

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing



Welcome to March 2016. Most of the winter is over, the weather is clearing, and we are ready.

We've been very busy with various states cutting budgets for their Reserve and National Guard units. Many states have caught on and their Guard units are now

following the lead of Illinois and requesting BAA support at about three times the previous rate. So far, the numbers show we are handling the new requests with good results.

I have processed all requests for pins, coins, patches and other materials.

On March 1st we will have started the meetings for the Biggest Memorial Day Parade in all of America, that's right here in Chicago. The May 28th parade travels down State Street for about nine blocks, and starts at noon. Before that we host a breakfast for Gold Star Mom's and Families. We then proceed to Daley Center for speeches and presentation of the Logan award which is named for General John A. Logan who is recognized as one of the most prominent persons responsible for recognition of Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day). So far, we have 6,600 JROTC Cadets, several military units, and about a dozen music groups from the Cadets. Near the front of the parade this year will be the Cavaliers Senior Drum And Bugle Corps and hopefully the Joliet American Legion Band from Joliet, IL.

At our first meetings I will display pictures of the Hoestra Transportation 53-foot trailer featuring BAA. I'm considering this as a Float, and what a sight this would be coming down State Street! Steve Hoestra said it should be ready by then.



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Things that may interest you

Steve became aware of BAA when he saw me on FOX for the Chris Wallace program. Folks, without FOX and their support, we would not be where we are today. We always receive a huge influx of registrations from all across the county each year following the repeat of this original interview.

We have asked the folks at ITArchitechs (our web host) to help bring our system into the 21st century. Larry Mrazek has begun to assemble a package that will take a few months to fully develop and test. One important feature will be to make the site user-friendly for all platforms, including mobile applications. This \$7K investment will be worth it for all users, and will give our Directors better tools for managing their states.

Working on the process to provide input and be involved in the pre-release testing will be National Coordinators Howard Reitenbaugh, Larré Robertson, and Jen Day.

I got a note from the VFW Post in Northern Wisconsin, saying that our Bugler Adam Diny travelled an hour in a big snowstorm so he could make good on his commitment to sound Taps for their Four Chaplains program in February. We have many individuals that display this level of dedication, but we so very often don't hear about it.

On the other side of that coin, we are in the process, state by state, to clear the rosters of individuals who have failed to show active participation in several years. Many have failed to even log in to the BAA website to see what's going on. If these folks fail to respond to our attempts to contact them, they will be removed from the rolls. They can always register anew if they someday 'wake up' and want to be an active participant in serving the mission of Bugles Across America. We are always in need of new players who really want to VOLUNTEER to do something great for a Family of the Fallen.

I am still looking for more members to get into the free Bugle and Trumpet give-away. All you need to do is send me your BAA business card. The idea behind encouraging you to have a BAA Business Card is to have that small piece of advertising in your pocket all the time. I've heard Howard Reitenbaugh say that he "hands them out like he's exhaling". I have drawn from the collection of cards, and awarded a very fine trumpet as a prize. I'll be making a couple more drawings, with the next set for May 1st. That winner will have his or her new horn by Memorial Day.

So far I've received about 25 cards. That makes for great odds of winning this horn give-away, but it shows me that I have failed to properly impress the members of the importance of marketing and the idea that each member should let their neighborhood know that they are the local BUGLER. If you still do not have a BAA card, take steps to get those made.

A reasonable place to start is with the BAA Card Template found under the For Buglers Only in the [Education tab](#). Remember you must be logged in to access that option.

Now available is a newly designed “Bugler On Duty” magnetic sign for use on your vehicle. These car magnets are printed on heavy-duty material and ideally suited for car door signage. The cost is \$19 for one magnet and \$35 for 2 magnets.



To place an order please contact Vytas Sulaitis at:

VS Printing Services, LLC
1218 Ostrander Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526
vsprinting@hotmail.com
(708) 655-4774

Have a great spring and play well,
Tom Day Founder

State Director Spotlight: New Hampshire

Gary Torressen - New Hampshire

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

Why did you join?: I joined 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. I found BAA and signed up immediately.



How long have you been playing?: Well, I remember in 4th grade the music teacher came around to each class to sign people up interested in band and to choose an instrument. I remember asking my music teacher in one of my first lessons, to teach me how to play Taps and he did. It was one of the first tunes I played on my trusty King Cleveland 600 trumpet which I still have and use to this day, along now with my new Kanstul b flat Bugle. Just like an old and new friend, they both go great together.

What is the hardest part about being a SD?: The hardest part 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 such as 100nightsofRemembrance.org. Noel Taylor who founded this group has been a good friend, partner and encourager with the mission of live Taps. Director Michael Horne from the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery has become a friend and supporter. I have developed relationships with local American Legion Posts who are now using BAA when a live bugler is needed, and with the NorthEast POW MIA Vigil members who meet faithfully each week in Meredith New Hampshire to remember and never forget our POW/MIA's. BAA is such a great group of people.

What has been your best experience with BAA?: Honestly.. it has been each and every funeral I've sounded Taps for. I recently sounded Taps for a WWII veteran and as I started playing I could hear several in attendance crying as soon as the first few notes came from my heart to the mouthpiece and out the bell of the horn.

There is nothing that can describe the emotions that run through your head as a bugler wanting each note to be crisp sharp and perfect to honor the Veteran and Family. I know how much it is appreciated. I am thankful that God gave me a gift of playing trumpet so I can use it to honor others. From learning Taps in fourth grade and now being able to play it for a purpose and with profound meaning makes me glad. We (buglers) for the most part are anonymous as we play those notes, yet the 24 sacred notes are not. The ears that hear the live notes and the heart that is touched by the live notes is priceless.

What is your goal for your state?: My goal is 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 also want to continue to build relationships with the American Legion Posts and other VSO's in the state.

Personal likes, dislikes & other personal information you don't mind sharing: My wife Melissa and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. She is so supportive of all that I do with BAA. I could not do this without her by my side. My son Andrew will be commissioning as an officer with the Army in the Artillery Battery upon graduation. 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. I am also thankful for the veterans in my life like my brother, my father in law and especially my Dad, as it was through him that I became involved with the organization of the BAA.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with your audience?: I do hope to personally meet and catch up with Maryland State Director Chip Stickler someday. This past summer I had travelled to North Carolina and along the way has stopped at a Bob Evans Restaurant in Hagerstown MD. Upon leaving, I saw a van parked out front with a BAA sticker on the windshield. We must have passed at some point in the restaurant but unfortunately did not meet. We had a long drive ahead and knew we had to hit the road so I left my BAA card in his car window and sure enough somewhere along the highway, I got a call from Chip (Stickler). Chip.. Next time I am in Hagerstown, lunch is on me!

I also would like to thank Tom Day, Jen Day, Howard Reitenbaugh, Larré Robertson and everyone else who is a part of BAA. If you are ever in New Hampshire please feel free to stop by and visit me. Continue to Sound the honor ~honor the sound. May God Bless our troops and may God Bless the United States of America. Psalm 91

NEW STATE DIRECTORS

Larry Crossman - Texas Assistant Director

I was born and raised on a farm near Toledo, Ohio. When I was 11 years old, I worked all summer mowing lawns to earn enough money to buy a used cornet. I began to play in the school music program during the sixth grade. I continued to play through high school in the concert, marching, and dance bands. After high school, I enlisted in the Air Force, but did not continue playing the cornet. While in the Air Force, stationed at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas, I met Karen, my wife of now 50 years. Would anyone like to guess why I now reside in Texas? We have been blessed with three beautiful daughters and two grandsons.



I didn't pick up my cornet with the intention of playing again until 2003. Our Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 920 was forming an Honor Guard, and at the initial meeting the suggestion was made that we would need to purchase an "electronic" bugle to sound Taps. I said that would not be necessary, because I would sound Taps. "What makes you think you can play Taps?", was the question. I was able to get my lip back in shape and did begin to sound Taps on the old cornet. Shortly thereafter, the chapter purchased a Getzen bugle to be used by the Honor Guard. At the urging of Doug Ebersole, Texas Assistant State Director, I became a member of Bugles Across America nine years ago. Six years ago my wife purchased me a Getzen 2003E silver bugle that I now use. My being able to sound Taps allows me the honor of giving back to those who have also served in our country's military honorably. I look forward to continuing to serve Bugles Across America as Assistant State Director in Texas.

The picture is with my youngest daughter, Karel, taken in Wichita Falls when I sounded Taps over the names of 597 service members from Texas who had been killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the most emotionally difficult missions I have done.

Ernie Richardson - Michigan State Director

Ernie Richardson, 72, was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He began trumpet at Guyton Elementary School at the age of eight under Harold Arnoldi, later Director of Bands at Wayne State University. He also “doubled” on French Horn. He played in the Detroit Parks and Recreation Boys Band. While in Elementary School he joined Boy Scout troop 244 and played in their well-known Drum and Bugle Corps. He began singing in the Boy Choir of Christ Church in Grosse Pointe, Michigan as a Probationary Treble (Soprano) at the age of eight. He attended Detroit’s famed Cass Technical High School and played in the Nationally known Cass Tech Symphony Band under the late Dr. Harry Begian, later Director of Bands at the University of Illinois. He studied French Horn under Ernestine Barnes (the first woman in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra), and Trumpet under Louis Larose, Gordon Small and James Tamburini. He studied Voice under Amos Ebersole and Leon Anderson. He was a Dual Major (Music and Bible/Theology) at Detroit Bible College. He also studied music at Detroit Institute of Musical Art, Detroit Conservatory of Music and the Art Centre Music School. He studied conducting at Interlochen with Thor Johnson. Ernie also studied Conducting with James Boersma, and Choral conducting with Leon Anderson. Ordained in 1966 as a Southern Baptist Minister, he served as Instrumental Music, Organ Installation and Handbell Consultant for Southern Baptist churches in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, and was also a Music Festival Adjudicator for Southern Baptist Churches and Associations in those States.



A full-time Wheelchair user since 1998, Ernie has been a wheelchair athlete competing in swimming, track & field (discus, javelin, shot put), and slalom. He played wheelchair hockey, wheelchair pool and adaptive golf. He served for five years as President of Michigan Wheelchair Athletic Association and a Regional Sports Association representative to Wheelchair Sports USA. He also served on the Board of Michigan Adaptive Golf, and was on the selection committee for the Michigan Athletes with Disabilities Sports Hall of Fame.

A lifelong woodworker, he belongs to the International Association of Penturners.



Bill Hall - Iowa State Director

I began sounding Taps in High School when I honored many veterans in my hometown including a close friend and classmate of my mother. After I became a Reserve Deputy Sheriff and K-9 handler, I renewed my interest in bugling when I was called on to play for various Law Enforcement Officer Memorials including services for Officers and K-9s lost in the line of duty. As a member of BAA and AMVETS Post 28 in Iowa, I continued to sound Taps for members of every branch of service including men and women who served in every war as far back as the Revolutionary War.

Whether playing at a National Cemetery or a private memorial, with thousands of people in attendance or only a handful of mourners, I am honored to be able to sound Taps in memory of those who have served our country.

As the Iowa State Director for BAA, I look forward to helping others honor our veterans and to foster a new generation of buglers to preserve our tradition.

Steve Witort - Nevada State Director

Recently I was appointed as the BAA State Director for Nevada. I am deeply honored to have this assignment, and look forward to serving with such a dedicated group who honorably give our veterans and their families the dignity of live Taps.

My interest in BAA came about last year when I was put in charge of arranging military honors for my dad who was a WWII veteran. One of my sisters had been to a service where electronic Taps had been played, and she advised me if that was what we were going to get, then we should cancel the military honors. Dad was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy and had worked on the Norden Bomb Sight. Try as I might, I was unable to confirm that a bugler would be available for his service. Only then, after doing a lot of search on the internet, did I discover how BAA had stepped into this breach to fulfill the honor that veterans deserve. I put my request in online and within an hour had been called by bugler Vince DiVincenzo to make arrangements for the service. It is still an emotional moment for me when I think of how quickly and professionally BAA responded and served the mission. Our family will never forget those 24 notes at our final goodbye. When I thanked Vince for all he had done, he only replied, *"It was an honor to have this mission."* Then and there I decided I wanted to be a part of this fine group.



Steve on left with bugler, Vince DiVincenzo

As an aside, my dad's brother who predeceased dad was also a WWII veteran, but his family was not aware of the granting of military honors. The first time his 6 children learned about military honors was at my dad's service. They loved the service but were heartbroken that they had not done this for their father. One of my top priorities will be to contact every funeral home in this state to make them aware of military honors accorded veterans, and to coordinate with the military and make them aware of our ability to provide Taps.

As for myself, I was born in Libertyville, Illinois and have also lived in Minnesota, Washington D.C. and am now retired and living in Reno with my wife, Jan.



Find The Bugle Contest!

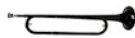
Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is a small image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into either dialogue or a photo. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle.

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

“How will I know if I won?” Three winners will be selected randomly by drawing from all correct entries on **March 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



We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #26 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

Paul McGrath of Nixa, MO

Adam Diny of Fond du Lac, WI

David Heywood of Fremont, NE

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.

"Thank you for the Amazon Gift Card! What an amazing organization this is! I've only been a member for a couple of months but I already feel like I'm making a difference in people's lives by doing something that may be simple for me but so meaningful to others. Thanks again!" - Adam Diny

Baffled as to its location?



BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

SFC Jorge H. Lopez - New York



9/11 Commemoration
Sep 2015
Ft. Hamilton, NY



Craig Melancon - Louisiana

On December 12, 2015 I was asked to sound Taps at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery. I was honored and the entire ceremony was a great experience.



This was the second time I was able to sound Taps at this Cemetery, once for a burial and then this ceremony. Mr. Ted Krumm, the Cemetery Director, emailed me directly since I visited with him and told him I would be more than happy to assist with any of their bugling needs.

They gave credit in the program to Bugles Across America, even though the request did not come through the BAA channels.

This picture was taken by a friend of mine who was at the ceremony.

Stephanie Colman - Florida



I am a devoted bugler for BAA, but I also pay it forward by bugling for funerals and events outside of BAA. Whenever possible, I offer my services to family and friends that have lost a loved one that served. Many people are not aware of the Public Law 106-65, and do not know where to turn for bugle services. In the recent past, I have stepped up three times and have not only played Taps, but when asked, I have a brief speech ready which explains the history and story behind the playing of Taps. I customize the story for the deceased person, and then read it and play Taps. Most people are very surprised at the backstory behind the playing of Taps, and are ever so grateful for what I say and play. I'm proud and honored to do this for them.

Bruce Benson - Missouri

Sounding Taps recently at Fort Scott Kansas National Cemetery in honor and for the family of United States Marine Corporal, Raymond A. Wagoner.



Tim Emerson - Kansas

Sounding Taps at Arlington National Cemetery on January 21, 2016, in town with the Wichita Catholic Diocese for the March for Life.

Bob Burtness - California

In addition to volunteering with BAA, I am the bugler, Nature Director and Aquatics staff member at two different scout camps and play about eight different calls each day.

At the Catalina Island camp, there are often two or more of us to share these duties; sometimes we blow the same calls together, especially at the flag ceremonies.

Great feedback from the scouts and their leaders, and hopefully a few potential recruits. Everyone seems to prefer live buglers.

Below are scouts working on their Bugling Merit Badge at Rancho Alegre, our council camp. I noticed in a recent issue of *Bugler's Post* that BAA made an effort to continue the Bugling Merit Badge.

Years ago I repeatedly wrote letters and sent e-mails to the BSA national headquarters in Texas about including BAA among the list of contacts in the merit badge book.

My requests were generally ignored except for one response which declared that consideration would be given for the forthcoming edition to be published. That was in 2014... I don't know if it ever was or not.

While I have been a member of BAA for a few years, I began sounding Taps at memorial services during my high school years in the 1950's.



Gary Marquardt - Minnesota

I am not a vet; just an extremely grateful American son of a WWII combat Veteran. I also have a number of friends and high-school teammates who are enshrined on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. I never served in the armed forces and I never played any musical instrument, especially a horn before I heard Taps played on a recorder at the funeral of a friend's father Pacific War Veteran D.E. 'Bud' Shanks. I decided then and there that whatever it takes (It took nearly a year), I was going to learn to play Taps and not allow recorded Taps wherever I could be of service. I am retired and available every day of the week.

My first service was for an Army Electrical Engineer named Burton Field who worked on the Atomic Bomb in the Manhattan Project in WWII. He was 93 when he died and was an amazing person both during and after the war. Due to secrecy of the project, he served 444 days without a single day of leave in helping solve the problems needed to make the bomb work.

It was a distinct honor to have him for my very first BAA service. I was nervous but the squad from the Waconia, MN, VFW did a great job of guiding me through the protocols and it came off without a hitch.

The second Honor Guard service was in an old cemetery in the middle of Minneapolis on a cold, rainy, foggy day. My State Director Jerry Mays told me to do everything I could to be warm and comfortable in bad weather because "everything you are feeling at the time comes out of the end of that horn." Hand warmers, foot warmers and extra layers made it a beautiful echo circling the hills around the grave site and a truly beautiful tribute.



Recently I was in Chicago visiting my grand children and gave Tom Day a call and had a grand tour of the BAA Learning Center. Of utmost importance, I was able to spend several hours with this remarkable Marine and dedicated American. What a humbling experience to see what one person's dedication and spirit can do.

Now I'm back in Minnesota, trying to get the service directors at Fort Snelling to allow me to serve even though I am not a veteran, I am handing out my BAA cards and the brochures Tom gave me to seek out opportunities to honor our Veterans.

Thanks to Tom and his daughter Julie for the fantastic welcome and tour and thanks to and thanks to Jerry Mays, with all his encouragement and guidance, for having the patience to get me through the learning process of getting it just right before beginning.

**Jim Doepke - Florida**

Cape Coral, Florida
December 12, 2015

Larry F. Dale - Mississippi

My first experience playing Taps was in high school. Our High School band director was commander of the local Army National Guard band and one day he asked me to play for a military funeral, because none of his NG players were available. He took me to the grave site, positioned me behind a tree, and instructed me to begin playing immediately after the third rifle volley. Then, he left to join the funeral Honor Guard. Apparently, the rifle party was not well-practiced, because the first volley came out as three rapid and distinct “pow-pow-pows”. I thought that was my cue, and was about to sound the first note when I heard the commander bark out the next order. Fortunately, I realized what had happened, waited and played at the correct time.

Through the years I have sounded Taps for numerous military funerals and memorial services. My most memorable experience was when I had returned to college for graduate school, following active duty as an Army officer, including service in Vietnam. The university ROTC, through which I had received my commission, conducted a memorial service to honor our ROTC graduates who had died in service to their country. It was a combined formation of both Army and Air Force cadet corps (over 2000 members), and I was offered the privilege of sounding Taps for that service. It was an experience I will never forget.



I was pleased to learn of BAA about 18 months ago, and look forward to the opportunity to continue honoring my military brothers and sisters by sounding Taps at funerals and memorial services.

David Breth - New York

In December, I played for a wreath-laying ceremony to honor all branches of service. The service was to start at 11:00am. My son, age 10, had a basketball game that started at 9:30am. I wore my suit to the game, expecting to leave shortly after 10:00am, to get to the cemetery fifteen minutes in advance. Unfortunately, I made two mistakes. I knew the location of the cemetery *generally*, but forgot to confirm it in advance to remove uncertainty. The second mistake was yet to occur.

My wife and daughter arrived at the basketball game at 10:00am so we could watch the game together before I had to leave. We were chatting when my daughter yelled "Look!!!" There was my son, going to the free throw line, with a tie score late in the game. His first shot danced off the rim. As he took his second shot, I saw how much time remained on the clock. 0:00 seconds. He nailed it. The place went bananas. His teammates swarmed him, coaches from both teams were smiling, and the referees, who are pretty familiar with all the boys, congratulated him as well. I dashed down to have an attaboy moment with him. It was a special moment to see a kid who works so hard finally get a little sunshine. I was so happy for him. Very few kids get that kind of moment. I didn't have my camera, but I'll remember.

Tempus Fugit! I was ok to stay until the end of the game, but I was not ok to get wrapped up in the moment. This was my second mistake. It was 10:23am. Now it was going to be a dash to get there by 11:00am.

A toll road could have helped but I only had pennies, forcing me to an alternate route. While sitting at a stop light, I called my wife to get some help from her smart phone. It was 10:52am. All I needed was for her to confirm that I was to turn right at the next light. She began relaying instructions, starting from our house. I begged, can you just tell me where the nearest intersection is to the cemetery.....I turned right as she thumbed through the map on her phone. It was very much a "marriage moment", in which my wife's technological abilities were surpassed only by my lack of planning.

I spotted some residence numbers and knew I was heading in the right direction, so we got off the phone. Soon, the cemetery was on my right side. I passed a small chapel, where people had gathered, and proceeded to the street address I had been given, which turned out to be a business. The correct location was the chapel I had passed. A service road solved that problem. There were a lot of Harley Davidsons, and I confirmed with a biker that I was in the right place. It was 11:02am.

There are a few great sins one must not commit in sounding Taps. Wearing street clothes or failing to recognize that you aren't able to play credibly are high on that list. But the worst sin by far is tardiness. I felt lower than dirt, and dashed into the little chapel, between two rows of bikers in their leathers, who were standing outside the chapel holding wreaths. The service had not started. I was part of the cause, but soon realized that the woman orchestrating the ceremony, the commander of a small VA post, was still 'herding cats', and stalling for two speakers who never did show. Still, I contributed to the late start, and that's unacceptable, last second free-throw or not (but I'll never regret having seen my boy hit that shot).

I recognized the Commander immediately, having played services she had organized in the past. I gave her a hug, and apologized profusely. She was very gracious about it. I received some last minute instructions, and she returned to herding cats. It took her a good ten minutes to get the room the way she wanted it.

Once the 'cats' were situated, the service began. There were fifty or so people in attendance, half of them bikers standing behind the chairs in this little chapel. An older African-American woman sang a spiritual rendition of "Amazing Grace", which was a real treat to hear. After the first few speakers, I pieced together what was going on. The commander was running a wreath-laying ceremony on behalf of a group similar to ours, called "Wreaths Across America." The biker group, "Hogs and Heroes Foundation", was there to help lay the wreaths. They support public safety and U.S. Military personnel with fundraising, wreath-laying, etc.

A few individuals spoke in tribute to their deceased relatives. Someone spoke about "Wreaths Across America" briefly, and a biker described "Hogs and Heroes", mentioning that his dad was buried in this cemetery. The Commander asked if anybody else wanted to say a few words about their organization, so I did a little commercial for Bugles Across America, and returning to the back of the chapel, I quietly offered to sound Taps at graveside for the biker's father. He accepted.

We went outside for the wreath-laying ceremony. The Commander changed from herding cats to herding "Hogs". There was a permanent monument laid out in a semi-circle, with large granite blocks naming every branch of military service. The commander arranged the bikes and riders around the semi-circle, and stationed wreath-layers for all the branches, plus "blue star" and "gold star" families. Both organizations took photos, and I regretted not having my camera, but as with the basketball game, I did not need a photo to remember this.

The wreath-laying ceremony took place, and I played at the appropriate time, thankful the temperatures were moderate. Afterward, I found the gentleman whose father was buried

nearby. He informed me that they were going to another gravesite first, where another gentleman's brother was buried. We hurried over, finding a man briefly eulogizing his brother before a small group that had collected. They had served in the military together, and afterward, became ordained ministers. They ministered together as adults until the brother had passed a year ago. Their father was buried right there as well. He said a little prayer for his brother and father, and afterwards I sounded Taps. Tears were just rolling down off his cheeks. It was still very fresh for him.

Now it was time to visit the grave for the biker whose father was buried there, except I learned that "there" was a different cemetery down the street. So, there I was in my Subaru, driving down a busy street, escorted by Hogs in front of me and Hogs behind me, their riders in their leathers, and me in my suit. We located the father's grave, the biker eulogized his dad briefly, there was a prayer, and I played. Third time in one day.

Then a big, burly, bald biker mentioned that his father, a veteran, was buried in this same cemetery. The group decided to visit, and I again offered to play. We drove over. As we gathered around his father's grave, two women nearby said "There he is!" I looked at them and asked "Another?" "Yes."

It was similar to the two prior visits. He said a few words: "We didn't get along very well, but I loved him." Then he took off his cap and joked, "Look dad, I cut my hair back! I bet you'd like that!" There was a prayer, and I played. The group walked down a few feet to the headstone the ladies had discovered. They knew the name only, so could not say anything on his behalf. The biker who had just spoken about his father said "I knew him. He was my uncle!" Once again, I played. Five times in a day. I played for some marvelous people, honoring their families and our veterans. A pretty special day, for a variety of reasons, that I will not soon forget.



Sister Sue Kilduski, OSB - Illinois

Celebrating the Spirit of 45

I had the honor of attending an event this summer that really touched my heart. The weekend the Spirit 45 events were happening I was unable to attend because I was having tooth surgery. I was fortunate to find an event that was the weekend before in McHenry, IL. It was an afternoon event honoring members of "the Greatest Generation" which featured a swing band, the USO Andrews Sisters and a musical Revue, Fly over, Military vehicles and ending with Rolling Taps and a release of White Doves for peace. I have been waiting to play Rolling Taps for a long time. We had about 30 buglers circling around the park. After I played my part I was able to listen to all of it as it moved along. It was truly a soul stirring and befitting way to honor the Veterans of World War II in the Spirit of 45. I hope to be a part of Rolling Taps again.



Memorial on Veteran's Day at Loyola University, Chicago

I recently sounded Taps at a very short event honoring Veterans on Veteran's Day. The ROTC of Loyola University had a flag raising event to honor Veterans. There were a few Veterans and students attending. The ROTC marched out and began to raise the flag. That was my cue to sound Taps. The ceremony was over in less than 5 minutes but it was just as important as any other ceremony I attend. This event, though short, honored those who gave their lives for our country so that it remain the United States one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. I was truly blessed to join this event and honor the veterans with the God-given ability that was given to me.

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

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

The deadline for this is April 15th.

Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com

Letters of Gratitude



Thanks to Rick de Treville (on right) and E. Louis Boyte (on left) for their participation in the Four Chaplains Service at the American Legion Post 115, Palm Coast, FL, on Feb 7th. Comments on their playing Echo Taps were: "Fantastic", "Emotional", and "A great addition to the service and it's meaning."

My thanks to them both for their contribution.

R Sandy Ausbrooks

Chaplain

American Legion Post 115

Flagler County, Florida



Dear Tom,

There are a lot of services tomorrow, and I'm thankful you're willing to get out in the weather. I'm not worried about operational security because you've never had a problem getting into our office and checking out our board in the past. I had to make two requests at the last minute because I was out of the office today.

Maybe you can rally your men tomorrow morning. It's not too late to replace SGT Sony at a few more of these. We both know the difference that members of your organization makes at the military honors.

Very Respectfully,

Jacob Martin

SGT, ILARNG

Military Funeral Honors - Chicago

I wanted to take time to thank you for this organization. Bugler Jerald Bailey came to sound Taps at my husbands funeral on February 7, 2016. He didn't know my husband or myself, but was willing to come on short notice to another town to honor my husband. He told me he didn't take any money for doing this, but I asked if there was some way I could repay him for his kindness. He suggested I might consider a donation to BAA and I am happy to make a donation to this worthwhile cause. I want to tell you that Jerald was excellent and everyone commented about how beautifully he played. One relative asked where we got the tape to play and was very surprised to learn that we had a live bugler! Thank you again for this caring group of volunteers that are willing to give their time and talents to honor our veterans.

Sincerely,

Glenice Lane, loving wife of 35 years to William Lane,
US Navy - Korean War assigned to the NOA

Dear Anthony (Montimurro),

Thank you so much for serving in a very special role at my father's gravesite service. It was my desire to have a musician play Taps verses having a recorded piece of music played. I was thrilled that my wish for my father was granted. The service was so moving. I was and always will be proud of my father.

I looked for you after the service and you seemed to disappear into thin air. I wanted to personally thank you for your service to our country and for paying tribute to my father by sharing your musical talent. Your dedication to our country both then and now is admired and much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cartsounis

George R. "Rich" Nuckolls - Georgia

As you can see from the letter, the honors ceremony was held on March 17, 2015, but I just received the letter 2 weeks ago... so this letter was completely unexpected. I read it with a tear in my eye, knowing that I had helped to make a beautiful memory for this family while I honored their husband and father.

Dear George R. Nuckolls Jr.,

We are writing to express our appreciation to you for officiating as the bugler in the military honors ceremony for our husband and father, Orvin Beasley, in Atlanta on March 17, 2015.

The dignity of the ceremony was the most perfect recognition of my Orvin's service to our country. It was inspiring to watch the military personnel as they performed each task with skill and integrity. My family and I were filled with a sense of pride, comfort, and appreciation as you played Taps.

May God bless you for the respectful, gracious, dignified services you rendered. Our hearts will forever be filled with gladness as we remember the honor and respect shown to us on behalf of Orvin Beasley.

Peace, Joy, and Love,

Debra Beasley and Family



Dear Mr. Reitenbaugh

I am Walter's (Tanzer) son, Steve. I can't tell you how moving the service was. The soldiers were letter perfect and the Bugle player could not have been better. They set the tone of the funeral ceremony far beyond our highest hopes.

Thank you,

Steven Tanzer

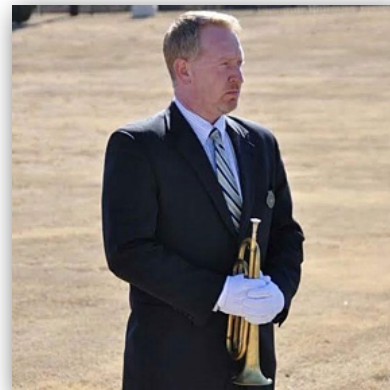
BAA- IN THE NEWS

Taps: The Hardest 24 Notes

By Abigail Wilson • Dec 7, 2015

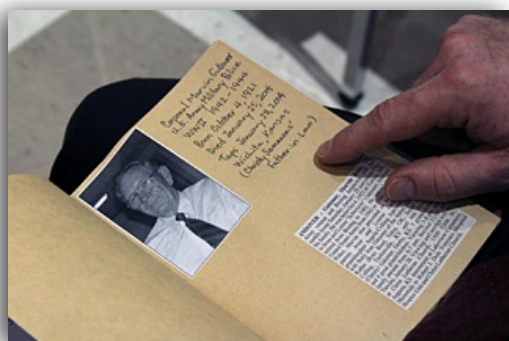
Originally aired during Morning Edition at KMUW on 05/25/15.

A Marine Corps veteran in Wichita volunteers his time to play what many call the hardest 24 notes a musician will ever play: Taps. Few melodies are as easily recognized or emotional as the tune, which is standard at military funerals.



Today, there are so few buglers available that the military services cannot always provide one. KMUW's Abigail Wilson presents this sound portrait with Tim Emerson, who is a member of [Bugles Across America](#).

"I graduated from high school in 1987, started at Wichita State University immediately thereafter and left for a time to join the military. I served in the reserves in the Marine Corps and served on active duty for about a year and a half."



"Meeting family members and knowing about who it is that you're honoring that day is pretty important. I recognized the significance of that, so I decided that I would start keeping track."

"After I do an honor guard, I will write their name and what their rank was; what branch of the service it was that they served in. If I know their date of birth, anything about their service, I'll write that down as well."

To listen to the news broadcast and see more photos, [Click](#).

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

American Heritage Field Trumpet by Getzen

Every day in America, approximately 1,800 World War II and Korean War veterans pass away. These brave men and women risked their lives to defend the land they loved, and yet as many as 75% of these heroes will not be given the honor of having Taps sounded at their funeral by a live bugler.

In 2000, Bugles Across America was founded to secure a means of locating and to provide a real bugler for this honor, but many soon found themselves wishing for a quality bugle that was readily available and MADE IN THE USA.

A Wisconsin BAA member, Dan Erikson made contact with Tom Getzen and began a discussion about the need for a good field trumpet (bugle) to be dedicated for this purpose. Tom Getzen enthusiastically embraced the concept, and soon he introduced BAA representatives to the American Heritage Field Trumpet (AHFT).



The M2003 AHFT is available in four presentations. The Standard model in lacquered brass or silver finish, and the Elite in lacquered brass or silver. All are produced in the same workshop and by the same instrument craftsmen that make the Getzen professional-grade horns. In materials, fit, finish, and playability, the AHFT is truly a top-level, professional instrument. The AHFT is manufactured to play in the key of B-flat, but an optional G-slide can be purchased for any model. This gives the owner the ability to switch between these two most often used keys by merely exchanging the tuning slide. Many of us consider this to be a very valuable asset of the AHFT, and it certainly is less expensive than buying two separate horns.

While the AHFT can be ordered through any authorized Getzen dealer, verified BAA members can order direct from the factory at a price specifically discounted for BAA. Members may also choose to have the optional BAA logo engraved on the bell at no additional cost. [About the trumpet.](#)

Current pricing and order information is on the BAA web site on the LINKS tab.

If you are considering purchasing the AHFT, please email galaxypilot@verizon.net so we can provide membership verification to Getzen.





Q: Do all bugles only play five notes?

A: The simple answer to your question would be..... Maybe. That is assuming you are using a valveless bugle. That type of horn is limited to only the notes within the

harmonic series as can be controlled only by manipulation of the embouchure (lips, basically). We could get real technical here and describe different series and the notes found within, but I really don't think that is the purpose of your inquiry.

If you are a beginning player, you will most likely only be able to produce five tones for now, but as your embouchure develops you should be able to produce six or more. Experienced trumpeters with strong embouchure may even get a 7th or 8th by pushing out an extra low tone and an additional high tone.

I just tried on a couple of my horns and find that I can get eight notes from the G horn and 9 from the B-flat, but I am glad that I don't have to rely on those 'extra reaches' to properly sound any of the calls a bugler would normally present..... especially Taps. And, I will hazard a guess that there are some folks out there that can squeak perhaps 10 notes from their trusty horn.

Not to worry, however, as all the currently used bugle calls require only four distinct notes, except for "Tattoo" and "Call to Quarters" which both require five of the commonly used notes. Now, although the other calls use only four different notes, they are not the same four notes for all. For the purpose of Bugles Across America, where we are primarily sounding Taps, it requires but four different notes.

Thank you for your question, and good luck with the learning process.

Howard T Reitenbaugh
National Coordinator
Bugles Across America

Have a question that you want answered?

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



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 them!

Other F.A.Q.s

How do I contact my State Director?

Log in to the BAA web site and use the Contact Director option under the Contact Us tab. You will only see the [Contact Directors](#) option if you are logged in.

IMPORTANT! If you've moved to another state, it's of extreme importance you contact your new State Director to inform them. State Directors are only sent notifications of new registrants, not if someone has "moved in".



Emergencies.. Please contact your State Director.

Sending an email to any official BAA email will **not** reach us in time to help you. If you accepted a request and have a medical emergency keeping you from sounding Taps, Contact your State Director ASAP! If you don't have your director's contact information, log in to the BAA site, under the '**Contact us**'

tab you will see **Contact Directors**. Click that. Fill out necessary information. An email will be sent.

If you don't see something you're looking for on the

BAA web site. Log in. Some things are only shown to members

that are logged in and not the general public.



Is there a way for me to record or get "credit" for events that are not requested through the BAA website?

There is no way 'record' missions that don't come in through the request system. We have never kept count of individual's missions on BAA register or archive. Many members have kept a personal 'log book' of their missions, and this has been more for personal reflection and memories than anything.

I've lost the information for the request I've volunteered for!

Log in, click on the '**My Events**' tab. Ta-da!

A very handy Quick Start guide for BAA members

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

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

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

We are currently investigating the possibility of having a light weight, windbreaker available to match this jacket. If you would be interested in having such a jacket, please let us know.



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 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 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. 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



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](#)



"24 Notes" a Tribute to Military Veterans and Our Men & Women in Uniform



New Outlaw Country Band, Boot Hill Bandits, released their new single, "24 Notes" honoring live Taps at the funerals of Military Veterans and First responders.

An American made musical anthem that pays tribute to each and every Military Veteran who has passed on, "24 NOTES" honors our Veterans and First responder heroes who have served and whom proudly serve today, to protect life, liberty and freedom. "24 Notes" is also dedicated, and shines a light on Bugles Across America and it's founder, Tom Day. This Veterans organization has thousands of volunteers, who give of their time and talents to play Taps, otherwise known as "The 24 notes", at Veteran's funerals all across America, instead of the usual pre-recorded version used at most Veterans ceremonies.

To buy 24-Notes: <https://www.cdbaby.com/cd/boothillbandits>

Visit Boot Hill Bandits™ at <http://www.boothillbandits.com>



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
- * 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](#)

[Getzen Order Form](#)

[Kanstul](#)

[Service & Sacrifice Warmer](#)

Organizations

[Spirit of '45](#)

[Boot Hill Bandits](#)

[Drum Corps International](#)

[Flags For Vets](#)

[Association of Military Musicians](#)

[Freelancers Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps](#)

[The Tribute Lady](#)

[Regimental Drum Major Association](#)

[The Bent Prop Project](#)

[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.