

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



Our Biggest Year!

by Tom Day, Founder



Attention all BAA members:

Welcome to May 2012. This is the year we have all been working toward establishing who we are and what we do.

Think about it.

We started with one person and now actually have about eight thousand. Men and Women from 12 years old to 86. Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, Active Duty Personnel, Reserves and Guard members and Veterans and Patriots all working together.

Our goals: To serve Veterans and their families. To provide Dignity by sounding Taps LIVE on horns. To put simply. Sound the Trumpet another Hero is going to God's Army in the sky.

Along the way we have brought back a few words that were almost extinct. TAPS.....BUGLE..... Volunteerism, and I am sure you can think of more.

Do good things and tell people about it. It might catch on.

These are our biggest months coming up in our biggest year. Get out and tell the world. Participate.

God Bless every one of you for making Bugles Across America happen.



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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.

[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 Rhode Island



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



Poughkeepsie, NY - Walkway Over the Hudson - June 3rd, 2012

TAPS. When sounded it evokes emotion in all present. Some feel grief, others pride. All who hear it share a common bond of solemn loss; a hero has passed on.

2012 marks the 150th anniversary of TAPS. Please join us in honoring our veterans and commemorating our



national song of remembrance. On June 3rd, 2012 at 5:00pm, we will sound echo TAPS across the Walkway Over the Hudson, from Poughkeepsie to Highland. This Historic sounding is brought to you by TAPS 150, Bugles Across America and 20th Century Limited Drum and Bugle Corps. Following the ceremony, members of 20th Century Limited will also perform an exhibition featuring a varied selection of music.

More buglers are needed for this event. The Hudson River was a strategic linchpin in our War for Independence, so it is fitting that TAPS should be sounded across this waterway; connecting remembrance from East to West, joining shores in a tribute to all who have fallen to the cause of our freedom. The Walkway Over the Hudson is the only pedestrian crossing of the river, a virtual park in the sky straddling the majestic Hudson. The span is almost a mile long, so many buglers are needed to sound this tribute. Please be a part of history on June 3rd, and add your talent to this solemn event.

Please commit to this experience and pre-register by contacting Danielle Masterson-Kaelin, NYS Director of BAA, at mastersondanielle@gmail.com.

Submit your name, type of instrument, hometown and contact phone number.

On the day of the event (June 3, 2012) on-site check-in begins at 3pm; all Buglers and Trumpet players must check-in with the registrar for assignment.

Please be sure to email us and let us know ahead of time if you will be sounding TAPS with us that day.

The Hudson played a pivotal role in the birth of our nation. Be part of a momentous event, the first ever echo sounding of TAPS across one of America's greatest and most historic rivers.



The 1st Annual Honor & 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



BUGLERS NEEDED FOR CHICAGO PARADE!!

I am looking for as many of our horn players in the Chicago area to march in the front of the Chicago Memorial Day Parade on State Street, which is 9 blocks, to carry horns and sound Taps a few of times in the parade. Also The Chicago Loop

Alliance has offered us a free float. So I will need horn players to ride on the float with horns and friends to hold 3 flags so TV and people can see them. The BAA flag, the Taps 150 flag, and the BAA designed "Gold Star Mothers" flag. This done on both sides of the float. The parade will be covered by ABC TV and others on the route for Nightly news.

The parade is May 26th at noon but we will be meeting at 10 am for staging.

To volunteer, please call Tom Day at 708-484-9029 or email him at tomjday@sbcglobal.net

**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

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!

[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.

BAA HELPING STUDENTS

This is our actual 12th year for BAA and during those years we have established contacts with the JROTC and ROTC units across the country including high school programs and Scouts.

John Murphy in Fla. has central Fla. Schools all involved and the horn players wear our patch on their uniform. BAA has supplied horns and some Cadets have gone on to get music scholarships to College.

Down in Asheville, NC. my brother LTC. Ken Day has had all the city schools involved in receiving our medals for excelling in school and helping Veterans.

Every year, Northwestern, Uni. in Evanston, Illinois gives our medal to the Navy ROTC best cadet.

We also have one school in Michigan and four in the suburbs of Chicago. BAA is the yearly judging team for the Music units in Chicago.

Our medals are and have been available to all schools and can be presented by State Directors or members to further enhance our presence with young men and women who are working to be better leaders in our country.

Tom Day, Founder



Our local veterans had been using a boom box to play Taps at funerals and memorial events. I decided to work with our Band Director; Rhonda Stamen, to supply our students with bugles and encourage band members to learn to play Taps in our Bugle Program. Tom Day donated the first bugle. The next two were purchased by a couple of local veterans and an elderly woman donated the fourth. We now have 3 fully trained buglers that perform at Veteran's funerals. It is our goal to always have trained buglers in

the area so we never have to resort to boom boxes again. The veterans (I am one also) are very appreciative of this service. This is a photo of one of our high school buglers at work last Memorial Day.

John Francis, Russia High School, Russia, OH

Lincoln High School Army JROTC Awards Night

Greetings, Mr. Day.

Thank you, again, for your personal support and Bugles of America's corporate support in providing an award medal for our Awards Night on March 8, 2012.

On behalf of BOA, I presented the blue medal to Cadet Corporal Tyra Greenwood. This is Cadet Greenwood's first semester of JROTC, but here enthusiasm and commitment to the program will propel her into a leadership position next year. Besides receiving the BOA medal, she also received a scholastic excellence medal from Military Officers Benevolent Corporation.

I have two pictures attached. The first shows me presenting the BOA award medal and the second shows the Cadets along with the Presenters from other Veterans, Military, and Patriotic organizations that also sponsored their medals for us.

On behalf on LTC Gordon Wesley, Senior Army Instructor of Abe's Battalion at Lincoln High School, you and the BOA have our sincerest appreciation and gratitude.

Yours in Patriotism,



Brendan White, Booster

Venturing Crew 561 Drum & Bugle Honor Corps.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

March 6, 2012

Boy Scout Division
Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
Irvine, Texas, 75015-2079
Attention: Mr. Vecchio

Dear Mr. Vecchio,

On July 21, 2009 Mr. Bob Burtness sent a letter to National requesting that Bugles Across America (BAA) which was started by Tom Day, a retired Marine Corps veteran, be considered added to the list of organizations promoting Bugling in the Music and Bugling Merit Badge Books.

Mr. Day started the BAA in May 2001 to promote the playing of "TAPS" at funerals for Military personnel being played by volunteers from all types of organizations . (Please see enclosed article from the Valley Sun May 23, 2004).

Mr. Burtness and I being Scout leaders, Bugling MB Counselors, and members of Bugles Across America encourage National to recognize BAA as an organization that renders Honors at funerals with live Buglers when requested for those military personnel who have died.

Many military buglers are gradually leaving us and Bugles Across America continues the tradition as a volunteer organization on which people can rely to continue the tradition of playing LIVE "TAPS".

Bugling is Alive!!!
Yours in Scouting

Mark G. Riebs
Venturing Crew 561 Honor Corps Advisor
Rose Bowl District
San Gabriel Valley Boy Scout Council

State Director Spotlight: Arizona



Katherine Visser
State Director

How long have you been with BAA?

About 10 years.

What inspired you to join?

I was in charge of an Active

Duty bugle roster at the time and knew we were unable to send a bugler to most of the services where taps was needed

How long have you been playing?
28 years

Hardest part about the job?

Finding time between my kids activities, work and caring for our home.

Best part about the job?

Meeting other fellow veterans and hearing their stories.

Best experience with BAA?

Every opportunity I have had to volunteer has made a mark on my experience.

Do you have a goal for your state?

Yes, to get things up to date and move forward with finding more ways for more of us to have opportunities to serve.

David Geffen
Special Advisor

How long have you been with BAA?

Since about 2003.

What inspired you to join?

Seemed like a great idea.

How long have you been playing?

74 years

Hardest part about the job?

Maintaining rosters and finding buglers in remote parts of AZ whenever no responses are forthcoming to requests via web site, phone, or other means.

Best part about the job?

The appreciation from surviving family and friends of fallen veterans.

Best experience with BAA?

So many wonderful ones; difficult to say, although the 2006 convention in Naperville was a real high point.

Do you have a goal for your state?

Yes: to contact every mortuary in the state by mail, then by telephone, then in person to ascertain that they know how best we can meet their needs by their using our web site to request live buglers.



ABOVE AND BEYOND

Stories submitted by their peers, these buglers have gone above and beyond.

Todd Kirkwood - Pennsylvania

Today, one of my dear friends and fellow honor guard members assisted with a flag fold and presentation. When the fake electronic bugle failed from a veterans group SMSgt Todd Kirkwood & SRA Ben Smith folded the flag. Todd presented to the family and then marched up to the "bugler" and asked if he could honor the deceased vet with Taps. The electronic device was removed from the bell & Todd honored our hero!!!! That's what it IS all about!!!!!! The story made my day!!

Ron Glazer, Sr.
Mid-Atlantic Regional Director



**To read more about this fantastic story, please
see "In The News" on page 18.**

A Heartwarming Letter Sent Into BAA...

"I went to the cemetery today for my late husbands birthday, took flowers, flag and balloon...my husband was a Sgt. in the Marines. There was a very nice man there that played the taps for me. It was beautiful !!!!! I can only pray that all Veterans can be honored in the way I felt that my husband was today. Thank you !!!!! His birthday was complete".

- Judy

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



These pictures were taken at our Echotaps event at the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery. We doubled our volunteers and horn players this year. 100 players were situated just below me and the Firing party. I sounded an "Echo Taps" to their Taps and was just at the end of Order Arms.

Michael J. Jackson TSgt USAF Ret.
SD Rhode Island



This photo was taken 9-11-11 at the Oldsmar Fire Dept. service in memory of the Firefighters, Police and people killed on 9-11-01. They have a memorial made from the steel from the Twin Towers. This service was attended by several hundred people.

John Duarte, Florida





(Waltham, MA---28 May 2010) **Local Resident Pays Tribute to Medal of Honor Hero: 72 Year Old Tradition Continues...**

This past Thursday Gerard Davidson of Melrose and member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts participated in a memorial tribute wreath laying ceremony. The service was held at Mount Feake Cemetery in Waltham, MA at the gravesite of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Major George Maynard. Maynard was also a member of the "Ancients" and since his passing, the company, based out of Faneuil Hall in Boston, has placed a wreath at their comrade's gravesite for Memorial Day. This year marks the 72nd anniversary of this tradition. Six members of the company accompanied Mr. Davidson, who serves the Ancient's as their bugler and piper.

Often I am called to doing double duty: Bugler and Piper. Here I am pictured at a wreath laying ceremony in Luxembourg, U.S. Military WWII Cemetery in October of 2009.

Note whose grave site it is, General George S. Patton.

I played taps on my bugle and then Amazing Grace on the bagpipes

Gerry Davidson, Massachusetts



I had been recently commended for my dedication to volunteering at 845+ funerals/ ceremonies providing TAPS. I'll surpass the 850 mark before Arlington on May 19th. In the last 2 1/2 years I've covered almost 300 funerals in Lake County Calif.

I'm on the left, Corporal Salisbury, USMC, in the middle is 100% service connect from Iraq in 2007. He's also on our team here in Nor Cal on the Rifle team.



Team Leader Rich Feiro, retired Air Force E-9 started our team, The Lake County Cal Military Funeral/Honors Team a decade ago and consists of Veterans of all branches of service. Sgt of the Guard Larry Mick, Vietnam Marine, (100% service connect disabled). We are an all Veteran, all volunteer team providing a complete Full Military Honors service.

Chaplain Captain W Hughes, US Navy, 3 Volley Salute, and TAPS, and fold and present the Flag to next of kin. We also present next of kin with the 21 spent casings. We are fortunate to have 2 Buglers. Boyd Green has been volunteering, providing TAPS in Lake Co for over 25 years.

Bill Vann, California

I was asked to play the National Anthem for the opening of the rally to support keeping the battleship New Jersey in Camden. It seems a group feels the ship would be better off in Liberty State Park in Jersey City because it would attract more visitors.

Ed Bilger, Pennsylvania

[Courier-Post Online](#)



BRASS FROM THE PAST

24 NOTES THAT TAP DEEP EMOTIONS THE STORY OF TAPS

by Jari Villanueva, Bugler and Brass Historian

Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to evoke emotion than "Taps." The melody is both eloquent and haunting and the history of its origin is interesting and somewhat clouded in controversy and myth.



The use of "Taps" is unique to the United States military, as the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying ceremonies and memorial services. "Taps" originally began as a signal to extinguish lights. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for "To Extinguish Lights" was the one set down in Silas Casey's "Tactics," which had been borrowed from the French. The music for "Taps" was changed by Union Major General Daniel Butterfield for his brigade in July, 1862. Butterfield was not pleased with the call for "Lights Out," feeling that it was too formal to signal the day's end. With the help of brigade bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton, he created "Taps" to honor his men while in camp at Harrison's Landing, Virginia following the Seven Days' battles during the Peninsular Campaign.

Butterfield did not compose "Taps" but actually revised an earlier bugle call. The call we know today as "Taps" existed in an early version of the call "Tattoo" which had gone out of use by the Civil War. Butterfield knew this early call from his days before the war as a colonel in the 12th New York Militia.

As a signal at the end of the day, armies have used "Tattoo" to alert troops to prepare for the evening roll call. Butterfield took the last 5 and a half measures of the "Tattoo" and revised them into the 24 notes we know today. The new call soon spread to other units of the Union Army and was even used by Confederates.

O. W. Norton wrote about the experience later in his life:

"During the early part of the Civil War I was bugler at the Headquarters of Butterfield's Brigade,.. One day, soon after the seven days' battles on the Peninsular, when the Army of the Potomac was lying in camp at Harrison's Landing, General Daniel Butterfield sent for me, and showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the



melody as he first gave it to me. After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for "Taps" thereafter in place of the regulation call. The music was beautiful on that still



summer night, and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day I was visited by several buglers from neighboring brigades, asking for copies of the music which I gladly furnished. I think no general order was issued from army headquarters authorizing the substitution of this for the regulation call, but as each brigade commander exercised his own discretion in such minor matters, the call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac."

The earliest official reference to the mandatory use of "Taps" at military funeral ceremonies is found in the US Army Infantry Drill Regulations for 1891, although it had doubtless been used unofficially long before that time, under its former designation, "Extinguish Lights."

The first use of "Taps" at a funeral was during the Peninsular Campaign in Virginia. Captain John C. Tidball of Battery A, 2nd Artillery ordered it played for the burial of a cannoneer killed in action. Because the enemy was close, he worried that the traditional three volleys would renew fighting.

The origin of the word "Taps" is thought to have come from the Dutch word for "Tattoo"- "Taptoe." More than likely, "Taps" comes from the the three drum taps that were beat as a signal for "Extinguish Lights" when a bugle was not used.

Other stories of the origin of "Taps" exist. A popular myth is that of a Northern boy who was killed fighting for the South. His father, a Captain in the Union Army, came upon his son's body on the battlefield and found the notes to "Taps" in a pocket of the dead boy's Confederate uniform. There is no evidence to back up the story or the existence of the Captain or his son. As with many other customs, the twenty-four notes that comprise this solemn tradition began long ago and continue to this day. Although General Butterfield merely revised an earlier bugle call, his role in producing those twenty-four notes gave him a place in the history of both music and of war. Taps is sounded as the final call every evening on military installations and at military funerals. More information on Taps and bugling in the United States can be found at www.tapsbugler.com

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

Volunteering With Honor

Richard Yndestad, a veteran and longtime musician, has found his passion as a volunteer bugler—a gesture of gratitude for military servicemen and women. He drives from his Naperville home weekly to the expansive fields of Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL, to play bugle at military funerals. He does so with a humble motivation: to ensure the deceased receive an honorable salute.

The event that sparked Yndestad's interest occurred when he attended the funeral of a former Marine at the cemetery and didn't think it was right when "Taps" was played as an audio recording from a boom box. By law, "Taps" must be played at every military funeral. He'd only been playing bugle for a short time, but Yndestad decided to volunteer for the Memorial Squad. The squad serves at 15 to 30 funerals every day for the recently deceased, those who are moved from another cemetery and those whose family had been holding on to their remains.

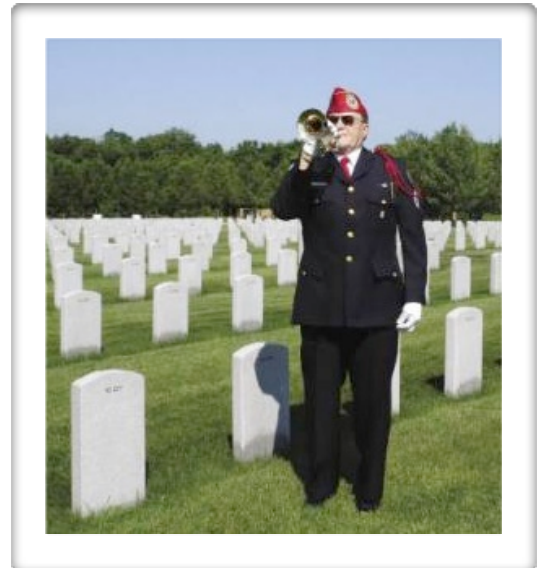
"When 'Taps' is played right, it should be a solemn tribute to the veteran and family," said Yndestad.

The squad's 100 volunteers make sure that every veteran's funeral has a three-volley salute, a presentation of the American flag to the next of kin and a live bugler playing "Taps." Sometimes, a bagpiper plays "Amazing Grace," too.

Yndestad has played at more than 600 funerals so far and considers it a small price to pay for all that members of the Armed Forces do for Americans. "We owe it to them," he said. "Ask any one of us, you'll get that same response."

Yndestad previously served in the U.S. Army during the mid-'60s. Following his military career, he worked with Wescom Telephone Products while also pursuing a bachelor's degree in business management at North Central's Weekend College program. Yndestad has been a musician since age 19 and plays guitar, bass and drums. While he has only been playing the bugle for three years, it has opened new doors for him.

This year is the 150th anniversary of "Taps," and to commemorate the occasion Yndestad will perform in May at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., with other members of Bugles Across America. In June, he will play at Berkeley Plantation in Charles City, VA, where a bugler from the Union Army during the Civil War first played "Taps" in 1862.



Reprinted from [North Central College](#)'s online newspaper.



167th Wing Airman steps up to honor veteran after bugle falls silent

MARTINSBURG – Rendering Taps at military funerals is a final way to pay tribute to veterans who have served their country.

But what happens when a bugle falls silent?

An Airman with the West Virginia Air National Guard's 167th Airlift Wing found out firsthand.

Or rather he lent a hand.

Senior Master Sgt. Todd Kirkwood, the Wing's avionics supervisor, was augmenting a veterans' color guard team at a funeral earlier

this month in Martinsburg for an Air Force veteran who had served in three wars – World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

"Taps was to sound while we were holding the American flag over the casket, but there was just silence," Kirkwood said.

A member of the local veterans' color guard team was using a Ceremonial Bugle to perform Taps when the electronic device inserted in the instrument malfunctioned. In September 2003, the Department of Defense approved use of the bugle which allows a member of the military honor guard to "symbolically" play Taps when a live bugler is not available. In the past, a recorded version of Taps has also been played on a compact disc or cassette player during military funerals.

"We were just standing fast," Kirkwood said. "I heard the funeral director come from behind my shoulder and explain to the family that there was a technical difficulty and that we would not be able to offer Taps and he asked us to proceed with the flag fold."

At that time Kirkwood and Senior Airman Ben Smith stepped away from the casket with the American flag in their hands and proceeded to perform the 13 steps required to fold the colors so it could be presented to the family of the veteran.

"I took the flag and presented it to the family and when I heard the words that we weren't going to offer Taps - obviously I didn't say anything - but I knew what I was going to do," he said.

As he prepared to exit the tent after presenting the American flag to one of the veteran's daughters, Kirkwood stopped in front of the funeral director and asked him to request that the family remain seated.

"We are going to offer this veteran Taps," Kirkwood remembers telling him.

The Greencastle, Pa., resident then proceeded to march over to where the bugler was standing and requested the brass Ceremonial Bugle.

"I said sir in a respectful way, ` Will you remove the electronic device from your bugle."

After removing the electronic device, the man offered Kirkwood the bugle without hesitation.

"I marched back into position and faced our fallen American hero and his family and sounded Taps," the senior master sergeant said.

"I could see within the first two notes coming out of the horn the emotional reaction (from the family)," Kirkwood said. "Some members of the family stood and placed their hands over the heart."

"As always after the final note of Taps we render the final salute," he said, after which he returned the bugle to the member of the veterans group and attempted to march back into place alongside Senior Airman Smith.

But he didn't get far.

"The family intercepted me as I passed the tent and shook my hand and thanked me," he said "I simply told them that that veteran deserved to have Taps sounded."

Prior to his impromptu rendering of Taps, Kirkwood had ironically only played the 24 notes a handful of times.

"That's a story in itself," he said.

For the past decade Kirkwood had contemplated joining the Wing's Base Honor Guard but he explained that "it was just never the right time for me to join the team whether it was funding issues, training days or it was just a bad time for me personally. It just never worked out."

Fortunately for the veteran and his family, Kirkwood not only joined the Wing's Base Honor Guard, but he also learned how to play Taps.

Chief Master Sgt. Ron Glazer Sr. recruited Kirkwood to learn to play the notes. Glazer himself was handpicked to sound the bugle at the late United States Sen. Robert C. Byrd's memorial service in July, 2010. Kirkwood is also no stranger to the horn after learning how to play the trumpet in elementary school, a talent he honed through junior high.

Glazer challenged Kirkwood to learn to play Taps.

Kirkwood's reaction? "I said, `Deal."

And he only learned the 24 notes which comprise Taps in the past six months.

"That's going to be the last tangible memory that the family will have of their loved one and you don't want to mess it up," Kirkwood said. "You want to offer your best."

Kirkwood has been with the Wing's Base Honor Guard, an all-volunteer organization, for nearly a year. He has been a member of the 167th Airlift Wing for more than 26 years.

"It's a way of offering back to our fellow veterans," he said of being a member of the Honor Guard.

"Our mission is to honor with dignity and as I sat back (after the funeral that day) and reflected on that, that's what came to mind," Kirkwood said. "We certainly appreciate what our veterans' groups do."

"In the short time that I have been with the Honor Guard we have seen all kinds of things - it's a matter of what will go wrong, it's not a matter of if - and by that I mean it always seems we are working against adverse weather conditions."

The day the Ceremonial Bugle malfunctioned was cool and breezy.

"It seems that winter time is a popular time unfortunately for funerals," Kirkwood said.

Everything from flooded gravesites and rifles misfiring to handles braking on caskets has occurred at funerals honoring those who have served their country in uniform.

"It's just a matter of what can go wrong will go wrong," he noted.

And when such occasions arise, adapting and overcoming is the order of the day.

Statistics show the Ceremonial Bugle is 96 percent reliable.

"The chances of an electronic bugle failing?" he said, "There's a pretty good chance that it's not going to happen."

"I feel that the good Lord had me at the right place at the right time to be able to do the right thing for that veteran," Kirkwood said.

On his Facebook page, Kirkwood wrote of the experience: "I sounded Taps robustly and from my heart. Our mission to 'Honor with Dignity' for someone who truly deserved it was accomplished."



Written by Staff Sgt. Sherree Grebenstein & published in the 167th Airlift Wing's base publication of Plane Talk, April 2012

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

BAA'S ELDEST AND YOUNGEST MEMBERS

A few months back we recently asked all of you to let us know if you thought you may be BAA's eldest or youngest members. Lets meet our winners!

BAA's Eldest: Russ Wilson, Virginia

Age: Turned 87 on Easter Sunday

still playing Taps regularly with his VFW Rifle Team.

Russ is a retired Navy Commander with service in WWII, Korea & Vietnam, and was even commander of his own ship before retirement.

I have been trying to play the trumpet (or cornet) since the 7th grade but I am not an "accomplished" musician. I still need music and I really haven't mastered the instrument.

I have played in both band and orchestra and in bugle corps. I played in our high school band and I also played one semester in Ohio State's marching band. I have played in 2 or 3 dance bands and a couple of trumpet trios.

My father played a trumpet some, until he had to get false teeth, and I inherited his horn. Later, when I was in high school, we bought a new long model cornet, and that is the instrument that I am still using. It is now over 70 years old. (the case is really tired, but the horn is still good) ha ha.

I played a bugle in a drum and bugle corps in the Navy boot camp, and played bugle calls in the Navy both on land and while at sea. (I spent over 30 years in the Navy)

I've been playing Taps at vets funerals and other special occasions for over 12-15 years. I used to play "Echo Taps" at vet's funerals, and we would take turns being the Echo. We played a funerals long before I heard of BAA.

A very hard but meaningful time was when I had to play Taps at my bugle partners funeral.

Don't know when I might have to give it up, but as long as I have enough wind, lip, and teeth, I will keep it up.



BAA's Youngest: Jarett Story, North Carolina

Age: I am 12 years old and will be 13 in May.

How long have you been playing?

I have been playing my bugle since May of 2009 and the trumpet since August of 2008.

What made you want to learn how to play?

In the 5th grade, we were allowed to start playing in the school's band. My mom still had her trumpet from middle school, so I decided to play the trumpet. After I progressed, I thought that it would be interesting to play the bugle. In June of 2009 I began taking bugling lessons with my band director who taught me thirteen bugle calls in order to earn the "Bugling" merit badge for Boy Scouts of America. As I improved on my bugle, I was given the opportunity to play at the Veteran's Day Service at my school's church in November of 2009.



What made you want to play Taps with BAA?

Several weeks after the Veterans Day service in 2009, Mr. Don Barker presented me with a newer and higher-quality bugle than I had before. Mr. Barker told me about Bugles Across America and after learning more, I wanted to play 'Taps' to honor veterans that had served our country. I joined your organization at the age of 11.

Is there a specific event you've played that really meant more to you than other times?

Last year, the City of Conover was given an artifact of the NYC Twin Towers. On September 11, 2011, Conover City Hall had a memorial service in memory of those who had perished in the attacks. They asked me to play 'Taps' at that service. This meant a lot to me and it felt like something I could do to help remember everyone who had died on that tragic day.

Anything else you'd like to share with your audience?

Other events I have played my bugle for: Many of my fellow Boy Scouts' Eagle Court of Honors, Royal Ambassadors Flag Burning Ceremony, Boy Scouts Piedmont Council Annual Meeting, Boy Scouts Piedmont Council Eagle Scout Banquet for all Eagle Scouts of 2010, Confederate Soldier of America Memorial Service, Cherokee, NC Veteran's Day Service 2011, and Boy Scouts of America Camp Bud Schiele-Family Night Honor Guard.

I would like to add, without the help of Mr. Barker, Mrs. Epps (my band director), and my family, I would never had been able to accomplish all I have been able to do. They have all given me the confidence and support that has enabled me to become a bugler.

Thank you,
Jarett Story

KEY NOTES: ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE AND BAA UNIFORMS

The following is found in the Directives for Buglers and the Uniforms tab on the BAA web site. However, while it is listed, we still get questions as to what is acceptable attire to wear while representing BAA and questions regarding the BAA uniforms and where to get it. So, let's review it here in our Key Notes section.

Acceptable Attire

The first and overriding principal is that the bugler must always present a dignified, honorable, respectful and non-controversial appearance. Any attire must always be clean and well maintained. Remember that we are there to provide honor and tribute to others, not to showcase ourselves.

Discrete civilian attire such as dark suit and white shirt with solid, dark tie is always appropriate for male buglers. Similarly, dark skirt or slacks with white blouse would be suitable for females. Appropriate accommodation may be made for extreme temperature or inclement weather.

Those who are honorably separated veterans or currently serving members of the armed forces may, in strict accordance with military regulation, wear the uniform of their service. The individual is solely responsible for compliance with any and all pertinent regulations as to the wear of the military uniform under these circumstances.

Members of ROTC or JROTC may wear the dress uniform of their unit.

If the bugler is a member of a Veterans Service Organization, the dress uniform of that group may be worn when appropriate.

Designated Honor Guard uniforms may be worn when serving with those units.

Members of the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts may wear that uniform if complete and respectful in appearance.

When appropriate to the specific occasion, historical uniforms such as worn by some reenactors may be used. As an example, if serving as part of a Civil War Memorial dedication, a CW uniform may be worn to show respect to that period of service.

Non-Acceptable Attire

Now, so as to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding, we will specifically address attire that is *not* acceptable.

Casual civilian attire such as shorts, sweats, jeans, t-shirts, bright patterns, etc. is never appropriate and shall not be worn to represent BAA as a bugler.

Flashy marching band or drum corps uniforms should not be worn for military funeral honors or memorial services. This type of uniform is, by design, meant to draw attention to the wearer and that is to be avoided in the discharge of BAA duties.

Military fatigues or BDU's are never acceptable for honors details other than those that may be conducted by active military units while serving in a forward or combat area or exercise.

No attempt shall be made to "create" a uniform that would give the appearance of any military service or that contains parts of surplus military uniforms for the same effect.

As a general rule, our buglers should never be attired in any manner that draws extra or unwarranted attention to them. It is not about us, it is about those we are there to honor.

BAA Uniform

Many have asked about the official BAA uniform. Although the uniform is not mandatory, members would be encouraged to wear this uniform when serving in the capacity of a BAA representative. This uniform is dignified and respectful, but great lengths were taken during its development to avoid the close resemblance to any of the military service uniforms.

T & T will be the sole vendor for the Official Uniform of BAA. Only Buglers who have been approved by their state Director and are now on the Bugler list are allowed to wear the BAA uniform. To access the information on the BAA web site you must be logged in to see and be able to click on the [Uniform Tab](#).

BAA Uniform Appearance Guidelines

Since BAA is, for the most part, a civilian volunteer organization, we will not be observing military uniform regulations, per se. The uniform is based on a Class A Police uniform, with our own design built in.

The following are either mandatory items or options allowed to be added to the uniform; no other exceptions.

Mandatory (with cap): The music lyre insignia. Can be found at [The Parade Store](#). #658; specify Nickel

Option: Name badge

Customized for BAA and can be purchased for \$7.00 including shipping from TKM Awards, LLC
Email: tjmccuean@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (313) 999-4111

Option: Lapel pins.

You may wear one pair of BAA logo pins on the jacket lapel.

Option: Bugle pin. To be worn under the name badge, centered on the right chest pocket. (Available through Tom Day)

Option: Medals. You are allowed to wear one to two BAA medals on the left chest above the pocket flap. For military funeral honors, keep them to a minimum; do not wear a chest full of medals at funeral services.

Mandatory: White Gloves
...when wearing the official uniform.

Shoes, Tie, Belt: You are not required to purchase the black tie, shoes and belt from T&T but you must have a plain black tie, plain toe oxford shoes; either hi-gloss or spit shined, and a black military style web belt with a nickel silver buckle.



T&T Uniforms are aware of how precisely the BAA uniforms should look and are committed to making all of our buglers look sharp!

Please see [T&T's Appearance Guidelines](#).

Items that apply to the Police uniform obviously do not apply to us. T&T will sew all the patches, buttons and red striping on, according to BAA's standards.

The official BAA white shirt: T&T will provide the new official BAA shirt, with the exception that they will not embroider the shirt, but sew patches, i.e., reverse flag patch on the right shoulder, and the BAA patch on the left; the epaulets will have gold bugle patches sewn onto them.

Recently available: The official BAA trench coat!

T&T has taken their basic trench coat, and modified it to Official BAA Standards. \$329.00

While the cost is high, the conversion process has proven to be labor intensive, and the coat is very high quality, making this a worthwhile expense for those buglers in extreme cold climates.



T&T Uniforms

285-A North Main Street, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236

(Toll Free) 866-568-2638

Fax your orders: 770-210-3366

[T&T Uniforms Web Site](#)

Email: tandtsouthsales@aol.com

Contact Person is Ryan Heiden

Uniform FAQ's

Q. Are we required to purchase an official BAA shirt with the embroidery on it?

A. Unless you are in a hot climate that requires you to perform Taps without a jacket, or making public appearances (representing BAA) without a jacket, you are not required to purchase the BAA shirt to wear with the official uniform; a plain white shirt is sufficient. It is preferred that you have a BAA shirt, as there will be times when you will be seen without the jacket, i.e. awaiting the funeral procession.

Q. Why do we have religious symbols on our BAA logo?

A. The Star of David, and the Christian Cross are not intended to promote any religion. The purpose for their presence on the patch is two-fold...one, because America was founded on Judeo-Christian values...two, because Tom Day was inspired to use them; as he surveyed the landscape at Normandy, *almost all* of the tombstones are engraved with either the Star of David or the Christian Cross.

Q. Why is the “reverse” patch on the right shoulder?

A. The US Military wears the patch in this manner, to commemorate and honor all active presently fighting for our freedoms in the theatre of battle. As long as the USA is at war, BAA will observe the same practice. Flag etiquette dictates that anytime a flag is displayed, that the field of stars must be in the “advancing” position.

Q. Can we wear other patches on our uniform?

A. No; for consistency, and uniformity, we will keep them the same across the board.

Q. How do we obtain the bugle pins and lapel pins for the jackets?

A. Contact Tom Day at tomjday@sbcglobal.net ; send him your mailing address (no PO Box), and specify Bugle Pin, BAA round lapel pins, or music lyre pins.

Q. What is the significance of the red arm stripes and the red shoulder cord?

A. They represent the blood of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, fighting for our freedoms. Appropriately, the shoulder cord is on the heart side.

**Q. Which is the recommended head gear for the BAA uniform?**

A. We recommend the service cap, but the beret is still allowed. Make sure that you wear the beret properly, i.e. the BAA flash patch (available at T&T) must align vertically with the left eye. Your beret must be [shaped and conditioned](#).

Q. I cannot afford the BAA Official Uniform. Is it possible for someone to purchase one for me, and use the money for a tax deduction?

A. Yes, an individual or group can donate the amount of a BAA uniform to Bugles Across America; having it “ear-marked” with your name on it. Tom Day will send the money to T&T, designating the funds for your uniform, and send the donor(s) a Tax Deductible receipt.

TAPS 150 AND JARI VILLANUEVA ON THE MOVE



The TAPS 150 events are moving ahead on schedule! We are looking forward to the commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery on May 19th and the event at Berkeley Plantation in June.

We are expecting close to 200 buglers from around the country to participate in the once-in-a lifetime experience at Arlington on May 19th. Buglers will gather at the Old Amphitheater near the Lee Mansion in the cemetery for a 10 O'clock ceremony followed by a massed sounding of Taps in G and a harmonized version in B Flat. Buglers will then move to designated locations in the cemetery and will sound Taps following the noon chimes. Information and

registration can be found at www.taps150.org. A reminder that registration will close on May 13. The event is free and open to the public and registered buglers will receive a TAPS150 pin and T-Shirt for participating.

Jari Villanueva and TAPS 150 have a busy schedule this spring and summer. In addition to sounding Taps at various ceremonies, Jari has been giving lectures on bugle history and the story of Taps since the beginning of the year. He has been working with Berkeley Plantation to have renovations done on the Taps monument and to set up a Civil War Buglers display at the site. In April he traveled to Erie PA to supervise the new recording to use with the Taps monument at Berkeley. He also participated in ceremonies for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Front Royal, Virginia. He is scheduled also to sound Last Post at the annual ANZAC Day commemorations in Washington DC for the Ambassadors to Australia and New Zealand at the National Cathedral. A trip to visit with the Hellcats at the US Military Academy in early May will be followed by several programs in Maryland.

On May 18, Jari will deliver a talk on the life of Daniel Butterfield and his connection to Taps at Union College in Schenectady, New York. On May 19 he will be at the TAPS 150 ceremony at Arlington and then fly to New York to conduct a concert of brass music featuring Taps. On May 20 Jari joins his band, The Federal City Brass Band in a concert of Civil War music for a special event at the National Building Museum in Washington DC

From May 22-26 Jari and Larry DuPree of Ohio will man the TAPS 150 booth at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Columbus Georgia. Jari also will present a program on Taps during the week as part of the presentations by artists. If you are ITG member stop by and say hello. And try out one of the many bugles from his collection!

On May 27 Jari will present a Bugle/Taps lecture at the First Baptist Church in Historic Charleston, South Carolina, followed by a performance with the 8th Georgia Regimental Band in selections featuring the bugle and cornet. Memorial Day, May 28, will find Jari at the Berkeley Plantation in Charles City VA. He will give a talk on the bugle at 2 PM and then join with all of America in pausing for the National Moment of Remembrance at 3 PM.

June will find Jari at the VFW convention in Ocean City Maryland and two Civil War events in New Jersey. Then the 150th event at Berkeley Plantation. "Birth of an American Tradition." This will be huge event. There is so much going on that weekend. For information please visit www.taps150.org

In July Jari goes on a tour in Finland (his country of birth) with a brass ensemble for a month. What better way to recuperate from the 150th commemorations? BUT TAPS 150 is not done yet! More events are scheduled for the fall. So check in with: [Taps 150](#), [Taps Bugler](#), [Facebook](#), and Twitter Jari Villanueva@Taps150

The TAPS 150 [Store](#) is now open!

This is the place to purchase TAPS items:

- * TAPS 150 Medals
- * TAPS 150 Pins
- * TAPS 150 Coins
- * TAPS 150 Patches
- * TAPS 150 T-Shirts
- * TAPS 150 Coffee Mugs
- * "Day is Done"-The TAPS 150 CD
- * "24 Notes That Tap Deep Emotions" The Taps book by Jari Villanueva



All proceeds benefit the TAPS 150 projects this year. These include the Commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery, the 150th Anniversary "Birth of an American Tradition" at Berkeley Plantation in Charles City, Virginia, and a commemoration at the grave of Major General Daniel Butterfield at West Point in October.

Please support TAPS150 and BAA in these worthy projects! [Make a purchase today.](#)

For more information on the events this year, please visit [Taps 150](#)
And visit our [Facebook Page](#)

Thanks!

Jari Villanueva, President, TAPS 150

Raffle to Benefit TAPS 150!

1st Prize: Hand-made wooden bugle (mouthpiece not included)

2nd Prize: Aman plastic bugle

Prize to be drawn on: Sunday August 5, 2012 at 7 PM at the Lurman Theater, Catonsville, Maryland

WINNERS DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT.

Cost per ticket Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Buy Four tickets and receive one free!!

Purchase your ticket [here](#):



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

DAY IS DONE - TAPS CD

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

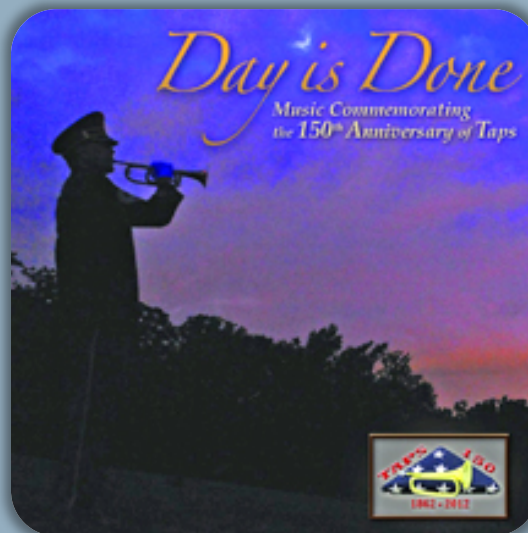
The CD has 33 tracks of Taps and Taps related music including calls and settings of our National song of Remembrance.

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.

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 Oklahoma 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 or bugler stories 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. Thank you.