

# BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



## BAA Briefing



First of all, I'd like to give a big cheer to my daughter-in-law, Jen Day. For forty issues now, she has been taking the stories you send her and putting them together to create the Bugler's Post. That's 80 months of hard work and each issue is better than the last.

The Bugler's Post is also great because of you, the buglers. You are out there sounding live Taps for the families of the fallen. These stories are terrific and we love reading them! Please keep on sending your stories to Jen.

Memorial Day is one of the busiest times for BAA members. Please take some time and accept those requests for Memorial Day services and share the experience of live Taps with others. Spread the word of BAA's mission and why you volunteer. One memorable place to serve is retirement centers. The residents have so many stories to tell and deeply appreciate what you do.

During April and May I'm always very busy working on the Chicago Memorial Day Parade. BAA is a sponsor of two music groups that have BAA members in their ranks. Sine Wave Drum and Bugle Corps and Midwest Connection. The Midwest Connection will be marching in the parade and Sine Wave will be in concert formation at Daley Center playing for those in attendance.

When I put the parade together, I have 44 high schools, 8 middle schools, and 6,600 cadets go downtown and march. Between all the bands, cadets, floats and military, Chicago's



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Memorial Day parade is considered to be the largest in the country.

Prior to the parade, we meet in Daily center to honor Gold Star Moms and BAA presents a scholarship donation to the highest grade level male and female cadet. Two years ago, one cadet was offered a place at three military academies! The JROTC is now having young cadets with autism participate in the parade.

Our State Directors have recently been doing a little “house cleaning” to get their bugler list cleaned up and up to date. Thank you for your patience and thank you to the State Directors working hard to make this happen. Having an updated list of available buglers sure does help when requests come in.

Have a great Memorial Day and as always, God Bless you all for being there for the Veterans and their families.

Tom Day, Founder and Bugler



Note from the editor...

I'd like to feature Tom Day in an upcoming issue. Please email me questions you have for Tom. Everything from military or Drum & Bugle Corps stories to what flavor syrup he likes on his pancakes. Lets make it a fun and interesting issue!

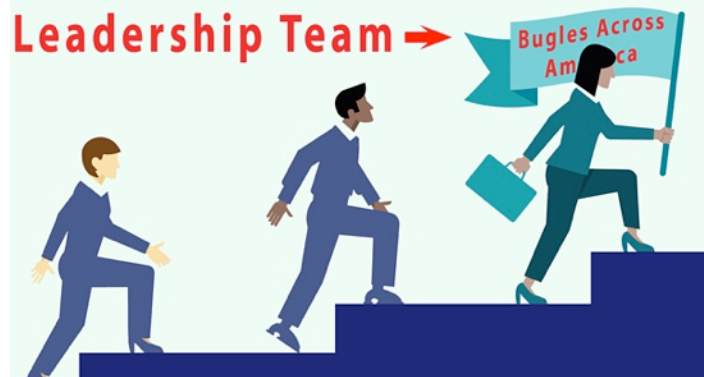
Thanks,

Jen Day

BAA National Coordinator

[JenDayBAA@icloud.com](mailto:JenDayBAA@icloud.com)

## Attention: State Directors Needed!



We are looking for experienced BAA buglers to fill the role of State Director in the states that currently do not have a full time Director.

### States in need:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| * Kentucky      | * North Dakota |
| * Massachusetts | * Rhode Island |
| * Michigan      | * Virginia     |
| * Mississippi   | * Wisconsin    |
| * New Mexico    | * Wyoming      |

### Qualifications:

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| * Computer literacy            | * Communication Skills        |
| * Passion for serving veterans | * Spare time you can dedicate |



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



## *In Memoriam*

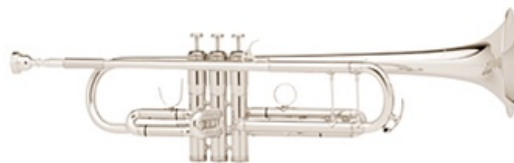
It is with deep sadness that we report that Illinois Assistant State Director Donald Mallinson lost a brave battle with brain cancer and passed on to the Eternal Army of his Lord on Sunday, March 18, 2018.

We recently introduced Don in the March issue (Vol 39) of the Bugler's Post. He had been an active volunteer bugler for about three years, and recently accepted the call to serve as an Assistant State Director responsible for most of the central and southern part of the state. Don was very dedicated to this service and often communicated directly with the BAA buglers in his region, while monitoring status of requests and opportunities for those volunteers.

His physical condition came upon him quite suddenly when he recognized some issues that he initially thought may have been a stroke. Tests led to the diagnosis of a brain tumor that demanded quick action. After the surgery to remove the tumor, he was to begin aggressive treatment to attack the spread of cancer. This treatment was barely begun when he passed away.

National Coordinators for Bugles Across America

# THE GREAT HORN GIVEAWAY!



The Great Horn Giveaway contest for April 2018 is complete!

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

**David Macintosh of Michigan**

**Brian Keefe of Massachusetts**

Congrats to these fine BAA members!

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

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



If you still do not have a BAA business card, a reasonable place to start is with the BAA Card Template found under the **For Buglers Only** in the [Education tab](#). Remember you must be logged in to access that option.

**Ladies..** We need more of you to send in your business card to have a chance at winning a new trumpet! All it takes is a simple BAA business card with your name on it.

# FIND THE BUGLE CONTEST!



Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is a small image of a bugle. This bugle will be cleverly inserted into either dialogue or a photo. All you need to do is carefully read through all the great information, and keep a sharp eye out for the little bugle.

**“How do I enter?”** Find the bugle, note the location then copy and paste the official entry form to your email. The form can be found on the following page or on the BAA web site under the [Bugler's Post tab](#). Fill out the required information and email it to [findthebugle@gmail.com](mailto:findthebugle@gmail.com)

**“How will I know if I won?”** Three winners will be selected randomly by drawing from all correct entries on **May 30th**. Winners will then be contacted by email.

**“What can I win?”** A \$50 gift certificate for your choice of T&T Uniform, Glendale's Parade Store, Amazon or Barnes & Noble. After three issues (six months), those nine winners will be put 'in the hat' for a Grand Prize drawing that will produce one winner of a nice, reconditioned horn to be chosen by Tom.

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

The bugle may be presented in any orientation; in other words, it may be horizontal, vertical, or at any angle.

Good luck, happy 'bugle hunting'!

## **Legal Fine Print**

- \* Only one entry per person per contest period, and must be submitted on the official entry form to the designated email address.
- \* Entries must be in by midnight PST on the 30th day after publication of that newsletter.
- \* Selection of winning entries will be final.
- \* *Newsletter staff and BAA National Officers are not eligible for contest entry.*
- \* Bugles Across America, nfp will not be liable for any misdirected or incomplete entries.
- \* No substitutions for awarded prizes will be made.



# I Found The Bugle!



In the Bugler's Post, **Issue #:** \_\_\_\_\_

I found the BUGLE hidden on **page:** \_\_\_\_\_

**in the:** \_\_\_\_\_

(describe the specific location , such as article, paragraph, line number or picture)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

(This email address will be used to notify the winner and deliver the prize)

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

All entries must be by email submission of this Official Entry Form, and must be received no later than midnight Pacific time, thirty days after the publication of this Bugler's Post issue.

Entry sequence will be determined by the time stamp indicated upon arrival of form.

By presenting this entry, I agree to all terms and conditions of the contest and prize winner selection described in the official rules as presented within the Bugler's Post.

Bugles Across America, nfp, is not to be held liable for any misdirected or incomplete entries, or for communication circumstances beyond our control. Entry is limited to one per person, per issue or contest period.

Copy and Paste this form into your email. Fill in the blanks and email the entry to [findthebugle@gmail.com](mailto:findthebugle@gmail.com)

# CONGRATULATIONS! *Winners!*

We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #39 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

**And the winners are....**

**Larry Crossman of Texas**

**David Heywood of Nebraska**

**Steve Bow of Ohio**

Each received a \$50 gift card and was placed in the running with 1 in 9 odds of winning the grand prize drawing. All non-winners for the year are eligible to enter each contest period.

## Where was it?!

**Issue #39**

**Page 32**

ditable file so that  
atching poster will allow  
you personally as a source  
in such places as school band  
, music stores, public bulletin boards, etc. Some fol  
hold several of their BAA business cards.

**les Across America.org**



**Trumpet and**





## State Director Spotlight: Washington

### Delsin Thomas - State Director, Washington

#### How long have you been with BAA?

I joined BAA in 2013 and became the State Director in 2014.

#### Why did you join?

I wanted an avenue to honor our veterans through music. I've been serving on the police force since 2006 and the Coast Guard Reserves since 2013. BAA was a way to tie my passions together and give back to my organizations in a unique way.

#### How long have you been playing?

I started playing trumpet in 1994, received my music degree from Central Washington University in 2005 and I've kept my chops in shape playing in several Puget Sound area orchestras.

#### What is the hardest part about being a SD?

The hardest part is having to remove buglers from the organization. I've only had to do it one time but it was still difficult. I believe everyone joins BAA for the right reasons and when commitments aren't honored it's especially difficult on the families who we let down.

#### What is the best part about being a SD?

Auditioning new buglers and then immediately see them volunteer for missions. They are going to be the future of BAA in Washington and their efforts will keep the organization going.

#### What has been your best experience with BAA?

BAA connected me with a fine cadre of buglers at Tahoma National Cemetery. Though not affiliated with BAA it connected me with people who had similar values and goals for honoring our veterans. I did a lot of services at TNC during the summer of 2014.

#### What is your goal for your state?

I would like to see local funeral homes and cemeteries become more educated on BAA and the service we offer. Our mission load has increased over the years due to our members reaching out to their local cemeteries, however there are many more that are not utilizing us and settling for a recording of Taps.

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

Likes: Family, snow sports, music, wine, fine dining, travel

Dislikes: Rain



## NEW STATE DIRECTORS

### Mary Sedgwick - Assistant Director, Nevada

Mary served in the U.S Army from 1973-1976. She earned her Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement while stationed at Fort Ord in California and later, on the GI Bill, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology in 1978 from Southern Oregon University. After spending several years in retail sales, picture framing, and house painting, her military service disability led her to be retrained through the Veterans Administration as an elementary and special education teacher. She earned a Master's Degree in Special Education, with additional coursework in elementary education.

For the next decade, she was a teacher and consultant for the local school district in Reno, Nevada. In 1998, she earned a Doctorate of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and later a certificate in educational leadership. For the last 17 years, Mary has been the Director of Student Teaching at the University of Nevada, Reno.

As a member of a local veterans group, Mary was asked to use an electronic bugle for a remembrance service. This experience led her to take trumpet lessons which she continues to do weekly. For the last 3+ years, Mary has sounded Taps literally hundreds of times at funerals and ceremonies. She is often heard sounding Taps by her neighbors at sundown, and she plays in two local bands. Mary joined BAA around 3 years ago. Mary is retiring from a long career in education in June 2018. She says work is now getting in her way and she wants to spend more time with her husband, woodworking and playing the trumpet.





## **Diane Weir - State Director, New Hampshire**

Diane Weir lives in Dover, New Hampshire with her husband, Rob, and works as an independent software training consultant. Diane studied music at Clark University and spent several years working as a public school teacher before changing careers to pursue her interest in computers.

Diane began playing trumpet in 7th grade. Throughout her high school years, she served as the resident bugler in Amesbury, Massachusetts. Currently, Diane is a member of the Dover Community Band and several singing groups.

Diane is grateful for the opportunity to serve as a member of BAA. As a new BAA bugler, she looks forward to working with the other volunteers in New Hampshire and serving area military families.

## Mitzi Ellis, Assistant State Director, Arizona

New Assistant State Director in Arizona – Mitzi Ellis

Hi. I am Mitzi Ellis, your new Assistant State Director in Arizona. Please consider me the woman in charge of the State Director, my husband Roger) I am not a bugler, but I was the Captain of a World Championship Drum and Bugle Corps Honor Guard. I also play the drums, and danced professionally as a Radio City Music Hall Rockette.

I became interested in BAA along with Roger due to the efforts of Tom Allen, currently the Assistant State Director for BAA in New York. On September 7, 2011 Tom spoke to the crowd at the Drum Corps Associates World Championships about the mission of BAA. His talk was followed by hundreds of drummers and buglers playing the *Service Songs Medley* comprising the themes of the military branches, an echo performance of Taps, and a resounding arrangement of *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. The performance, from Bugles Across America members and other competitive drum and bugle corps members, was the "Salute to Heroes," a first-time tribute to veterans at the DCA World Championships.



When Roger sounds Taps at funerals, I display the flag of the branch in which the veteran being honored had served. This display has been warmly received and appreciated by families and friends. I feel very strongly that our veterans deserve a proper send off with a live Taps, sounded with respect and emotion. My personal opinion is that the recorded version is an insult to the service the deceased gave to our country.

Roger and I often participate in programs other than funerals, such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, VJ Day, and so on. At these events I say a few words about the origin of Taps and then recite the words to Taps. I next invite all who are able to stand as we Sound the Honor and Honor the Sound, and then command my bugler to "Sound Taps". Every time that Roger and I deliver a program of Taps we feel a sense of giving back in some small way to those who sacrificed to preserve the freedom that we enjoy.



## Roger Ellis - Arizona State Director

In my new capacity as Arizona State Director for BAA, I have been working hard to learn more about the buglers who volunteer their time and talents here in the Copper State. One of the most active BAA members in the state is LuAnn Payne.

I recently received the following message from her husband Robert. “My wife, LuAnn, greatly enjoys sounding Taps at funerals. She finds a great deal of satisfaction in honoring those who have passed before us. The time that was the most meaningful was when she sounded Taps at the funeral of our son, David.”

I learned that Officer David Payne of the Chandler, Arizona, Police Department lost his life on October 31, 2014 after being struck by a vehicle while stopped for a red light. The force of the impact pushed Officer Payne and his police motorcycle through the intersection. Officer Payne succumbed to his injuries a short time later. The driver of the vehicle that struck Officer Payne fled the scene, but was located approximately 1/2 mile down the road and taken into custody.

Robert went on to say: “David was also in the Arizona National Guard. He was a combat medic and had been deployed three times since 9-11. LuAnn was honored to be asked to sound at his graveside service.”

Sounding Taps is an emotional experience under any set of circumstances. It is hard for me to imagine just how strong LuAnn needed to be that day to be able to perform this honor for her fallen son.





## Frank Fenton - Tennessee

### **Dedication to Capt. Taylor Force – You never know how a fallen soldier will be remembered**

A mission came in from a Captain attached to the Red Stone Arsenal to sound Taps in Nashville in the spring of 2016. Typically, missions would be at a local cemetery, but this one was for the chapel at Vanderbilt University. I had no idea the dedication and live Taps would be for Taylor Force, a decorated retired Captain and now student of the Graduate Management (MBA) program at Vanderbilt University who was one of eleven people stabbed by a Palestinian terrorist in Tel Aviv, Israel. Ten victims survived the attack, but Taylor's wound was fatal.

My support required a rehearsal the day before with two honor guards, both of equivalent grade to Taylor Force, Captains from Red Stone Arsenal. I would sound from the balcony. This event was well-orchestrated to honor Taylor!

On the day of the event, the chapel was filled with dignitaries from the local government, and all major heads of departments at Vanderbilt, including Chancellor - Nicholas Zeppos. The dedication included the classmates that accompanied Taylor to Tel Aviv. His family had flown in from his native home of Texas where Taylor now laid in rest.

Friends described Taylor's kind and generous behavior, quick wit and mentoring of others. He had served two tours in the Middle East and was now retired. Going back to college was joyful for him and should have been the least of his worries.

As a management class project, Taylor's class had made the trip to Israel to study how startup businesses are developed there. The trip included being in Tel Aviv where Taylor would meet an unexpected encounter with a Palestinian terrorist.

But Taylor was there in Tel Aviv café for reason and purpose. Out of generosity, Taylor had gone to the café to drop off a college book to a friend. He purchased the book at a much-reduced rate here in the U.S.A., as his friend was living on a strict college student's budget and the book was much more expensive in Israel. It was a generous gesture. Little did the friend know that the book would become priceless.

Taylor Force





## Katie Kahkonen - Maryland

I had the honor of meeting Peter Duston, the Assistant State Director of Maine, at the Boy Scouts of America National Boy Scout Jamboree at the "Summit" Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. He heard me sounding Taps one night and invited me to sound in the closing Flag ceremonies for Foxtrot Subcamp.

I just wanted to thank him for telling me about Bugles Across America. Ever since I got home and auditioned, it has become very near and dear to my heart and I try to take missions as often as I can.

### From Peter Duston...

The photo is Katie organizing the color guard for the Flag Ceremony - July, 2013. Katie is a Venture Scout. The Venture Program is co-ed for high school age young people, ages 14 -20. The 2013 Jamboree was the first Jamboree attended by Ventures including large numbers of girls for the very first time at a National Jamboree. Many of them, like Katie, served in leadership roles. It is young people like Katie who will carry on when buglers like me (pushing 80) are gone. We need to encourage the "Katies" in our towns. cities and states.



## J. Craig Wagner - Florida

### Plan B

Recently I was at a crowded funeral home to sound Taps for a very young veteran who had met an accidental passing. This, of course, made the setting a difficult time for all the family and friends that were present. This was also the first veteran's funeral for the young funeral director who had never worked with an honor guard or participated in a flag ceremony previously. As the ceremony began the director received a message that the honor guard was far away stuck in traffic. Worriedly, she approached me with a "What do we do?" type of look.

I told her that we'll just go to "Plan B" and do the very best for the family and all present. Being a retired minister I knew that I needed some 'heavenly guidance' so I quickly sought that also! Since I was the only one in uniform and the only military representative present, I told her that when the speakers finished I would walk forward, place my horn down, take up the now folded flag and make the appropriate presentation to the family: "On behalf of a grateful nation....." I would then step back returning to a suitable and proper position and sound Taps, followed by a solemn salute to the flag and family.

She gave out a grateful sigh of relief and we were ready to go. Interestingly, just about 4 to 6 minutes before the need to "Go," the Honor Guard hurriedly pulled into the parking lot. I quickly found out from them that they had not participated in an Honor Guard ceremony for quite some time and felt "rusty." So, instead of "Plan B" we quickly went over what all responsibilities were in an original "Plan A!" In the next 5 minutes, all went well, Thank the Lord! And, the lesson that was learned? Always be ready with a "Plan B!"



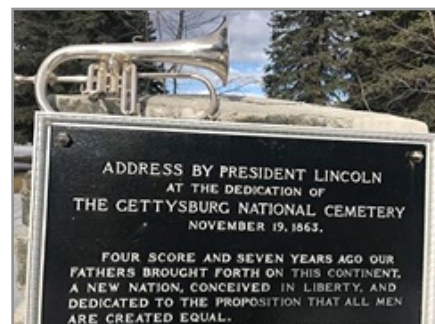
## Robert Russell - Oregon

Air Force veteran and BAA member Robert Russell sounding Taps at the WW2 Memorial on the grounds of the Oregon State Capitol building for the 2017 Veterans Day Observances.



## David Jensen - Alaska

I have sounded Taps for many years. Today was my first official mission under the umbrella of Bugles Across America. I took these photographs at the National Cemetery, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska. Thanks to Gene Horner, Alaska state director, for including me as a member of this organization.



## Alan Ashley - Maryland

I have taken the plunge! I woke up recently, saw the request in my email box... and accepted the mission.

Staff Sergeant Joshua Roes and another Sergeant (I didn't catch his name) are Marines stationed at Fort Detrick. They are a joy to work with. This was an indoor service at a Latter Day Saints church, so the challenge was that they don't want brass instruments sounded in their auditorium. When the time came, I moved near the doors in the back, watched for the cue (the flag snapped open at shoulder height above the urn), and then stepped out into the hallway with a door left open to sound Taps. The Mormon Bishop who was officiating had recommended this arrangement, and it worked well.

The Sergeants were satisfied with the sounding of the honor, and I gave them my direct contact information should they need it in a pinch. They indicated that they either have to figure out how to conduct Military Honors between the 2 of them, or recruit an outside bugler to assist. I encouraged them to continue to use the BAA site. I didn't ask them, but came away with the impression that they may have started using BAA only recently.

I believe I honored the sounding and represented BAA in a manner that strengthened their confidence in our organization.

## Glenn Traylor - SD North Carolina

BAA member Mary Beth Childress is competing in the Miss North Carolina Outstanding Teen competition and has chosen Bugles Across America as her platform.

*"She is so passionate when she talks about BAA that some people have had tears in their eyes while she speaks. She will make you proud I promise! We are about to start visiting schools and recruiting some members for you."*

Vikki Childress, Mother and BAA member





## Gary Marquardt - Minnesota

Hi Tom! Thank you for the personal tour of the BAA Learning Center and hospitality during my recent trip. I am so very proud to be associated with BAA and you and your family.

This is a poem I wrote to go with the painting of you at Pappy's grave site so here it is. Hope to see you again soon and please plan to stay with my wife and I if you ever come to Minnesota.

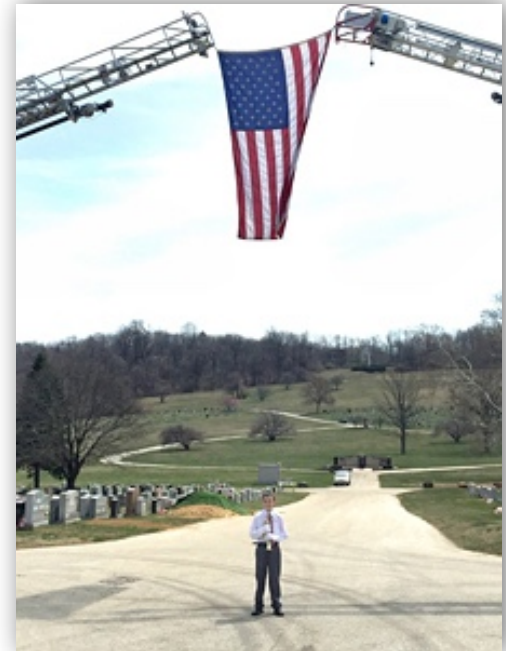


## Aidan Peterson - Pennsylvania

Aiden recently sounded Taps at a HUGE funeral. I stopped counting cars when I got to 150. He stood holding his bugle as all the cars drove by him. Then he watched hundreds of people just toss a flower on the casket. He sounded Taps and when he finished, the mother and wife fell to the ground crying. Police officers and fire fighters have been calling and thanking him all afternoon.

Almost three years ago, when Aidan auditioned for BAA, we were told he would bring hope in people's darkest hour. Boy was that true today!

- Amy, Aidan's mother



## Howard T Reitenbaugh - State Director Pennsylvania

Regarding the service that Aidan Peterson sounded at, this one took a bit of extra coordination on our part to get things set up properly. For starters, there were two requests entered by brothers who were fellow officers who served under Lt Dolan. They each had a different idea of where and when the bugler would be needed. I called and talked to them, and then Amy also spent time on the phone to get clarification. Then the Police Honor Guard wanted Aiden to sound an echo (to their digital horn, no less, but Aidan respectfully declined. He said that an echo is only done well if it is two real horns, and then only if the two individuals have practiced and know exactly what the other person is going to be doing. Aidan was prepared to stand down after accepting the mission to allow the police to do the service rather than have it turn to a very disrespectful and horrible sounding tragedy. Those folks finally realized the 'error of their ways' and asked Aidan to be the lone bugler. You can tell that he won a very large contingent of appreciative folks and supporters of BAA. I continue to be very proud of this young man.



### **Bruce Walker - New Jersey**

At the Bugles Across America New Jersey meeting at Delbarton School, we honored the Brothers who are Veterans. The nine served in the Army, Navy and Marines. They served on WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Taps was sounded for each and the US Army provided the flag ceremony. Thanks go out to Jim Gallombardo for making this possible.

### **Jim Gallombardo - New Jersey**

We had an extraordinary meeting in New Jersey yesterday! I put a lot of time and effort in and it turned out great! We had 35 buglers, two funeral directors, and the military from New Jersey Honor Guard. We also went to the cemetery and honored nine Benedictine monks who were veterans, including a Captain, Major and Colonel.



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

All stories must be written, edited, **ready for publishing** and a photo is desired but not required. If you don't have a photo from the event, one of you works nicely as well.

**The deadline for this is June 10th.**

Please email [JenDayBAA@iCloud.com](mailto:JenDayBAA@iCloud.com)

# W A N T E D : MEMORIAL DAY STORIES AND PHOTOS

May 28th is Memorial Day and is undoubtedly one of BAA's busiest days of the year... and the Bugler's Post issues following Memorial Day are **full** of heartfelt, humorous and wonderful stories and photos about your experiences and is a joy to read. However, this can only happen if you send me your stories.

Please send me your stories and photos to [JenDayBAA@icloud.com](mailto:JenDayBAA@icloud.com). Please make sure they are edited and "publish ready" and the photos in jpg form.

Thank you,  
Jen Day, Newsletter Sheriff and BAA National Coord.

## Letters of Gratitude



Three representatives from the Marine Corps were coming to perform military honors for my brother-in-law yesterday. They were going to play Taps via recorded media. I had never heard of BAA organization until four days ago, so I filled out the request and a bugler volunteered very soon thereafter. Bugler Mike Hewitt arrived at the church prior to the service. He identified himself to my staff and was directed to me. He was dressed impeccably and was a very pleasant man. It was wonderful to have Mike find us, properly identify himself, and check with me to confirm the coming events. When Taps was sounded it was crisp, clear and perfect.

At the conclusion of the committal service, Mike was gone. I never had a chance to tell him what a difference his contribution made to the funeral. Taps is a significant part of military honors and having it done properly, by a live bugler, is essential to the solemnity and dignity of the occasion.

Following the funeral, I was contacted by Bugles Across America about the service. I appreciated this contact as it gave me the opportunity to personally express my appreciation for the incredibly meaningful service you provide. I told the gentleman that the funeral home will contact them from now on in hopes of obtaining the services of a live bugler and that I would make a donation to you each time a live bugler was kind enough to attend and sound Taps at a service. In lieu of that, I have just set up a recurring monthly donation to you, not for services rendered to the families we serve, but to help you with all you do to honor the lives of veterans throughout our country.

Jeffrey P Lovelidge  
Funeral Director

*Hello Michelle (Poczobut),*

*I want to offer you a big THANK YOU! From myself and my family for being at my brother-in-law's funeral service this past Friday. Your sounding of Taps at his graveside service was incredible, moving many of us, including myself, to tears. I cannot emphasize enough how important it was for us to not only hear it on a real instrument but also to hear it sounded as beautifully as you did.*

*I'm sorry that I was not able to get to talk to you before you left to tell you this face-to-face. But I hope that this email, impersonal as it can be, conveys my and my family's heartfelt appreciation.*

*Take care,  
Richard C. Diaz*

We are forever indebted to Bugles Across America for the service you provide to Veterans! Our family would like to express our deepest, heartfelt thank you to your organization.

Our dear father, Robert V. Tripp, passed away last week and we were told by the mortuary that we could have color guard services provided by the Air Force at his gravesite IF we could provide his DD Form 214. We tore the house apart trying to find his paperwork but it was nowhere to be found. Unfortunately, we could not get a duplicate copy from the Veterans Admin prior to the funeral. We were heartbroken.

We tried one last desperate attempt to find an independent bugler thru a Google search. Bugles Across America popped up and within an hour we were overjoyed to find a bugler who was available to sound Taps at our dad's gravesite.

Our bugler, Jeannine (Hawkins), was fabulous! She was extremely respectful and very proud to be of service.

Much Thanks,  
The Robert V. Tripp Family

*My family had a funeral on Saturday, April 14th, and the new BAA Oregon State Director was there prepared to sound Taps for us. We did not put in a request for a bugler because my son Eriq, is a volunteer with BAA and was prepared to sound Taps for his grandfather. When I put in the request for Military Honors, we mentioned that we had our own bugler.*

*I just want to say thank you to the new Director for taking his time to be there and ready... just in case. My son, Eriq, did speak with the new Director and Honor Guard before the ceremony, but I did not get a chance to offer my thanks and appreciation.*

*Thank you*

*Susan Thompson*

Mr. Jerry Mays (from Iowa) performed Honors for my Grandfather-in-law this past weekend and did a fabulous job. I love what this organization stands for and I appreciate all those who volunteer for our Veterans.

Beth Rodas

*I wanted to send this deserved thanks to Bugles Across America and specifically to the bugler who immediately accepted the request and performed at my father's graveside services in New Orleans, Brian West in December. My father was a Vietnam Veteran and I wanted to have a live rendition of Taps at the gravesite to accompany the honor guard that was there with the flag. My father's service was much more memorable because of this live presentation. Thank you B.A.A. for this selfless and honorable service for America's veterans. Thanks again, Brian West for accepting the request and for taking the time out of your personal schedule to sound Taps on your bugle for my father.*

*Bill Carragan*

My grandfather was an Air Force veteran. I contacted this organization one day prior to my grandfathers memorial service and received an immediate response. My grandfathers service was very memorable because of Taps being sounded live. Thank you for what you do for our veterans and bringing peace and comfort to their families for not having a veteran being sent off in silence.

Jennifer Bottoms

Our veterinary hospital would like to say a huge thank you to your organization and most especially bugler Michelle A. Poczubut. Michelle saw our request 2 days ago for a bugler for a retired Navy K9 and responded immediately. She made a very early morning drive to us in Northwest New Jersey and was punctual, compassionate and the consummate professional. She's also a great bugler!

We will be recommending your organization to anyone we can think of who may need your services.

Thank you, again, for never forgetting our heroes!

Amy Segal  
Hospital Manager  
Family Veterinary Services





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



**Q:** How does a bugler report a mission that was picked-up without BAA? Perhaps I should ask if it is important to do so? I'm just asking as a matter of record.

**A:** While many of our members have for years been doing more services through direct contact than they do through the BAA request system, it is a valid question. The only way to 'report' a mission, or more correctly make it one of the total accounted to Bugles Across America, is for you to ask the person that contacted you to submit it as a request that you can then accept. They can even put in the Additional Information that they are expecting you (by name) to fill the mission. You then get the email notice and follow the standard links to accept the mission. It is now a part of the BAA total as well as being on your My Events log.

The second alternative, and some of the members have been doing this, is for you to actually create the request yourself and then immediately accept it.

While many of us don't feel compelled to keep a record of every mission we serve, there is nothing wrong with that. A couple good reasons for 'logging' every mission served: 1) if you choose to report expenses for volunteer service when doing your taxes, it is very good to have that on an official record; 2) Bugles Across America is often questioned as to the number of missions or volunteer hours served. We can only verify those that are included as a part of our official record by way of the Request A Bugler system. All other volunteer hours or missions served can only be approximated, and will be a matter of conjecture, at best.

Howard T Reitenbaugh  
National Coordinator

**Q:** What percentage of the donations go to the buglers and what percentage go for other things such as executive compensation?

**A:** There is no fixed percentage that 'goes to the buglers', as our members are all volunteers. Our Directives For Buglers (official protocol of BAA) states that "no bugler is to require, request, or even expect to be compensated in any way for sounding Taps for military funeral honors". If a bugler is offered an unsolicited honorarium, they are allowed to accept that with gratitude. Some members may put such gift toward their traveling expense or equipment (horn, uniform, etc) upkeep, while others send it on to BAA headquarters to support the general mission of the organization. I have known of some buglers that turn around and send that gift on to a worthy charity in the name of the veteran they just honored by sounding Taps.

The expenses of the organization are maintaining our web presence to facilitate public access for bugler requests (which is our primary reason for existing), as well as to keep our members advised of current happenings and information. We support some cadet corps with donated bugles, awards, etc. We also have donated bugles to several Scout troops or individual scouts that are in need. We do this to encourage an ongoing interest in bugling among the younger generation. We have also provided support in obtaining the official BAA uniform in some cases. Many members have solicited uniform sponsors from among their family or friends. These monies are sent directly to BAA headquarters and designated for the purpose of purchasing the uniform for that member. In many cases, we will approve the immediate purchase of the uniform from our official vendor and then recoup that expense as the donations come in. At no cost we provide members with the uniform patches and pins that are proprietary to BAA.

We support other appropriate causes that have as their primary purpose provision for the veterans or their families, such as Food Pantries and agencies giving aid and shelter to homeless vets living on the street.

We set up information booths/tables at various venues such as American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Elks national conventions. The registration fees and cost of materials are covered for those BAA members that volunteer their time to man those booths. If major travel expense is involved, we help to defray the cost for the individual.

Over the years, BAA has purchased and placed memorial markers appropriate to the location at several veterans as well as national cemeteries. Such memorials have always been placed with prior approval and coordination of the cemetery administration, and adhered to their published directives and requirements.

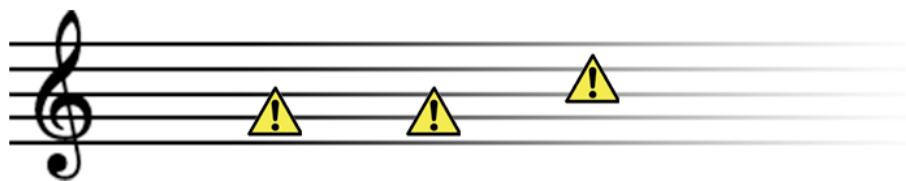
BAA does not solicit donations through mailing or telephone campaigns, nor do we hire any agency to do that. We have never received any financial support from a government agency. We “do good things” and the people of America have responded. Our main office and ‘headquarters’ is a room in the basement of our Founder’s home in Berwyn, Illinois. We do not spend on lavish furnishings or parties. A few years ago we held a Leader’s Conference. We rented meeting room space at a district park in Westchester, Illinois. The leaders that attended provided their own travel expenses and accommodations. As I have heard said before, “This is a business where you buy your own pencils”. Our only ‘lavish’ spending for the conference was to provide a simple catered buffet meal for one afternoon during the sessions so that we could keep communicating through the meal time.

As I said earlier, all Bugles Across America members are volunteers..... that includes administrative and director personnel at every level. No administrator or director (you used the word executive) is paid for the many, many hours devoted to managing the rosters for their states, or monitoring the requests in their state, or responding to every Contact Us message, or putting together our bi-monthly newsletter that is delivered by email link. Proper expenses incurred by an individual on behalf of the general mission of Bugles Across America are sometimes reimbursed, when we know of them. Some of us spend many more hours than others may, but it is all considered a “part of the gift” as we serve this organization to see that the veteran is properly honored, and their families are comforted.

Howard T Reitenbaugh  
National Coordinator  
Bugles Across America

Have a question that you want answered?

Please email [galaxypilot@verizon.net](mailto:galaxypilot@verizon.net) and place “Q & A” in the subject line.



## KEY NOTES

Being an informed and responsible member

### My contact information has changed. How do I update my email, phone number or address?

It is vital that your contact information is current and it is **your** responsibility to update when necessary. It is also really easy to do.

- 1.) **Log in** with your username and password. If you need assistance with the log in credentials, please send a message to Contact Us and we will assist.
- 2.) Your name is in the upper right corner of the page. **Click on your name.**
- 3.) To make any changes, click on **"Edit Profile"**
- 4.) On this new screen, click **"Contact Information"**
- 5.) Type in the new address information.
- 6.) Scroll to bottom of the page and click on **UPDATE**. **This step is vital** to save your new information.
- 7.) Use the Contact Directors link on the website to notify Directors of both states (the one you have left and the one you have moved to) of your change in location.

**Email:** After accessing your profile, click on "Manage Account", Type in the new email. Click on **Update** at the bottom of the page.  
(Ignore that Profile URL box)



**Password:** After accessing Profile (as in above), click on **"Manage Account"**, then **"Change Password"**. Fill in requested information. Click **Change Password**.

**Delete Account:** There is currently no way for an individual to Unsubscribe (delete their profile/registration). If you wish to say "Adios", you need to let us know by using the Contact Directors link.

# Regarding Requests

## How do I volunteer for a request?

Double check your schedule and if you are available, use the link at the bottom of the request email. If the request has already been filled, you will be informed. If it hasn't, you will be given an option to formally click on a link to volunteer yourself for it.



## What if I can't volunteer for a request?

Please do not reply to the request email to tell us why you can't make it. While we truly appreciate your willingness to serve, you are replying to an automated message. Requests are sent out via automated system to all buglers in a 100-mile radius of the event. We don't often check the automated email box.. but when we do.. people are telling us why they can't volunteer for it. Can't volunteer, just hit that delete key!

## I've volunteered for a request... now what?



From the request details, you have the requestor's contact information available to you. You are advised to print that page just before clicking "Volunteer" It is now **your responsibility** to contact the requestor as soon as practical to let them know you are their bugler and to get any further information you may need. If you failed to print that detail page before clicking on "Volunteer" you can always retrieve it from you're My Events log on the tab bar, but remember you must be logged in to see that.

## I've volunteered for a request and now need to cancel.

Canceling is a violation against the Directives for Buglers you agreed to when you registered. Do NOT volunteer for a request before you have checked your schedule. If it is a family emergency, contact your State Director **immediately!** Not showing up lets down the family of the deceased and is **grounds for membership removal.**



## Help!! I've lost the email with the event information!

The place to find that is under the "**My Events**" tab after you've logged into the BAA web site. This page will show you all the events you are scheduled for and the information regarding them!



## Other F.A.Q.s

### How do I contact my State Director?

Log in to the BAA web site and use the Contact Director option under the Contact Us tab. You will only see the [Contact Directors](#) option if you are logged in.

**IMPORTANT!** If you've moved to another state, it's of extreme importance you contact your new State Director to inform them. State Directors are only sent notifications of new registrants, not if someone has "moved in".



**Emergencies.. Please contact your State Director.** Sending an email to any official BAA email will **not** reach us in time to help you. If you accepted a request and have a medical emergency keeping you from sounding Taps, Contact your State Director ASAP! If you don't have your director's contact information, log in to the BAA site, under the '**Contact us**'

tab you will see **Contact Directors**. Click that. Fill out necessary information. An email will be sent.

**If you don't see something you're looking for on the BAA web site.** Log in. Some things are only shown to members that are logged in and not the general public.



### Is there a way for me to record or get "credit" for events that are not requested through the BAA website?

There is no way 'record' missions that don't come in through the request system. We have never kept count of individual's missions on BAA register or archive. Many members have kept a personal 'log book' of their missions, and this has been more for personal reflection and memories than anything.

### I've lost the information for the request I've volunteered for!

Log in, click on the '**My Events**' tab. Ta-da!

**A very handy Quick Start guide for BAA members**  
is available on the BAA web site in the [Education tab](#).



## The BAA Learning Center is open for visitors!

### What's inside:

Over 140 horns: Specialty and historic

Different types of mouthpieces

Military memorabilia

Uniforms from 1776 to today that you can touch

Bugle and military history

History books and maps from all US wars.

CDs and DVDs you can watch in the Media Room

Historic Drum and Bugle Corps media

Bugles Across America medals and patches

Copies of BAA's newsletter, Bugler's Post

A Congressional Gold medal

Stories from Tom Day himself!



*"The house looks wonderful. It's one of those places that you could spend all day there and the next time you visit, you still see something new." - Allison Petty*



**Hours:** By appointment. Please call (708) 484-9029

**Admission:** No fee but donations welcome

**Parking:** Street Parking. Please be aware of street cleaning hours on Friday

**1818 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Illinois, 60402**

**For tour information: (708) 484-9029**



## The BAA Supply Closet

### Pins:

- \* **Bugle Pins** - These are not made of steel and will break if bent.
- \* **Lyre pins** - We have a supply of gold and silver... however, the gold-colored ones must be painted silver for wear on the BAA uniform if you choose to include this optional item.
- \* **Small bugle pins with folded flag** - Available and they are excellent for casual wear on suit lapels and caps.
- \* **Gold Star Mom's pins** - In stock

**Patches:** We have the BAA logo patch and the BAA Learning Center patch available.

**Coins:** We have just a few BAA coins left.

**Medals & Ribbons:** We have all the medals, however, the ribbons for our medals are available through Glendale Parade Store. State Directors can use these to give to buglers and local Vets.

**Flags:** We have BAA flags and Gold Star Mothers flags

**Horn Accessories:** We will have 4 7c Kelly mouthpieces and can get more when needed.

**Educational:** For those who do school programs, I have free copies of my booklet, "A Very Special Red, White and Blue". This is a workbook on the history of the American Flag. I am also working on putting this flag history on DVD. The program has been a real hit at the many schools where I have presented it.

**Clothing:** We now have both bright green and orange t-shirts and sweatshirts. Great for walkers and bikers. You'll be seen in these for sure. These shirts were updated to welcome BAA to its 18 year and to honor the 100th Anniversary of WWI.

Please send requests via email to Tom Day at [TomJDay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:TomJDay@sbcglobal.net)

# SHOW YOUR COLORS!

## At Ease: Off-duty Apparel

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

Short sleeve t-shirts: \$20

Long sleeve t-shirts: \$25

Hoodie sweatshirt: \$35

(plus tax and shipping)

### Website to order

[www.supportbaa.com](http://www.supportbaa.com)

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

Thank you Jim Owens for your generous support for BAA.



<http://my-tgraphics.com>

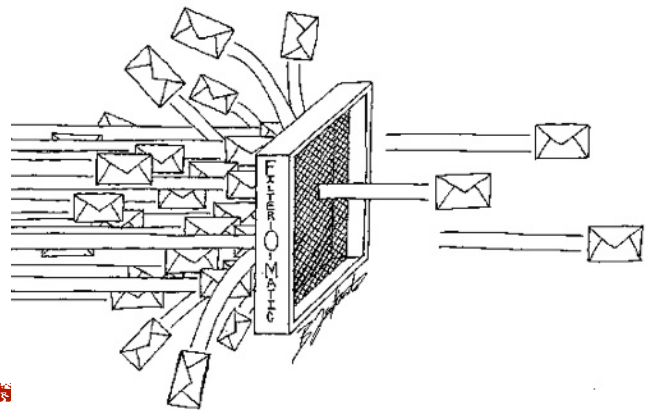


**Are you not receiving emails from BAA? You could be having....**

### ***Internet Service Provider and Firewall Problems***

If you receive email through a service provider such as [aol.com](http://aol.com), [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com), or even gmail, or you have firewall software such as Norton's Internet Security or Anti-virus, please add our email address, [info@buglesacrossamerica.org](mailto:info@buglesacrossamerica.org) and [requests@buglesacrossamerica.org](mailto:requests@buglesacrossamerica.org) to your address book and unblock email list.

In an effort to control SPAM these companies are blocking certain emails before they reach your inbox or discarding emails into a separate folder other than your inbox based on certain criteria. The emails that are auto-generated to notify you of bugler requests, as well as important notices sent from time to time, and our newsletter The Buglers Post are sent to you from this address.





# American Heritage Field Trumpet by Getzen

Every day in America, approximately 1,800 World War II and Korean War veterans pass away. These brave men and women risked their lives to defend the land they loved, and yet as many as 75% of these heroes will not be given the honor of having Taps sounded at their funeral by a live bugler.

In 2000, Bugles Across America was founded to secure a means of locating and to provide a real bugler for this honor, but many soon found themselves wishing for a quality bugle that was readily available and MADE IN THE USA.

A Wisconsin BAA member, Dan Erikson made contact with Tom Getzen and began a discussion about the need for a good field trumpet (bugle) to be dedicated for this purpose. Tom Getzen enthusiastically embraced the concept, and soon he introduced BAA representatives to the American Heritage Field Trumpet (AHFT).



The M2003 AHFT is available in four presentations. The Standard model in lacquered brass or silver finish, and the Elite in lacquered brass or silver. All are produced in the same workshop and by the same instrument craftsmen that make the Getzen professional-grade horns. In materials, fit, finish, and playability, the AHFT is truly a top-level, professional instrument. The AHFT is manufactured to play in the key of B-flat, but an optional G-slide can be purchased for any model. This gives the owner the ability to switch between these two most often used keys by merely exchanging the tuning slide. Many of us consider this to be a very valuable asset of the AHFT, and it certainly is less expensive than buying two separate horns.

While the AHFT can be ordered through any authorized Getzen dealer, verified BAA members can order direct from the factory at a price specifically discounted for BAA. Members may also choose to have the optional BAA logo engraved on the bell at no additional cost. [About the trumpet.](#)

Current pricing and order information is on the BAA web site on the LINKS tab.

**If you are considering purchasing the AHFT, please email [galaxypilot@verizon.net](mailto:galaxypilot@verizon.net) so we can provide membership verification to Getzen.**



## "Bugler On Duty" Magnetic Sign

Newly designed for use on your vehicle. These car magnets are printed on heavy-duty material and ideally suited for car door signage. The cost is \$19 for one magnet and \$35 for two.

To place an order please contact  
Vytas Sulaitis at:

VS Printing Services, LLC  
1218 Ostrander Avenue  
La Grange Park, IL 60526  
[vsprinting@hotmail.com](mailto:vsprinting@hotmail.com)  
(708) 655-4774



## "24 Notes" a Tribute to Military Veterans and Our Men & Women in Uniform

New Outlaw Country Band, Boot Hill Bandits, released their new single, "24 Notes" honoring live Taps at the funerals of Military Veterans and First responders.

An American made musical anthem that pays tribute to each and every Military Veteran who has passed on, "24 NOTES" honors our Veterans and First responder heroes who have served and whom proudly serve today, to protect life, liberty and freedom. "24 Notes" is also dedicated, and shines a light on Bugles Across America and it's founder, Tom Day. This Veterans organization has thousands of volunteers, who give of their time and talents to sound Taps, otherwise known as "The 24 notes", at Veteran's funerals all across America, instead of the usual pre-recorded version used at most Veterans ceremonies.

To buy 24-Notes: <https://www.cdbaby.com/cd/boothillbandits>

Visit Boot Hill Bandits™ at <http://www.boothillbandits.com>





Military.com [Military Funeral Honors](#)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - [Memorial Benefits](#)



Perhaps, **the best collection of the pertinent information** would be found in Congressional Research Service Report RS21545, - [Military Funeral Honors and Military Cemeteries and FAQ](#)

## KEY LINKS

### Bugles Across America Pages

[Bugles Across America](#)

[BAA Bugler Directives](#)

[BAA on Facebook](#)

### Gear & Decorative

[Getzen](#)

[Getzen Order Form](#)

[Kanstul](#)

[Scentsy Service & Sacrifice Warmer](#)

### BAA Individual State's Facebook Pages

[BAA New York on Facebook](#)

[BAA Kentucky on Facebook](#)

[BAA Hawaii on Facebook](#)

[BAA Oklahoma on Facebook](#)

[BAA Utah on Facebook](#)

[BAA Michigan on Facebook](#)

[BAA North Carolina on Facebook](#)

[BAA South Carolina on Facebook](#)

[BAA: New Jersey](#)

### Organizations

[Spirit of '45](#)

[Boot Hill Bandits](#)

[Drum Corps International](#)

[Flags For Vets](#)

[Association of Military Musicians](#)

[Freelancers Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps](#)

[The Tributes Lady](#)

[Regimental Drum Major Association](#)

[The Bent Prop Project](#)

[Coalition to Salute America's Heroes](#)

If you have any articles or bugler stories that you would like to see in the next Newsletter, please email [JenDayBAA@iCloud.com](mailto:JenDayBAA@iCloud.com)

All stories **MUST** be written, edited, **ready for publishing** and preferably a photo along with it. I am also looking for bugle, bugler or Taps trivia & facts. If you know of any, please email me. If this information comes from somewhere specific, please site that. Thank you.