BUGLER'S POST



Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America

BAA Briefing



September is here my fellow Buglers.
Please consider doing as many requests for 9/11 Remembrance Activities as possible.
These events remind folks that WE at BAA will always remember.

I need help......Calling all Buglers around Abraham Lincoln National Veterans

Cemetery. We are down to only a couple Buglers a week and they need help. The Leader at the Cemetery has found a person who is willing to help with gas costs, if necessary. I have the name and can help. Please consider a volunteer position here.

Those buglers reading this around the country should also consider helping at a National Cemetery near you. Contact your State Director for more information if you're interested. The methods of scheduling and participating will vary from one location to another, so it will require individualized contact and processing.

Now is the time to consider your winter needs, like hand warmers and the Kelly plastic mouthpiece. Let me know if you need one; I will provide as long as the supply lasts. We were 'out of stock' for a while, but now have some again. I'm looking forward to the fall, it's hard to beat those FALL COLORS.

At the end of 2017 I made a promise that I would set a goal for 2018 of doing at least 10 services a month. I have recently completed my 80th for this year in Chicago at the riverside Vietnam Memorial on a Sunday morning. I already have five



IN THIS ISSUE

- BAA BRIEFING
- A message from Tom Day
- 3 NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

need your questions

- **4 UPCOMING EVENT** Senator John McCain
- **5 HELP WANTED!** State Directors needed
- **6 HORN GIVEAWAY** Win a horn!
- **7 FIND THE BUGLE** Find! Enter! Win!
- **14 BEHIND THE BUGLE** Your stories told
- **25 GRATITUDE**Letters from the families
- **27 MEDIA RELATIONS** BAA spotted in the news
- **31 Q & A** Your Ouestions Answered
- **32 KEY NOTES & FAQ**Becoming a responsible member
- **35 BAA LEARNING CTR**Come check us out
- **38 NOTES, LINKS, ETC** Things that may interest you

1

outings booked for September. How are you Buglers doing? Stay active; look for opportunities; make the commitments; serve with dignity.

Do you know who your State Director is, and how to contact them? I know that the Contact Directors function on our website has been 'out of commission', but you have been contacted by your Director at some point for a welcome, an audition, or an audit of membership. Did you keep that name and contact on file? If not, you should get that so it is readily available in case of need for quick communication. And, State Directors........ Have you provided this information to every bugler in your state? If not, take care of that right away.

As always, I thank you all for the great participation and dedication in honoring the veterans.

Tom Day
Founder and President BAA

P.s... Congratulations to the Santa Clara Vanguard for their 1st place title in the 2018 World Championships held in Indiana!

Note from the editor...

Hello all!

- *Feature BAA Directors.... Check!
- *Feature Tom Day.... Check!
- *Feature.. me.. Jen Day??!!! Um... Well, yeah.. I guess i'm next on the list.

I've avoided it for 42 issues.. but here we are. I'm not terribly good at talking about myself. I usually share too much and then there is that awkward silence. Haha. But.. use that... ask me anything... or I'll wind up telling you more than you care to know anyway.



Thanks,

Jen Day

BAA National Coordinator

JenDayBAA@icloud.com

UPCOMING EVENT



Dear BAA,

This is not an official BAA event but we're encouraging you to participate if you are available.

Taps Across the Nation is gathering as many horn players as possible to sound Taps at the same time.

Why: To honor the late Senator John McCain and his service to our country.

Where: In your hometown, local VA hospital, cemetery, Veteran's Memorial Parks, Military base (if allowed), backyard.. Anywhere you like.

When: Sunday, September 2, 2018 at 2pm EST when John McCain's final service and burial will be happening at the US Naval Academy cemetery.

If you are on Facebook, PLEASE visit their <u>Facebook Group</u>, join it, share it... and most importantly, let them know if you'll be participating and where you are located. Taps Across the Nation has an interactive map and are pinning the locations people are sounding Taps. They want to see how big this can become. (Click on the blue link to go directly there)

If there are buglers out there that don't use Facebook, please email Patricia Konyha at mommafedler@gmail.com to tell her who and where so she can post your name/ location to the map.

Patricia also asked if everyone that participates could have a photo taken of them while sounding Taps or record or go live on FB and share it to the site. If you are not on Facebook, you can email your clip or photo and she can upload it.

They also have a <u>Facebook event page</u> to join if you'd like a reminder.

Thank you so much.

Jen Day

BAA National Coordinator

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:

- * lowa
- * Kentucky
- * Massachusetts
- * Michigan
- * Mississippi

- * North Dakota
- * Rhode Island
- * Wisconsin
- * Wyoming

Qualifications:

- * Computer literacy
- * Passion for serving veterans
- * Communication Skills
- * 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 to be considered with your experience and why you'd like to be a director for your state.

THE GREAT HORN GIVEAWAY!

The Great Horn Giveaway contest for August 2018 is complete!

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

J. Craig Wagner of Florida Peggy Hanner of Alabama

Congrats to these fine BAA members!

The next drawing is in August. Have you sent Tom Day <u>your</u> 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 <u>Education tab</u>. Remember you must be logged in to access that option.



Issue #41 winner - Rene Serrano

Hello Mr. Day,

What a surprise! An Andalucia trumpet was just delivered to me. I'm guessing it was due to the entry I made for a drawing.

Thank you so much and may GOD bless you, your family and BAA. Rene Serrano

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 <u>copy and paste</u> the official entry form to your email. The form can be found on the following page or on the BAA web site under the <u>Bugler's Post tab</u>. Fill out the required information and email it to findthebugle@gmail.com

"How will I know if I won?" Three winners will be selected randomly by drawing from all correct entries on **September 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.





n the Bugler's Post, Issue # :
found the BUGLE hidden on page:
n the:
describe the specific location , such as article, paragraph, line number or picture)
Name:
Email:
This email address will be used to notify the winner and deliver the prize)
Telephone:
Mailing Address:
Street:
City:
State, Zip:

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

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

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

Copy and Paste this form into your email. Fill in the blanks and email the entry to findthebugle@gmail.com



We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #41 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

And the winners are....

Gene Bell of California Con Snavely of Pennsylvania Donald Root of Texas

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?!

formed many times in the past with just Flag Hands and reading up on BAA, I knew this would use my very deprive gift and signed up immediately. The sad to ver heard an AA. I'd been a trumpet player for 35 years, had a times, and by had been around for 15 years. My plan is to "four name out the same frumpet players that may also wa

Page of 10. With Memorial Events being planned ate, many are interested in a live bugler at So far I have four missions for the page of 10.





Jerry Kolb - Issue # 41 Grand Prize Winner!

It was a complete shock when I received a call from Howard Reitenbaugh that I had won the grand prize of a horn from the Find the Bugle contest. I believe it is the first time in my life that I have won something of value. A lovely French Selmer trumpet. Looks and plays new and will be a great addition to my horn collection. It arrived in great condition ready for work.

Thanks again for a great surprise.

Sounding Taps for veterans funerals has been a very worthwhile and fulfilling avocation for me in retirement. I will continue as long as the good Lord allows.

BAA Spotlight - Tom Day, BAA Founder

Every month the Bugler's Post has featured State Directors and Assistant State Directors from each state. What do we do when we've completed all the states?... we interview Tom Day. I've asked you to send me your questions for Tom and without further wait.. here are his answers.

What do you wear when you are on a mission?

If it's an Army detail, I wear an Army uniform as I had 4 years of Army JROTC and this was approved by the Army over 12 years ago. If it's Navy, I wear my Navy uniform as I was a Navy seabee for 4 years. If it's a Marine, I wear my Marine uniform as I was a Marine for 8 years. I was number one in Platoon 277 at Parris Island as well as Marine of the Year



Marine boot camp class picture.
Parris Island

1959-1960. For Coast Guard services, I wear Navy. For Air Force I wear the Air Force Civil Air Patrol uniform which is the same as the Air Force. I have been a CAP member since 1956 and received the the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington a few years ago.

How many horns do you have collected after all these years and what is your favorite for sounding Taps?

I have over 200 but I have several favorites and take 3 with me for each detail.

What is the fiercest weather you ever endured to render funeral honors?

This being Chicago, one winter I sounded Taps for Marine General at five below zero and a 25-mph wind blowing. I stood by a tree with my back and had my hand warmers and heavy coat covering the horn.



Tom in High School (1958) wearing his Chicago Cavalier Drum Corps sweater practicing drill work & saluting his older brother Ken, also a Taft grad.

Did you ever play in a drum and bugle corps? 8th & I?

Was I ever in a Drum and Bugle Corps? The only way I can start this answer is that I was born into Drum and Bugle Corps. My two older brothers were in the Norwood Park Corps, and back then when you turn seven... that's what we did in 1947. They took me to the Norwood Fieldhouse and I was issued my cymbals and played them for a couple years. Then they said, "You're bigger now, HERE IS YOUR BUGLE", a G bugle with one valve. Press the valve and you're in D. My squad practiced down in our basement and my Mom used yell down stairs, "Stop all that G-D horn playing!"

What is your favorite wind band piece?

The National Anthem

What is the most unusual or unique experience you've had when playing?

It would have to be when I was in a church that was so big that when I stopped playing, the last three notes in natural echo were still being heard. The Army soldiers looked over at me and we all had a big smile on our faces.

Which funeral did you participate in that left the deepest sense of pride?

Without a doubt, that would have been for my dad and my oldest brother.



Tom in Anaheim Kingsmen Drum and Bugle Corps Alumni uniform at the Rose Bowl. Tom Day is a cofounder of the Kingsmen.

What is the farthest you've driven or flown to participate in a funeral?

To Rock Island Arsenal Army Base in Arsenal Island, Illinois. It's an Army Fort in the middle of the Mississippi River.

What event has been the most emotional?

Probably just about all the 5000 plus funerals I have done.

Do you remember what you felt when you sounded Taps for the first time and do you remember who it was for?

My first Taps was in the summer of 1950 for a Korean War vet.



Tom in Washington D.C. getting the Congressional Gold Medal from an Air Force 2-star. Awarded for his family's work with Civil Air Patrol which his father, Joe Day, was the founder in the Chicago area.

Have you ever been to a funeral where they had a recording instead of a live bugler since starting BAA?

No.

What are your hopes and dreams for BAA?

My hopes and dreams for BAA is that we will go on as long as we can or until the government gets the picture that REAL Taps is the way to go.

Who will be willed the opportunity to carry on the duties as Leader, CEO of BAA after your life here on earth?

I would like to think it will be someone who plays horn and has all kinds of time and passion to do a great job.

How do you feel about pineapple on pizza?

No fruit! I will seriously pray for the person who asked this.

Superman or Batman - which is better?

Superman and Batman, both have a big job to do. Some flying and some driving is required. God Bless them both. Yes, that's a politician's answer.



Rock Hudson telling young Tom Day stories of his Navy flying experiences.



Tom receives Marine of the Year award, 1959-1960 L-R: Bob Day (brother), Joe Day (father), Tom, Marion Day (mother)



Michael W. Timson - California

The San Diego Youth Boxing is sponsored by the Police, Boarder Patrol, and San Diego Sheriff Officers. Before the boxing match that raises thousands for Youth Boxing, a

dedication to our fallen

heroes is done.

Timson and students sounded harmonized Taps.





Kenneth Fitzgerald - California

On August 13, 2018 in Poway, California, I had the honor of sounding Taps for deceased Pearl Harbor Survivor, John Murphy.

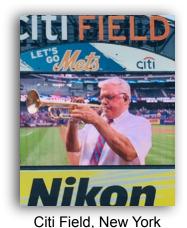
It was a moving service for the 97 year-old WWII Navy sailor and was attended by a great group of veterans. Among them was our oldest living Pearl Harbor survivor, 106-year-old Ray Chavez. As the Navy Honor Guard rifle salute began, and throughout the sounding of Taps, Mr. Chavez bravely stood himself up and saluted, with legs and body shaking. It was all I could do to keep it together through the final note.

Jim Doepke - Florida

After retiring following a 33 year Wisconsin High School Band Directorship and then moving to Florida, I wanted to continue sounding Taps for military honors and performing the National Anthem for major league baseball. After completing all of the spring training parks in Arizona and Florida, I set out to play every major league park in America. This was a challenge on many levels. In addition to personally covering the travel costs, just getting the Anthem dates is often a long, drawn out process. Each park has its own "story." Just completed numbers 19, 20, and 21; St Louis, Pittsburgh, and New York Mets.



PNC Park, Pittsburgh



Looking ahead to 2019 and hoping to get to my remaining west coast locations including, San Diego, Los Angeles, Anaheim, and San Fransisco.

Performing the National Anthem gives me a great sense of patriotism and has led to meeting some wonderful people along the way. I invite you to "check out" my website (www.AnthemAcrossAmerica.org) for details and audio clips!

Michelle Murray-Poczobut

I have sounded Taps for over 182 veterans this year and 257 since joining in August 2017. I will devote all of my volunteer bugler service through Bugles Across America. I get so much joy and satisfaction sounding Taps. All veterans deserve LIVE Taps.

Every time I sound Taps I do it in memory of my dad, a Vietnam Veteran. First time I ever sounded Taps was for him. His funeral director told me about the ceremonial bugle when we were arranging honors and I decided that wasn't right. He needed live Taps. So, seeing as I have a Bachelors degree in music, I learned how to sound Taps and gave him a proper honors. I keep his dog tags in the breast pocket of my BAA uniform that I wear every time I sound Taps.



Rob Severson - Minnesota

Electronic Taps Failure Led to a Do-Over

A few weeks ago, I accepted an assignment from Bugles Across America to sound Taps for a WWII veteran. The requestor stated that his father had been buried several years ago but the electronic device failed so they never had Taps played at his service. He said they wanted it sounded and he and his brothers were coming from around the country to get it done. I thought that was nice that they wanted to honor him with a proper rendition of Taps.

Today I completed the assignment. It was about a 1 ½ hour drive, but I consider that worth it for a WWII vet. I arrived at the cemetery to find three men standing in the graveyard at their father's grave. Dressed casually, they were all alone with no family. I wore a suit and tie for the occasion as I wasn't sure what was going to happen.

After I met them I looked at their father's grave monument. It stated that he died in 1996 almost 22 years ago! They had been thinking about this for a long time, especially one of them. They all felt that they had failed their father without the honor of Taps and were determined to have it sounded for him, even 22 years later. I realized once again the impact of Taps at funerals. It provides closure as it signals the end of a life and it is the final honor families have for their loved one. It was important enough that they came a long way to get it done.

So, I sounded Taps and the three of them stood with their hands on their hearts. They had now finished their task of honoring their father as he deserved.

After I sounded Taps, one of them said that he figured his great-great-grandfather could hear it where he was buried a few yards away. I asked if he was WWI vet and they said no; the Civil War. Their grandfather was a few yards the other way and was a WWI vet. But they said Taps had been sounded for them at their burials.

Thousands of people can sound Taps, so the player isn't important. But Taps is important in many ways to the families of the deceased. I felt privileged to do this for them.



Jim Steele - Florida

I recently had the honor and privilege of sounding Taps at 7:00PM on June 26, 2018 at the Soldiers Monument in Gettysburg National Cemetery as part of the Gettysburg 100 Nights of Taps 2018. While in Gettysburg. I also fulfilled the bucket list item of sounding Taps in key areas of the Gettysburg battlefield. Areas that I sounded from Cemetery Hill, Culps Hill, the NY Infantry and 20th Maine Monuments on Little Round Top, the Pennsylvania

Volunteers

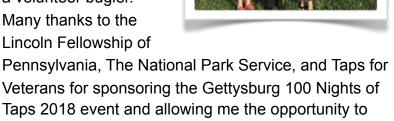
Monument on Big Round Top, Devils Den, the Pennsylvania Monument by the Angle, and Longstreet's observation tower on Confederate Avenue. Words cannot truly express the emotions that I experienced while honoring the tens of thousands of casualties stricken at Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863.

I was truly blessed to share this trip and experiences with my son Conner and my girlfriend Rebecca. I am very fortunate to have their support and understanding as I pursue my calling as

> a volunteer bugler. Many thanks to the

Lincoln Fellowship of

participate in this honorable endeavor.



Jim Steele - Florida (Cont)

The weekend after I returned from Gettysburg, I had the honor of sounding Taps by request of the State Commander, Stephen Shuga, on Friday, July 6, 2018 at 10pm in the lobby atrium of the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort to close the first day of the American Legion Department of Florida 100th Annual Department Convention. Another proud emotional moment, although quite different in that I am not much accustomed to sounding Taps to a mostly live, above ground audience!

Honor and Remember



Taps in the lobby of Orlando Marriott World Center, American Legion Dept of Florida, 100th Annual Convention



Taps at the summit of Little Round Top, Gettysburg



Taps on Cemetery Hill, Gettysburg

Steve Bow - Ohio Assistant State Director

My family and I had a phenomenal trip to Washington DC and the DDay Memorial in Bedford, VA again this year.

During our annual visit to Arlington National Cemetery, I met a Tomb Sentinel on duty wearing his polo shirt (these Sentinels in the polos help with crowd control, work the chains, and sometimes critique and observe their fellow soldiers doing the Guard change). After a brief intro of who



I was, I explained that I had met a Sentinel there back in 2016 and talked to that soldier about







BAA. During this visit, I gave him a pack of patches and small bugle pins from BAA. This soldier, coincidentally, knew the Sentinel whom I met there in 2016! After I gave him the patches and after the next Guard change he met me again outside on the plaza and told me he had just called the Sentinel I met in 2016 personally to let him know I had a patch and pin for him! The Sentinel I met in 2016 is now on active duty in Alaska. It was a great moment. Also my son, daughter and I laid some flags at some key markers around Arlington.

In Bedford, VA my daughter and I sounded Taps twice for the folks there which has become a yearly tradition for us. We do it to honor my father's cousin's brother named Sgt Harold O. Allensworth who was a ball turrent gunner on a B-24 Liberator named "Sweatin it Out" of the 487th Bomb Group, 838th Bomb Squadron. Harold's plane was lost over the English Channel on June 6, 1944 after bombing a target over Caen, France (Normandy). We had a

crowd show up during our second Taps sounding under the Overlord Arch there, and I told them the story of Harold. Harold's name is on plaque W-17 at this wall in Bedford, and is the 13th name on the Wall of Missing at the American Cemetery Colleville Sur Mer, Omaha Beach, Normandy, France.

My family and I will be in Normandy June 2019 for the 75th commemoration of DDay.



David Jensen - Alaska

Life is music.

I remember receiving my first musical instrument as vividly as my first kiss. Both events shared similarities. For this writing, I'll spare the non-sensational details about the kiss and focus on the 1967 Conn Director Cornet that my parents purchased for me just before I began fifth grade.

Oh, what the heck. Since I've broached the topic of young romance, let me at least say this: I've learned that the pucker for a kiss is much different than the embouchure required for the mouthpiece of a brass instrument. Yet, while these 'first time' events were years apart and similarly awkward I knew immediately that I needed and wanted to do a lot more practicing of both in the future.

Now, back to the music and my first horn . . .

I was about to begin school for the year, along with my first music class, at Abbott Loop Elementary School in Anchorage, Alaska. The school was a five minute walk through a trail in the woods from our log cabin home. My sister, Karen, and I were both fifth graders. She had her new clarinet and I, my shiny new cornet, and we were both eager to be in the school band. Most classmates thought we were twins even though she was a year younger. Dyslexia, as it is now called, held me back in first grade. That meant Karen was plagued with sharing classes with me for many years to follow.

Karen excelled with her clarinet from the start. She eventually branched out and added the alto saxophone to her talents. As years passed by she became a virtuoso and performed in pit orchestras for professional theater productions while also holding first chair clarinet positions in school bands and with Anchorage Youth Symphony. She practiced a lot and truly earned her successes throughout the years.

Practicing wasn't my forte. Thanks to the dyslexia I always viewed, learned and thought about things a lot differently than my fellow students. Reading letters, dates on calendars, words and musical notes have always been a forced activity for me. Instead, I learned to listen to the music and then play along to it. I used the sheet music as an occasional reference guide much the way a husband rarely uses a map when driving freeways (so I've heard.) Incidentally, it's been widely reported - by my wife and many credible musicians - that I'm able play the trumpet just as poorly with or without the music in front of me.

Over the years, Karen was sometimes disheartened that I was able to sometimes keep up with her music without as much practice. Her answer was "A trumpet only requires three fingers and one volume level that is locked on 'brash.'" In hindsight, she was correct though I didn't offer credit for that at the time.

As a child, I preferred to take things apart instead of practicing music. Disassembling working objects wasn't to satisfy any sense of curiosity. I think it was a control issue. Perhaps it was a lack self-control. Either way, the cornet was my victim soon after arrival.

Brass horns are a treasure trove of moving parts including slides, springs, gaskets, corks and valves. Taking them apart is really easy. Putting them back where they belong, not so much, especially when it comes to the valves. After taking my cornet apart for the first time, I managed to fit most of the parts back onto the frame. I inserted the valves into their cylinders and tried to blow a note. My cheeks filled with air as I blew as hard as I could. Nothing else happened - not a honk, blat or blare. I couldn't get air to go through the mouthpiece of my brand new cornet.

Upset that I may have broken my the cornet, I put it back in its case and tucked it under the bed. I figured that the next band class was a few days away and maybe this nightmare would disappear by itself.

A few days later, my dad sat me down. "David," he said, "you don't have to play the trumpet if you don't want to. It's your decision. But if you want to do something and be good at it you'll have to practice to get better."

I told him about the problem with the cornet and that I was afraid to say anything. I demonstrated the problem and told him about the disassembly project. Dad looked it over, removed the valves and saw that each had a tiny number engraved "1," "2" and "3." He revealed that the valves were inserted incorrectly. This prevented the air from flowing through the tubes. He handed the cornet to me and I was able to blow a note through it.

I started practicing again and he left the room knowing that I was playing scales as best as I could for a ten year old. Apparently dad knew I was still a little upset because he knocked on the door a few moments later. This time, he had a 1/4 wedge of lemon in his hand. I didn't know why at the moment. But he said "Play that scale again for me, David." I started a B flat scale and dad immediately lifted the lemon to his mouth and started chewing and sucking on it in front of me. For those who don't know, it's virtually impossible to play a trumpet, flugelhorn or cornet when all you can think of is a citrus-inspired pucker happening a few feet away. Laughter ensued for the rest of the evening.

Fifty years have passed since I met my first cornet. My sister, Karen and my parents have also passed. But I still play the horn. It is an inanimate object that connects my song from beginning to ... whenever.

Larry Cichelli - Illinois

My First Military Funeral Honors

In 1980, I was an Army Lieutenant and got a call from the Brigade Commander's Aide-de-Camp. The Brigade Commander was a 1-star General. My buddy told me the General wanted to see me right now. My reaction? What did I do that the General wants to see me? That was answered when I reported to him shaking like a leaf and the General looking rather irritated.

He told me to be at ease that I was not in trouble and that he was frustrated that it took his staff three days to figure out what unit I was in. So I asked him what he wanted from me and he told me that a member of the staff had passed away and Headquarters was going to do a Memorial Service. He told me that the next day they were going to rehearse the service and the following day was the actual service. He also told me that this was my priority mission and said he didn't care what my unit was doing that the memorial service took precedence.

My problem was that the previous week, my unit was told that we were going to conduct mandatory training and the Battalion Commander (Lieutenant Colonel) was not going to excuse any soldier for any reason. The General also told me if my unit had a problem with this to call him and that he would "take care of the problem". After the General dismissed me I went straight to the Battalion Executive Officer, a Major, and explained my problem. He said he didn't care, but I was not going to be excused from the mandatory training.

I told the Major if that was his final answer I had to call this number and showed the Major the phone number. Needless to say that his jaw dropped when he saw the number. He then told me he'd tell the LTC I was to be excused from the mandatory training. I said to him, I didn't think that you and Colonel would want to explain to the General why you countermanded his order.

I was excused and as a gesture of good faith, brought back a copy of the program where I was listed as the bugler. Even to this day, it amazes me how General Officers get their way when it comes to music support.

Tom Dwyer - New York

I recently served three Navy missions at Calverton. The families thought there wouldn't be a live bugler due to the heavy rain we received that day. The Navy was happy to see me also.

Roger Ellis, State Director for Arizona, BAA

The USS Indianapolis (CL/CA-35) was a Portland Class heavy cruiser of the United States Navy. The vessel served as the flagship for Admiral Raymond Spruance in 1943 and 1944, while he commanded the Fifth Fleet in battles across the Central Pacific in World War II.

In 1945, the sinking of Indianapolis led to the greatest single loss of life at sea, from a single ship, in the history of the US Navy. The ship had just finished a high-speed trip to United States Army Air Force Base at Tinian to deliver components of Little Boy, the first nuclear weapon used in combat, and was en route to the Philippines. At 0015 on July 30, 1945, the ship was torpedoed by an Imperial Japanese Navy submarine and sank in 12 minutes. Of 1,196 crewmen aboard, approximately 300 went down with the ship. The 900 remaining men faced exposure, dehydration, saltwater poisoning and shark attacks while floating with few lifeboats and almost no food or water. The Navy learned of the sinking when survivors were spotted four days later by the crew of a PV-1 Ventura seaplane on routine patrol. A rescue effort was then mounted, but only 317 sailors survived.

I accepted a request to sound Taps on April 17, 2015 at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona for Fireman First Class George Horvath, USN, a survivor of the sinking of the Indianapolis. The request was entered into the BAA system by Kim Roller, who is very active with the USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization.

I contacted Kim, told her that I had accepted the mission, and explained to her that I have a very personal connection to the Indianapolis. One of the survivors of the sinking was Dr. Melvin Modisher, who served on the Indianapolis as a junior medical officer. Dr. Modisher was a close family friend of my parents and was my mother's OB/GYN. He delivered me into this world in 1949, I grew up with his children, and spent many happy hours in his home over the years.

Kim wrote the following note after we talked: "Roger, I was so touched by our phone call just now. I even posted about it on my personal FB page. You have such a wonderful personal connection to the Indy story and I'm so thankful that it's YOU who will be sounding Taps to honor George. In doing so, you honor Mel and the rest of the Indy crew who have gone before. Thank you so much."

This photo of George was taken shortly before he passed away peacefully at home at age 94.





Xavier Harig - Illinois

Hello. My name is Xavier Harig. I am 15 years old and I attend Culver Military Academy. I registered with the BAA in 2013 and I have been serving missions for 5 years.

When I received my first mission, I traveled to the funeral home where I was greeted by two military personnel. They explained where I was to stand and when I needed to sound Taps.

As the funeral proceeded in, I went to my position and waited for my cue. I was supposed to start playing when the two service men saluted the flag. I watched the service

men proceed down the side aisle then

march to the middle. They took the flag, put it at tabletop, stood at attention, and then saluted. I just froze. It was very quiet and I did not want to ruin the peaceful silence, but I knew I had to because this was where I was supposed to sound Taps. After a long five second pause, I forced myself to raise my trumpet and play. The sound resonated throughout the room. When I was finished, the room was still very quiet, so I lowered my trumpet slowly. I saw people holding in their sniffles as to not ruin the silence also. After I sounded Taps, the two service men completed folding the flag and then slowly marched out. I turned and marched out with them in front of me. What an amazing experience my first mission was. Every time I sound Taps for a BAA mission, I remember.



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 October 10th.

Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com

Letters of Gratitude



Thank you for arranging to have **Bob Caggiano** provide the sounding of Taps for my wife's uncle today. His dignified performance as well as his professional but friendly demeanor was appreciated by all of the attendees. It is a credit to Bugles Across America that you were able to arrange this honor on such short notice with such a fine bugler. The military never responded to our funeral director. Thanks again for saving the day.

Jeffrey Littman

I want to say THANK YOU!

In honor of my father, I wanted a live bugler at his funeral service and came across complications with my initial booking with another service. I then went on Google for a random bugler search and found Bugles Across America ("BAA")! I then put in a last minute request and the turnaround reply was immediate! It all worked out better than I, we, ever expected! Considering I've never had to go through this.

I thank Roy for his immediate response to my request, and a thank you to **Sheldon** Gordon for his remarkable, beautifully heartfelt performance of Taps, and, his coordination with the Honor Guard we also had present. In honor of this wonderful volunteer service BAA has established and Roy and Sheldon's taking part, I have made a donation to BAA, with a heartfelt thank you. I will share and pass along the positive experience I had with BAA. I also hope this feedback is shared with Roy and Sheldon as well.

All the Best.

Roberta Lara, Daughter of Robert Lara

My family was so pleased with the sounding of Taps for Dad's inurnment in Tampa. **Rich Greco** did a beautiful job.

I am very thankful that there is an organization such as this to honor deceased veterans properly. Thank you for taking the initiative to establish and operate it.

Dad served his country from 1939-1968, first in ROTC at the University of Florida, then active duty including time in the ETO during WWII, and finally in the Army reserves which including several years in the Airborne Special Forces.

All the best, Dave Robinson

Dear Michelle (Poczobut):

I just wanted to thank you personally for your service at our friend George Knob's memorial service at the Applebee-McPhillips funeral home in Middletown this past week. Your bugle accompaniment sounding Taps as a part of the military honors made the ceremony very special for those attending. Everyone present was very moved.

I've kept the card you gave me that afternoon, and appreciate your offer to have me pass your contact information along to others who may be interested in service from Bugles Across America when military honors are being arranged.

My best wishes to you and, again, my appreciation.
Chris Ashman

Dennis Rohrbaugh did a FABULOUS job honoring my Dad. Thanks for your service!

Joleen Hart







It began as a way for a dad to honor his late soldier son. Today, playing Taps for veterans' rites has become Roger Meyer's life mission

By Tim Stanley Tulsa World Jul 3, 2018

As a volunteer bugler at veterans' funerals, **Roger Meyer** is used to not having much say in the conditions.

"In 100-degree weather on a sunny day. In 20-degree weather with a 20 mile-per-hour wind blowing. Indoors, outdoors. In daylight or in dark. I've played in them all," he said.

But there is one thing that he can control.

Something he insists on with the honor guards he accompanies, Meyer always stands in view of the family when he performs Taps.

"I want them to see that it's a live bugler" and not a recording, he said.

Meyer feels a special connection to those families. Especially the ones who've lost sons.

In December 2003, just two weeks before leaving to serve in Afghanistan, his own son, Army Pvt. Michael R. Meyer, was killed in a car accident. He was 19.

Bugling has become Meyer's way of honoring his son's memory.

Meyer is assistant state director of Bugles Across America's Oklahoma chapter, an organization dedicated to ensuring that every veteran's family has the option of having a live bugler at the funeral. Currently, it coordinates with around 35 volunteer buglers statewide — and some 5.000 nationwide.

"All we need is for someone to know about us and to request that one of us show up," said Meyer, a Collinsville resident.

Click for full article

Arizona bugle group performs complimentary Taps at funerals

Jul 4th, 2018 · by Charlene Bisson Scottsdale Independent

While we're celebrating our freedom on Independence Day, let us remember those who have served our country in making it great, and those who are still fighting for our freedoms.

From local community activists to our military men and women, we thank you. I received a letter from Roger C. Ellis and his wife, Mitzi, thanking Independent Newsmedia's efforts of showing support by remembering our U.S. troops overseas by wearing red on Fridays.

Mr. Ellis is the State Director for Arizona of Bugles Across America. He asked if we would create community awareness for the volunteer organization that provides a free, live performance of Taps as military honors at funeral services of deceased Armed Forces personnel.

More than 4,000 buglers volunteer for this organization nationwide.

"We are an 'approved provider' by the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, and all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces," Mr. Ellis stated. "We also will sound Taps for first responders, and at events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day remembrances."

He explained most people are unaware that Taps today is virtually always played using a "Ceremonial Bugle."

This fake bugle with a CD player stuck in the bell is employed by honor guards from all military branches and Veteran Service Organizations because they do not have qualified musicians to play a real instrument.

"We believe that Taps from a recording is undignified and disrespectful," he stated. "A live performance comes from the heart, not from batteries and a speaker."

Click for full article

Tom Day spoke at the commemoration and had on display the type of bugle that was used to sound the notice that there is a gas attack while wearing a WW I uniform.

Cicero Honors Entrance into World War I

Town of Cicero web site

April 6th, 2018

Residents and town officials gathered at Cicero's
Community Center on April 6 to commemorate the 100th
anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I.
The ceremony featured a discussion on World War I, a
memorial to Cicero residents who fought and died in the war,
as well as recognition of the war's impact on Cicero and America.



"We typically don't talk about World War I the way we do World War II, Vietnam, and the Iraq wars," said Town President Larry Dominick. "But these men fought for the same freedoms our military fights for today and we are just as grateful for their sacrifices 100 years later."

What was once called the War to End All Wars ended up ushering in a new era of American foreign policy and laid the foundation for World War II. While the war began in 1914 after Yugoslav national Gavrilo Princip assassinated Austria's Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, the United States did not enter the fight until April 6, 1917 and fought through its end on November 11, 1918. The war's end was known as Armistice Day until 1954, when the date was renamed Veterans Day to honor the veterans of both world wars and the Korean War.







Click for article

Betty McKinney - Pennsylvania

My son, Galen McKinney, sounding Taps at Pearl Harbor. This is a video by ESPN and Bluefoot Entertainment that was broadcast to millions on Veterans Day 2016.

Click for video

He served 8 years and is now with the Air National Guard Band of the Northeast and has been a proud BAA member for many years.



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



Q: A local Scouts group has asked me to bugle for a flag retirement ceremony. It will consist of "To The Color" and "Taps." Would it be appropriate of me to wear my name badge and represent/tell others about BAA at this event even though it is not an official BAA event?

A: Short answer...... "yes". Long answer..... "absolutely"

Q: My father served in the military and am a very, very proud American. Can Taps be sounded for a non-military funeral such as mine when my time comes?

A: It is not officially approved or appropriate to sound Taps for funeral honors other than military. It is, however, appropriate and often presented at funeral or memorial services for first responders... Law Enforcement or Fire Fighters. A general 'rule of thumb' that is often applied: "If the individual deserves a flag-draped casket, they are deserving of sounding of Taps."

Q: We would like to raise the flag to half mast to honor those that lost their lives on 9/11

A: I appreciate your interest in conducting a remembrance on 9-11, however, I notice a possible issue with the detail as you describe it. You mention that you "would like to raise the flag to half mast". Just as an FYI...In compliance with proper custom and protocol, the flag should be raised to the top of the staff, held in that position for a few seconds, and then slowly lowered to the half-staff position. Then at the end of the day when the flag is to be retired, it must be quickly raised again to the top of the staff before slowly lowering it all the way. I know that this is just one 'stickler for details' voicing his concern, but if you should happen to have others (veterans especially) in attendance, they would also be aware of the proper custom regarding display of the flag at half-staff.

Have a question that you want answered?

Please email galaxypilot@verizon.net and place "Q & A" in the subject line.



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 <u>before</u> 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 <u>Contact Directors</u> 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 <u>medical emergency</u> 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 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

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!



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 <u>must</u> be painted silver for wear on the BAA uniform if you choose to include this optional item.
- * Small and large bugle pins with folded flag 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

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)



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













"Bugler On Duty" Magnetic Sign

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

To place an order please contact Vytas Sulaitis at:

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





"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



American Heritage Field Trumpet by Getzen

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

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

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



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

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

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

If you are considering purchasing the AHFT, please email galaxypilot@verizon.net so we can provide membership verification to Getzen.

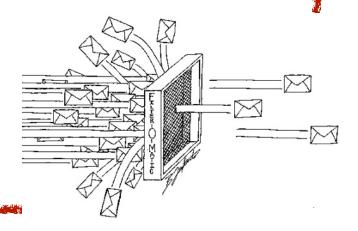


Are you not receiving emails from BAA? You could be having...

Internet Service Provider and Firewall Problems

If you receive email through a service provider such as <u>aol.com</u>, <u>yahoo.com</u>, or even gmail, or you have firewall software such as Norton's Internet Security or Anti-virus, please add our email address, <u>info@buglesacrossamerica.org</u> and <u>requests@buglesacrossamerica.org</u> 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.







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 Gear & Decorative

Bugles Across America Getzen

BAA Bugler Directives Getzen Order Form

BAA on Facebook 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

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.