difficulty walking and was using a cane. Unbeknownst to Tom at the moment, the man had spent his entire morning walking the grounds looking for the person who had played Taps the night before.

"Are you the fella who was playing Taps late last night?" he asked.

Thoughts raced through Tom's mind. "Crap. I'm about to get yelled at for waking this guy up."

"Yes. That was me," Tom replied, cringing in preparation for the verbal lashing he was about to take.

The elderly man reached out his hand and gently touched Tom's.

"Thank you," he said. "Thank you for making us stop and remember. I've been walking all morning looking for you. I wanted to say thank you for sharing your gift."

No Words

Sometimes no words need to be spoken. Ironically, the best thank you can be a silent acknowledgment.

On the tenth anniversary of 9/11, Tom did the only thing he could to honor the fallen. He selected a fire station not far from his house, and positioned himself in front of the flagpole that morning. With trumpet in hand, he waited, preparing to sound Taps at 10:20 am ET in honor of the collapse of the first Tower of the World Trade Center.

Not long after he arrived, a city police squad car drove by. The officer pulled over, got out of his car, and walked over to Tom's position.

At 10:28 am ET, Tom played. The officer, standing next to him, saluted. At the conclusion he lowered his horn as the policeman put a hand on Tom's shoulder.

"Thank you," choked the officer.

No more was said, and they both silently walked back to their lives.

Twenty-four notes. The special contribution that we give unselfishly of ourselves to make the difference in somebody else's life. For Tom, it's his trumpet and the gift of music. For others, it's time donated, money given or services sponsored. For me, it's the written word and what I hope is inspiration to those who need or want it.

What's your twenty-four notes?

[Click for the online 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

Just 24 Notes

by David McBroom

I wonder what our veterans think when they're quite and all alone,
Do they long for loved-ones or just a small taste of home?

How about the ones who return standing up or lying down,
Are they able to put the past behind them or in a hospital bed still hear the sounds?

They hear politicians make their speeches of how we're proud of everyone,
And the news stations tell of another loss of someone's daughter, someone's son.

There are also the ones left over from conflicts and wars so long ago,
Maybe a neighbor or a grandpa who never speaks about all they know.

How about the ones who wander the streets lost in their minds,
Standing on a corner or an overpass holding up a sign.

And here we are safe in our homes,
With our families around us, we don't feel alone.

Do we pray for our troops and wonder why we didn't go,
Is it just that someone's fighting for our freedom that's all we need to know?

You've heard it said before, freedom is never free,
As long as someone else is fighting and dying, and it's not me or my family.

There's one sound every veteran looks forward to and in the same thought will
never miss,
It's not a rifle firing, or the sound of a first tender kiss.

For one day they'll lie in a coffin, 6 comrades will tote.
Each of our veterans has earned and deserves their last 24 notes.



Q: *"I have been growing out a beard for a specific event but don't want to potentially be dishonorable while sounding Taps. I haven't been able to find anything specific on the BAA website about facial hair. I have seen a picture of a bugler in uniform with a*

mustache and another on the Uniform section has a goatee in uniform. Is sounding Taps with a beard considered inappropriate?"

A: It's perfectly okay. If your attire is appropriate, the beard is of no consequence.

Q: "I recently purchased a bugle keyed in F concert (matching the key of G when played on a Bb trumpet). Does BAA have an opinion whether this is too low for Taps, or for any particular occasion for Taps? Thank you.

A: This is one of the 'standard' keys that is employed for sounding Taps formally. Many of our members use this key to play, even if using a standard B-flat trumpet or cornet. Some do this because they have difficulty with the high G that is needed if sounding in B-flat (Concert C). The instrument I use for sounding Taps is the delightful and professional-grade Getzen American Heritage Field Trumpet. This is the unofficial "official" horn of Bugles Across America. The very nice feature about this instrument is that, although it is produced as standard in B-flat, one can purchase for less than \$60 an optional G-slide. I have used the G option on several occasions when I find myself inside very confined space. It is a bit more mellow than the presentation in B-flat, and therefore more suitable for those times when one doesn't need the projection and carry that serves well in wide open spaces.

Howard T Reitenbaugh
BAA National Coordinator

Have a question that you want answered?

Please email galaxypilot@verizon.net and place "Q & A" in the subject line.

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!

A very handy Quick Start guide for BAA members

is available on the BAA web site in the [Education tab](#).



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 you're 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



Curious about Military Burial Benefits? A quick on-line search will produce many options. Here are the most reliable and up-to date sources we know of.



Military.com [Military Funeral Honors](#)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - [Memorial Benefits](#)



But, perhaps, **the best collection of the pertinent information** would be found in Congressional Research Service Report RS21545, - [Military Funeral Honors and Military Cemeteries and FAQ](#)



THE FINE PRINT

Non profit organizations are required to follow particular guidelines. Jobs have to be carried out in certain ways to keep the structure of the organization strong. Here are examples of the roles our Tom Day and our National Coordinators are required to fulfill.

Board Roles and Responsibilities (via the Council of Non-Profits)

- * Board members steer the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as making sure the nonprofit has adequate resources to advance its mission.
- * Sets a talented CEO/executive director to run the day-to-day management activities of the organization.
- * Board members provide foresight, oversight, and insight: think of them as up in the crow's nest scanning the horizon for signs of storms or rainbows to explore, perhaps with a pot of gold at the end!
- * Board members of nonprofits are involved in fundraising.

Nonprofit board members have three primary legal duties known as the...

- **Duty of Care** - Take care of the nonprofit by ensuring prudent use of all assets, including facility, people, and good will; and provide oversight for all activities that advance the nonprofit's effectiveness and sustainability.
- **Duty of loyalty** – Make decisions in the best interest of the nonprofit corporation; not in his or her self-interest.
- **Duty of obedience** – Ensure that the nonprofit obeys applicable laws and acts in accordance with ethical practices; that the nonprofit adheres to its stated corporate purposes, and that its activities advance its mission.

Board Job Descriptions (in detail)

via BoardSource

Board Chair (President/Founder)

- Oversees board and executive committee meetings
- Works in partnership with the chief executive to make sure board resolutions are carried out
- Calls special meetings if necessary
- Appoints all committee chairs, and with the chief executive, recommends who will serve on committees
- Assists chief executive in preparing agenda for board meetings
- Assists chief executive in conducting new board member orientation
- Oversees searches for a new chief executive
- Coordinates chief executive's annual performance evaluation
- Works with the governance committee to recruit new board members
- Acts as an alternate spokesperson for the organization
- Periodically consults with board members on their roles and helps them assess their performance

Board Vice Chair (National Coordinators)

- Attend all board meetings
- Serve on the executive committee if one exists
- Carry out special assignments as requested by the board chair
- Understand the responsibilities of the board chair and be able to perform these duties in the chair's absence
- Participate as a vital part of the board leadership

Board Secretary (National Coordinators)

- Attend all board meetings
- Serve on the executive committee if one exists
- Ensure the safety and accuracy of all board records
- Review board minutes
- Assume responsibilities of the chair in the absence of the board chair, chair-elect, and vice chair
- Provide notice of meetings of the board and/or of a committee when such notice is required

Board Treasurer

- Attend all board meetings
- Maintain knowledge of the organization and personal commitment to its goals and objectives
- Understand financial accounting for nonprofit organizations
- Serve as the chair of the finance committee
- Manage, with the finance committee, the board's review of and action related to the board's financial responsibilities
- Work with the chief executive and the chief financial officer to ensure that appropriate financial reports are made available to the board on a timely basis
- Present the annual budget to the board for approval
- Review the annual audit and answer board members' questions about the audit

One last thing we wanted to make very clear....

Bugles Across America is an equal opportunity organization and **does not discriminate** based on race, religion, gender, age, sexuality, gender identification, or physical ability.



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



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. We now have gold Lyre pins, I will be painting some silver as well. We have a good supply of coins and patches.

Medals & Ribbons: We have all the medals. However, ribbons for our medals are available at Glendale Color Guard store in New Jersey.

Flags: BAA and Gold Star Mothers flags are currently on order.

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 several 3C and 7C Kelly mouthpieces.

Please send requests via email to Tom Day at TomJDay@sbcglobal.net

SHOW YOUR COLORS!

Early this summer, MI Assistant Director Ernie Richardson presented a grand idea to us. He wanted to develop a nice jacket with the BAA emblem emblazoned on it to have for casual wear. Ernie had some ideas, and he had located a source willing and capable for the special-order embroidery. We started working ideas and suggestions to get to a point where we felt we had a great product available for you.

Although I say nothing about the model, I hope that the pictures will give you a decent idea of the jacket's appearance. This is a nice lined jacket with stand up collar and elastic cuffs. Along with the two side pockets, there is also a zippered inside pocket. The back of the jacket is embroidered (not a sewn-on patch) with a 9 ½ inch replica of our BAA logo in full color. The price includes embroidered name on the left front. And, just like Henry Ford's early cars..... you can get it in any color you want, as long as it's black. We are striving for standardization, folks, and we went to great lengths to find the right combination of jacket color/style with the right presentation of the BAA logo.

Please understand that this jacket is intended for casual wear only..... you know, a trip to the grocery, or walking the dog, or sitting in the mall while your spouse is shopping! The jacket must not be worn to serve military funeral missions!

Individuals may order the jacket by contacting Jeanie Buchanan at:

GENIE BEE'S EMBROIDERY
586-749-9700 or
586-588-1675 (cell)
geniebees@gmail.com



The jacket is priced at \$65 plus shipping. Sizes beyond 1XL may require a slightly higher price, but Jeanie will work with you on this. Note that it may well be the same price to ship several jackets to one central location as compared to shipping just one jacket to an individual. So, if several members living nearby would choose to combine their order and then arrange for pick up at a designated location..... well, you get the idea. Current turn around time has been running about one week, but may depend on demand.

I had a first-run sample of the jacket to display to those attending the Leadership Conference and it was well received. Some orders were placed by telephone before we left the building.

Howard T Reitenbaugh
National Coordinator

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:

- * Mississippi
- * Montana
- * New Mexico
- * Nevada
- * North Dakota
- * 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 Hawaii on Facebook](#)

[BAA Oklahoma on Facebook](#)

[BAA Utah on Facebook](#)

[BAA Michigan on Facebook](#)

[BAA: New Jersey](#)

Gear & Decorative

[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.