

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



BAA's Biggest Year Yet!



2012 is here and will be the biggest year so far for BAA. Two of the biggest events will be the Taps 150 event at

Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. on May 19th and Birth of an American Tradition, Berkeley Plantation, Charles City, Va. June 22 to 24th.

More on these two major events are below and at www.taps150.org

I would like to see as many events as possible all over America. For example in Chicago we will celebrate Taps 150 on May 26th The Chicago Memorial Day Parade and Sept. 30th at Oak Wood Cemetery also in Chicago.

Perhaps we can get the Elkhart, Ind. group and their Echo Taps from the Heart to honor Taps 150 theme on Veterans Day.

California has asked what might be done out West. Well now is the time to start something that could take place on the Capital stairs in Sacramento.

New York City could do something at the General Butterfield monument or at his grave at West Point.

Maybe you could let your neighbors and Scout Troops help at your Towns Veterans Memorial.

I sure would like to see things happening all across America. Tell us what your going to do.

2012 events can also start on February 3rd in honor of the Four Chaplains. Refer to a book written by one of our members and movie producer Ken Wales and David Polling called Sea of Glory.

Memorial Day, Flag Day, The 4th of July, Gold Star Mothers Day, Pow-Mia Day, 9-11, December 7th and June 6th. Start a once a month vigil like Ross Medos did in Michigan where town folks meet once a month at their Memorial and listen to Ross sound Taps and the towns folk say a prayer for a safe return for all the Troops still fighting.

Ladies and Gentlemen 2012 is our year. It's YOUR year. Make it shine.

Tom Day - Founder



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UPCOMING EVENTS



BAA BUGLERS AND THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAPS

Two significant events commemorating the 150th anniversary of Taps will take place in May and June 2012. All Bugles Across America buglers are invited to participate in these historic and musical commemorations celebrating Taps.

“ARLINGTON TAPS 150”

The 150th Anniversary Commemoration of
Taps At Arlington National Cemetery
May 19, 2012 10 AM-12 Noon
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, Virginia 22211
[Taps 150](#)

Taps 150 will commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Taps, our National Song of Remembrance, in the Old Amphitheater (near the Lee Mansion) at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia on Saturday May 19, 2012. The event is sponsored by TAPS 150, Bugles Across America and Arlington National Cemetery. All buglers and trumpeters are welcome to attend the ceremony and perform Taps in Arlington, our nation's most sacred ground.

Following the ceremony and a massed sounding of Taps in Old Amphitheater, buglers will move to various locations in the cemetery and sound Taps following the chimes at noon. Buglers will be able to choose where they would like to sound Taps in the cemetery. Registration is free but mandatory for this event. You must be registered to perform.

Registration opens Jan 1, 2012

[Click here to register](#)

The Program Coordinator is Mr. Jari Villanueva, Bugle historian, military bugler. For further information visit the Taps150 website or email Jari at jari@taps150.org

“BIRTH OF AN AMERICAN TRADITION”

The 150th Anniversary Commemoration of Taps
June 22 - 24, 2012
Berkeley Plantation
12602 Harrison Landing Road,
Charles City, VA 23030
[Taps 150](#)

This three-day event will celebrate the birth of America's National Song of Remembrance with Civil War re-enactors depicting the Union Army at rest at Harrison's Landing (on the grounds of the plantation) following the Seven Days Battles in late June 1862. Living history programs will feature the music of fifes, drums, and bugles, including the commemorative sounding of Taps on Saturday night. Concerts by military bands on Friday night and the Federal City Brass Band on Saturday night will add to the musical flavor of the event. The focal point of the weekend will be the re-dedication of the Taps monument on Saturday, June 23, at 11 AM. Taps150 and Bugles Across America will have bugle exhibits set up. In addition Virginia's Civil War HistoryMobile will be on the grounds for visitors over the three days.

All Bugles Across America buglers are invited to participate and perform in concerts during the weekend plus sound Taps on the spot where Taps was born. Ken Rose, LTC (ret), former commander of the Continental Army Band (TRADOC Band), will serve as the conductor of the bugle and trumpet ensembles.

Registration is \$20.00 which helps offset the costs of the event. You will also receive trumpet and bugle music that will be performed.

[Click here to register](#)

For the weekend schedule and further information visit the Taps150 website or email Jari at jari@taps150.org

Spirit of '45 National Leaders Conference

San Diego Feb 17-19, 2012

Join us in San Diego for an exciting weekend of sharing, networking and brainstorming to take National Spirit of '45 Day to a whole new level next year!

Bring your experience and ideas to San Diego so together we can make National Spirit of '45 Day even bigger and better in 2012!

- Find out how you can participate in the 2012 national campaign to promote public awareness and participation in Spirit of '45 Day next year!
- Network with museums, heritage associations, historical societies, senior living communities, youth leadership organizations and veterans groups!
- Learn how Spirit of '45 alive can help your organization achieve its goals while helping to inspire a new spirit of national unity in our country!
- Hear from experts how to develop your own Spirit of '45 media and fund raising strategies!
- Take home the tools you need to make your Spirit of '45 Day a success!



Friday and Saturday working sessions will be held in San Diego's internationally famous [Balboa Park](#). The Conference will conclude with a public ceremony to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima in Tuna Harbor.

Friday (Feb 17): Working Session and Welcoming Reception - [Veterans Museum & Memorial Center](#)

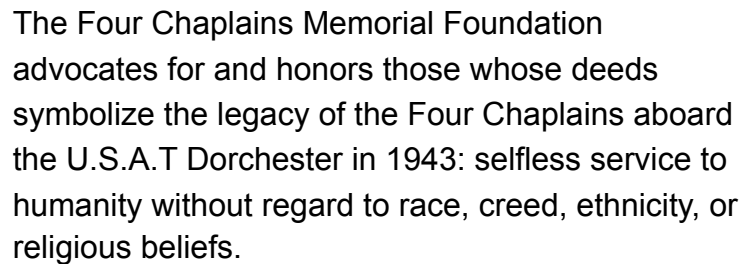
Saturday (Feb 18): Working Sessions - San Diego [Hall of Champions](#)
"Dine With a Hero" Gala Banquet - San Diego [Air & Space Museum](#)

Sunday (Feb 19): Closing ceremonies and wreath laying
Greatest Generation Walk, [Port of San Diego](#)

Conference registration officially opens on December 7, 2011 (Pearl Harbor Day)

Participation is limited to 100 attendees, so be sure to sign up early!
Spirit of '45 group rates are available at the historic [Sofia Hotel](#).
Call (800) 826-0009 or (619) 234-9200 to reserve your room NOW!
(Transportation to/from Conference events will be provide for attendees.)

For more information, visit ["Keep The Spirit of '45 Alive!"](#)



It will be held at the American Legion Post #259.
The address is 470 Summerhaven Dr., DeBary, FL.
32713

This memorial is open to the public and averages around 250 people. We have the USMC, US Army and National Guard representatives coming to help on their time off and a retired Navy Captain Chaplain. If you can volunteer, please contact John Murphy at (386) 789-0400.

John Murphy
Bugles Across America
jremy@cfl.rr.com
386-789-0400

Submit events to BAA.JDay@gmail.com for inclusion into the next newsletter.

Please have event information in the format and worded as you'd like to be published.

State Director Spotlight: Alabama's Gene Ramsay



How long have you been with BAA?

I joined BAA in 2009.

What inspired you to join?

I joined after I read a story about live Taps versus what Veteran's families

were getting. I went to the website and thought I would give it a shot and offer my services. I wanted to serve in the military back when I became eligible, but health conditions kept me from being able. This was my best way to serve and say a humble final "thank you" to those who have fought for my freedoms.

How long have you been playing?

I have been playing trumpet since I was 10 years old.

Best part about the job?

The best part of the job is knowing that the family got the best possible final good bye for their loved one. I also enjoy meeting up with other buglers and talking shop about what we do and why it matters. It's a fraternity for sure.

Best experience with BAA?

I can't say there is any BEST experience, because of the occasion, however, there is a moment that stands out. A local Veteran who was on active duty in Haiti was killed in the earthquakes last year. The entire community was in shock and the funeral was HUGE. Generals from all over were coming to attend and pay tribute to the fallen soldier. I reached out to the funeral director for the service to offer my bugling

service. He checked with the military and they stated that they had a live bugler coming. I was relieved and went about my day knowing that the next day this hero would receive the best possible farewell. The next morning, the hone rang and it was the Air Force OIC of the funeral set up. She was frantic and needed to be sure I could be there because the bugler they had forgot about a prior commitment. Luckily I had nothing scheduled and said yes. I arrived at the Alabama National Cemetery and was astounded by the crowd and the dignitaries present. I can still hear the clicks of the cameras all around me when I began to play after the final rifle volley was echoing off into the distance. As my last note faded, a helicopter rumbled overhead (the Veteran was a helicopter pilot) to complete the moment. Breathtaking and a moment I will never forget.

Do you have a goal for your state?

My goal in Alabama is to draw all the Alabama buglers closer together, to encourage promotion of what we do to local funeral homes and cemeteries and be an even brighter light for all Veterans in Alabama so that they know we all believe as they do...that they deserve the best send off we can provide them when their final moment comes.

What would you like to share with your audience?

Being a part of this organization is an amazing experience and I still get feelings of honor every time I am called to action to provide Taps at a graveside. I never want to lose that. Every emotion I can think of flows through those notes as I am humbled to be able to provide this service to the family of the fallen.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

In each issue we will be featuring buglers who have been submitted by their peers whom have gone above and beyond.

HOLMES SALUTES

THIS AMERICAN HERO!

Michael J. Jackson, USAF, SSGT /Ret.



Name



Branch of Armed Service and Years Served: United States Air Force 1967-1971

I want to honor this American hero because:

In 2000 Congress passed legislation stating that Veterans had the right to at least two uniformed military personnel to fold the flag and play Taps, at their funeral. If a live bugler was not available, and frequently they were not, Taps was played using a CD recording or a battery-operated bugle with synthesized music. An organization called Bugles Across America was founded to take this legislation a step further to provide a live bugler playing live Taps to recognize with honor the sacrifice that veterans have made for their country. Michael Jackson is the BAA director for the State of Rhode Island. When he first offered to play live Taps for RI Veterans the National Guard was not very welcoming to him, they felt that even though there was a shortage of buglers, only Guardsman should be allowed to play at military funerals. Michael did not let that stop him and he persisted, even helping to write a bill that would allow for live Taps to be played at veteran funerals by honorably discharged veterans. It took a lot of hard work, but it paid off, and in 2004 Michael became the Official State Bugler for the State of Rhode Island and has since sounded the "saddest 24 notes ever written" for over 5000 of his fellow veterans and performed at many other official ceremonies. He performs his duties as a volunteer, in summer's heat and winter's cold, asking for nothing in return except the honor of a final salute to a fellow veteran. In Michael's words "Real War...Real Bullets...Real Bugle". In my words, Michael J. Jackson is a Real Hero, he fought for something he believed in and now gives a final honor to those, who, like himself, have given selflessly to protect our freedom.

TEACHER Who Salutes This Hero Mrs. Brown (Library)

Massachusetts bugler & State Director, John Collins receives Achievement Medal for sounding Taps at more than 1000 Army services. This was honored to him at the Massachusetts State House in Boston on Veteran's Day 2011.

John is the only one there dressed in a Coast Guard uniform. The rest are from the 54th Honor Guard Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard. Some are re-enactors in the uniform of the 54th in the Civil War. The 54th then was an all black outfit.



Alabama's Bill Rigby, who has been active in Guantanamo Bay, recently took on a special, personal assignment.

CDR Chuck Doherty and Bill served on active duty together and for the same company. In October while in Iraq, Chuck died of a heart attack. Bill flew to Germany and escorted Chuck home to Texas. On October 17th, Bill sounded Taps for his friend.

Thank you Bill. Well Done.

If you know of anyone who has gone above and beyond and want to feature them, please email BAA.JDay@gmail.com with their story. Photos desired but not required.

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

The Vietnam Wall – A Promise Kept by Kevin Hussey Sr.

I quit smoking in 1993 at 48 years old. I smoked 3 packs a day for 30 years. I started packing on the weight. A friend of mine where I worked was a marathon runner. He saw me on the treadmill at work one day and asked me if I would like to run the Marine Corp marathon with him. I told him I couldn't run 26 miles. I told him I had a buddy KIA in 1968 in Vietnam. He told me a lot of people run the marathon and dedicate it to people who were KIA in Vietnam. The seed was planted. I started training and ran the Vermont marathon in May. I then ran the Marine Corp the following October.

I ran a total of ten marathons in 4 years. In 2007 my left knee gave out. I had total knee replacement, but it didn't go as planned. I had to leave work and wait the pain out.



When I couldn't run anymore I decided to learn to play Taps on the trumpet. Well 3 years ago I decided to try and walk the Marine marathon again and dedicate it to my buddy and all those on the Wall.

I even had a tee- shirt signed by all the Marines who served with him in Nam. They

were having their reunion and they signed it for me. My plan was to walk the Marine Corp marathon. Play Taps at the Wall and leave the shirt there. I tried for 2 years but my knees couldn't do it.



I felt I had made a promise to the Marines of the 3/27th and Paul (my buddy) and I had to fulfill it. My friend Dick Higgins is a Vietnam and Vet and told me he would go with me to Washington. We left on Sunday morning and you can see by the pictures My Promise Was Kept. It was very tough on both of us, and was deeply glad he was with me. I myself am not a Vet but I did what I had to do and did it. A lesson on life from this -- you can serve now --and playing Taps is one of them.

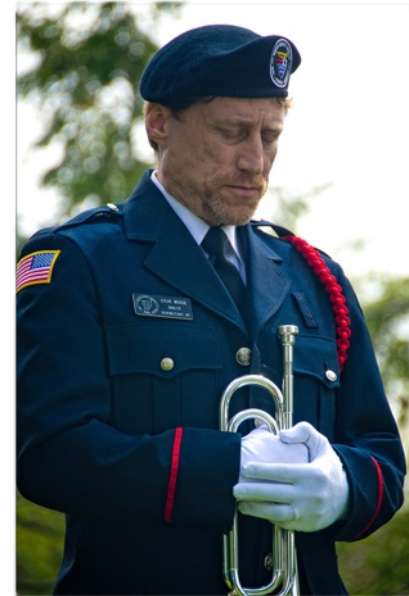


I have been the official town bugler and member of the American Legion Honor Guard for the last 47 years. For the past two years I have arranged for "Keep The Spirit of 45 Alive" programs here in McHenry. 45 Flags surrounded the park, each held up by a relative of a WWII vet. The first year I had 19 WWII vets on stage with about 120 people attending. This year I held the event on August 13 with 44 WWII vets on stage and just under 600 people in attendance. I had a good turnout of 19 buglers this year.

Ron Bykowski, McHenry, IL



Here's a photo from a 9/11 ceremony I played for this year that shows off the official BAA uniform I just got this year.
Steve Weisse
Schenectady, NY



Auston O'Neill with Pat Sajak during the party after the Spirit of '45 parade in Washington D.C. 2011



Just another note of pride, as I believe my daughter is one of many of your young person volunteers who are providing this great service to our Veterans' families.

Last week, I received a phone call to provide the funeral music for a distant cousin at our church on Dec. 23. Heather was home from school, so she cantored the funeral.

After finding out the military background, and American Legion involvement of the deceased, I asked Heather to bring her trumpet, and we would also do a trumpet / organ selection of Panis Angelicus, and God of Our Fathers at the funeral mass. I told the widow, and she was quite pleased. Heather was also prepared for TAPS, if needed.

Arriving early to church to set up, we saw there were members of the local American Legion, and the ARMY who were available for the Military Honors, including the "Bugle" with recorded trumpet music. We realized she should not usurp the members of the military, so we were content to do our regular music and be observers.

After performing prelude music, one of the members of the Funeral Home, came upstairs and told Heather to get her trumpet ready - she was on! We were quite shocked.



Evidently, they had noticed she had a trumpet, and conversation took place. A member of the Army Honor Guard came to the choir loft, extremely excited that there was a LIVE Bugler. She coordinated the Military Honors with Heather, and at the end of Mass everything went according to plan.

What an honor! Heather was quite proud that the members of the Army approached her to play TAPS.

Thank you Tom Day, for starting this organization and for believing in young people to also encourage them to participate. It is a great opportunity to develop self esteem, while giving back to our Country in such a small, yet, extremely meaningful way.

God Bless You.

Donna B, mom of Heather B



My son, Tommy, a young and new BAA bugler in Florida, played his first mission on Thursday, the 8th of December.

I stayed in my van parked in a position where I could watch the whole ceremony. First, Tommy met with the VFW honor guard and the commander gave him instructions on how to stand and when to play. Well, then came three young active Marines who, of course, looked absolutely awesome. They approached Tommy and shook his hand. His smile looked like Christmas morning! He looked at them like they were rock stars. After the marines took their positions, the VFW commander came back and reminded Tommy how he should be standing. So, he composed himself again and wiped the goofy grin off his face.

Then the family arrived. I thought the ceremony was perfect. Tom played flawlessly which was a big relief to me and I'm sure to him. I had tears in my eyes as I watched the Marine handed over the folded flag.

Thanks!

Tina S.

**** Update**** The USMC called and asked where he was located and wished to add him to their list.

Here, my sister Janet, is accepting husband, Bill Dailing's Flag [U.S. Army / Korea] this past June, 2011. I did represent Bugles Across America and the East Moline, Illinois American Legion Post 226 and played Taps at Rock Island, Illinois National Cemetery that day and on 3 more occasions that week.

I think the photograph without words, speaks volumes.

Sincerely,
Jim Hixson



If you have a story to share with BAA, please email BAA.JDay@gmail.com with story as to be published. Photos desired.

BRASS FROM THE PAST

Why the name Taps?

by Jari Villanueva

Taps is the name of the final call of the evening in the United States military. The call is sounded at an interval after Tattoo. There are a few explanations for the name of Taps. It is not an acronym, although there are two organizations that exist using the acronym. T.A.P.S.- Tragedy Assistance Program and TAPS-The Atlantic Paranormal Society.



One explanation is that Taps is derived from the Dutch word Tap-toe or Tattoo. The call of Tattoo was used in order to assemble soldiers for the last roll call of the day. Tattoo may have originated during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) or during the wars of King William III during the 1690s. The word tattoo in this usage is derived from the Dutch tap (tap or faucet) and toe (to cut off). When it was time to cease drinking for the evening and return to the post, the provost or Officer of the Day, accompanied by a sergeant and drummer, would go through the town beating out the signal. As far as military regulations went, there was a prescribed roll call to be taken “at Taptoe time” to ensure that all the troops had returned to their billets. It is possible that the word Tattoo became Taps. Tattoo was also called Tap-toe and as is true with slang terms in the military, it was shortened to Taps.

The other, and more likely, explanation is that the name Taps was borrowed from a drummer's beat. The beating of Tattoo by the drum corps would be followed by the Drummer of the Guard beating three distinct drum taps at four count intervals for the military evolution Extinguish Lights. During the American Civil War, Extinguish Lights was the bugle call used as the final call of the day and as the name implies, it was a signal to extinguish all fires and lights. Following the call, three single drum strokes were beat at four-count intervals. This was known as the “Drum Taps” or in common usage of soldiers “The Taps” or “Taps.” There are many references to the term “Taps” before the war and during the conflict, before the bugle call we are all familiar with came into existence. So the drum beat that followed Extinguish Lights came to be called “Taps” by the common soldiers and when the new bugle call was created in July 1862 to replace the more formal sounding Extinguish Lights, (the one Butterfield disliked), the bugle call also came to be known as “Taps.”



If you have any interesting facts or history to share with BAA, please email

BAA.JDay@gmail.com Photos desired but not required.

BAA- IN THE NEWS

October 23rd, 2011

Berg Believes All Vets Deserve A Bugler

From the Tri-County Record in Rushford, Minnesota
Reprinted with permission



For some people playing an instrument in front of an audience is unthinkable, but for Derek Berg it is a regular occurrence, and he is honored to do so.

Berg has been playing the trumpet for the Rushford American Legion since 1977 and

has played at over 100 events. "I didn't serve in the Military so I try and serve those who did."

Berg has found an old bugle used by a relative in 1917 and is hoping to restore it. Ideally he would love to use it for taps but it is just a matter of fixing it up.

Berg adds, "I was at a military honors funeral in Winona and they had a tape recorder that played taps. The honor and dignity was not there" seeing and hearing this Berg joined the Buglers Across America (BAA) so he could provide the genuine article. He has now been participating in BAA events for two years.

BAA was founded by Tom Day of Illinois in 2000.

It was formed because Congress said veterans had a right to have two uniformed people fold a flag and a CD player to play taps on. BAA wanted to make sure there would be the opportunity for the veterans to have a real bugler or trumpet player at

Eleven years later, BAA has over 8,000 volunteer buglers across the United States. Of which 121 are in Minnesota.

The BAA is a non-profit organization but will except donations. "We believe every veteran deserves a real bugler at a funeral ceremony."

There are some clothing regulations. If buglers are in the military they may wear their uniform, boy scouts may wear their uniform, or if nothing else is available dark slacks and white shirt.

Players may perform on a bugle, trumpet, cornet, or even a flugelhorn.

A bugler can be either male or female, of any age, and can play on a valve or no valve bugle, trumpet, cornet, or even a flugelhorn. They are required to play taps with style that will bring honor to the veterans and their families.

Berg was named the Minnesota State Director in June of this year. "We hadn't had a State Director for about three years," said Berg.

One of Berg's jobs as a director is finding other buglers. Berg has a map of MN and puts a dot where each bugler lives. Berg says, "There are a couple of bare spots in our state" and he wants to start filling in those areas. "I will start with music colleges and just start sending out some letters." This will make it easier to fulfill all the requests,

When someone request a bugle to be at a service, an email is sent out to all the BAA volunteers within a 100 mile radius. Though with some of the bare spots we have in Minn. this gets tricky.

August 14th is "The Spirit of '45 Day." "This is a day commemorating our greatest generation, the end of World War II." Berg is trying to start a rolling taps at the Fort Snelling Cemetery. Rolling taps is when a group of buglers stand in a circle and play taps as around. "We owe a lot to that generation," and Berg wants to do everything he can to honor them.

"We are truly blessed in this country."

On December 8th News Corp. asked Bugles Across America to honor those who have served at their annual ACP holiday party, held at Fox News' Studio J in New York City. BAA New York State Director Danielle Masterson-Kaelin and bugler Peter Ekstrom attended the event. Not only did Danielle attend the event but she played a large role in planning the event with Fox. Danielle set the flags of our 5 armed services as well as a special "Taps 150" flag provided by BAA, and Peter started the festivities with a bugle call. Patriot Brass also played a selection of holiday favorites for party goers.

Danielle and Peter mingled with many Fox personalities such as Sean Hannity as well as veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with their ACP mentors. ACP, American Corporate Partners, provides mentors for service personnel returning home. These mentors helps them apply the skills they acquired in the military to achieve success in business. Many American corporations are involved in the program. Visit www.acp-usa.org for more information.



Peter Ekstrom and Danielle Masterson



Patriot Brass and Danielle Masterson



*Sean Hannity, Danielle Masterson
and BAA Bugler Peter Ekstrom*

If you have seen BAA in the news recently or have been featured in an article while playing with BAA, Please send the article or information to BAA.JDay@gmail.com

KEY NOTES

How To Accept A Bugler Request

When a request comes in for a bugler, it is automatically sent out to all buglers within a 100 mile radius of the event.

If you think you may be able to play this request, [PLEASE](#) look it over carefully. Check the dates, location and time. Now look at your schedule and verify that you are available to play.

If you can play the request, please click "[Click here to see more details about this request](#)" at the bottom of the email and that will take you to the the BAA web site. There you can sign in and officially volunteer for the event.

If you are unable to volunteer for the event, feel free to hit the [Delete](#) key. The email was automated. There is no need to reply back why you can't volunteer for that mission.

If it has already been accepted by another bugler, you will be told so. If you are the first bugler to volunteer, you will be sent an email with the details of the event.

If you are unsure if you are the bugler that has the mission, click on the "[My Events](#)" tab at the top. A new page will open up and show you what you are signed up for.

You've Accepted a Request.. Now What?

Once you have successfully signed up for it, a confirmation email will be sent to the requestor. Please contact the requestor as soon as possible to introduce yourself, reassure that you'll be there and to also get any more information you might need about the event.

When attending an event, please show up at least 45 minutes early and let the funeral director, event coordinator or family member know you are there. Also, bring a copy of the request with you. Why? There may be a military unit there to fold and present the flag. They may have also brought a person to lip sync on a digital device. Your request is from the family and it is your duty to sound Taps. Then, work the schedule of events out with the military person in charge and do your usual great job.

Dress and act professional (obviously) and it's our job to be heard, but not be center stage if you know what I mean.

We perform Taps as a volunteer and do not ask for pay. However, if a family member comes up, shakes your hand and puts a token of gratitude in your hand, PLEASE take it and say Thanks, it was an honor. They feel great and actually so do you.

ANNOUNCING A NEW FEATURE ON THE BAA SITE

Contacting Your State Director!

We have now developed a convenient way for all BAA members to make contact with their State Director, even if they don't know who that might be. The feature is a tab found on the BAA page titled 'Contact Directors'. This will be found as a dropdown under the Contact Us tab, but will be accessible only to registered BAA members that are logged on to the site.

Here's how it works. The registered member (Bugler or Non-bugler) must log on to the site and then if they place their cursor on the [Contact Us](#) tab, they will see a [Contact Directors](#) tab available. Click that tab, and then the first action is to select a state from a dropdown menu. A few seconds later, a new choice option appears showing the listed Director for the chosen state. If more than one name is listed (Director and Assistants), yet another dropdown appears that shows all the listed directors, by name only. Each state menu also has a generic listing of National Admin. This is important for reasons I will explain later.

After the member has selected a state and a director, they will be required to enter their name and a valid e-mail address. Then they simply type in the message block, and when finished they click the 'submit' button. The screen will change to one that acknowledges the transmission of their message. It also asks that they allow at least three days for a reply, but if their issue is one that cannot tolerate delay, they should also send their message to National Admin. The content of that page is also sent to them as a message to their e-mail address that was provided.

The message is sent to the intended Director. At this point it is the responsibility of the Director to respond to the comment, question or concern of the BAA member. When the Director responds, their contact information will then be viewable to the BAA member. Unless the Director, for some unusual reason, takes measures to hide this information, this is the only time the member will see that. In other words, the messages sent through this link will be to a "name" only.

As mentioned earlier, each state listing of directors also contains a generic National Admin choice. For any state that presently does not have a currently active State Director, this is the only choice available on that list. The other reason for showing National Admin there is to cover the situation stated previously of the member resubmitting their message if they do not receive timely or satisfactory response from the listed State Director.

REFLECTIONS

The final notes fade into the gathering gloom of sunset.
Silent forms walk slowly away, shoulders hunched
against the sharp cold of an early spring evening.
Tall Pines stand at attention on the edge of the field; their
limbs hang in melancholy surrender.

Silent echoes of laughter, love and the expectations of life
unlived and unrevealed shimmer in the rising fog of the
warm earth, as the ghosts of times past and those never to
come embrace in a wild frenzy of mournful anguish.

Now all is silent. A slight breeze stirs the tall grass around
the interminable rows of white crosses—the chalky bones
of forgotten warriors. And the discordant song of a solitary
robin wails, “Spring no more, spring no more.”

Cliff Robinson - Minnesota. 2011

“Reflections” is the opportunity to share the intangibles: your thoughts and feelings on what we do and how it affects us. Poetry or prose, contribute what is important to you. Submit to BAA.JDay@gmail.com

DAY IS DONE - TAPS CD

Don't forget to order your copy of Day Is Done. Music commemorating the 150th anniversary of Taps.

The CD has 33 tracks of Taps and Taps related music including calls and settings of our National song of Remembrance.

Send a check or money order for \$18.00 for each CD plus \$2.00 shipping to:

TAPS 150
124 Maiden Choice Lane
Baltimore, MD 21228

(Allow 2 weeks for mail orders)

Also available on [iTunes](#) to download for only \$9.99!



All proceeds go toward the 150th commemoration of Taps which takes place in 2012.

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.

These states are:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| * Idaho | * New Hampshire | * Vermont |
| * Maryland | * New Mexico | * Washington D.C. |
| * Mississippi | * North Dakota | * West Virginia |
| * Montana | * Oregon | |

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.

Do You Think You Might Be The Youngest or Oldest BAA Member???

2012 will be a big year, of course. News people will be calling and one of the questions they will ask is. "How many members are there with BAA?" I usually say 7,500. Then the press asks "Are your members all Veterans?" No, they are from all walks of life.

We do have many Veterans and Patriots who Love America and just want to say Thanks to Veterans and their Families and music is how we do it.

We have over 2,000 female players and we are of every race, creed and religion . Then I tell the press we range in age from about 12 to 92. Actually at one time we did have a 100 year man still sounding Taps. He has since joined God's horn line in the sky.

HERE IS WHAT I NEED FROM YOU!!!

If you think you might be the Youngest or the Oldest please email me at tomjday@sbcglobal.net with birthday and location. You just may be called on for an interview.

Happy New Year,

Tom Day
Founder

KEY LINKS

[Bugles Across America](#)

[BAA on Facebook](#)

[BAA New York on Facebook](#)

[BAA Kentucky on Facebook](#)

[BAA Nashville on Facebook](#)

[BAA Hawaii on Facebook](#)

[BAA: Ohio's Blog](#)

[BAA: New Jersey](#)

[BAA Bugler Directives](#)

[Taps 150](#)

[Day is Done on CD](#)

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[Regimental Drum Major Association](#)

[Taps Bugler](#)

[Getzen](#)

[Kanstul](#)

[Spirit of '45](#)

[Drum Corps International](#)

[Windy City Legion Drum and Bugle Corps](#)

[Flags For Vets](#)

[Operation Taps](#)

[Association of Military Musicians](#)

If you have any articles that you would like to see in the next Newsletter, please email

BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

All stories should be written, 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.