

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing



Dear BAA Members;

Welcome to the beautiful month of September, and hopefully a time of some cooler weather..... before we head into the cold, inclement days of winter. We'll enjoy the comfortable temps while we can, and you folks 'down south' can just tolerate your

boring mono-seasonal climate.

In recent weeks many areas of our country have been severely affected by natural disasters. The ongoing wild fires in the west have not only consumed many acres of forest land, but have displaced many home owners. Many have lost all they had to those fires. Then the major floods in the Louisiana gulf region have displaced many more. Just this past week we learned of very significant flooding in the Kansas City area. Let us keep all these folks in our prayers and thoughts. We know that we have some BAA members in some of these affected areas, and we are here to help them, if we can.

We are sad to report the recent passing of bugler Eric D Whitaker of New Hampshire. Eric was only 57, and he had many friends that have remembered him by submitting donations to BAA in his honor.

After being with BAA for over 14 years Mr. Ed Bilger has resigned. With the death of his dad, Ed was the only family member who could take care of the estate and put the house and assets in order. Ed served as our tax preparer for many years. I am now in the process of having CharityNet take over as our new tax firm.



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Things that may interest you

Give a cheer to Bugler Ron Bykowski for getting the town of McHenry, Illinois to put on another year of "Remember the Spirit of '45". Ron arranged for food donated by, who else.. The Polish Vets in town. He publicized the event, got singers and BIG Band. He had the cooperation of a Navy color guard and the VFW rifle squad, as well as 10 Taps players. It was a beautiful day, and we did echo Taps. Ron did a great job. Thanks to all who showed up.

The 2016 Elks convention in Texas was a great success. There were 6,000 plus in attendance, and over 400 stopped by the BAA booth this year. I didn't have them sign in, but I handed out 400 copies of the Buglers Post newsletter that I had printed in book form. Randy Morgan and Grodie Carlsen, members from Enterprise, OR stopped by and picked up patches and pins. Over-all it was a good show. Next year the National Elks Convention will be in Reno, NV, and I'm looking forward to once again being there to represent BAA with help from our Nevada State Director Steve Witort. That also means that I'll be making a stop in Burbank after the convention.

For the most part, we have been doing a fantastic job lately of answering the call to serve the requests for buglers that are coming in to our system. The frequency of these requests has been on a steady upward trend. It is not at all unusual for us to receive 20 to 25 new requests each day from all across the country. While overall we continue to maintain a very high percentage of missions filled, there are some regions where it seems to be very hard to find volunteers willing to step up to serve. I am not merely talking about certain areas where we have very few registered members (that is an issue for another discussion), but places that the list of notified buglers would tend to indicate a decent supply of potential volunteers. We have some regions where the list of names on a request evidently does not reflect realistic availability or actual willingness to serve. If you are on the Bugler List with BAA, it indicates that at some point you said you were willing to take up the cause and travel to sound those 24 notes of honor. Perhaps your personal circumstances have changed and you are no longer able to serve as a volunteer. Life brings any manner of changes to all of us. If you are no longer actually available and willing to serve, we would ask that you be honest enough to let your State Director know. We can then tailor the membership list to more accurately reflect the availability of buglers. It has to be very disheartening to a requestor to get that acknowledgement of their request with the note stating "there are XX number (might be anywhere from 100 to well over 200, in some places) buglers in your area", and then their request goes unfilled! When the State Director has to communicate with the requestor and apologize that we were unable to find an available volunteer..... well, you can imagine how that line goes over! If you remain on our roster as a bugler volunteer, please reflect carefully on your availability to serve a request when you receive that announcement email. One case in particular that I am personally aware of is central Illinois. I would ask that more of our

members in that region take their turn at serving some of the many requests coming to us from the Army National Guard. We asked them to give us a chance to serve; they have taken us up on that offer; they submit many requests; but we still have difficulty filling some in certain areas. We should not have to depend on the same half dozen buglers to serve 90% of the missions. Mind you, I am not forcefully 'pressuring' folks, but let us all remember the 'spirit of service' that prompted us to enroll with BAA.

Attention State Directors. If you are planning a general meeting for your members, BAA will be able to help with at least \$500.00 in proper expenses. These personal, face-to-face sessions with your members always go a long way in raising awareness and cooperation from the membership. The more you connect with the volunteers in your state the more we can get missions covered. We can also provide certain BAA pins and patches to issue to those that are in attendance at such gatherings. Just ask.

Donny Allen has been named as Chairman of the Board for the Buglers Hall of Fame in Fairfield, CT. He is the brother of our own Tom Allen, New York Assistant State Director. Congrats Donny. BAA is a yearly sponsor of this organization.

Thanks to all for getting out there in this summers heat to sound those 24 notes of honor. The families of the fallen love you for it.

Tom Day, Founder, President and Marine Bugler

Upcoming Events



Hello BAA!

Several people have asked if BAA had any official 9/11 events planned. We do not. There are many events already planned that many of our members are taking part in.

If you are not already a part of a special remembrance ceremony, please feel free to sound Taps in the memory of the fallen that day at 0846, 0903, 0937, and 1007 EDT. If those times don't work for you (you are Pacific time and your neighbors may not appreciate Taps at quarter to six in the morning...or standing up in the middle of your pastor's sermon to sound Taps may be frowned upon...) another popular option is to find one time during the day to honor the victims of 9/11.

Please feel free to email me with how you honored our heroes on 9/11. I do love a good photo too!

JenDayBAA@icloud.com

Louisiana Buglers needed to sound Taps!

What: New Orleans 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

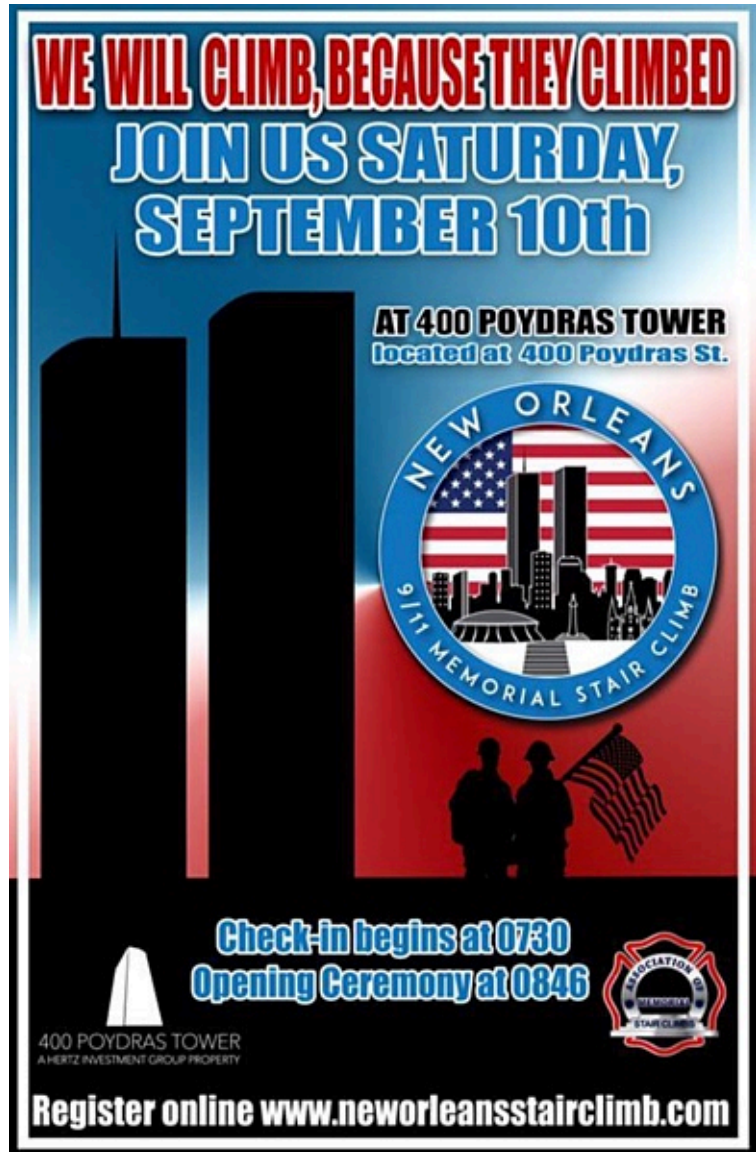
Date: Saturday, September 10th

Time: 7:30 am

Where: 400 Poydras Tower, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Details:

- * Taps will be sounded signifying when the towers were hit and again when they fell and at the end of the ceremony.
- * There will be a short parade lead by the world famous Saint Augustine Marching 100.
- * Food and music will follow the stair climb event.
- * Please bring your family as this is a free and family friendly event!



To volunteer or for questions, please contact Brian West at
270dafiyaaman@gmail.com

State Director Spotlight: North Carolina

Glenn Traylor - State Director

How long have you been with BAA?

I have been a bugler that sounds Taps since 1971 and a BAA bugler since 2004.

Why did you join?

I am an Army brat. My father served in the Army in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. My family traveled the world living the military family life moving place to place. I grew up with the intimate understanding of what it means to serve in the military although I never served myself. I knew the struggle watching the news, wondering if my father would make it home. I grew up having difficulty understanding the reception my father got when his group landed at RDU airport after his last deployment from Vietnam. For this reason I always felt we as a society owe our veterans and their families an insatiable debt. A fellow trumpet player friend asked me about Bugles Across America one day and I had to admit I was unaware of the program. Several weeks later I attended a funeral of a neighborhood friend. The honor guard played a recording. I couldn't believe there wasn't anyone that could have sounded Taps for the service then realized I could have! That evening I researched BAA and came across an article about Tom Day. Back then Tom kept records in a note book. I was added to his list. In 2013 I got an email asking for anyone interested in serving as a State Director. I responded and before I realized it, I was driving to Atlanta, Georgia to meet Larry Wiseman an organizer for BAA. Larry recommended me for the position!



How long have you been playing?

I started playing trumpet in elementary school and was my Boy Scout troop bugler. I continued band thru high school and kept at it thru college. I played in the NCSU marching band, the NCSU Brass Choir and the NC State Symphony. In addition I am a merit badge counselor (and Scoutmaster) for our local Boy Scouts of America Council.

What is the hardest part about being a BAA Director?

The hardest, most difficult part about being a State Director is the knowledge that on occasion we are not able to provide a bugler for a mission. As a State Director my goal is to provide a bugler for every request.

What is the best part about being a BAA Director?

As state director I look for and meet many likeminded and talented buglers with different backgrounds and ambitions but with the same mission for our veteran's families. I share BAA information with our uniformed veterans I run into, and share our organization's goals and services. Their reaction is to thank me. They thank me! Like I came up with the idea! I correct them and explain it's a group effort and tons of spirit, a corps of individuals who feel it's the least we can do!

What has been your best experience with BAA?

My best experience with BAA is also one of my saddest experiences. One day I was filling a mission in an area of the state that has limited coverage. My job happened to allow me to make the trip without much issue, so when I struggled to find a bugler close by I decided to serve the mission myself. As usual, I arrived at the site early and waited for the family, friends to arrive. After awhile a nondescript van rolled up and a group of gentlemen got out. One of the men came to me and introduced himself, saying, "You must be the bugler". I said, "Yes, I am with Bugles Across America". He explained he was the owner of a local funeral home and that a veteran had passed away without any family or friends. He took it upon himself to make sure the veteran got a proper service. So, on that hot, humid morning a small group of strangers provided funeral rites for a veteran they never knew. I struggled to hold my composure. My mind flooded with the thought that many veterans every day don't get Taps. God bless our veterans.

What is your goal for your state?

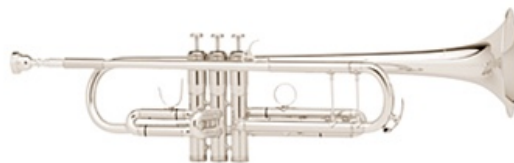
Our short term goal is to develop three regions with an Assistant Director in each region. I believe this would be a more effective way of spreading the word and organizing our group within the state. Our long term goal is to ramp up our mission requests to double current request numbers by addressing more civic groups, media, funeral providers and military resources.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with your audience?

On several occasions we have had to deal with organized groups protesting at veteran's services. It's troubling that our society has folks that can't see past their ignorance.

If you see something that needs to be addressed in our society, take Tom Day's example. Take the initiative and do something about it!

THE GREAT HORN GIVEAWAY!



The Great Horn Giveaway contest for July/August 2016 is complete!

The winners drawn from all who entered are....

Constance J. Snavely of Lebanon, Pennsylvania

John Carson of Westchester, Illinois

Congrats to these fine BAA members!

"Holding my cool looking Trumpet given to me by Tom. Sounds great and I have used it twice already. I am very humbled."

- John Carson



The next drawing is in September. Have you sent Tom Day your BAA business card?

Bugles Across America NFP
c/o Tom Day, Founder
1824 S. Cuyler Ave.
Berwyn, Illinois 60402



If you still do not have a BAA business card, 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.

- Great Horn Giveaway, Continued -

“Thank you very much Bugles Across America! I know it’s been said before, but, when the UPS truck stopped at my house this week, I was wracking my brain as to what I would have ordered. The man told me it was from Tom Day and I instantly knew what was in the package.

The trumpet is beautiful and sounds great. I used it the rest of the week to sound Taps at the military funerals at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. The guys on the Honor Guard said the tone was richer than the bugle that I’ve been using.

After retiring from the Army, I joined the local VFW Honor Guard so that I could continue serving the military community by assisting in the rendering of military funeral honors. The Honor Guard provides funeral honors at both private cemeteries and at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. A few years ago I felt a strong calling to learn how to play a trumpet so that I could be the Honor Guard’s back-up to sound Taps. I never questioned that this was what I was meant to do. I purchased a cornet, which was listed as a trumpet, from eBay and took a few lessons to get me started. I figured that I grew up playing a violin so how hard could it be to play an instrument without strings to keep in tune. Yes, well, there are a few different challenges so I’ve learned. Then earlier this year I required several surgeries to repair my jaw. I only recently have been able to get back to sounding Taps without paying for it with some swelling of the joint. During all this I started questioning if I misread my calling. Receiving this trumpet out of the blue felt like a validation of my purpose in this phase of my life.

Recently Andy, a fellow member of the church I attend, learned about BAA. He expressed interest in joining, but he needed an instrument as he plays a different wind instrument. I lent him my cornet so he could volunteer with BAA. I guess now he owns it as I no longer have need of it.

Again, thank you very much! Winning this trumpet means much more to me than just its extrinsic value.”

Sincerely,
Constance Snavelly



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 **September 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.

An example of the image you will be looking for is under the magnifying glass in the banner.

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 #29 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

And the winners are....

David Hurlbut of Alaska

Gary Stoodley of Illinois

Phillip Lowe of Texas

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 **Paul McGrath of Missouri** as the fifth grand prize winner in our Find The Bugle contest. Congratulations Paul!

"The picture is of me standing in front of the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Ozark, Missouri with the new trumpet. When I retire in a few years I plan on being able to honor a lot more requests in my area. In the mean time I respond when I can and I always feel so honored and blessed to be part of the services for our veterans." - Paul McGrath



Where was it?!



BEHIND THE BUGLE

YOUR STORIES



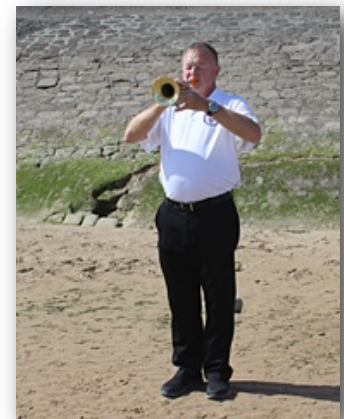
Dwight Bowman - Washington

A co-workers of mine went to Florida for his father's funeral who had been in the National Guard. He was sad that there was not much recognition of the fact that his father served. So, I decided to sound Taps on his voicemail and sent a picture of the flag with my bugle on it. He thanked me and forwarded it to his other brother. I am great full to those who have given to our country.

Bruce W. Walker - New Jersey



Sounding Taps in the Normandy Cemetery and on Omaha Beach in my new BAA polo.



Mike Atkinson - Illinois

I sounded Taps at funerals while in High School and College, but due to life becoming too busy, I put my trumpet into the closet and there it sat.



I was at a funeral and watched Taps being played off a digital device, and felt ashamed my trumpet had been in the closet as long as it had been. I got my chops back into shape and I'm now a member of BAA and serve honors with the Illinois State Police. Here is an [article](#) that was done on me being a state trooper sounding Taps.

Anne Erickson - New York

ANECDOTES:

I joined Bugles Across America in 2009 (after a BAA musician colleague drove from two states away to sound honors at my father's funeral service). My niche is less than a dozen yearly graveside services alongside the local Coast Guard Honor Guard. I also play at events at my veterans hospital workplace.

Buglers witness memorable scenarios; here are some of my favorite anecdotes, collected along the way:

Funeral director - "Thank heavens-a live bugler. I don't trust that machine - I'll never forget the time someone pressed the button and **God Bless America** came out."

Coast Guard Color Guard - "Good to see you - we forgot the machine (we hate the machine)" and, "Here's a Size Small set of white gloves from the PX to use, instead of those one-size-fits-all darkroom ones."

Voluntary Service at the VA hospital - "As long as you are sounding Taps at the Memorial Day service, could you take photographs too?"

Chaplain Service at the VA hospital - "As long as you are sounding the **National Anthem**, could you take the microphone and lead the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance?"

Veteran(s) - "You *have to* play at my funeral."

Offering the performance of live Taps outside of the BAA means being prepared for any response. Recently, I was turned down in favor of a recording for an outdoor Vietnam memorial dedication with over 300 attendees including local politicians and a quartet of West Point musicians (vocal, guitar, string bass and keyboard). The veteran organizer "didn't want anything to go wrong" with Taps. When the time came, there was a lengthy pause while the man struggled through a densely packed crowd to get to the tape recorder, an announcement for the audience to please be patient, followed by 10 seconds of scratchy noise then, an almost inaudibly worn out rendition of the honors, eventually drowned out by the acceleration of a passing city bus. The affair was deemed a total success.

Miles Hagen - Illinois

My son, Miles, is the bugler in our family and is 14 years old. Several years ago, his granddad (my father-in-law), a veteran of the War in Korea, passed away. His funeral would be the first Miles ever attended. His granddad was given military honors at a National cemetery in a moving ceremony. However, the musicians in the family, including Miles, noted that Taps was “powered by batteries,” as they say. After sounding Taps at a veteran’s ceremony, Miles asked me if he could perform Taps for other events. Searching the internet, I came upon Bugles Across America. Miles has a long list of ancestors who served in the military including another grandfather who served in WWII, a great grandfather who rode in the U.S. Army’s 5th Cavalry with General Pershing’s Mexican Expedition in 1917 and even a grandfather eight generations before him who served as an officer in the American Revolution. As a result, even though a young man, Miles understands the importance of our military and, more specifically, its personnel.



His most recent mission of sounding Taps provided him with the privilege of honoring a 94 year-old WWII veteran. Miles is very short, even for a 14 year-old, so when the honor guard saw him, they looked panicked wondering whether this young man would dishonor the service. Miles cracked a smile at me. We have seen honor guards’ nervous reactions before after they’ve seen Miles in person. The man who showed Miles where to stand at the service couldn’t hold it in any longer and said to Miles, “If you don’t feel comfortable playing, just let me know – we can find another bugler.” Miles responded respectfully and confidently with a smile filled with braces, “No, I’m Ok. I’m going to play it.” After he sounded Taps, one of the honor guard mentioned to Miles that many of the family members were moved and shed tears upon hearing those 24 notes. Another honor guard member suggested that Miles dedicate a few days next summer to sound Taps throughout the day for the various funerals and that they would find him an honor guard uniform his size. What a great group of men were those honor guard members to make Miles feel like one of the regulars!

As his father, I have never been prouder of Miles than when he honors a veteran and his or her family with Taps. And, perhaps what was most interesting that day was the fact that the WWII veteran, for whom Miles sounded Taps, was honored at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in the very same pavilion where Miles’ granddad was honored years ago - the very same pavilion where we witnessed the pre-recorded Taps - the very same pavilion that set Miles on his quest that would result in his membership with Bugles Across America and being a part of a special community of volunteers. I would like to believe his granddad finally heard Taps the way it was intended and, this time, powered by his grandson’s heart, not by batteries.

David Bergland - Missouri



Bruce Benson - Missouri

Carolyn Ryer - Colorado

When I was a child, my father let me try to blow his cornet. I blew it quite well so he taught me how to play songs. My five siblings didn't appreciate the "noise" so I practiced on the front porch in the summer. We were on a dairy farm and the cows didn't seem to like the sound either. Oh, well, I blew it anyway.

When I started high school, our band didn't need any more trumpet players so the director convinced me to play the mellophone. It was fairly easy as it had piston valves like the cornet and similar fingerings. As a sophomore, I moved to the French horn and played in concert and marching band.

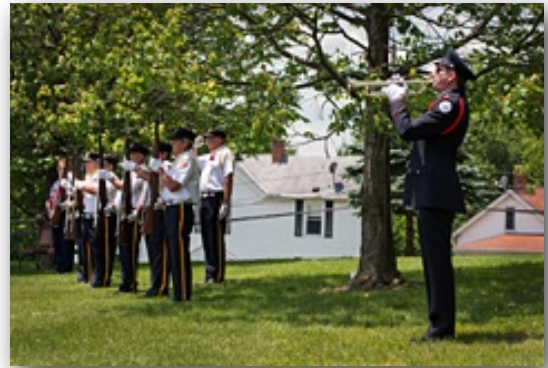
In recent years, I have sounded Taps for veterans' memorial services, some of them my personal friends. In 2012, in front of our local fire station, I sounded Taps 5 times, one for each of the planes from 9-11 and for our veterans. On Memorial Day 2014 and 2016, I sounded Echo Taps on trumpet with a Bugles Across America group at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, Colorado. It was a very moving experience. I also continue to play French horn in our community summer band. After all this time, I still have my father's cornet... an instrument I will always treasure.



Steve Bow - Ohio Assistant State Director

I have three Memorial Day events to share...

I had the honor to sound Echo Taps with my good friend Don (US Navy (ret)) at the Delhi Township Veterans Association Memorial Day event held on Sunday, 5/29/16. The Delhi Township American Legion Post 534 Honor Guard presented the Colors and Rifle Volleys during the ceremony.



My daughter, Claudia Bow who is a recent BAA member, had the honor of sounding Taps solo once during our cemetery visits on Memorial Day. She and I were with American Legion Post 256 from Loveland, OH and visited three local cemeteries along with the Patriot Guard to pay honors during the morning.

As is the tradition, I had the privilege to sound Taps during the Memorial Day Chapel service once again at Maple Knoll Village in Cincinnati, Ohio on Sunday 5/29/16. Maple Knoll has taken me in as one of the family there, and I am always proud to play a few hymns and sound Taps at the close of the service to honor the Veterans.



Dennis Harris - Alaska

This is the headstone of what I believe is the only Civil War veteran in Juneau, Alaska's Evergreen Cemetery. John B. McPherson would have been in his late teens and early 20s when he served in the Union Army. I first found this headstone 15 years ago when I cleaned vets' headstones for the first time, and was astonished to find it, and those of several men who served in the Spanish-American War.

I believe that when our government pays the funeral expenses and buys a headstone for our veterans, we should ensure that their grave markers remain legible so that everyone can read their names and see how they served our country. If you live in an area like mine where lichens and moss can grow on marble and granite markers, please take the time before the next Memorial Day to organize a local effort to restore those headstones so they are legible.

I hope that we all remember today that Memorial Day originally was Decoration Day, a day when folks decorated the graves of all who fought in the Civil War, regardless of which side they fought on, and that the only cure for war is Peace.



Dawn Kubik - California

I looked through the list of services I've sounded Taps at and found the event that lead me to become a volunteer for BAA. The deceased was Dennis Sullivan, Sgt, USMC... my uncle. When we arrived at the gravesite, I had gone up to the Marine holding a bugle. When he told me it was not a real bugle, it was a recording and he didn't know how to play one, I was heartbroken. Before traveling up to Novato, I had asked my cousin Kevin if I could sound Taps for Dennis' service, he told me that one was being provided. Just then, a man walked up and introduced himself, saying he was from BAA to sound Taps. The Marine said thank you and stepped down. I said "Thank God" and explained to the volunteer I could play the trumpet, but left it at home because the Marines said they were providing one. Then to discover it wasn't live, it broke my heart. I was glad that he was there! That is where I learned about BAA and what lead me to join.

**Jim Doepke - Florida**

Memorial Day Navy League Service
Key West Cemetery
National Anthem and Taps

Hartmut Hausser - Germany

Wereth11
05-22-2016

**Bruce Benson - Missouri**

The view only a few have.

David Bergland - Missouri

Joplin-Webb City Memorial Day
Mount Hope Cemetery 2016

**Bob Baccus - Alabama**

I sounded Taps recently for SGT Steven Haynes in
Huntsville, Alabama.

Bradford Mamalis - California

I sounded Taps probably a couple hundred times at Arlington National Cemetery as a bugler with the Commandant's Own, The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps. As a volunteer with BAA, I've done many other ceremonies: the Vietnam War Memorial, the CIA Memorial Day ceremony, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and countless others. They are all special, of course, but one sticks out among the rest.

It was a very warm summer day. I had been standing by the memorial wall where the urn would be interred after the ceremony for about a half hour, sweat dripping from my cover. I had my standard issue Kanstul G straight bugle in hand, all warmed up and ready to go. Not three minutes before the family was set to show up my funeral director drove up in his van and handed me this old beat up chrome bugle. "Can you play this?", he said. I said I could try. I took out my mouthpiece, placed it in the twisted lead pipe and blew a clear G, the first note of Taps.

The director snatched my trusty issued bugle from me and said "Good, sound Taps on this." I was stunned. I was to sound the most important 24 notes any of us can play on a mangled old bugle I only played a single note on. I was nervous to say the least. I did not have a chance to run through the notes, or even attempt to tune.

Moments later the director came marching towards the wall with the family in tow. The ceremony was held and when the time came, Taps rang loud and true through that old bugle. I saluted and went to march off, which was protocol, but was interrupted by the director. He called me over to the wall to speak with the family. That never happens. Usually the bugler and rest of the funeral party marches back to the bus and disappears.

I walked up to the family and saluted. The director introduced them to me. I thanked them for their family's service and offered condolence for their loss. The director then told me the bugle I just played belonged to the deceased. He had been in my unit in the 70's. I was floored. Speechless. I thanked the next of kin for allowing me the opportunity and went to hand the bugle back to her.

With tears in her eyes and a smile on her face she said, "*No, please keep it. He would want you to have it.*"

For the first time at a funeral I almost lost my composure. It felt like an eternity before I could regain my bearing, though it was likely only a few seconds. I took a deep breath, snapped to attention, and saluted the Marine's widow. "Thank you, ma'am. It is truly an honor." We shook hands and I turned and marched back to the bus with the twisted, mangled, dented, beautiful bugle in my hand. Out of the many, many instruments I own, that is the one that means the most to me.



Richard Hoege - Wisconsin

My son Josiah is now a senior at Portage High School this August and has been sounding Taps for the local Vets for over three years. On May 30th, 2016 he and I sounded Echo Taps at Blue Star Park in Portage, Wisconsin. I am a patrol Lieutenant for the City of Portage.

Salvatore "Tony" Cusumano - Pennsylvania

I live in a 55 and over community, and for the past 11 years we have held a flag ceremony at noon on Memorial Day for which I sound Taps. I have been playing the bugle since my high school days at Xavier Military High School. At that time, everything was done by bugle calls; assembly, mess, parades, etc. Presently, I am on call for Taps at my local VFW lodge, an America Legion lodge, and a local funeral home as well as bugle requests that come from BAA.



Edwin Muller - New York

Last December my wife Madeleine and I had a marvelous experience in France. We were booked on a Vantage River Cruise from Paris to Normandy and I got a notion that maybe, just maybe, I could sound Taps at the Memorial cemetery. I am a WWII vet and it would have meant a lot to me. I bundled up my trumpet and stuck it in the suitcase... just in case.



When I proposed the idea to the Cruise Director on board ship, she nodded and said it might be possible - she'd get back to me.

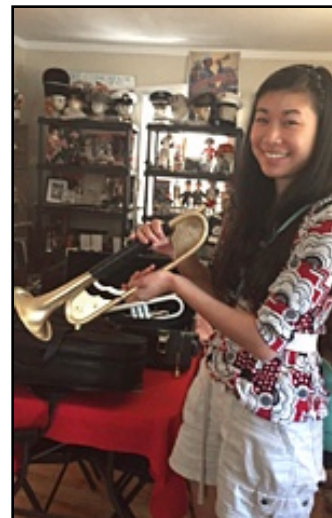
As it turned out, it was not only possible, but Madeleine was asked to present the flower arrangement at the monument before I sounded Taps.

Needless to say, it was the highlight of our trip and also for many of our fellow travelers.



Grace Adduci - Illinois

My sister, Angela, and I visited with Tom Day at the BAA learning Center July 14th, 2016. Thank you, again, Mr. Day! I'd like to come back again some day and bring my parents.



Bill Van Sant - Tennessee

When I was asked to sound Taps for a WWII Veteran recently, I was happy to say Yes. I also do this on Patriot Guard Rider missions. The graveside service was during the middle of the day. With me being a band director, this service was during my planning period. I arrived early, found a nice shaded spot to play, and waited for the family to arrive.

As the family arrived, the son of the deceased Veteran walked over to me, greeted me, and we shook hands. He then said: "*Hey, we got plenty of beer in the van. Come on over and have a beer!*" I stated that I am a band director, that it is my planning period, and I have a class to teach at 2 P.M. He smiled, then walked to the family tent at the graveside. Their graveside service began.

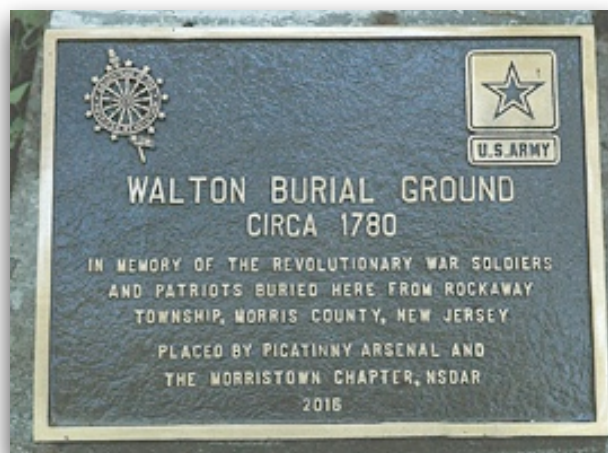
After each family member shared their story about their dad, they had a beer at the van. After their third beer, I performed my duty of sounding Taps. Once the graveside service concluded (and after their fifth beer), they again asked me to have a beer with them. I respectfully declined. I said thank you, and proceeded back to my school building for my final band class of the day.

Just remember: Every family takes the death of their loved Veteran differently, and we attend these services to show respect in the way we have been blessed to.



Michael J. Del Vecchio - New Jersey

This past May, I was honored to sound Taps honoring three Revolutionary War militia members whose remains were found on the site and properly identified. Their grave site is marked with a head stone, and the cemetery was officially dedicated at this location on the grounds of Picatinny Arsenal.



Do you have an unusual, memorable or funny story to share regarding an event or request you sounded 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 November 15th.

Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com

Letters of Gratitude



Dear Mr. (Richard) Wacker,

On behalf of the Oak Park Police Department, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks for your participation in the Memorial Service held on July 26, 2016 honoring Law Enforcement Officers who have given their lives in the performance of their duties.

Your Taps performance was both heartfelt and deeply touching to all in attendance. Again, thank you for supporting the Oak Brook Police Department and honoring the Fallen Officers.

Sincerely,
James R. Kruger Jr.
Chief of Police

(To Kenneth Fitzgerald)

The Family McCullough was extremely impressed with your rendition of Taps. Your clear lasting notes carried our messages far into the next dimension and lightened our hearts. We feel privileged to have had your participation.

*Sincerely,
J. McCullough*

BAA member, Tim Markey, did a wonderful job, it was just the perfect ending. After the flag folding ceremony, he ended the service with Taps. It was so moving, I was so proud and overcome, as was everyone. God bless you and BAA.

Sincerely,
Terri Stephany

"I wanted to send you a brief message to let you know how honored and pleased we were to have Mrs. Thelma Paul of Bugles Across America perform at our event.

My organization is the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - the legal heir to the Grand Army of the Republic. We had a two ceremonies in Benzonia, MI yesterday that was well attended by the community. The first ceremony was held at famed Pulitzer Prize winning Civil War author Bruce Catton's grave. The second was a re-dedication of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial there at the same cemetery. Mrs. Paul sounded Taps at both ceremonies, as well as playing the Star Spangled Banner at the Re-dedication ceremony.

We really appreciate Mrs. Paul's work and dedication for this event. It is very apparent how much she cares for this work and the Bugles Across America organization. We look forward to requesting for her services in the future as we honor our deceased noble Veterans."

*Warmest Regards,
David S. Smith, Commander - Robert Finch
Camp No. 14 - Traverse CityDept. Senior Vice
Commander - Department of MichiganSons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War*



“About two years ago a mother of one of our young players in Kentucky called and said she was writing a story for the “Kentucky Monthly”. This very well written piece finally was published in the August 2016 issue. So, if you're in the Kentucky area, pull into a State sponsored highway rest stop and check out the story!”

If you have seen BAA in the news recently or have been featured in an article while sounding Taps with BAA, Please send the article or information to JenDayBAA@iCloud.com

SHOW YOUR COLORS!

Cool Weather Jacket - \$65 (plus shipping)

This beautiful embroidered black jacket is nicely lined, has elastic cuffs, 2 side pockets 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.



Warm Weather Jacket - \$50 (plus shipping)

This is a high-quality, light weight, embroidered jacket. It is solid black, micro-fiber (will protect from light rain), Raglan sleeves, standard color, lightly gathered elastic bottom and cuffs. There are slash pockets on the outside and one velcro-closed inside pocket (Large enough to hold a large smartphone). Large, full-colored BAA logo embroidered on the back.



Price includes name on the left breast. There is an extra \$3.00 charge for the embroidered bugle with the name.

These jackets are intended for casual wear only and ***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

She takes check and requires half as a down payment at the time of ordering. 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.

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.



At Ease: Off-duty Apparel

Jim Owens, owner of My-T Graphics, is helping Bugles Across America's fundraising efforts with the "Thank You" Apparel. The familiar BAA logo is on the front (left chest) and a beautiful 'Thank you' memorial image is featured on the back, helping you show your BAA pride... and donate at the same time! 100% of the net proceeds go to BAA.

Short sleeve t-shirts: \$20

Long sleeve t-shirts: \$25

Hoodie sweatshirt: \$35

(plus tax and shipping)

Website to order

www.supportbaa.com

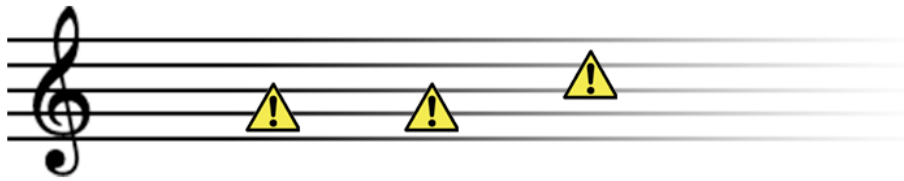
These are for casual use only and must not be worn to serve military funeral missions!

Thank you Jim Owens for your generous support for BAA.



<http://my-tgraphics.com>





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](#).



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. Small bugle pins with folded flag are available. These are excellent for suit lapels and caps.

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 a couple 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](#)

"Bugler On Duty" Magnetic Sign

Newly designed 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 two.

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

Bugler on Duty



Sounding "Taps" For Heroes
BuglesAcrossAmerica.Org



"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 sound 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:

- * Massachusetts
- * Mississippi
- * Montana
- * New Mexico
- * North Dakota
- * Rhode Island
- * South Carolina
- * 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 BOTH of our email address, info@buglesacrossamerica.org and requests@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 North Carolina on Facebook](#)

[BAA: New Jersey](#)

Gear & Decorative

[Getzen](#)

[Getzen Order Form](#)

[Kanstul](#)

[Scentsy 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.