

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



How BAA Got Started!

by Tom Day, Founder



One question I get asked often is *"How did BAA get started?"*

The story starts back in 1997 when a Vietnam vet friend and Author Randy Johnson called me and asked for help with a re-burial of a Civil War Veteran. Randy wrote a book called "A Dispatch To Custer" highlighting Lt. Kidder.

In Randy's research he was lead to Calvary Cemetery in Evanston, Illinois. What Randy found was the body of Pvt. Michael Keegan of the 7th Cav. Mike died in Chicago 1900 as a pauper and was placed in an unmarked grave.

Randy asked me to help give Mike a proper re burial with Honors. We first got the body exhumed and we got a funeral home to donate their parlor so we could wash down and dry out the bones of this Irish man and place him in a new coffin. We also needed a new place to bury Mike and Randy said, "Let's get the Ft. Sheridan Military Cemetery in Highwood, Illinois". We did our research and as it happened there were two other 7th Cav. Vet's there who Michael served with. We got Mike a spot in between his two friends who served with him at the Powder River with Col. Custer.

The Funeral was scheduled for Nov. 10th 1999 and we had over 700 people there along with the Council chief of Ireland. I did all the parade planning and in so doing, I looked for a Bugler and found the web site known as "Civil War Buglers". The most notable names were, who else but Jari Villanueva and R.J. Samp. These buglers were doing Taps for funerals and were looking for new members. I joined and got R.J. to volunteer to do Taps for the Funeral for Mike. At the last minute R.J. had to go out of town and that left me to do the job.



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At the same time in 1999 the news of a new law would be enacted in 2000 allowing all Veterans to have a Military funeral. So this and Mike's funeral gave me the idea to start looking for Live buglers to volunteer when the new law started. Remember this was before 9-11. The Govt. sent out Generals and white house staffers to look for people to fire rifles, fold flags, and do Taps. However, their idea of Taps was a CD and the Veterans Secretary said this was ok as there were NO buglers around anymore, and even if there were, you never see them.

Well, when I heard that I called him and we had a very brief conversation ending with: "Look SIR (for lack of a different word), I will find you the horn players".

So in 2000 we had a limited web site and started gathering players. The first site provider had problems and Mark Paradis, another Marine, jumped in until a Chicago man whose dad played trumpet volunteered. This worked out but as we grew we needed more from our site and Howard Reitenbaugh found us IT folks in St. Louis.

We needed to be a 501(c)(3) and Gene Horner and his wife prepared our first papers. Ed Bliger then took over and started to do our Federal returns each year.

Now, here we are at about 8,000 volunteers doing about 3,000 funerals a month. Mark Ward, at the Pentagon, is quoted in U.S.A. Today, saying we are doing more than 35 percent of Military Honors. The BAA Funeral DVD shows Mike's funeral and that of friend Col. Greg Pappy Boyington. Copies are available. I will have them at Arlington as well.

I owe the success of BAA to all members both past and present. There is no way this could have been done without your help.

God Bless you all.

Tom Day

Founder

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.

[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

EchoTaps 2012

Armed Forces Day Recognition

On Saturday, May 12th, we will be recognizing Armed Forces Day (May 19th) with EchoTaps at Rhode Island Veteran's Cemetery in Exeter, RI.



We are inviting all brass players. Tubas, baritones, trombones, French horns, flugelhorn, trumpets and of course bugles. To honor the G bugles we will be sounding "taps" in the key of G. For all Bb instruments that is valves 1&2 or just valve 3 position.

During the event, players will form a line around the WW II Memorial and perform a cascading version of Taps. After the first assigned player begins "taps" the player to the right will begin his playing after the third note.....and so on until the last player. Then we will all meet at the center of the WW II Monument and play "taps" en mass.

The first large "Echo Taps" event occurred in May 2005, when 896 brass players from 30 states lined 42 miles of road between Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, NY, and Bath National Cemetery in Bath, NY. Playing "Taps" in cascade, it took nearly three hours from the first note at Woodlawn to Taps sounded at the National Cemetery at Bath, N.Y.

I hope to see you all again this year, and hope to see some new faces. So Please mention our event to your fellow brass player musician friends young and old. As we get closer to this year's Echotaps I will inform all of you who are youngest and oldest players will be. This year the Veterans Administration has once again donated shirts especially for this event. There will be (Dunkin Donuts) coffee and donuts at the sign-in table and refreshments for all after the event.

Check-in is at 11:00 am, Performance time is at 12:00 pm

Thank you all so much for your participation in past years and we all hope to continue this wonderful event for many years to come!

Best,
Mike Jackson
RIBAA

Contacts: Mr. Michael Jackson (401) 782-6133
Mr. Paul Papineau (401) 765-8043
Dave Kirshner (401) 268-3088
Exeter Veterans Memorial Cemetery





The 1st Annual Honor and Remember Concert Hamilton, Ohio

Join us for a day of entertainment and fellowship at Veterans Park in Hamilton, Ohio. Help us honor Ohio's Hero's and their families.

Our event will include a selection of live music, speakers, food vendors and local vendors including area 501(c)(3) organizations. Help us honor these parents, spouses and families.

This event will be on Saturday August 11, 2012 from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Food and music will be from noon to 10 pm.

Our headline act is Nationally known local blues artist and Veteran, [The Sonny Moorman Group](#)

Tickets are on sale NOW: \$10 per person ages 13 and up. 12 and under FREE.

Tickets purchased before June 1, 2012 are entered into a \$500 early Bird Raffle. One ticket will be drawn for the grand prize of \$500.00 Winner need not be present.

If you are unable to attend the concert, please consider buying a ticket for the raffle.

Concert Sponsorships are also available for sale. Levels start at \$100. Sponsorship Levels of \$1000 and above have flag sponsorships built in.

All profits from the concert will be used to purchase personalized Honor and Remember Flags for Ohio families that have lost a family member in our countries Armed Forces.

For tickets or sponsor information (click) [Contact Tom Mitchell](#)

or by mail at:

Honor and Remember of Ohio, LLC.
P.O.Box 13079
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Wisconsin State Buglers!!!

First, if you've been busy, thank you! Second, if you haven't been, there will be many chances to play this year!

- * Rolling for Armed Forces day at Wood! Need lots to come and play!
- * Play for your city's Memorial Day remembrances!
- * Rolling at Wood for ROH Milwaukee.....might be two days! Go to the web site!~
FOROHHMilwaukee.org
- * If anyone is going to Arlington please let me know! I will be there and would love to meet my State Buglers!
- * Should be a "BIG".....did I say "BIG" event at Miller Park for "Spiritof45.org". Thanks to all that came out last year....what a great group! Marching around State fair and then a most awesome "Rolling"....thanks to all that came!
- * Check out the "Moving" wall web site to see if the Vietnam wall is coming to Wisconsin! Let's do something!
- * Any ideas? Suggestions? Tell me what you've been up to!!!

Other events and of course funerals as they come up! Make a difference and get the word out where you live! Please let me know how you are and if you still wish to be in the best "Bugle" organization in the world!!!

Thanks and keep on "Bugling!!!"

Bill Seaman

Wisconsin State Director

BillSeaman62557@hotmail.com



**DCA 2012
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
WEEKEND EVENTS**

**GET YOUR
TICKETS
NOW!**

Call (9-5pm Eastern, Mon-Fri) for tickets
(855) 632-8090

or order online with your credit card

dca
DRUM CORPS ASSOCIATES

Friday, August 31
Individual / Ensemble & Mini Corps at the stadium complex. FREE admission (no tickets required)!

Saturday, September 1
2:00 PM: DCA Championship Preliminary Competitions

Sunday, September 2
10:00 AM: The Alumni Spectacular - Field performance by many alumni corps.
5:00 PM: DCA World Championship Finals - The survivors of Saturday's prelims square off for the title!

Washington D.C. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps Parade

May 17th, 2012

Free!

Florida's State Director, John Murphy, has arranged to have forty 40 seats available at Marine Barracks 8th and I streets SE in Washington D. C. for the Evening Parade and drill by the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. It's a free show. This is for Friday night May 17th, 2012. You just have to mention your a Member of BAA and there in the area for the Taps 150 program at Arlington on the 19th. The Marines will give BAA at mention at the show.

[Click here to order](#)

Know of an event?

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

The Bugler's Post is published every other month so please give plenty of time for the event's notice.

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

State Director Spotlight: Alaska's Gene Horner



How long have you been with BAA?

I've been with BAA from the very beginning. I officially signed up in January of 2001.

What inspired you to join?

I was all ready doing the same thing in the State of Alaska. I had signed up several former military bandsmen and we were doing all the military funeral details at the National Cemetery here in Alaska. When I found out that Tom Day was organizing an national organization I felt that being part of the bigger picture was the thing to do. I've been playing trumpet for over 51 years. I first started sounding "Taps" as a 17 year old Army Band member. That was during the Viet Nam war and I did 187 military funerals in just 3 months..

How long have you been playing?

In October of 1999 President Clinton signed in to law the National Defense Authorization Act stating that every veteran was due Military Honors including the sounding of "Taps". Having been a military bugler I just couldn't bear to leave that task to a recording.

Hardest part about the job?

Probably the most difficult part of being a state director is getting more members signed up.

Best part about the job?

The most rewarding part of being a state director is knowing that every veteran in Alaska can receive a live version of Taps. Up here we handle the missions a bit different than other states. Here when a funeral comes up and Air Force Band is not able to take the mission (note: military funerals are one of their highest priorities) I am called Directly by the National Cemetery or by one of the 5 branches of service. I then call my members directly. Being a small state I know all my members. Some are retired others have times that are more convent than others. We have enough members that when I call and they have another commitment I go to the next name on the list. That way no one feel guilty when the have to turn down a mission.

Best experience with BAA?

The 2 best experiences I've had with BAA was our trip to the dedication of the WW II Memorial in Washington DC and the National Convention in IL. Being able to put a face and a handshake to all the names I'd seen on the website was a really rewording experience. I'm really looking forward to "Taps 150" for the same reason.

Do you have a goal for your state?

My goal for Alaska is to make sure that every veterans family that wants a live version of "Taps" as a final honor gets it.

What would you like to share with your audience?

Looking back an my Military career the most rewarding experience I had was the honor of being able to sound "Taps" at solders funerals. And this continues to this day as the greatest honor I have.

I want to thank Tom Day with having the vision of taking this task to a national level and pioneering the organization of Bugles Across America.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

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

Burt Richards - Florida

In Palm Beach County, Florida, Corporal Burt Richards has gained attention for various awards and commendations he has received for his hard work and determination to educate on American War Veterans.

On July 7th, 2011, Corporal Burt Richards, Congressman Ted Deutch congratulated Corporal Richards in the House of Representatives in Washington DC. Ted praised him for being awarded the American Red Cross Community Courage Award for his work in educating the youth about service of Veterans.



Corporal Richards and the local chapter of the Jewish War Veterans spearheaded the campaign to close Palm Beach County schools in remembrance of Veterans Day.

On November 1st, 2011 at the Headquarters of Palm Beach County Commissioner, Priscilla Taylor, Cpl. Burt Richards was honored for his outstanding service to Palm Beach County, his Veterans Speakers Forum and the School Education Deed to close all Palm Beach schools on Veterans Day.

Three Palm Beach County mayors signed the proclamation and let it be known that the entire month of November is called Veterans Month.

In addition to their successful efforts to close schools, *The Veterans Speakers Forum* was created. American Veterans visit schools and libraries across Palm Beach County to educate students on American War Veterans in a program called *Honoring Those Who Served*.

Anyone interested in the Veterans Speakers Forum program please email Cpl. Burt Richards at pr.group@juno.com

Texas

On February 6th, 2012, Texas BAA member **Kyle Hantz** played Taps at a ceremony honoring Tim Cole at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Ft. Worth. Some of you may be asking what is so special about Tim Cole. Well, Tim Cole was the first posthumous DNA exoneration in the history of Texas. He served in the US Army during Grenada and after that, attended a University in Texas. While at school, Mr. Cole was wrongly accused of rape, and in 1985 convicted and sent to prison for twenty five years, a charge he always denied. The actual rapist, already serving time in jail for previous rape convictions, waited for the statute of limitations to expire and then confessed. Through DNA testing Tim was found to be innocent, and he was eventually cleared of all charges. Unfortunately, before the DNA test was done, Tim died in prison while having an asthma attack, and never received a proper military funeral due to the rape conviction. The Paralyzed Veterans Wheelchair Honor Guard took part in the memorial honoring Tim Cole on February 6th providing the rifle salute and bugler Kyle Hantz played Taps. Thank you Kyle for honoring this veteran.



New Texas BAA member **David Treadaway** (Right) really gets around. David is from Broaddus, in far southeast Texas. After a few phone conversations and emails, David decided to meet with Texas Assistant State Director **Doug Ebersole** at Dallas/Ft. Worth National Cemetery for a day of honoring our veterans. David drove over four and one half hours, two hundred and thirty miles one way, to spend January 13th at DFW National Cemetery. David and Doug played Taps for eleven services that day, honoring veterans who would have otherwise received a recording of Taps, as there is no live bugler stationed at the Cemetery. David is already active since returning to southeast Texas, visiting local funeral homes and VFW centers, and helping spread the word about BAA. David has already played at numerous services since returning home and we are grateful David has joined BAA and look forward to his continued involvement, and hopefully he'll drive a little less than the five hundred mile roundtrip this past January. (But we will always be glad to have you visit!)



Doug Ebersole is a valuable resource and a very active BAA Director. Doug, along with bugler **Larry Crossman** (Left), make the one hour drive from Denton, Texas to the National Cemetery in Dallas at least once a month to provide live Taps. All three of these BAA members are true patriots.

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



I registered with Bugles Across America some time ago and became more active in BAA activities, along with my wife Mitzi, since my retirement to Venice, FL in April 2011.

I have been a horn player for over 50 years. Mitzi has a dance background, including a brief stint as a Rockette. Neither of us served in the Armed Forces, but we have numerous family ties to the WWII "Greatest Generation". We have all five service branch flags,

and when I sound taps Mitzi stands with the appropriate flag.

We became frustrated with the lack of opportunities that were made available through BAA. We began contacting funeral homes, letting them know how to request a bugler from BAA and how to contact us directly. Our experience was universally disappointing - not one follow up call.

We are also motorcycle enthusiasts. We joined the Patriot Guard Riders (PGR) in November 2011 and immediately participated in a mission at Sarasota National Cemetery (SNC). In December we participated in several more PGR missions. At each of these missions I spoke about BAA.

I played Taps for the first time at SNC on December 20, 2011 based on a personal contact. Mitzi displayed the Army flag. We had concerns about how we might be received by the Army detail, but they could not have been more welcoming. The NCO In Charge, Sgt. Restrepo, told me we are welcome anytime.

We next visited Veterans Funeral & Cremation Services in Sarasota FL and met owner Rob Harris. Rob, an Army veteran, was very receptive to the idea of using BAA for his clients. I encouraged him to contact me directly or to use the BAA website. He has already called me to play at two funerals.

Rob introduced me to Dr. Rich Sweir, Chairman of the SNC Advisory Board and President of the Sarasota County Veterans Commission. Rich invited me to the SNC Advisory Board meeting the next day, December 21, 2011.

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I made a presentation about BAA and met representatives from many Veterans organizations and government agencies. The SNC Advisory Board wants to establish an honor guard to supplement the two-man military details. I agreed to work on their sub-committee and will integrate BAA into that effort.

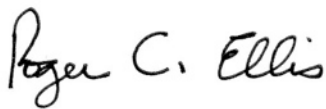
Rich invited me to a meeting of the Sarasota County Veterans Commission the following day, December 22, 2011. I made a presentation about BAA and again met several influential people who wanted to learn more about BAA.

I was called by the Vietnam Veterans of America on December 21, 2011. One of their members was being buried on December 23, 2011 at SNC and I was asked to sound Taps. I agreed, and was told I was referred by "Sgt. Restrepo at the cemetery". As a result I was invited to join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America as a bugler with their honor guard.

Lessons learned: (1) Don't complain that no one is contacting you. Work to create awareness about BAA and your availability. (2) Develop personal contacts with people of influence in veteran's circles to spread the message of BAA. (3) Join forces with the Patriot Guard Riders. This will allow you a point of entry to funeral events that you might not be invited to or know about otherwise. You need not be a veteran or a motorcyclist. See www.patriotguard.org for more information. (4) If you are near a National cemetery, take time to meet the people who work at the cemetery and the military folks who perform honors.

In summary, we can hardly believe how much has happened in the past few weeks, all for the better. We hope that our story will inspire others to do more to honor our veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger C. Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger C. Ellis, Bugler



Recording Taps 150

This photo was taken in Sheffield Studios in Phoenix MD, during the TAPS 150 recording on the 14th and 15th of January 2011.

Pictured from left to right:

1SG Jim Conant, New York Guard Band

SGM (ret) Woody English, US Army Band Wash. DC

SSG Jorge Lopez, New York Army National Guard, 53rd Troop Command

CPT Brian Kanner, New York Guard Band

The shot was taken by CPT Doug Hedwig, Commander of the New York Guard Band as well as respected trumpet performer, pedagogue and avid civil war re-enactor.

SGM (ret) English is holding a gold-plated Bach Stradivarius Bugle (no valves) pitched in Bb. SSG Lopez is holding a Lawler Model B in Bb w/ scratch lacquer finish.

Thanks,
Jorge H. Lopez
SSG, AGR, NYARNG
HOO-ah 53rd!

Dallas and Ft. Worth, Texas area Bugles Across America Meeting

The third annual Dallas / Ft Worth bugler meeting was held on January 21st, 2012 at Jerry's Italian Bistro in North Richland Hills, Texas. State Director Steve Kalowski and Asst. State Director Doug Ebersole hosted the meeting and are happy to report that over twenty buglers were able to attend!

Those buglers in attendance received BAA patches, pins, challenge coins, and decals that were provided by Tom Day. BNSF Railway Company, where Steve is a Manager in the Intermodal department, picked up the tab for lunch. Thank you BNSF!

Some of the items discussed over lunch were attire, DFW National Cemetery protocol, and different ways we can volunteer in the community. Bugler Jeff Jones offered a website, shopgoodwill.com, where great deals on trumpets and bugles can be found.

All too often we do not have the chance to meet our fellow buglers, and this was a great opportunity to put a face to a name and share stories. Thanks to all who were able to attend and we look forward to our next meeting in 2013.

Adopt-A-Highway



CalTrans placed BAA signs on a new 2-mile stretch of Hwy 395 just within this past month, south of Bishop and our Inyo County seat, Independence; approx. 6 million vehicles annually use Highway 395 to access Death Valley, Bristlecone Pine forest (oldest living trees in United States), Bishop and Mammoth Lakes for world-class fishing and skiing, and East entrance at Lee Vining to Yosemite National Park.

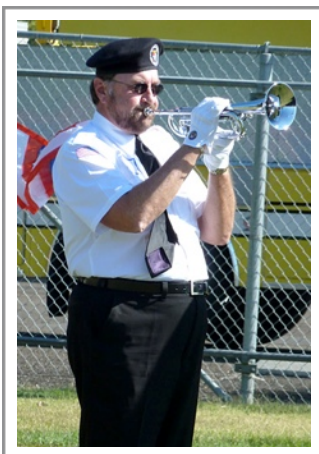
CalTrans accepted BAA logo in its entirety (there was some discussion about being forced to remove the cross and the Jewish 6-pointed star), and I was able to insert Duty-Honor-Country even though CalTrans at first indicated ".....no slogans.....". I also got Taps For Veterans on the signs.

I will clean this 2-mile stretch 3x or 4x annually, with pride, and hope to start and finish the highway cleaning work with various bugle calls at the side of the road!



Stan Smith
Bishop, California

BAA Buglers Play “Echo Taps” for Elks 9/11 Ceremony



Ray Mallen (Left) of Laguna Hills, Ca and **William Neypes** (Right) of Mission Viejo, Ca. played Echo Taps for the 10 Southern District ELKS Lodges 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony. The ceremony was attended by over 1,000 people at the Garden Grove Elks Lodge. Orange County Firemen, Trucks, Pipe Band and Marines participated as well. BAA Buglers play Echo Taps at the ELKS National Convention every year, as they are a sponsor of BAA. Ray Mallen is a Past Officer of the Year from Mission Viejo Elks Lodge # 2444



and played with Tom Day in the Anaheim Kingsmen Alumni Corps in 2007. As a tune up, Ray and Will played at another 9/11 Ceremony at a private community in Mission Viejo, earlier in the day.

BRASS FROM THE PAST

The Saga of The Four Chaplains



ALEXANDER D. GOODE



GEORGE L. FOX



CLARK V. POLING



JOHN P. WASHINGTON

It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche.

Hans J. Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier the Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the alarming information. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been blasted and sunk.

The Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the Dorchester. The U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes, a fan of three were fired. The one that hit was decisive--and deadly--striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line.

Danielsen, alerted that the Dorchester was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC Comanche, however, saw the flash of the explosion.

It responded and then rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them.

Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.



Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety.

"Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves.

"Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

"It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act.

Ladd's response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains--arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

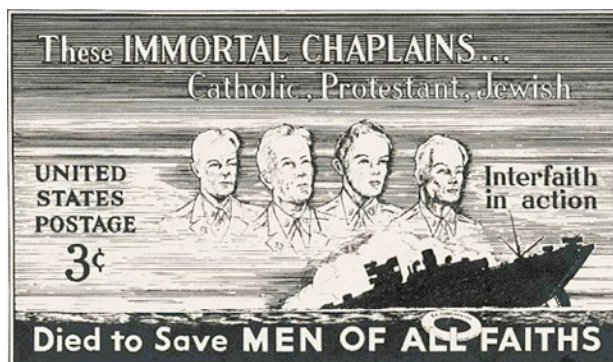


Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

"Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes."

That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA.



A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism

performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

Story reprinted with permission from <http://www.fourchaplains.org>

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

Honoring The Unknown

My wife Mitzi and I are members of Bugles Across America and the Patriot Guard Riders. If you are not familiar with the Riders, please visit www.patriotguard.org to learn more. The Patriot Guard Riders attend funerals of veterans at the request of families to stand and honor those who have served our country. They also turn out in large numbers on a week in and week out basis for funerals of indigent veterans (no friends, no family) at Sarasota National Cemetery in Sarasota FL. Mitzi and I attend these services on a regular basis. I sound Taps and she presents the service flag of the appropriate branch.

On the morning of January 17, 2011 we went to the cemetery for a 10:30 AM funeral of a veteran with no friends or family, a man who served honorably in the US Navy in the 1970's. Much to our surprise, two students from the Sarasota Military Academy were already there to sound Taps for this sailor. We spoke briefly with them before the service.

Raven McKee told me that she heard about the service on a news cast and because the cadets did not have school due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, she contacted her classmate Cody Hill. These two cadets came to the cemetery in uniform, on their own initiative, to sound Echo Taps. It was my pleasure to step aside and allow them the honor of playing for this veteran. They performed in an outstanding manner and are a credit to their school and their music program. Raven noticed that I am a member of BAA and indicated that she is as well.

I played the Navy Hymn at the conclusion of the service. A reporter from Bay News 9 in Tampa FL was on hand and did an interview, film and photos about the service. The news piece that was written was subsequently posted on their website at [Bay News 9 Article](#). (and available to read below)

Roger C. Ellis
Florida

Strangers Gather To Honor War Veteran Laid To Rest

SARASOTA -- Strangers gathered together on Tuesday to honor a war veteran at the Sarasota National Cemetery.

With no family or friends, 53-year-old Maurice Lorenza Chapman died alone in December. With no one available to stand by his side as he was laid to rest, a group got together to make sure he wasn't alone.

"All I knew about this man was he was in the Navy, he served in Vietnam and he was indigent," said Larry Tidmore, with the Marine Corps League. "Nobody was going to show up except other veterans."

Once Tidmore and others heard about the man's situation, they knew they had to do something.

"Being a Vietnam era veteran, no man left behind," said James Dryer, a member of the Patriot Guard Riders.



Strangers gathered together on Tuesday to honor a war veteran at the Sarasota National Cemetery.

The motorcycle group attends funerals of U.S Armed Forces members, firefighters and police.

They're also now attending funerals for those who risked their lives for freedom and died alone.

"We call them heroes without friends or family, said Dryer. "Our thought that is that nobody should be alone at this time. So we come out and stand in honor of them."

Similar funerals are held at the Sarasota National Cemetery more than 100 times a year.

Organizers said there are so many, because unlike other cemeteries, they're held individually instead of as a group.

It was a very emotional service, despite no one knowing the man personally.

"It's special because he was veteran who committed his life for a certain number of years to protect the lives of others in this country," said Tidmore.



Our very own Larry DuPree was interviewed regarding Taps 150 and about Taps itself on The Connie Pillich Show in Ohio. The show is available on their website at <http://www.icrctv.com/the-connie-pillich-show-13012>

If you have any troubles viewing the streaming video, make sure your software is up to date and that you have QuickTime installed on your computer, and keep

in mind that some virus software or firewalls may prevent you from viewing streaming material online.

Texas State Director, Steve Kalowski, was recently a guest on two radio programs in the Dallas / Ft. Worth area.

On November 10th, 2011 (coincidentally the Marine Corp anniversary) Steve was a guest on the Doc Gallagher Show, KAAM 770. During the one hour long interview, Steve was asked by host Neil "Doc" Gallagher to play Taps on a bugle, a trumpet, and play reveille. During the broadcast, Doc and Steve discussed how valuable an organization like BAA is and how much it means to those who request live Taps. Several phone calls from veterans were taken during the show, and Doc was a gracious host and promised to rebroadcast the show on every Veterans Day.



On January 16th, 2012 Steve was given a short segment on the Jon David Wells show on KSKY 660, to help get the word out about BAA. On September 11th, 2011, Steve participated in a 911 Memorial along with Jon David Wells, who is a member of the Texas State Guard. While chatting before the memorial, JD Wells agreed BAA was a great organization and offered to help promote our organization whenever possible. So this past January, Steve was on for a very short radio spot, and was able to let people know about BAA and what a special year 2012 will be with the 150th anniversary of Taps.

Thanks to both Doc Gallagher and JD Wells for the BAA promotional opportunities.

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 Update Your BAA Profile

So you've made that big move to your new location. You have a new address and maybe a new phone number. Or maybe you just changed your email address. You don't want to miss out on opportunities to play Taps for our heroes but how do you update your profile information? It's really easy. Here's how to do it in a few simple steps.

- 1.) Log into the BAA site with your username and password.
- 2.) Once you're logged in you'll see your name in the upper right corner. Click on your name.
- 3.) You'll see **Edit Profile** in approximately the middle of the page. Click on that.

Now... Depending on what you want to update...

* **Address/Phone:** The screen that comes up first will be where you can update your address and/or phone number. Click **Update** at bottom left if you updated anything.

* **Password:** There are bold red letters that say **Manage Password**. Click that. You will need to provide your current password, as well as your new password and a confirmation of your new password. Click **Change Password**.

* **Email:** Click on **Manage User Credentials**. A new screen comes up and you'll see a box with the email the database has for you. Click in the box and change your email. Click **Update**.

Thats it! See, I told you it was easy!

Uniforms

Many of you have been asking about BAA uniforms. There have been a change in vendors and we will have more information for you in the next newsletter.

KEY NOTES

I am reposting these because I'm still seeing a fair amount of people not following the proper procedures. Please read. Thank you.

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.

INTRODUCING NEW DIRECTORS

South Carolina: Linda McDonald

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Linda MacDonald as the new State Director in South Carolina. Linda brings a lifetime of musical experience to the table, as well as being a Veteran herself of the United States Air Force. She began playing the trumpet some 35 years ago, in junior high school, where she was the bugler for the American Legion Post #147 (Madawaska, ME) Drill Team. She has played with many organizations all over the East coast, including St. Peter's Drum Corps (Torrington, CT), the Danbury Community Orchestra and Danbury Brass Band (Danbury, CT) and various other community groups.



Ms. MacDonald is also a military wife; married to W. Scott MacDonald, who is a CW3 (P) in the US Army, currently serving as the commander and conductor of the 101st Airborne (AASLT) Band at Ft. Campbell, KY. Married for 13 years, Scott and Linda have 2 children, Hannah (11) and Scotty (7).



Arizona: Katherine Visser

We are pleased to welcome Katherine Visser as the new State Director in Arizona. Katherine started playing the trumpet as a sophomore in high school. She went on to pursue a degree in music education from the University of Northern Colorado, graduating in 1994.

In 1989 Kathy joined the 101st Colorado Army National Guard Band where she served as a trumpet player and various other roles for 8 years. After graduating from college Kathy taught band, choir and general music, in Eastern Colorado, in the public school system full time for 2 years. In 1997 Kathy joined the Active Duty Army Bands program and was stationed in Virginia, Alaska, and Ft Huachuca, Arizona through 2004. Over the years Kathy's secondary positions included operations, admin and supply.

Kathy has also been a member of several community bands, orchestras, musical productions and operas in Colorado, Alaska and Arizona. This includes serving as Principle Trumpet of the Sierra Vista Symphony for 4 years. In 2004 Kathy became a full time mom and is currently raising 2 children, Jordan (7) and Skylar (4). She has also spent many years teaching private lessons and doing school clinics. Currently Kathy is teaching preschool music and working part time as a teacher aid.

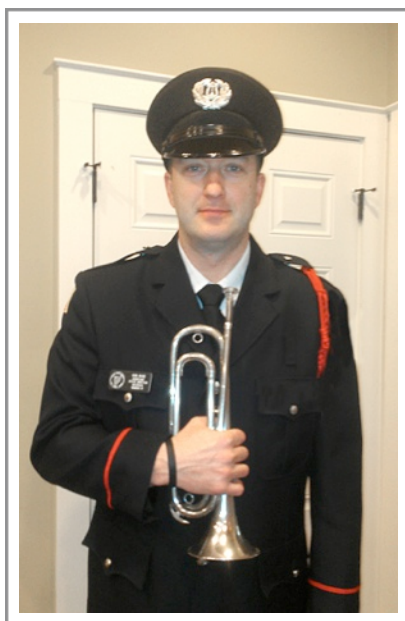
West Virginia: Paul Melton

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Melton as the new State Director in West Virginia. Paul has played trumpet in numerous bands over the past 57 of his 66 years. He is a retired college professor and currently works as a CPA practicing in forensic accounting. He is a U.S. Army and Ohio Air National Guard veteran and served in Korea and Vietnam. He takes the honor of playing live Taps very seriously and says that the time and money spent for dress and equipment was totally repaid after participating in the first military honors funeral.

He plays live bugle for a very active American Legion Post #187 from Winfield, WV. The Post served as Honor Guard in over 40 funerals in 2011 and has served in approximately 10 funerals already this year. In West Virginia it seems though that many departed veterans are not afforded military honors. Paul would like to start a campaign to enlighten the citizens of West Virginia about their rights as well as to publicize the existence of Bugles Across America to funeral directors, and possibly more importantly, to potential BAA volunteers.



Georgia: Don Ware



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Don Ware as the new State Director in Georgia. Mr. Ray Tanner will remain on as Assistant Director, and BAA is very indebted to Ray for his leadership for the last two years.

For the last two years, Don Ware has been Asst. Director, assigned to the Quick Response Team of buglers at the Georgia National Cemetery. This team of buglers has been working closely with the National Guard, performing approximately 3,000 services in the last two years. Don is a former police officer of 8 years, the father of 7 children, ranging in ages from 5 to 23. His son is currently serving in the US Marine Corps, and his oldest daughter is at the University of Mississippi. Don and his wife Kim reside in North Georgia, and they both work for Moneris Solutions, a credit card management company. Don is very active in his church, and says, "Most of all, I believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world."

REFLECTIONS

The Bugler - by Gene Ramsay

The drizzle falls as the skies weep the loss of another red, white, and blue warrior.

Those assigned to see to these final moments are pressed, polished, and neat as they take their places to pay tribute and honor to their comrade under Old Glory.

In the distance, a shadow is seen. No protection from the elements for this lone figure as the rain rhythmically drips off the brim of his fitted service cap worn upon a slightly bowed head. Motionless until the signal stands this figure. A brass glint can be seen in his glove covered hands clenched in the front and at the ready. The somber instrument that will soon emanate "Taps"...a final "Lights Out" for one final time for the one who is at rest under the Banner of Freedom.

The final words are spoken as a slow salute comes over those there who show dignity in their presence . The still statue moves slowly to bring hands upward. A bugle revealed, sounds the final strains for a hero in the last moment before silence falls over the people there who pay proper respect for this fighter of freedom.. A breath is taken as the notes come forth pure and true. These are tones that can only come from the heart and soul. Each sound sets off into the mist, causing even the strongest to begin to weep as the sentiment of the passage continues. Twenty-four carefully placed notes to signify a lifetime of strength, loyalty and service to their country. As the final echoes travel into the wind, the horn slowly descends from readied lips. A final salute to the fallen, and the bugler disappears with a whisper...until called on again to proclaim proper dignity in the final moments of those remembered who bled the United States stars and stripes.

"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.

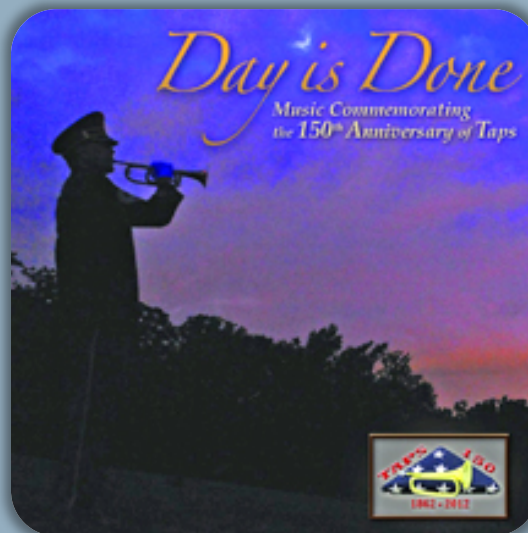
The CD has 33 tracks of Taps and Taps related music including calls and settings of our National song of Remembrance.

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 | * Montana | * Oregon |
| * Maryland | * North Dakota | |
| * Mississippi | * New Mexico | |

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.

Not Getting a Chance To Volunteer?

Are you not seeing as many opportunities to honor our nation's heroes in your state as you'd like? Fact is, in many areas, the word about what BAA does needs to reach the attention of unknowing funeral directors, VAs, VFWs, ALs and cemetery locations.

You are more than welcome to share with them about Bugles Across America. Already available to you on our web site is a BAA business card template and a letter that you can modify with your contact information if you choose, print out and take or send to the business, organization or person of choice.

Location for BAA business cards and BAA letters

<http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/Education/ForBuglersOnly.aspx>

The business card template is a standard Avery template #8371 for simple print and separate cards or Claude at Sir Speedy has a great format for our cards too. His email is sirspeedyberwyn@sbcglobal.net

Message from the editor:

I've been informed that the web links in Bugler's Post don't always work if you're using a smart phone or tablet. You may need a laptop or desktop to use the links.

Also, if you have submitted your story to be included in the Buglers Post and you haven't seen it yet, fret not. I'm spacing them out. Otherwise we'd have a book, not a newsletter!

I am always accepting submissions of your bugling short stories. It can be anywhere from a couple sentences to 2 paragraphs. Please make sure your story has been edited before submitting it. Also, include a photo of either the event or yourself in a JPEG format to accompany your story.

Thanks for reading,
Jennifer Day
National Coordinator

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](#)

[Day is Done in iTunes](#)

[Regimental Drum Major Association](#)

[Taps Bugler](#)

[Getzen](#)

[Kanstul](#)

[Spirit of '45](#)

[Drum Corps International](#)

[Flags For Vets](#)

[Operation Taps](#)

[Association of Military Musicians](#)

[Wounded Warriors](#)

[Freelancers Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps](#)

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.