

# BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



## BAA Briefing



Welcome to the new year. I pray that everyone had a great Christmas season and a safe New Year event.

Looking back over my records and log's since our beginning, I find that I have done a total of 1,119 Taps missions through BAA. We have estimated that each mission takes about four hours, which adds up to 4,476 of

volunteer hours. Add in eight to ten hours a day working to build and develop BAA since late 1999... wow that's a bunch. Yes, a lot of time, but look at what we have all done together. If we calculated all our time, it would be a huge number.

Examples are men like Ed Crobie with over 6,000 burials at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery; Robert Miller with 8,000 at Riverside, CA. We, as a group, also do many things other than sound those honorable 24 notes. Our members have taken it upon themselves to help in cities and towns where an old cemetery or Veterans Monument is in disrepair. We participate in activities of community and VSO's.

As an organization, we give help when asked. If we have the funds, we help others. For Example...BAA sponsors one or two marching members who participate in Drum Corps International DCI drum and bugle corps. We support the CT-based "Buglers Hall of Fame".

For the last two years we have helped bring a bus load of Navy recruits to Berwyn, IL. for Christmas lunch. Last year 110 and this year 95 will be on the bus from Great Lakes Naval Station Boot Camp.

For Boy Scouts in need who want to earn the Bugling Merit



## IN THIS ISSUE

### 1 BAA BRIEFING

A message from Tom Day

### 3 STATE DIR. SPOTLIGHT

New Hampshire

### 4 FIND THE BUGLE

Find,! Enter! Win!

### 7 SHOW YOUR COLORS

BAA Jacket

### 9 BAA UNIFORM

Protocol & Stolen Valor

### 10 BUGLER ENABLERS

Honoring those who help us most

### 12 BEHIND THE BUGLE

Your stories told

### 24 LETTERS OF GRATITUDE

Thanks from the families

### 27 BAA IN THE NEWS

BAA spotted in the news

### 29 AN APOLOGY

Mistake in issue #25

### 30 KEY NOTES & FAQs

Becoming a responsible member

### 33 THE SUPPLY CLOSET

Available items & recent winners

### 34 THE BAA LEARNING CTR

Now open for visitors!

### 35 NOTES, LINKS, ETC

Things that may interest you

Badge (which BAA helped save when it was about to be discontinued), we acquire, repair and present G bugles at no cost to the scouts.

Locally, we help at the Food Pantry, as we know homeless Vets are there every Tuesday. BAA sponsors a grant award to the Chicago JROTC program to honor the most outstanding Cadet. This award is presented at the Biggest Memorial Day Parade in America...Chicago. This parade has 44 high schools and 8 junior highs, and when BAA leads the parade every year we have over 6,600 cadets in uniform.

BAA volunteers support Wreathes Across America events each December, as well as the Spirit of '45 programs every August for the last five years.

Starting this year and building into 2018 is the 100th anniversary of World War One. Should any of you need community service hours for school, a great project might be to locate a WWII monument and start bringing it back to life with necessary clean up and repair. So if any of you are doing a project and need help . Let me know.

What this all amounts to is , "What you give , you get back ten fold."

**ATTN.... State Directors!** Nationwide we have over 500 bad emails for our members. This means they are no longer active members.

You have very recently been reminded of your responsibility to do an audit of your state's membership. Emails that continue to fail when we get into February, will require that we arbitrarily remove those names from the rosters. This management of state rosters is one of the designated responsibilities of the State Directors. Those no longer interested in serving as a State Director or Asst. Director please let us know.

I quote my Mom,, "Bad politicians are elected by people who don't vote" . The Veterans we bury died to give us the right to vote, so I plead that you exercise that privilege.

Thanks for all you do. Fly the Flag.

Tom Day, Founder

## State Director Spotlight: New Hampshire

### Gary Torressen - State Director

**How long have you been with BAA?:** Since June of 2013

**Why did you join?:** To ensure that as many Veterans as possible have live Taps sounded for them as a final honor and tribute. My Dad passed away in 2012 and at his Memorial service the electronic bugle (the machine) failed. I was unaware that there was even an option for this to be used at a veteran's funeral. Once I learned of the use of electronic bugles, I wanted to help with live Taps, and I was a trumpet player I searched the internet and found BAA. I signed up immediately. SD from Maine Peter Duston contacted me. This has been one of the best and most honorable organizations I have ever been a part of. I am grateful for everyone who is a part of BAA and is committed 100% to the mission of live Taps and for Tom Day who founded BAA.



**How long have you been playing?** Since the 4th grade.

**What is the hardest part about being a SD?:** The hardest part of being a State Director has been the few times where we were not able to find a bugler for a requested mission. Making that phone call to the requestor to inform them and apologize is very hard.

**What is the best part about being a SD?:** The friendships that I have made as well as partnerships with other organizations.

**What has been your best experience with BAA?:** Each and every funeral I've been a part of Sounding Taps for a fallen Veteran.

**What is your goal for your state?:** To try to grow our core base of buglers. I am looking for people who have a passion for this mission of live Taps. I am also seeking to find an assistant SD to help with this goal. I also want to continue to build relationships with the American Legion posts and other Veterans organizations in the State.

**Personal Misc:** My wife Melissa and I just celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary. She is so supportive of all that I do with BAA. I could not do this without her by my side. My daughter Alysha Graduated from UNH and recently brought home a puppy which she named Murray and keeps us all active. My son Andrew is now a junior at Norwich University in Vermont and is in the Corps of Cadets. He participates in the Norwich Artillery Battery which is part of the Army Dept. Andrew will be commissioning as an officer with the Army upon graduation in 2017. I am so thankful for my family and their support. Most importantly I am thankful to God for the talent and all the blessings he has given me. The Lord has been with me through all the good and bad times in life. I know in my heart he gave me the gift of playing the trumpet for the very purpose of sounding Taps and for that I am thankful.



# 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](mailto:findthebugle@gmail.com)

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

**“What can I win?”** A \$50 gift certificate for your 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](mailto:findthebugle@gmail.com)





We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #25 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

**Stephen Witort** of Nevada

**Jeff Kaplan** of Colorado

**Sr Sue Kilduski** of Illinois

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.



A double-blind drawing has selected **Richard Kurtz of Ohio** as the fourth grand prize winner in our Find The Bugle contest.

*"This is the trumpet I received from Tom Day. It's a King Silver Flair, and I'm excited about using it to play Taps!"*

## Baffled as to its location?



# SHOW YOUR COLORS!

BAA has developed a new way to show your BAA pride! Your very own BAA jacket!

This is a beautiful embroidered black jacket that is nicely lined, elastic cuffs, 2 side pickets and a zippered inside pocket! The embroidery is a 9 ½ inch replica of our BAA logo on the back and your name embroidered on the front.



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](mailto:geniebees@gmail.com)

The jacket is priced at \$65 plus shipping. She takes check and requires half as a down payment.

Sizes beyond 1XL may require a slightly higher price, but Jeanie will work with you on this.

Current turn around time has been running about a couple weeks, but will depend on demand.

If you do order, we'd love to see a photo of you in it for the newsletter! Please email it to Jen Day at [JenDayBAA@icloud.com](mailto:JenDayBAA@icloud.com)

## Frank Fenton - Tennessee

It was interesting that I happened to wear the jacket into my doctor's office on Friday and I was approached by a woman (seated with her husband) inquiring about the BAA. She and her husband were both veterans. After explaining about the service we provide nation-wide and in Middle Tennessee, and my community support as a French Horn player in the local community band, she was excited that there was such an organization. She was appreciative of my support to the community and thank me for supporting such a worthy cause - BAA.



**Jerry Cerchia - Minnesota**

**Ohio Assistant State Director, Steve Bow,** and his daughter Claudia, show off their new BAA jackets with pride!





# BAA Uniform Protocols and Stolen Valor

There have been some concerns brought to our attention of individuals wearing inappropriate or unauthorized uniform items.

In the BAA directives...

"The BAA uniform must be worn in accordance with BAA directives with no personal alterations or additions."

"No attempt shall be made to "create" a uniform that would give the appearance of any military service or that contains parts of surplus military uniforms for the same effect. As a general rule, our buglers should never be attired in any manner that draws extra or unwarranted attention to them. It is not about us, it is about those we are there to honor."

Straight up... if you didn't **earn** it..  
you're **not allowed to wear it!**

If you have not earned any medals, stripes or bars from the military, this is what your uniform should look like. Nothing more.

For precise positioning directions, please see the [Uniforms tab](#) on the BAA web site. You **MUST** be logged in to view this page.

Thank you for your cooperation.

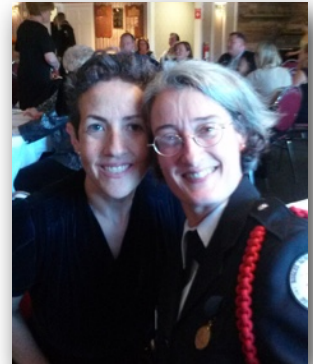


## Who is your Bugler Enabler?

We all have friends and family who support what we do.. our mission to honor veterans. We are especially thankful for that special person who supports us the most, and want to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge them.

### Kim Shaw - Massachusetts

Here's one of my enablers, my wife, Rebecca Gorlin, a musician in her own right (drums and voice). She's accompanied me on several mission-related day-trips, and has been a very good sport about schedule disruptions due to sudden bugler requests. Fellow musicians make great allies! We both belong to the Freedom Trail marching band of Boston, and grab every chance to play klezmer music as well.



Another enabler is my mom, Sylvia Daniels of Sabattus, Maine. She's asked me to put together a press kit, so that she has something to hand out to people who want to know more about "that bugling thing" I do! So, BAA is getting some good PR in the Lewiston area. She also loves showing off pictures of me dressed up; we really do have a sharp uniform at BAA! It gets compliments each time I'm out on mission.

### Tom Cushing - Indiana



Pictured here is my wife and "Number One Chief Supporter & Loyal Fan", Sheila R. Cushing. She sees to it that I have photos of my exploits with my horn: parades, patriotic ceremonies, funerals (inside or at graveside) no matter what the weather plus guest appearances here there and everywhere. I haven't figured out how to take photos of myself while playing the horn; have you? She joined the American Legion Auxiliary at Griffith, Indiana Post 66 where I am "The Official Post Bugler" so that we can share our activities and support one another. She

keeps me well fed and nurses me when my health warrants it. I do believe it's true love that we share every day. We also sing and play with a Ukulele group that entertains all around Northwest Indiana: "The Just for Fun Ukulele Strummers". She is still working and we are looking forward to her retiring.

## Miku Stone - Texas

I would like to give a shout out to my father for being my biggest fan when it comes to sounding "Taps" at funerals and special events. My father was the one who encouraged me to join Bugles Across America when I was a junior in high school. He has been there at every single "Taps" event that I have done. He believes that sounding "Taps" is the greatest honor that any trumpet player can be asked to do. I am so grateful for him for supporting me every step of the way.



## Jeff Kaplan - California

My wife, Bev, is the driving force behind my bugling. Bev talked me in to joining up when we heard a BAA bugler sound Taps at a veteran's dinner. She didn't blink at the expense of the uniform, and cheerfully critiqued my practice sessions. Bev not only supports my BAA activities, she has attended several veterans' events with me. The picture is of my wife and I at breakfast before a Spirit of '45 ceremony.



## BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

### Howard Reitenbaugh - BAA State Director, Pennsylvania

#### Memorial Dedication at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

The Memorial Bench has been placed along the Memorial Walkway at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. This beautiful granite memorial was presented by Bugles Across America (Pennsylvania), and was dedicated "In Memory of All Military Musicians".

The Memorial was placed at very prestigious position of our choosing, and will be viewed by many as they visit the cemetery.

A formal dedication ceremony had been planned for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, but had to be reluctantly cancelled almost at the last minute because of the impending hurricane blasting up the east coast. The ANG band had called to inform me that they were not prepared to play outdoors in rain and high winds.

Our keynote speaker, a retired Army Bandmaster, would have had to leave his home in Virginia, right in the reported path of the hurricane. I could not, in all good conscience, ask him to do that, and drive through storm and flooding conditions for over five hours.



We are working on plans to reschedule the dedication for a nice spring day. Stay tuned!

### Don Mallinson - Illinois

I had wanted to get my lip back in shape, and had been procrastinating on the needed practice. I was then asked to sound Taps at my hometown's 9-11 ceremony this year (2015). I then HAD to get my lip in shape. Shortly after that, a high school friend who was a BAA member in another state told me about BAA and I joined. Since then I have sounded Taps at four funerals and again in my hometown for Veterans day. I am honored to sound Taps again, 50 years after doing it in high school. I can feel my old band director, Mr. Smith, standing over my shoulder every time!

## Jerry Watters - Texas

I have been a trumpeter for over 64 years and am still busy sounding Taps for servicemen at the Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery. I began playing a Getzen Cornet at the age of 10 in the 4th Grade. I played that horn all the way through high school and one year of college. I joined the Navy Band program in 1961 and served in the Unit Band # 198 with Admiral Second Fleet aboard the heavy cruiser USS Newport News. I did play bugle calls several times on board this magnificent ship. We toured all the East coast, the Caribbean, Canada and Northern Europe (including England, Germany, Denmark, and Sweden). I was discharged from the Navy in 1965, and completed my college education at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. I taught jr. high and high school orchestra, band and choir for four years and then moved to the Dallas area in 1974 to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth. I worked on a Music and Education degree. I never finished, but served several churches in the Dallas area. I purchased a Conn Trumpet Model 38B on discharge from the Navy and played that through my college years and into teaching. I worked as an instrument salesman at Brook Mays Music Company in Dallas for 16 years and was able to purchase a Bach model 25 large bore trumpet and a Bach Flugelhorn, both Strad models. I have played for the Singing Men of Texas for almost 40 years and still play at least once a month for special concerts and I also play in my church's orchestra every Sunday. I stay busy with many activities in teaching and playing during the week and look forward to helping sound Taps at the many memorials here in this area. I'm not looking forward to retiring any time and will continue to play my trumpet and flugelhorn as long as I have breath.



## Amy Shumoski - Pennsylvania

For the second time this year, my son, BAA member Aidan Peterson, supported a fundraiser organized by the Delco Cruisers. On Sunday, December 6 he was invited to join the Cruise for Kids toy drive. He sounded Taps during a moment of silence for local Marine, firefighter, and EMT Scott Jones, who was killed a week earlier in a car accident. Aidan was happy to count this as his 22nd mission this year for BAA.



### **Bruce M. Benson - Missouri**

As a veteran of WWII where I was a member of the 281<sup>st</sup> AGF Band, and at my oldest granddaughter's invitation, I recently had the privilege to go with DFW Honor Flight 26 to Washington, DC. Man, what a trip! Everything was so well organized and we were treated like royalty everywhere we went. It was just amazing! We toured all of the Veteran Memorials and, of course, I took my horn along. I am so glad I did because I had the honor of playing Taps for our group and other tourists at the Korean War Monument and the Vietnam Veteran Wall. I can hardly talk about the sense of gratitude and pride this opportunity brought to my heart. The Air Force Band presented a delightful concert and, of course, I took my horn along. As the members of the band took a well-deserved break, I got to play my rendition of "Someone to Watch Over Me" with the rhythm section of the band. All of this rolled into two memorable days that I live over and over in my mind.



And, it doesn't stop there. As a result of friends I made along the way during that memorable weekend, I will have the privilege of playing my horn in Dallas at a Veterans Prayer Breakfast and at a Rotary Club event in November.

Since August, I have been sounding Taps in my little home town every day at sundown. I live directly across the street from our local post office where our beautiful Old Glory waves day and night. So, I just step outside my front door facing the flag. Sometimes members of my family or friends arrive at sundown, and recently a young man who is a former Marine has joined me to play echo Taps.

Life is good and I am very thankful.



### **John Thomas - Maine**

I'm going to play Taps and other Bugle calls at a Memorial Day 2016 ceremony at Haddonfield MHS. This is a WWI pocket bugle made by William H Horseman.

## Gary Marquardt - Minnesota

BAA State Director Derek Berg headed up the BAA delegation to the Veteran's Day Rolling Taps performance surrounding the Central Flagpole at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN.

The buglers were spaced evenly around the flagpole foundation, and at exactly 11:00 the first bugler began. On the fourth note, the man to his left began and the sound to Taps slowly built into a symphony of horns until it got around the entire flagpole and slowly died down to the last player sounding the last three notes. He made those notes soft and sweet with just the right vibrato and held it to fade perfectly.

Surrounding the buglers was a circle of the "Rolling Thunder" Honor Guards who are at Fort Snelling most days making sure that the honor of our veterans is always provided. They each held an American Flag and were very grateful for the buglers who were there.



Ken McKinnon, Cemetery Director at Fort Snelling gave a very heart-felt thank you for all of those attending.

Both the NBC and ABC affiliate news teams were there filming, and one did an interview with Derek Berg.

As a new member of BAA in the past year, it was inspiring to be part of this and to be among so many dedicated and nice people.



## Steve Bow - BAA Assistant Director, Ohio

### My American Legion Post 256 Normandy Presentation

This past week on Tuesday I was invited to the AL Post 256 officer's meeting to give my presentation on my trip to Normandy. I was invited by the Commander who is a friend of mine. I sound Taps with them at Veterans Park in Loveland, OH on Memorial Day and at a few cemeteries around town with the Patriot Guard during the morning.

Here is the [YouTube slide show](#)

Long story short, I gave my presentation, talked a bit about BAA, gave everyone sand from Omaha Beach, and got a 30 second standing ovation from them. It was a nice moment for us as an organization. Everyone there shook my hand afterwards and expressed appreciation for what we do for the Veterans by sounding Taps. One pal of mine who was a Vietnam Vet couldn't stop hugging me.

I just wanted to share that even though Taps is our reason for being, honoring the Veteran no more and no less, being active with doing special events like this to promote our cause also goes a long way. The Post knows what I do with BAA and as an SAL - it earns respect for our Mission as Taps Buglers. What an honor to do what we do!

## Ron Tranmer - Utah

I volunteered for a patriotic program at an elementary school in Riverton, Utah. I salute the school's principal and teachers for doing such a wonderful job teaching patriotism and love for country to these

young American children. Their songs and recitals brought tears to my eyes.



I arrived early and was invited into a 3rd grade class, where I played a few bugle calls and answered their many questions. One young boy asked me, "Are you the best bugler in America?" I answered that ALL buglers are the best in America, no matter how well we play, because we always do our best to honor our country and her veterans." He seemed to like the answer.



### Tom Day - BAA Founder, Illinois

On November 19th, I was at the BAA Learning Center when a call came in that the Army team forgot to check if they had a digital device before they went out. Within 15 minutes I was at the location to sound Taps live for the family. This ended up being my 100th mission for the year and will be added to the 5,500 missions done since 1950. I have been credited with over 100,000 hours of volunteer time by the VA.



I also had the honor of sounding Taps at this year's Veterans Day program at Divine Infant School.

### Don Chilton - Rhode Island

Island Cemetery in Newport, RI held their second annual Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 12, 2015. Echo Taps was done by MUCS(SW) Don Chilton, retired Navy and SPC William Chilton, 88th Army Band, Rhode Island.



### Jerry Kolb - Kansas

The man standing next to me is a Country Western singer who sang the National Anthem immediately after I sounded Taps. It sure did catch the moment. I figured there would be a few people there, but the stands were packed with 5000 people; standing room only. Small town America at its best, honoring veterans.

## Vince LaBarbera - Indiana

### *“It was my Honor”*

I received a mission request in mid-December from Bugles Across America to play Taps for a disabled Vietnam War Veteran named James Beavers who died Nov. 23, 2015, and left behind no known family or friends. A local funeral home planned to give the Army private a full military burial.

By accepting this mission it offered me, an Army Reserve veteran, an opportunity to honor this man for his service to our country. Burial would be near my home in Fort Wayne, Indiana. With no family or friends, I figured it only would be the military honor guard and me at the cemetery. But then the news media got hold of the story.

After interviewing funeral home spokespersons and a couple of neighbors who knew of the deceased, news about this reportedly lonely veteran spread throughout the community. The result was a rallying cry for military veterans and civilians to honor him – and all veterans – by attending his funeral and burial during the holiday season.

As the day approached the unusual warm weather we had been experiencing suddenly changed and the temperature hovered near the freezing mark. I began to grow anxious about playing in the cold as well as possibly performing in front of an anticipated large crowd.

Since the funeral service was at 2:00 p.m. and a long way from the cemetery, I arrived at the grave site around 2:15 p.m. I introduced myself to the military honor guard commander and we decided on a good place for me to stand to sound Taps. I then waited in my car trying to keep both myself and my trumpet warm. Initially, my original estimation of who would be attending the burial appeared to be correct since the American Legion honor guard and a half-dozen active Army personnel were the only ones present besides myself. Eventually, however, the news media began to arrive. I counted three television stations as well as the morning newspaper. In fact, a reporter tapped on my car window and asked me where I would be standing so he could get both still and video pictures.

As I continued to blow warm air into my instrument, the military honor guard commander also tapped on my window and asked if I still wanted to play in the cold and wind, offering to sound Taps on an electric bugle they had brought with them. I thanked him and said I would be fine but planned to stay in my car as long as possible. I watched as speaker stands, flags and flowers continued to topple over in the strong wind.

The funeral home director had told me earlier that the funeral procession probably would not



arrive at the cemetery much before 3:00 p.m. I checked my watch. It was approaching 4:00 p.m.

Suddenly, everyone began to scramble into place as word was received on someone's cell phone that the funeral procession was approaching. I watched as police vehicles led the procession onto cemetery grounds. They were followed by dozens of Indiana Patriot Guard motorcycle riders and hundreds of cars, trucks, vans and SUVs. I thought the procession would never end.

Crowds of people began to gather around my vehicle nearly blocking my view of the grave site. Several people were wearing veteran attire, evidence of military service for America. I continued to blow warm air into my instrument knowing full well, as I did so, that moisture would accumulate making it necessary to empty the horn of water often.

As the ceremony began, I finally left my warm vehicle and headed for a spot amidst several permanent American and military flags flapping loudly in the wind. The newspaper reporter positioned a camera less than 10 feet from me while the TV reporters moved their cameras in, around and through the polite but curious crowd.

After the seven-member honor guard fired the customary volleys, I paused long enough for them to come to order arms. Then I breathed a prayer and began playing, reminding myself to support my tone with a strong column of air. I hit all the notes, even though some of them seemed to disappear in the wind more rapidly than others.

When the grave service was finished, I returned to my car, put my trumpet away and waited for the crowd to disperse. It was after 4:30 p.m. I thanked God for a good performance. I also was grateful no one from the media approached for an interview.

That evening I learned on the news that more than 1,500 people attended the service at the funeral home and hundreds were estimated to have driven to the cemetery. Again, I was pleased there was no mention or pictorial coverage of the bugler. And that is how it should be. It was my honor!

## Sister Sue Kilduski, OSB - Illinois

### Honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Milton Lee Olive III, Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Awardee

I had the privilege to sound Taps at a ceremony to honor Milton Lee Olive III that took place in a park named for him near Navy Pier in Chicago. Olive was awarded a Purple Heart and a Medal of Honor, given to his father and stepmother by President Johnson in 1966. Olive belonged to the weapons squad of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry of the U.S. Army's 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade. While they were on a search-and-destroy mission in a Vietnamese jungle, the squad had been ambushed and a grenade landed in its midst. Olive fell on it, sacrificing his life to save the others. The members of the squad had never met together since that heroic act 50 years ago. It was at this event that the five remaining members of his squad honored the Chicago 19 yr. old soldier. There was a Chicago Fire Department boat that shot jets of water in the air to honor Olive. The Chicago Police helicopter did a fly over. There was a letter from President Obama. Many city officials, aging veterans, relatives, a member of the House and a member of the Senate and many others addressed the gathering of 100 people. Then it was my turn to give honor to Milton Olive and their squad by sounding Taps during the wreath laying part of the ceremony. I have never taken part in such a reunion that evoked laughter, tears and joy.



## Bob Baccus - Alabama

Tennessee Valley Chapter Sons of American Revolution  
Wreaths Across America – Huntsville, AL

### Joy Oakes - Massachusetts

This is my first time writing regarding BAA and volunteering. It has been my honor these past 12 years! I was just recently able to afford purchasing the BAA uniform, and very proud to represent BAA. My dear husband, John has been a great support to me these years. I am blessed and happy to be able to honor the ones who have kept our country safe.



### John Brewer - Texas

In November 2014, I was honored to bugle for the 150th Anniversary of the 1st Battle of Adobe Walls. Established in 1843 as a trading post for both buffalo hunters and local Indian trade in the vicinity of the Canadian River near Stinnett, Texas, the site has seen two decisive battles.



One involved native Americans and the US Army in November 1864. A second battle in June 1874, had civilians at the Adobe Walls trading post successfully repelling an attack by native Americans. The site is also famous in Western lore being used in many novels and movies [most notable is the TV series Lonesome Dove]. My ancestors [both American and Indian] were buffalo hunters at Adobe walls in 1874 so I was excited to be asked to play the call "To the Color" [Civil War version] , "Taps" and "The Star

Spangled Banner" for the ceremony hosted by the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum located in Canyon, Texas. In the photo I am on Cannon Ridge as two mountain howitzer crews from Ft. Sill Oklahoma stand at attention for our National Anthem.

### Annie Ingram - Alabama

I was contacted by Mike Abrams for MG Watson and Col Valieant to play Taps at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Fort McClellan Military Cemetery in Anniston, Alabama on December 12, 2015. On December 13, 2015, I also played Taps for Chapter 62 WACVA wreath ceremony for their veteran sisters at 431 cemetery in Anniston, Alabama.

## Miku Stone - Texas

A few days before Veteran's Day, I got a call from an old colleague who used to be in the Texas Christian University trumpet studio. He told me that an individual who was very famous for playing "Taps", "The National Anthem", and jazz gigs wanted someone to play "Taps" at the Daughters of World War II Veteran's Ceremony at the Anatole Hotel. The individual who was supposed to play "Taps" had to go on a business trip so he needed a sub immediately. I decided to take up the mission after a bit of thinking about it.

I soon found out that this mission was definitely out of my comfort zone. The biggest "Taps" event I had ever played at was when I was a junior in high school at the Enid Fire Department during the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. At that event, the local newspaper reporters showed up and the mayor of Enid was present.

At this event, I was expected to play "Taps" in front of former President Bush, Senator Allen B. West, Dwight D. Eisenhower's granddaughter, and many World War II veterans. There were 700 individuals present and perfection was definitely expected. After two hours of listening to speakers and slowly watching my instrument turn cold (the ballroom in the Anatole was freezing), I made my way up on the stage. The stage lights were beating down on me and I was pretty nervous. Although I had not warmed up, I surprisingly performed well. As soon as I was done, several World War II veterans approached me and congratulated me. They were so grateful that I had sounded Taps.

The organizers of the event were so impressed that they wanted to pay me for sounding Taps. I thanked them for their generosity but told them that I would rather not be paid because if anyone should be paid it should be the World War II veterans whom sacrificed so much to this country. Fortunately, they understood my reasoning. I thank Bugles Across America and especially my father for instilling that character trait in me. It is definitely a great trait to have.

## John Blair - BAA State Director, Virginia & District of Columbia

Fellow BAA Bugler Paul Jones and I had the honor of sounding Taps at the annual Commonwealth of Virginia's Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, VA. The Honorable Terry McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia was the guest speaker. This is a letter I received from Rick Oertel, Past Commander, 11<sup>th</sup> District, American Legion Department of Virginia:

*"The 11th District of the American Legion and all veterans and guests at our Veterans Day ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial wish to sincerely thank you for again participating in our ceremony. While you are a perennial participant, and as such it is in reality your ceremony as well, you certainly deserve our thanks for a job well done. Your rendition of echo Taps with Paul Jones was superb both at the War Memorial and at the Chesterfield County event.*

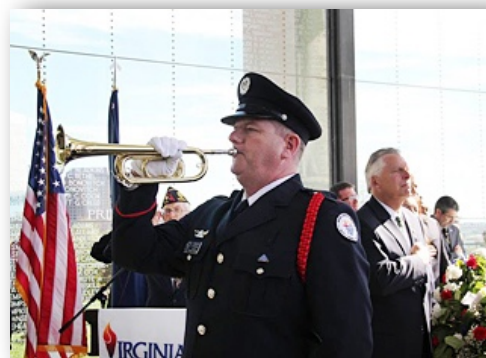
*We hope that you will be available and participate with us at our 2016 Memorial Day ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial.*

*Again thank you for your support of The American Legion, the Virginia War Memorial, and all the veterans of Virginia."*



John Blair, Gov. Terry  
McAuliffe, Paul Jones

John Blair sounding Taps



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](mailto:JenDayBAA@iCloud.com)



## Letters of Gratitude



My husband's funeral service was yesterday at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, IL. The three representatives of your organization did a military memorial flag display in the church sanctuary following the service.

I want to tell you that it was most impressive. The young men did a splendid job of handling the flag; their posture was perfect as were their uniforms and their Taps were the finest I've ever heard. Not a single wobble on that bugle and the acoustics in our church amplified the song. You could have heard a pin drop. What a touching ending to my husband's funeral procedures.

My husband was in a bomber in the European theatre during WWII. Thank you so very much for this tribute. It was so very meaningful.

In appreciation,  
Mary Lou Sandvik

*Many thanks to Bugles Across America!*

*We had a memorial for my father last week, as it marked 40 years from his passing after serving in Vietnam. Kimberley Shaw, of Massachusetts went beyond being a Bugler. She was able to obtain a flag to be presented to my mother on behalf of the Veterans Administration. Much closure and healing happened this day. Also, Kimberley remained in touch with me from the time I made a request until the actual day. Many thanks to Bugles Across America and your service to veterans and their families!*

*Kathleen*

On Sunday, November 1, BAA member Barry Morgan, came to our Amedisys Hospice Memorial Service in Chattanooga, TN. He was from Marietta, GA. Because of the busyness going on, I did not get his address. Could you please express our great thanks to him for what he did and what he added to our service. Thank you BAA for the work you do. You are awesome!!!

Thanks again,  
Evelyn Thompson

*You proved that Bugles Across America supports our communities.*

*I'm so sorry the remarks/presentations went on for so long. I didn't think we'd ever get to the end. When we finally were able to get to Taps, you were ready and the bugle presentation went off with perfection. Everyone was impressed and appreciative for your sounding off with Taps at the close of our ceremony.*

*Thank you for your standing by with us in the cold of that day. Taps is special to many of us as we recall our fellow Troopers who have fallen in battle. Your presentation was sincerely appreciated.*

*Thank you and I apologize for not sending this thank you earlier. But, I wanted to have the article sent to our 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Newsletter available for you to read along with the thank you.*

**AIRBORNE, ALL THE WAY!!**

**RAGMAN**

**Robert A. Getz**

Hi, I just wanted to compliment Maria Pytlik on her bugling at our event on 11/11. I really appreciated her service for our Veteran's Day Celebration!

Kim Hassebrook

*I would like to take this time to thank the Buglers that stood with me and rendered Taps to honor our Veteran on his transition going home to be at rest. A special thanks to Mr Sean Reisdorf who drove across town in a snow storm to provide Taps on 21 November 2015. Thank you, thank you all. I appreciate every one of you on the BAA team.*

*June Hayes*

Dear Mr. Day,

Even though it has been over 12 years ago now that you played Taps at my father's, (Bill Campbell) funeral, I think of you and your organization often.

My husband Terry and I now live in a small town 20 minutes south of Omaha called Plattsmouth. Terry, is the current Quartermaster here at the VFW, and involved with 40 & 8, American Legion and the Marine Corp League. He is a retired Navy Corpsman who spent most of his time attached to the Marines. I have asked him to review your web page and share the information of your wonderful organization. I tell people all the time about you, but admit I did not look up your website. I have no excuse except maybe the tears that get in my way.

I still have the framed document and medal you put together for my dad. Your friendship meant the world to him. I am truly grateful for what you did for him when he was alive and the honor you gave him in death.

I wish you a Blessed Christmas, and pray that all is well with you, your family and Bugles Across America.

Campbell Tilson

## BAA- IN THE NEWS

### Ron Tranmer - Utah

Thought I'd share a newspaper article from the Salt Lake Tribune, regarding a memorial for the homeless, at which I played recently. Utah had 91 homeless people die in the streets this year, of which several were veterans.



### Homeless Person's Memorial and Candlelight Vigil commemorates 91 who died in 2015

The Salt Lake Tribune  
Dec 17 2015 08:09PM

Ron Tranmer of Bugles Across America plays "Taps" at the Homeless Person's Memorial and Candlelight Vigil at Pioneer Park in Salt Lake City on Thursday. People gathered at the park for the Homeless Person's Memorial and Candlelight

Vigil, which commemorates the 91 homeless people who died during the preceding year. The event also aims to enlighten the public on ways to help and prevent such deaths in the future.

[Click](#) for online article.

### Chicago's WGN "Kid of the Week" Radio Interview

December 8th, 2015

Here is the [link to my interview](#) on WGN Radio! It starts about 41 minutes into the audio. Tom Day, thank you so much for calling me up and talking to me! It was quite an honor for me and thank you for founding Bugles Across America; I wouldn't have been so appreciative of veterans and their deeds without you. You have opened my eyes.

Sincerely,  
Grace Adduci

## Sam Young - Kansas

From the Fall 2015 *Crossed Sabers*, newsletter of the U.S. Cavalry Association

**BUGLING COMPETITION:** The competition was fierce; an experienced bugler against an Army trained musician. The bugler, who has competed in two previous NCC bugling competitions and winning the second, did not plan to compete this year. He preferred to give younger buglers the opportunity. However a phone call between the First Cavalry Division Horse Detachment Commander and the USCA President set the stage for the dual. Both the bugler and the musician commenced serious practice, especially after they met early in the week and learned each other's background. The musician's commander gave him sufficient duty time for practice while the bugler had to work his practice time between his other USCA duties. The bugler knew all garrison plus many other bugle calls, having played them for over 50 years. The musician knew only one or two bugle calls. He picked five calls to learn and worked very hard. The competition was based on each competitor taking turns playing a call and the other competitor then playing it. The bugler could have easily picked calls he knew the musician did not know, but instead requested the judges allow the musician to play each of his calls first then the bugler would play them. The entire Horse Cavalry detachment was present to support their musician, but honored both their musician and the bugler at the competition's conclusion. The musician was on "pins and needles" awaiting the results and one of his fellow soldiers thanked the bugler "for messing with him." It was a serious but fun competition. The musician has already challenged the bugler to competing at the 2016 NCC. You have probably heard of the "battle of the bands". Well, this will be the "battle of the buglers" that you should not miss!

I played Attention, Adjutant's Call, Flourish (from Ruffles and Flourishes, General's March, and a Bugle March (from The Citadel Forever). I had not done this since May 1969 when I graduated from The Citadel (Regimental Band).



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](mailto:JenDayBAA@iCloud.com)



## **Mistake in Issue #25 - An Apology**

The previous issue of this newsletter carried an article regarding the basic tenet of our purpose as volunteers. That article originally appeared in the newsletter with a by-line that made it seem to have been authored by me. That was in error, and that error was corrected as soon as it was brought to my attention. Anyone opening the newsletter more than a couple days after initial publication will see it attributed to former BAA National Coordinator Larry Wiseman. The basic and foundational presentation of the material in that article was Larry's. I merely read that piece to the group at our Leadership Conference in August as a way of introducing more remarks about our purpose and conduct.

In preparation for the Conference, I was searching my computer files for some other materials when I came across the article with no reference as to author or its original use. I added some paragraphs and updated some of the numbers that were included. I printed one copy and put it in my meeting folder. When I finished reading the piece during the Conference, several people said that it should be published in the Buglers Post, so when I got back home I sent a copy of the file to Jen for inclusion in the newsletter. As I had not stated authorship or given any other instruction, Jen made the assumption that I was the author.

I want to offer this public apology for the incorrect appearance of authorship of that piece. Larry Wiseman is to be given credit for that thought's origination. I am sorry for any confusion or misunderstanding that this may have caused any individual. There was no malicious or underhanded intent in the manner the piece was presented.

Howard T Reitenbaugh  
National Coordinator  
Bugles Across America



## 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

## 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](#).



## The BAA Supply Closet

**Pins and Patches:** Please be advised that the "Bugle Pins" we have now are not made of steel and will break when bent. We now have gold Lyre pins, but they must be painted silver for wear on the BAA uniform if you choose to wear this optional item. 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 Parade Store.

**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. 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](mailto:TomJDay@sbcglobal.net)



## Special Trumpet Award Winners

The two winners of the New Andalucia Advance Phase 3 trumpets are:  
**Roy Zanni** of California and **Thelma Paul** of Michigan.

Other submitted business cards will stay in the box for future drawings, with the next drawing in **June** for 2 more Andalucias.

To be eligible for the drawing you must have a BAA business card in the box at the home office.

Congrats to Thelma and Roy.





## 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**

## 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](mailto: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
- \* 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](mailto: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.



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](#)

# 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](#)

[Service & Sacrifice Warmer](#)

## 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](mailto: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.