

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA Briefing



To ALL BAA Buglers;

We are about to resoundingly bore into the last two months of 2016. And, I can truly say, "Thank God". Yes I will vote, because millions of men and women have given me that right by giving their lives so I could do this. I sincerely urge all legally qualified members to exercise this constitutionally

given right. Your vote can not count if it is not cast. Now on to the real business of Bugles Across America.

November 11th is Veterans Day. So far I am lined up to sound Taps and say a few words at five different schools. I would hope that each of you avail yourself of similar opportunities in your home town or region. While the sounding of Taps is often requested at these Veterans Day events, remember that it should be done as a way of specifically remembering those veterans who are no longer with us. After all, Veterans Day is set aside as a holiday to pay tribute to and honor all veterans who have served at any time in the armed forces of our country.

This year alone, I have personally served 108 missions (as of this writing), and it looks like I will more than likely serve in excess of 130. Not too bad for a 76 year old Bugler. The crazy thing is... I love it.

We have a good supply of assorted BAA pins and patches, and I will get hold of the plastic mouth piece man up in Wisconsin should anyone need one. Send me a note to let me know what you need.

I strongly encourage the State Directors to have a supply of



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Things that may interest you

the needed pins and patches on hand to serve the needs of their respective state's members. Let me know what you need, and a parcel will be on your doorstep shortly thereafter.

Our Directors have been active in auditing their membership rolls to assure that all those listed are still interested, available and in touch. However, we know that there are folks on that list that have lost the ability or desire to be actively involved in serving the mission of BAA. So, should you be aware of other members in your area who are no longer active in serving missions, please let the State Director know so we can resolve our data base. It is disheartening and confusing for a requestor to be told they have a couple hundred 'buglers' in their area when they submit a request, and then have not one of those step up to serve the mission. The State Director has to attempt to explain to these people why not one of that number found themselves available or wanting to serve to honor that veteran. Along the same lines, if you know of capable and willing people that are not yet a part of the BAA family, enlighten them to our mission and encourage them to take part by registering their interest in volunteering.

Several years ago, BAA put together a tri-fold informational flyer to be used as a handout at conventions, Veterans meetings, and other appropriate occasions. These are available to you pre-printed, or we can supply you with computer files to print your own. If you are interested, please email me.

My idea from the start in 1999 was to get buglers to make up their own introduction package and become The Bugler for their town. So if you want you can take the BAA basic flyer, put your picture and contact information on it, make copies, and hand them out to VSO Posts. Funeral Homes, cemeteries, and the media in your area. Please give this some thought. It's time to "shine the lights" on you, and spread the word of the availability of a real, live bugler to replace that recording The BAA business card "Trumpet Giveaway" is going very well and will continue thru 2017. If you have yet to send me one of your BAA cards, do so now.

Don't forget that if you are planning a trip through the Chicago area, please stop and see the only Bugle Museum in America. Should you, for some reason, miss a plane or are delayed between flights call me and you can stay overnight. The Learning Center is set up to accommodate "overnight curators" for the museum.

Bugles Across America, nfp will finish 2016 with no debts and a very good start on funds to carry on our mission in 2017. As always, this is a result of the continuing and generous support of the many common folk and individuals all across the nation. We can collectively say a big "Thank you to all the people in America".

God bless you all! Stay active, stay safe, and remain thankful for all our blessings

Happy Thanksgiving.
Tom Day, Bugler



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.

States in need:

- * Illinois
- * Massachusetts
- * Mississippi
- * Montana
- * New Mexico
- * North Dakota
- * Rhode Island
- * South Carolina
- * Wyoming

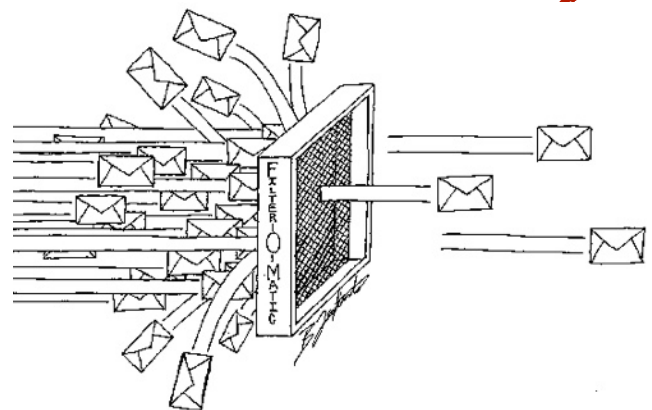
If you believe you may be interested in and have time for a leadership role with BAA, please email galaxypilot@verizon.net to be considered with your experience and why you'd like to be a director for your state.

Are you not receiving emails from BAA? You could be having....

Internet Service Provider and Firewall Problems

If you receive email through a service provider such as aol.com, yahoo.com, or even gmail, or you have firewall software such as Norton's Internet Security or Anti-virus, please add 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. The emails that are auto-generated to notify you of bugler requests, as well as important notices sent from time to time, and our newsletter The Buglers Post are sent to you from this address.



Upcoming Events

BAA at The National Trumpet Competition!

When: March 23-25 2017

Where: Denver, CO.

What: Over 500 excellent trumpeter (and potential BAA members!) ages 12-25 will compete in solo and ensemble categories.

NATIONAL
TRUMPET
COMPETITION

March 23-25, 2017

Metropolitan State University of Denver

\$50,000 in Cash Awards & Prizes

December 15, 2016 - deadline for online registrations



25 Years of Inspiring Young Artists

Now Hear This!

NTC is relaunching the "Pro-Am" division, for adults wishing to improve their playing and potentially perform and compete at NTC. BAA members are encouraged to attend the event and there is no cost to do so.

Why participate?

Improve your playing by attending clinics from top college teachers and the trumpeters from The Canadian Brass. Enjoy amazing concerts featuring Randy Brecker, Marvin Stamm, the US Air Force Academy Band, the Colorado Symphony Trumpet Section, and other great groups!

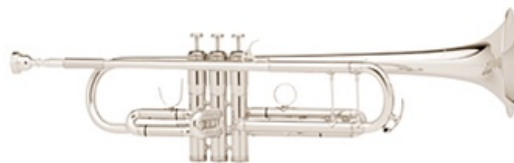
A new partnership to drive recruitment to BAA

NTC is supporting BAA recruiting efforts with donations of an exhibitor table and a quarter-page advertisement in the event program. FYI - NTC Director, Dr. Dennis Edelbrock, holds the unique distinction as one of the Army's 3 Special Buglers for 35 years, accruing the Army's all-time record of over 10,000 Taps during his career in The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" in Washington D.C., and is currently professor of trumpet at George Mason University!

Need to know more?

For more information on attending and our presence at NTC, please email BAA volunteer member (and NTC Pro-Am coordinator), Michael Fox at polishedbrassva@gmail.com or visit the National Trumpet Competition website; <http://www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org>

THE GREAT HORN GIVEAWAY!



The Great Horn Giveaway contest for September/October 2016 is complete!

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

Carol McCutcheon of Ohio

David Andrezewski of Tennessee

Congrats to these fine BAA members!

"What a surprise, and what a beautiful trumpet!!!! I look forward to playing it. I will be taking it with me to Fort Knox and Wright-Patt the next two weeks. It will look amazing on our BAA table.

Thank you so very, very much."

Carol McCutcheon

The next drawing is in December. 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.



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 **November 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 #30 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

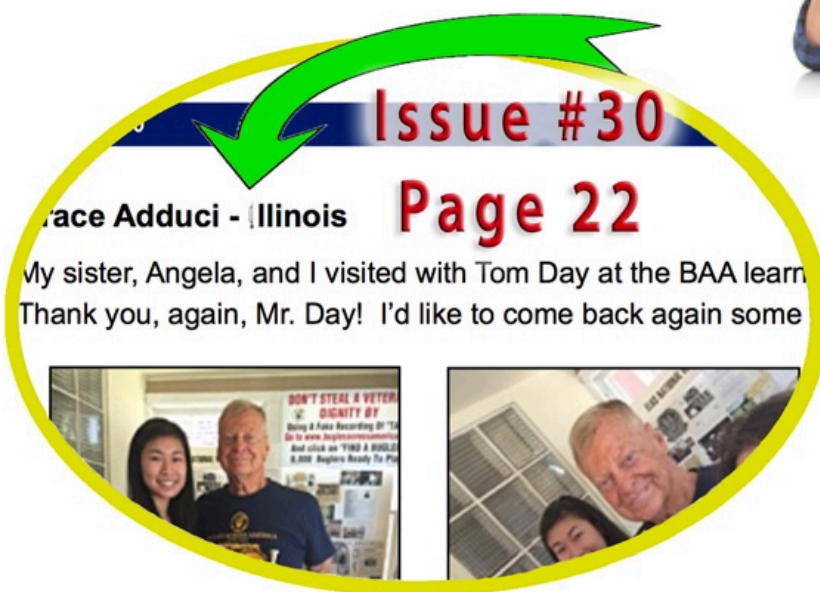
And the winners are.... **Ann Sirinides – New Jersey**

Don Swinehart – California

Roger Meyer – Oklahoma

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.

Where was it?



State Director Spotlight: Ohio

Pete Sturdevant - State Director

How long have you been with BAA?

I joined BAA nine years ago on my birthday. Over 1,300 missions later, I still keep a binder containing information on each service. I like to learn a little about each Veteran we honor.

Why did you join?

My father-in-law, a WWII veteran, passed away some years ago. When we arrived at the cemetery, I expected to see a military detail, a Bugler, and maybe even a rifle team. Instead, Taps came out of a CD player. I decided then and there that I could be the one sounding live Taps, so that others would not have the same experience.



How long have you been playing?

I was in my high school band and orchestra, playing trombone for six years. I did not play brass music for many years after that, although I am a lifelong musician on other instruments.

What is the hardest part about being a BAA Director?

Seeing a mission request go unfulfilled. My motto is "failure is not an option". I will try to do whatever it takes to complete a mission, because I know that the Veteran we are honoring was willing to put their own life on the line, so that we could have the country we have today.

What is the best part about being a BAA Director?

Seeing people of all ages and walks of life volunteer to be a Bugler. It is especially rewarding to see a young person accomplish the goal of becoming one of our Buglers.

What has been your best experience with BAA?

Each mission is a unique experience. Talking to the families of our veterans, I hear a lot of great stories about the veterans we honor. The best one has to be the 150th anniversary of Taps, at Arlington National Cemetery, in 2012. Sounding Taps on that hallowed ground is the ultimate trip for a Bugler.

What is your goal for your state?

I would like to see all five branches of the Armed Forces get more fully involved with what we do. We have a very successful program here in Ohio, and it would be great to see that success in all branches.

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

Buglers, find out about the Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies in your area. Offer your services to Funeral Homes, Cemeteries, Veterans Service Organizations and history groups. Tell everyone you meet about what we do with BAA. Do this, and I guarantee you will get missions.

Carol McCutcheon - Assistant State Director

How long have you been with BAA?

I have been with BAA since January of 2014.

Why did you join?

A good friend of mine who served in the Ohio Army National Guard recommended that I join because of the shortage of live buglers.

How long have you been playing?

Since sixth grade.

What is the hardest part about being a BAA Director?

Being sure that all Ohio Missions are covered.

What is the best part about being a BAA Director?

Working with Pete Sturdevant and Steve Bow. Each of us actively shares in the responsibilities of leadership and the honor of rendering Taps at funerals and memorials. Between the three of us, we have collectively served over 1600 Missions.

What has been your best experience with BAA?

I would have to say sounding Taps with Pete in the rotunda of the Ohio Statehouse (Ohio's Capital) during the 150th reenactment of President Lincoln's funeral. We were both in period Civil War attire.

What is your goal for your state?

My personal state goal is to get the word out about BAA. There are still far too many "electronic" Taps. Loved ones need to know we are a click away.

Pete Sturdevant, Steve Bow, and I
at the Statehouse on 9/11



Taps in Adrian, Michigan at a "Remembrance Table" prior to a jousting tournament. The memorable task at that mission was playing for each horse (and a mule), before the event so they weren't spooked in the arena! Happy to report all 12 horses behaved professionally!



Steve Bow - Assistant State Director

How long have you been with BAA?

I joined BAA in January 2013; so 3 years 9 months thus far.

Why did you join?

Two reasons: I joined first and foremost because having never served in the military (which is a regret I always carry with me), I felt that sounding Taps for the Veteran would be a unique and honorable way for me to give something back to them for protecting our freedom and serving our nation. Secondly, a Veteran deserves to have live Taps from a human being playing a real instrument with their heart and soul, not an electronic instrument. I had seen and heard of too many stories about the fake bugle prior to joining BAA which was also motivation for me to volunteer and offer my services by sounding live Taps.



How long have you been playing?

I have been playing trumpet since 6th grade, 1978. I actually had signed up for wood shop that year, not band. My mother saw my class schedule when I got home that day on the first day of school and, well, yelled at me for not signing up for band. That Friday of the first week of school we attended a band introduction workshop. I originally thought playing drums would be fun, but then I saw a pretty brass trumpet on a table. I liked the way it looked (it only had three valves - so, easy I thought...). So there it is. I never had any intention of playing trumpet and my career has been stellar on this instrument for 28 years and counting. Advice? ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER!

What is the hardest part about being a BAA Director?

There isn't any difficulty in this role. I am enjoying being a leader for BAA and enjoy managing the tasks we are asked and required to do as directors.

What is the best part about being a BAA Director?

The best part about this role is working with Carol and Pete and meeting so many people through our positions of leadership. The three of us have become good friends, work very well together and manage our duties as the State Director and Assistant State Directors quite well. One other great thing about this role is the respect I receive when I discuss with people who don't know what we do in the organization or who have never heard of BAA what we do by providing live Taps for the Veteran.

What has been your best experience with BAA?

Never in my lifetime would I have thought that joining Bugles Across America would have led to an honor so great as sounding Taps for our fallen WWII Veterans at the American Cemetery in Colleville Sur Mer, Normandy, France on June 4, 2015 or at Arlington National Cemetery in November 2013 in honor of JFKs 50th, and also again there this past year on July 6, 2016. All of these experiences were truly magical. My daughter Claudia is also a Bugler with BAA in Ohio and had the honor of sounding Taps with me at Arlington at age 16 - she also sounded solo once at that cemetery this last trip.

What is your goal for your state?

To make sure the Veteran receives live Taps every time by fulfilling 100% of our requested Missions.

Personal likes, dislikes & other personal info you don't mind sharing

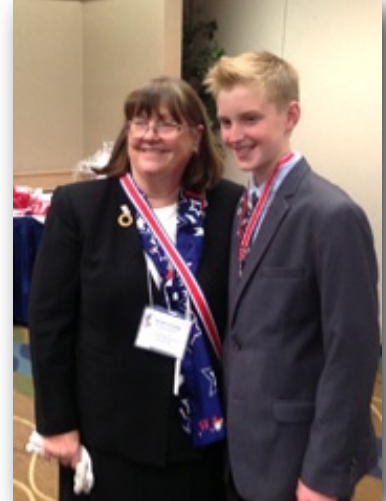
My personal passion has always been music. I am a lead singer for a band in Cincinnati called TIMESTAMP which is my 4th band project in 28 years (we do 70s/80s/90s throwback classic rock). I also sing in our church Worship Band and play trumpet in our Orchestra on Sundays. I have two children, Claudia 17 and Mitchell 13 who are up and coming in their crafts as musicians also. Another side project I perform in when I can is with a group called the Silver Cornet Band of London, OH (we perform early 1900s band music). I also own a small art business on the side called STB Aviation Art Concepts LLC (www.noseartinsigniapanel.com) where I create replica military aviation nose art and insignia panels on aluminum sheet metal. My work speaks for itself! Check out my website. I do this to honor Military Aviation.

STUDENT HELPS HONOR THE SOUND

Children of the American Revolution (CAR) honors veterans

Boise, Idaho, (Date) -- Blake Sturgis is a junior high student at Valley Christian School in Spokane Valley, Washington, where he maintains a 3.9 grade point average. He plays baseball, belongs to Boy Scouts, and is active in his Church and Youth Group. But wait! That's not all. He's a leader in a national patriotic organization and an amateur musician, which may have led him to initiate a state-wide project with possible nationwide impact.

"I remember when Taps was sounded at my great-grandfather's memorial service a few years ago. It was such a great tribute to him and his service."



So when he became the Idaho President of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR), he began looking into the tradition of Taps and bugles at veteran's funerals and discovered some facts that interested him. Veterans are entitled, by law, to have at least two uniformed military people to fold the flag. Unfortunately, there aren't enough military buglers anymore who can sound Taps. So for many veterans' funeral services, the sound of Taps comes from a CD player or electronic device stuck in the bell of a fake bugle. Bugles Across America was founded by Tom Day to take this a step further.

"In recognition of the service Veterans have provided to our country, we felt they each deserve a live rendition of Taps by a real bugler. To this end, Bugles Across American was founded. The organization now has over 4000 bugler volunteers located in all 50 states and a growing number overseas. Since the Department of Veterans Affairs is expecting more than 1/2 million veterans to pass every year for the next 7 years, Bugles Across America anticipates it will be busy for a long time.

With his musical background, Blake could have easily learned to sound Taps on a bugle. However, with a view toward a lasting impact, Blake decided instead to harness the CAR Community's resources to see if he could help Bugles Across America.

"As an amateur musician myself, I'm touched by what this volunteer group has accomplished. So I reached out to the ranks of CAR and veterans groups and asked them to support my project with financial contributions which I will donate in full to Bugles Across America."

The money collected will be used to maintain their website which allows the public to quickly request and locate a bugler volunteer. Bugles Across America has even on occasion provided horns for musicians who are qualified and willing to serve the mission, but lack the proper instrument."

Within a short period of time, Blake received pledges of over a thousand dollars. That's an accomplishment by any standard; it's a bar-raiser for someone who sets the bar high for himself in school and extracurricular activities. But Blake didn't flinch. He saw a job to be done and he quietly went about doing it.



"My grandmother, who held several leadership position in the Daughters of the American Revolution, introduced me to Children of the American Revolution (CAR). CAR was founded in 1895 as a patriotic organization for descendants of patriots of the American Revolution. We have six objectives: to acquire knowledge of American History; to preserve and restore places of historical importance associated with men and women who fought for American Independence; to ascertain the deeds and honor the memories of the men, women and children who rendered service to the cause of the American Revolution; to promote the celebration of patriotic anniversaries; to honor and cherish the Flag of the United

States of America above every other flag; and to love, uphold and extend the principles of American liberty and patriotism."

Blake plays the guitar and the piano, and has numerous relatives who are Veterans.

"The combination made Bugles Across America a good match for me and my State project. It's a chance for me to honor US Veterans, especially those in my family."

Blake Stugis attended the Western Regional Conference in 2014 in Portland Oregon, the 2015 meeting in San Diego, California, and the 2016 Regional Meeting his Chapter hosted in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. His Region includes Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Hawaii and Alaska. Blake's term as Idaho Chapter President ends in April, 2017.





Tom Day - Illinois, BAA President and Founder

Recently while I was perusing some Goodwill stores, I found a BACH horn case for \$5.00... and a previous owner's name and address were still on the case. I recognized the name... Michael Brady. So I emailed him and and got a reply! He is still a BAA member and now in his third year at the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Day! It is great to get an email from you! That is too funny! I know exactly which case you are talking about, and I can only imagine how it got there. Ha Ha. I have been really well, the Academy continues to be more than I could ever imagine. On a great and very convenient note, I just got approved for a weekend pass and will be home in Chicago for the weekend, just to take a couple days off between band and training out here, so if you and Julie and anyone else would like to catch up over lunch or something Saturday or Sunday, it would be an absolute pleasure! I hope all is well with you, I have been hard at work playing trumpet out here and getting the word out about BAA. Last Memorial Day, I had the pleasure to work with the BAA state director for Colorado, Mr. Burkhardt, and had a couple Academy buglers to take part in playing a mass rolling Taps up at the VA cemetery in Denver. Let me know if you are available this weekend to catch up! - Mike Brady

Robert Michaels - New Jersey

I had the distinct honor of sounding Taps today for a Civil War veteran, who never had a headstone until recent efforts by the NSDU (National Society of the Daughters of the Union) procured one. The headstone was dedicated by the NSDU along with great, great grand children of Pvt. James McGrath, Co A, 124th NY Infantry.



Kenneth Fitzgerald - California

I was part of a concert program in honor of 9/11 in Coronado, CA

[Click for video](#)



Don Gust - Wisconsin

We held a small event in the city of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin on 9/11 where we sounded Taps at the four times as suggested by BAA. We had four buglers and sounded across a small lake which had a great effect and impact on those listening. This was the fifth consecutive year we have done this. Our local band also had a 9/11 concert and we closed with 4 part harmony Taps. It was very nice to have an opportunity to play that version.

Donald Mallinson - Illinois

9/11 Ceremony - 2016
War Memorial Helicopter
Washington, IL



Lewis Marien/Peoria Journal Star

Frank Hafner - California

I recently took a mission that required me to be about a half-mile out from Oceanside Harbor. We spent about an hour on the water. Eleven or twelve boats circling a mark with radius near 50 meters but probably less. Relatively calm seas with light winds. I wrapped an arm around the rigging and had no problem playing. Some, if not all, of the boats could hear it. They kept radio on so I could be heard over the radio. The wife of the veteran we were honoring lamented that she could not find anyone to sing Amazing Grace. I sang the first verse as it is the only one I know. I'll learn the rest. I may not be the best tenor but I am almost the loudest.

John Lang - Washington

As I sit in our little travel trailer behind the \$50,000 Dollar Saloon and Gift Shop on I-90 in Montana reading the July issue of the Bugler's Post, my wife suggested I write about the last bugle that I made.

It started the night before we left on a big family Memorial Day weekend 2016 campout to Banks Lake in Washington. The night before we left, I gathered parts from 2 broken Conn Director cornets, some tools, steel wool, some extra brass tubing and everything else I thought I might need. There was a nice monument at the Coulie City park on Banks Lake where we were camped, dedicated to all of the veterans from that area who had lost their lives serving their country. My goal was to finish the Conn Cornet Bugle and play Taps near the monument before the end of day on Memorial Day. As soon as we set up camp I started to work, using only hand tools and a small butane torch. What a beautiful outdoor workshop, right on the edge of the lake! I stopped occasionally to interact with my grandkids who were there also.

The project did not go smoothly, I had trouble with the small butane torch staying lit and also with it heating the tubing hot enough to get the right flow of the solder. I wished that I had brought one of my bigger torches. Then finally on Memorial Day afternoon, when it should have been finished, I discovered that I had to make a major design change to get it to sound like I wanted it to. My self imposed time limit was to sound Taps before 9:00 P.M. Finally around 8:45 P.M. it was done. My "Honor Guard" (3 of the grandsons who were also Navy Sea Cadets) and I, headed to the other side of the boat dock where the sound could come across the water to the Veterans Monument and the whole campground. Right before playing they were told that we were doing this to honor all the brave people who had given their lives in battle so that we could be free. They stood silently at attention in the darkness. The air was totally still, unusual for that location in the evening. Taps sounded out across the water, it had the exact mellow rich tone quality I had hoped for. The veterans were honored and remembered and part of the next generation got to be a part of it. This mission was accomplished.



Bill Goswick - Oklahoma

Here are three pictures of me sounding Taps at funerals. The first one was at U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Gene Krause's funeral. Gene was a friend and co-worker, I served with him on the Tulsa Fire Department. The second at Retired Tulsa Firefighter Robert Hale's funeral. Robert was also a friend and co-worker. The third was at Wagoner County Deputy Jeremiah Johnson's funeral (Jeremiah succumbed to cancer at age 28). As you can see, I wore three different uniforms at these funerals, since I am a military veteran, a member of the American Legion and the VFW, am a former Tulsa Firefighter, and a former Tulsa County Deputy.



Shawn Smith - Pennsylvania

My wife has been doing genealogy research on both our families and recently discovered a civil war vet in my family when we were at Indiantown Gap. He's my 3rd great Grandfather, Sgt John Smith, who was in the 56th Pennsylvania Infantry. We found he fought at Gettysburg



so we went down and found his name on the Pennsylvania memorial and visited the area where he would have fought, being Culp's Hill. We also discovered that he had died at the Battle of The Wilderness, so on the way back from a trip to Williamsburg we stopped at the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor center and got directions to where he would have fought and died. We found the area, along with some unidentified soldier graves

he may have been buried in (he was never identified) and I took my bugle with me. We picked out a good spot and I sounded Taps in honor of John Smith. [Here is a video](#) my wife took and I figured someone might enjoy seeing this.

Memorial Dedication - West Virginia

When we arrived on our motorcycles at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA, a bolt of lightening appeared on the eastern horizon. This was Thursday June 23, 2016 and the home state of the bugler was under an attack from nature with severe storms and torrential downpours. On February 4, 2016 the Committee of the Virginia State Harley Owners Group Rally requested a bugler to play during their dedication of a wreath at the National D-Day Memorial. **Bill Kuhn**, who lives in Summersville and is a member of Bugles Across America, accepted the request to sound Taps for this dedication. Bill is the Director of the New River Gorge HOG Chapter #2109. A large group of riders left the host hotel in Lynchburg, VA at 7:30 AM, rode to Bedford for breakfast at the Liberty Station Restaurant and then waited out a storm before riding a short distance to the memorial. One attending veteran posted on social media 'Arrived and laid a wreath at the National D-day Memorial, with one of fellow HOGS giving a great rendition of Taps...'. *"Even though it was raining during the dedication, the opportunity to sound Taps at this inspiring memorial is truly a great honor,"* stated Bill.



James King - North Carolina

July 4th 2016 was the centennial celebration of the American flag flying atop Chimney Rock in Chimney Rock State Park, Lake Lure, NC. BAA bugler Jim King presented Taps as the flag was lowered and retired.

Carla Beaudoin - Maine

I recently sounded Taps for a man named Andre Benoit. He was the dad of Joan Benoit Samuelson. She was the first person to win the women's marathon in the Olympics. The man's son sent a message to the funeral director saying how much he loved my BAA uniform. I am very proud to wear it so I was pleased. My coworkers saw me all dressed up and were very impressed. One of them, former Army, saluted me!

Larry Ballenger - California

Pasadena, California, 31 December 2015. Iwo Jima beach landing commander.

Early in the last week of the year, a BAA request came in, for a service to be held on December 31, the last day of the year. I knew my day would be filled with Rose Parade activities and family events, as it always is at New Years' in Pasadena. We had family coming, but the request was for the middle of the day, and only a short distance away, in Pomona. It would be workable, so I took it.



The son of the honoree emailed me speedily. (Our information is provided to the requestor once a mission has been accepted.) This man was full of gratitude for this service of BAA. He explained that his father had died several months ago, but this was the first opportunity that the family could gather to inter their father's ashes next to his wife in Pomona, their long-time residence. The son himself was from Indiana, and would be attending the Rose Parade the next day, along with other family members

His father was a US Navy commander, who had landed with the Marines on Iwo Jima in 1945. His assignment was to direct the landing craft on the beach under the withering fire of the enemy emplacements above them. He considered it a miracle that he had survived. Like so many World War II veterans he came home, married, raised his family and went on with his life, and lived to be 100 years old. In 1995 he had joined a large group of Iwo Jima veterans as well as Japanese dignitaries and Ambassador Walter Mondale, for a peace summit to remember Iwo Jima and World War II once more. The American veterans were honored, feted, and joined in ceremonies with their former enemies. Many, including this navy commander, brought home small amounts of the coarse, volcanic sand of that strategic and inhospitable place in the Pacific.

The son told me that story, and said, "It will mean so much to have a live bugler sound *Taps*. We just want to honor our father appropriately." There would be no military presence, no honor guard. Just a few family members, gathered to place their father's remains next to his wife in the family plot.

About 15 of them came on the cold last day of the year 2015. A family member read from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. I stood off to the side, sounded *Taps*, and then the son and his brother made a few remembrances of their dad. They waved the cemetery employee over with his skip loader of dirt in the flat bed. The urn was placed in the small hole in the turf, and each family member was invited to take a shovel of dirt into the opening.

As we were leaving the son came to me with a small vial of coarse sand...taken from his dad's souvenirs of Iwo Jima. He gave it to me as thanks for my volunteer service to their family. It has a place among my treasured possessions.

Jason Ford - California

After 45 years playing trumpet, and two years with BAA, I've learned a couple of things about sounding Taps: Each service is different, and they never go as planned. I try to distance myself a bit from the particulars of the deceased, partly so I can focus on making each performance my best effort. I try not to let things affect me like what branch of the military, rank, active duty or long retired, or whether it's four people in attendance, or 400.

Sometimes a Taps performance becomes one I'll never forget, though. During a recent service for FC2 Justin Deinstadt, the crew of the USS Russell ran several rehearsals of the program order, who would speak, and so on, and I had time to read his biography. What struck me was how young he was: only 23. The outpouring of love, grief, and respect from his shipmates was incredible. I saw that his widow came in a wheelchair, with her leg in a cast. When I got home, I did something I'd never done for a Taps detail before and did a Google search, which quickly pulled up obituaries and a report from the New Mexico Highway Patrol. He and his wife were in an auto accident near Grants, NM, only four days after being married.

Grants is a tiny town on a desolate stretch of Route 66 (and I-40), where I stayed in a 20-degree unheated motel room after a tough day on my bike crossing the windy Continental Divide in 2007. I was on my way from San Diego to Washington, DC. So I remember Grants quite well.

I thanked the Navy for allowing me to play Taps, especially since I never served in the military. Then yesterday I got the attached letter from the C.O. of the Russell, thanking **me**. I still consider the honor to be mine, though, to know all the men and women I've met in the military, including about 150 members of the USS Russell.

(The Thank You letter that was sent to me in is on page 26)

Greg Kaput - California

Story one; On April 1, 2016 I volunteered to sound Taps for Warren Wendt at Riverside, CA National Cemetery. After speaking with the family I was told there would be a USAF honor guard and rifle squad

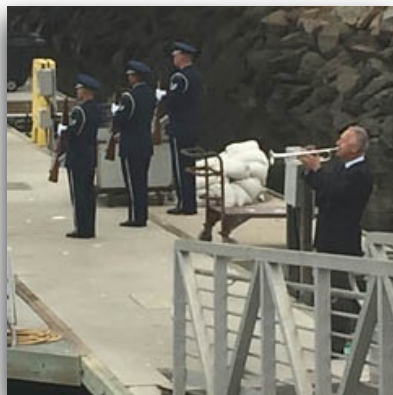


with a fly-over. There was a radio man in touch with the planes. He was positioned on a nearby hill. The service was coordinated such that after the rifle salute the radio man would signal me when to

begin sounding Taps so that the fly-over coincided with the rendering. Immediately after the rifle salute the radio man signaled I should begin and the planes flew overhead on hitting high G. It worked beautifully! It was a great and moving experience!



Story two; On May 14, 2016 I volunteered to sound Taps for Jay Ossiander, Sr. at the Oceanside, CA harbor. The family told me this service is a burial at sea. Both the son and his wife are Gulf War veterans. A USAF honor guard and rifle squad arrived at the harbor for the rifle salute and flag folding ceremony. Amazingly the harbor master allowed the rifle salute in this dense shops and restaurants area. Following the flag presentation the whale watching ship, Electra, motored out of the harbor for the ashes burial at sea.





Michael Atkinson - Illinois

BAA member M/Sgt. Mike Atkinson of the Illinois State Police Trumpet Team was honored to be invited to sound Taps at a 15-year anniversary 9/11/01 remembrance ceremony at American Legion Post 559 in Champaign IL.



The American Legion William F. Earnest Post 559 has serviced the Champaign-Urbana region since at least the 1930s. The Post was established in 1925 by five local World War I veterans, Cecil Nelson, Robert Earnest, Earl Simpson, Lawrence Diffay, and Dr. Harry Ellis, who were also prominent businessmen. They were chartered by the National American Legion in Indianapolis on August 8, 1932. The post was named after Robert's brother who was the first casualty from Champaign, IL in WW I.

Participating in the memorial with Post 559 was Urbana American Legion Post 71. The Post 71 bugler joined M/Sgt. Atkinson in the ceremony. The young SAL Member and Parkland Community College student performed a beautiful Echo Taps.



(All photo credit - Holly Hart, The News Gazette)

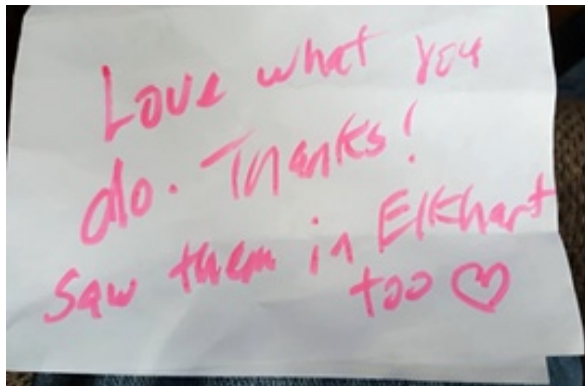
Do you have an unusual, memorable or funny story to share regarding an event or request you sounded Taps for? The Bugler's Post wants to publish your stories.

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 December 10th.

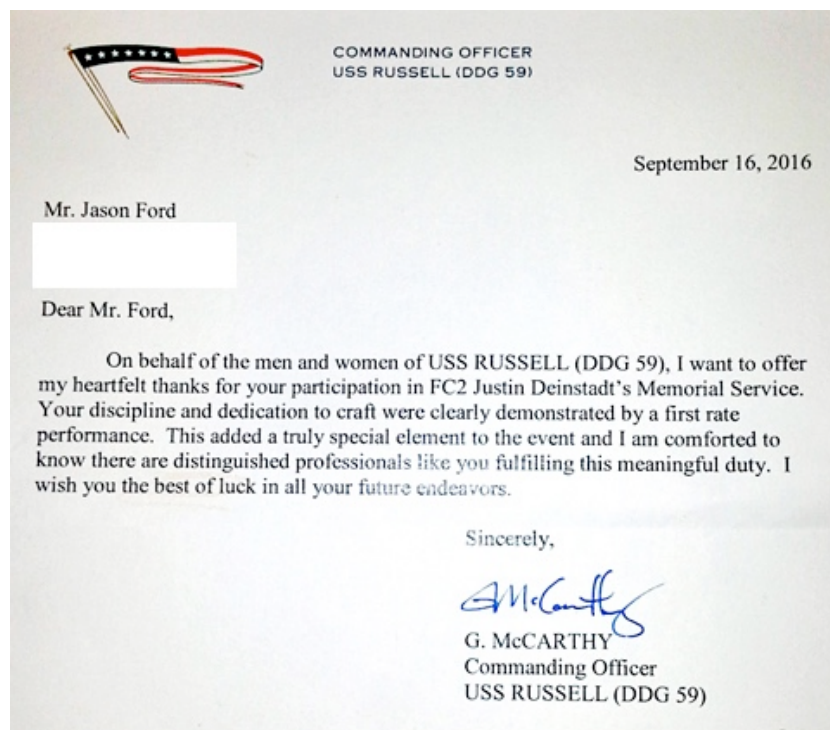
Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com

Letters of Gratitude



Bruce McKee - Indiana

I found this note on my truck when leaving Kroger today. Does a heart good to know that our buglers of Bugles Across America are making a difference."





BAA member, Rick Mitchell has gotten students involved in sounding Taps for local veterans.

KHS band students step up to sound Taps at military funerals

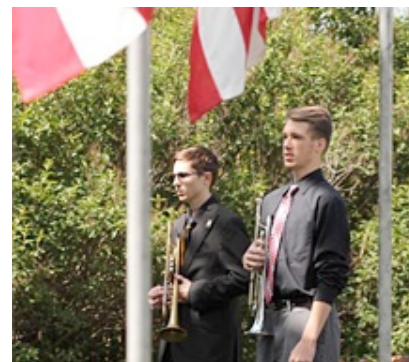
Kerney Hub, September 15, 2016
by Josh Moody

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



Rick Mitchell

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



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

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

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

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

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

For full article, [Click here](#)

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!

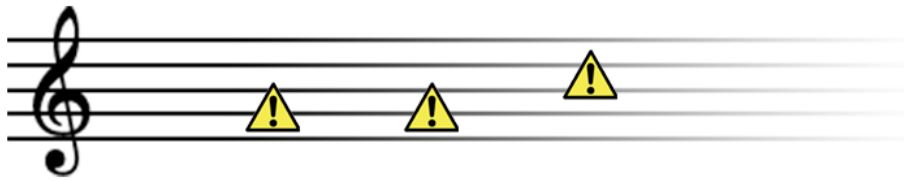


Thank you Jim Owens for your generous support for BAA.



<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>



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.