BAA Briefing

Ladies and Gentlemen, Buglers All Across America.

We are close to the end of our 18th year. It's at this time I look back and see what we have done. I am told that in these 18 years we have provided live Taps for over 125,000 services. All were completed without charge for the families of the fallen. We did this as a team. WOW what a team! I thank you ALL, and God bless you all.

We now start 2019, and the years seem to pass very quickly. I'm sure this year will be a continuation of the dedicated service of the BAA team. If the rate of requests submissions continues to grow as we’ve experienced this past year, we are going to be very busy. This is a ‘busy’ that we are honored to accommodate…. That, of course, is our stated mission purpose.

As I look ahead, the end of 2020 will mark my 20 years as founder and a team member with this great program. My plans are to step aside as BAA President at that time. If you are interested in taking over the responsibilities as president, get in touch with me and learn what it will take to keep the program running.

BAA has done a lot in the greater Chicago region. We have associated with several Veterans groups who conduct programs to help Veterans and their families. We provide help to the Food Pantry so Vets can get free food as needed. We help with gathering clothing suitable to wear for office jobs so Veterans can go on job interviews. We provide help to those living under bridges with blankets and sweatshirts so
they can stay warm. We also have a program where homeless vets can have a military
funeral. This is what happens when you do marketing for what we do as Buglers. We are out
there on our main mission, but others who take care of other Veteran’s issues ask for help.
So, I am invited to their meetings, and they actually have conducted meetings at our BAA
museum on occasion.

Another great example of this ‘marketing’ publicity came about recently in California. One of
our female buglers was engaged to sound Taps for a service and engaged in conversation
with a women who indicated that she was a Gold Star Mom. Our Bugler informed her that
BAA has a special Gold Star Flag. Our Bugler asked is she would like to receive one of
those flags. The Mom was so excited and said, “Yes, and some for my friends who are
Gold Star Moms”. We provided flags and pins.

High Schools in the Chicago area use our BAA medals for their cadets. A specific example is
the Marmion Military Academy in Aurora, Illinois.

My older brother Ken, in Asheville NC, is helping to form a Green Beret alumni unit there.
As one of their programs of outreach, they will also be looking for Gold Star Mothers.

The state of Illinois marked its 200th anniversary of statehood on December 3rd of 2018.
During preceding twelve months, the Illinois Veterans Commission was searching for 200
vets they could recognize for going “beyond the Call of Duty” in serving the needs of the
veteran community. As founder of Bugles Across America, I was honored to be selected as
one to be recognized. I was pleased to join 199 other honorees on the Navy Pier for an
evening of entertainment with local stars and the current as well as incoming Governors. The
certificate and trophy that was presented is now on display at the BAA museum.

To continue a tradition, I put on my Santa suit and took part in presenting gifts to children at
the annual Food Pantry Christmas party on December 8th.

You will recall that at the beginning of the year I announced establishing a personal goal of
sounding Taps for 120 occasions in 2018. Well, at the time I had to send this not on for
publication, I have completed 117 as of December 27th. Even if falling just short of that
initial goal, I feel privileged to have served that number of times to honor the vets with my
horn.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2019, as we continue to remain engaged in our mission of
properly honoring the veterans and serving their families. God Bless you all for the great job
you have done for 18 years.

Your Brother Tom
Founder and Bugler, Bugles Across America
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:
- Iowa
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- North Dakota
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Washington
- 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 contest for December 2018 is complete!

The winners drawn from all who entered are….

Grant R. Jones of Wisconsin
Tim Griffin of New Jersey

Congratulations to these fine BAA members!

The next drawing is in February. 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.. Generally we choose one male and one female winner each issue. We did not have any female participants in this latest drawing. 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.
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

“How will I know if I won?” Three winners will be selected randomly by drawing from all correct entries on January 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
We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #42 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

And the winners are....

William Boland of New Jersey
James Houston of Georgia
Robert Wilson of Virginia

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.

And, by double-blind drawing a selection has been made for the semi-annual Grand Prize of a nice horn (selected by Tom) from the BAA Closet.

The Grand Prize Winner is....... Donald Root of Texas

Where was it?!
David Dodson - Mississippi State Director

David is a Vice President / Senior Credit Review Officer with a large regional bank located in Memphis, TN. He serves as an Examiner-In Charge leading examinations across the bank as the last line of defense to manage risk at the loan portfolio level. David has 25 years of banking experience to include Credit Risk Manager, Commercial Team Lead, Relationship Manager and Portfolio Manager roles.

Prior to banking, David served in the United States Air Force (Nuclear Missiles- ICBMs) for 6.5 years while completing his undergraduate degree. He also served in the Mississippi Army National Guard for 1 year as a Cavalry Scout. David holds a B.S. in Management from Park University (Honors) in 1994, an MBA from Webster University in 2006 and a certificate from Barret Graduate School of Banking (Honors) in 2012.

David was inspired by Tom Day a couple of years to pick up the horn himself (no music background period) and learn Taps. This came after Tom helped David on a Saturday afternoon secure Live Taps for a WWII and Korean War Veteran. He has since sounded Taps for a few funerals. David is striving every day with practice on a cornet and lessons from his teacher to become a more mature bugler.

David lives in Nesbit, MS with his wife, Donya and his 6-year old daughter Madison. Madison is also known to practice with Dad from time to time. A Dad can only dream for one day-Father and Daughter sounding Echo Taps.
**Behind the Bugle**

**Your Stories**

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**Nick Harper - Florida**

Bugles Across America sent out a request for a bugler to sound Taps at the Gator Harley Dealership located in Leesburg, Florida on September 15, 2018 for Rocking for Awareness (4 Paws 4 Veterans). I accepted the request and sounded Taps at this event. I must say I've never had so many Veterans thank me for volunteering and for sounding Taps at their event. I consider it a high honor to do so any time I can.

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**Tim Park - Colorado State Director**

I just wanted to introduce Henry Stoffer. Henry is 14 years old and is a member of Bugles Across America in Colorado. Henry signed up on the BAA website in 2017 and auditioned in September at the 2017 Veteran's Day event at Ft. Logan National Cemetery, after his successful audition, Henry performed Echo Taps as his first BAA event. Since then, Henry has stepped up and completed several events.

Henry performs with his school Jazz Band and the school’s marching band as well as playing Little League Baseball.

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**Alan L. Newhall - Illinois**

This morning I participated in a memorial service for a veteran of the British Army (2nd Parachute Regiment). The funeral director had obtained a Union Jack, which was presented to the widow. Then I explained the symbolism and played "Last Post" and "Rouse". The family was very appreciative, and I enjoyed doing the research to help appropriately.
Craig Wagner - Florida

I could find only one proposed ceremony for remembrance of September 11th in my town of Kissimmee, Florida. It was to be held at the local campus of Valencia State College. After finding out that they already had a bugler (not BAA) I still had a hankering to try to help in our community. Why not my own housing development? So, that afternoon I canvassed every home along my street, (most everyone knows me already, thankfully), handed them my BAA business card with my picture, and told them that at 6:30 by the flag at Mr. and Mrs. "so and so's" house at one end of the street, I would sound Taps. If they would like to come out to the sidewalk and observe, that would honor our country in a community way. I was able to contact all but 3, which were out of town. When the time came I was quite surprised to see many of them actually coming down to that end of the street, though I knew the trumpet sound would travel far and reach past all of the houses. What a true show of great community support and honor for that 9-11 Remembrance, and with a flag as a backdrop. (Our street has at least 4, 25 foot tall flag poles with American flags, and many draped from houses!) Afterward, many of the residents stayed around and just mingled, talked and had good "community time!"

Prior to another service for an Army veteran, I had the privilege to speak with the family member that had arranged the ceremony at the local Masonic Lodge in Orlando, FL. She mentioned that following this very special observance, in one month’s time, her father's remains would be taken to Ohio and interred there with a color guard who only had a mechanical trumpet to play Taps. I urged her to get in touch with the Ohio state chapter of BAA and request a live bugler for that ceremony also. "Oh, I wouldn't want to take advantage of BAA since you are already here to sound Taps for us in Florida." I told her that we will be in Ohio for her and the family just like we are in Florida for her and the family.

The week after the Orlando ceremony I received an email of thanks and an affirmation that, Yes, the Ohio chapter of BAA would surely provide live TAPS for her father's interment also!

From one state to another, even within the same "family," the fulfillment of our duty and the honor due our veteran's can be met.
Cara Pollard - Texas

My father passed away recently. He was 89 years old and a World War II veteran. He was an amazing man who worked hard his entire life. He was a marine like my first dad, although my first dad only made it until his 29th birthday having lost his life in Vietnam. I was awarded the privilege of sounding Taps at the Vietnam memorial in DC over the 4th of July many years ago to honor my first dad. Two months ago, I wanted to honor this dad and sound Taps at his burial. The morning of his funeral, I started my usual trumpet warmup knowing I would be performing under difficult circumstances. I was shaking, and tears were rolling down my cheeks as I warmed up and ran through Taps. I didn’t think I could do it and was about to tell my family, but I kept quiet. We all got into the limousines at 10am. It was a beautiful day, much too beautiful for a funeral. Dad would’ve loved that weather – sitting out on the back porch on his metal porch swing with his German shorthair, Iris. Except it was a Friday – so he would be at work at the dealership. He was just there two weeks before he passed away. He should be there now.

The funeral director told the limousine drivers to drive past the Ford dealership that my dad had run for over 50 years. They had the flags at half-mast. I kept thinking to myself that there was no way I could do it; I couldn’t sound Taps. How could I even breath when my chest and throat were this constricted? At the beginning of the church service, I still felt like I couldn’t go through with it. It was during my brothers’ words about our dad that this strange calm came over me. Then my nieces spoke and my cousin. We sang the hymns and then it was time to go. There was still that strange calm. I could feel the devastation of losing my dad and the grief, but this was something else, like him whispering to me that he was still there and how much he would love to hear me sound Taps. How much he always enjoyed listening to me perform.

We went to the cemetery. The weather cooperated, and it was a sunny mild October day. I sounded Taps at the end of the burial service and felt that he was there smiling at how beautifully I performed. I could feel that he was proud of me for doing this and being a part of Buglers Across America.
Donald Root - Texas

My journey to become a registered Bugles Across America bugler…

When I first saw Tom Day talking about Bugles Across America I knew then I wanted to become a Bugler. I had played the trumpet in high school, so I thought to myself; how hard can this be? In January 2014 when I moved to Texas I ordered a Getzen Field Trumpet, and quickly learned how hard it is. For the next four years, work got in the way and my bugle sat on the shelf safely in its case. When I retired from a second career in December 2017, I figured I would begin again.

I joined Bugles Across America in January 2018 and read all the posts and directives excited with the hope of becoming a bugler. I listened to all the Taps renditions on the internet, downloaded the sheet music and began practicing every day. In the early days, my wife, an Army brat of a career Command Sergeant Major who had heard Taps nearly every day of her life, found any excuse to run errands, go shopping, help the neighbors, and anything else to find herself out of earshot of the sounds coming out of my office. Over time, things got better and now it actually sounded like a recognizable familiar tune… and with her encouragement, I continued my practice.

In early May 2018, I had my first audition with the Texas State Director. With a few cracked notes it was my best sounding yet. With my upcoming shooting schedule, I opted to not become a registered Bugler and would schedule another audition in late June. Now it was off to Tucson AZ for the annual Armed Services Skeet championships. As an addition to the normal activities at the Hall of Fame Banquet I was to sound Taps following a short explanation of the Missing Man Table. At the banquet without signal, I began my first sounding of Taps. To my satisfaction, and that of my table mates, Taps was sounded as all in attendance had heard many times. The short ceremony brought many of the wives and my sister, with her only son deployed, to tears. I realized then the emotions Taps can elicit and gained a valuable appreciation for why we do this.

With these under my belt I was now ready for my first Bugles Across America mission. I did not have to wait long. A request had been made for a 99-year-old veteran of the US Army Air Corps from WWII. In speaking with the coordinator, the family wanted Taps sounded during the Flag Folding ceremony, and when the casket was being lowered. Being an odd request, I
discussed this with the Texas State Director. Normally Taps is only sounded once but if the
family wanted twice, it would be ok. The next day at the grave-site, the coordinator, the USAF
detail, and myself discussed the sequence. The detail had sent along their own Bugler to
sound Taps. Not recognizing or asking, I know better now, if they were using the electronic
bugle it was agreed that they would sound Taps during the flag folding and I would sound
Taps during the lowering of the casket. This was the most important to the widow.

The short ceremony began, the USAF performed flawlessly I discovered it was an electronic
ceremonial bugle. I was a bit surprised. I had been requested and felt a bit deflated. The
USAF team then departed and following a few words by the Rabbi and on signal from the
coordinator I sounded my first live Taps. As the casket was slow in lowering, I held on to a
few notes a little longer in order to last for the lowering. With no cracked notes and a thumbs
up from the coordinator I quietly left knowing I had done a good job for the family.

In closing I am proud to be a certified member of Bugles Across America and serving once
again.

Kimberley Shaw - Massachusetts

2018 marks the third time that I've sounded Taps at the Pearl
Harbor Commemoration at the Charlestown Navy Yard, thanks to
the invitation of its Marine rifle team, the Leatherneck Honors
Society. It is the first time, however, that my picture showed up in
two local papers! Fortunately, BAA got credited in the program
booklet (printed by the USS Constitution Museum), if not by the
media.
Mike Reeves - Virginia

I was asked to play Amazing Grace on trumpet at a Veterans Day remembrance last year. I’ve often been asked to sound Taps at such events, and in looking at the music for Amazing Grace I realized that except for a few notes it could be played on a bugle. Accordingly, I composed the attached arrangement of Amazing Grace for Bugle. It was well received when I played it, explaining beforehand that the bugle is normally restricted to only five notes.

After I played it through on the bugle, I followed with three verses on trumpet, accompanied by pipe organ. I played the second verse muted and in a minor key to evoke feelings of the darkness of war and death. Then on the last verse I modulated up a step for a grand and triumphant finish.

Today, I sounded Taps at the funeral of another WWII Veteran, the third I’ve done in 10 days. Sad, but a testimonial to lives well lived and of service given freely.

Amazing Grace for Bugle

Arrangement C. Michael Reeves, 2017

19th Century American Melody
Charles Vanover - Kentucky

This past Memorial Day, I was asked to sound Taps at the Memorial Day service at Mammoth Cave National Park where I am employed as a Park Guide. I was fortunate enough to actually get to sound Taps at the Visitors Center and in the cave at the monuments dedicated to those in Kentucky whom had perished in “The Great War”. These monuments are located in the rotunda, directly adjacent to the Saltpeter Works from the War of 1812. The monuments were dedicated in 1929 and remained on display until the 1960’s. The monuments were removed from display to prevent vandalism during a period where this part of the cave was a self-guided tour. The monuments were cleaned and officially rededicated in late August 2017. By chance I was leading a tour in the part of the cave just after the monuments were returned and I just have happened to bring along my trusty Slingerland bugle. I halted my tour group and sounded Taps, thus unofficially rededicating the monuments with live Taps.

The official ceremony, held a couple of weeks later, was unfortunately graced by one of our “favorite” battery operated bugles.

I felt honored to be asked to sound Taps in this very historic spot. The dirt that was processed in the Rotunda, 140 feet underground, directly played a part in the victory by US forces in the War of 1812. A large percentage of black powder produced for the war had one of its components originate from Mammoth Cave. In the event you find yourself at Mammoth Cave look me up. The monuments can be seen on the Historic, Discovery Self-Guided, Mammoth Passage, and Gothic Avenue tours.
Moving up to State Director

In February of this year I accepted the position of State Director for BAA in Arizona. Each month in our newsletter I see a list of states that have a vacancy for State Director, so I am sharing some thoughts about my experience in the hope of inspiring one of you to fill each of these open positions.

Prior to officially being appointed as State Director, I spent some time on the phone with Howard Reitenbaugh, National Coordinator. Howard explained in detail the responsibilities of the State Director and reviewed the additional functions that a State Director can perform on the BAA website.

My first act was to appoint my beautiful bride Mitzi as Assistant State Director. Mitzi has worked alongside me to build a stronger BAA organization in the state. I next created a spreadsheet of individuals who were registered in Arizona as buglers including their contact information. I sent an email introducing myself as the new State Director, and I asked each person to respond and indicate if they were still willing and able to be involved in sounding Taps.

To each person who indicated that they wanted to continue with BAA, I sent a follow up email with several questions to learn more about everyone. Working, student or retired? Available during the week? Available on weekends? Music background and current performing activities? I learned that we have an incredible wealth of talent. Our roster in Arizona includes two former Air Force Honor Guard buglers, a doctoral student in trumpet, several current and retired music teachers, two police officers who have served as buglers while on duty, a Bugling Merit Badge counselor, several veterans who were military musicians while on active duty, several folks who have played professionally in orchestras and big bands, and many individuals who perform in community music groups or at their house of worship.

In instances where I did not hear back after multiple emails, Mitzi followed up with phone calls. We identified several individuals who either no longer had valid contact information on file, who had left the state, or who were no longer willing or able to serve. One individual left Mitzi speechless when he explained that he had been told he would be paid and would not volunteer unless he was going to see some money. These individuals, including the mercenary bugler, were removed from the roster leaving 55 active buglers.

We were surprised and concerned to learn that in 2016 and 2017 there had been an average of only 25 requests per year in Arizona for buglers to sound Taps. We immediately set out to
increase the number of requests. We attended the annual convention of the Arizona Funeral, Cremation and Cemetery Association (AFCCA) in June in Tucson. Mitzi and I conducted the opening ceremonies for the convention with the assistance of the Davis Monthan Air Force Base Honor Guard, and I addressed the convention attendees on behalf of BAA. We also had a display table in the vendor area for the duration of the convention. We went to work establishing relationships with the various military branch offices that assign funeral details in Arizona. These and other efforts resulted in an increase in mission requests to more than 125 to date in 2018. Our goal is to double that number to 250 in 2019.

We also set a goal of 100% mission acceptance. I monitor the status of each request that is submitted and send out a reminder by email regarding those requests that have not been accepted as the date for the service draws near. Our acceptance rate for 2018 is 94%, and we are working to get better in the new year. I recruited more buglers in areas of the state where we were receiving requests but had no one in the immediate area. Part of the recruiting process is auditioning all new volunteers and orienting them to their duties as a Taps bugler.

The best part of this job is knowing that we have so many highly qualified volunteers who are willing to give of their time and talents. Of the many notes that we have received and conversations we have had with families and buglers, here is one that stands out. It was written by bugler Sheila Foraker on November 23, 2018:

“Today I had the honor of sounding Taps at the funeral service for a US Navy veteran. I hope you don't mind me sharing my experience. I met with the Navy Honor Guard for instructions. The sailor in charge explained when he wanted me to sound Taps, but what struck me was how he explained my part in the Military Honor. He would invite those in attendance to rise. Then he would salute me because I, the bugler, would be Sounding the Honor. I was instructed to return the salute, then we would both slowly drop the salute together. Then, at the sound of the first note the honor guard salute the flag until the last note.

How could it have not occurred to me the meaning of "Sounding the Honor" until today? I've sounded Taps many, many times. Today was different. I cannot summon words to express what I felt as I closed my eyes and began to play. The bugle’s somber tone echoed through the small chapel. Everything vanished except for those 24 notes. The sound changed me. The Honor Guard changed me. I am not the same bugler I was earlier today, and that is good. Although I cannot explain it, I get it. I am beginning to understand what it means to Sound the Honor, Honor the Sound.”
Fred Cantu - Illinois
My son, Maynard, got to spend an afternoon and have lunch with Tom Day from Bugles Across America. Checked out lots of bugles and learned some history. Maynard’s already working on Taps and is hoping to be the youngest member as soon as he is ready. Maynard also has a new blue trumpet. Thank you to Tom Day for spending the afternoon with us.

Campbell Whitford and Michelle Murray-Poczobut - New York
Campbell Whitford and I (Michelle Murray-Poczobut) sounded Echo Taps at the Orange County Veteran's Cemetery in Goshen, New York on December 15th, 2018. This is our second year we were invited back to sound for the ceremony. What an excellent opportunity to serve and get to work with a wonderful fellow bugler.

Bruce Caswell - Michigan
At the predetermined time this week it was my honor to sound Taps at the Grosse Ile Airport as a salute to then Lieutenant George H. W. Bush who was stationed here on the island in 1945 when it was the U.S. Naval Air Station Grosse Ile.
Barry Martin & Roy Zanni - California

It was a sunny day at 9am on Oct 20, 2018. A beautiful single-engine Cessna aircraft owned and piloted by a San Diego, CA. BAA member, Barry Martin, took off from Gillespie Field in El Cajon CA. with another BAA member, Roy Zanni, in the passenger seat journeying 350 miles to Modesto, CA.

Let’s back up a few weeks before this flight though. Tom Day had gotten a rather unique request from the Pacific Project Heroes, an NPO that supports vets and first responders. They asked if someone from BAA could give a short talk about BAA at their biggest fund raiser/banquet of the year as they had heard about us but didn’t know much about what we do. Howard Hudson, the California State Director was asked by Tom Day to coordinate this request. Howard called me to see if I could do it. Facing a 6-8-hour drive didn’t make this request very appealing to either one of us but Barry, a fairly new BAA member, told me when he first came on board about his plane and his pilot experience. (Navy and American Airlines pilot) I contacted him and told him about the event. What do you know, he grew up in Modesto and said he would love to fly up there for this event.

So off we flew that Saturday morning to Modesto. Three hours later we touched down. As it happened that day was the monthly lunch held inside the Commemorative Air Force hanger with vintage war memorabilia including mostly planes. Barry knew a lot of the pilots there and we had a great lunch.

Saturday night was the event in nearby Oakdale. We got there early to check out the site as the plan was to sound Taps and an echo sometime during the evening. We met Lori and Bob Lotz the founders of PJH and organizers of this event. Very impressive with their work for the vets and first responders raising thousands of dollars for numerous groups in the area every year. I think anyone who was anyone in Modesto and Oakdale was there that night. 1000 folks minimum was my guess. About a dozen organizations were given a chance to talk, BAA being one of them. When it was my turn I spoke for about ten minutes explaining who we are and what we do. No surprise it was an eye opener to all in attendance. (I don’t know about you but I get that a lot of, “You do what? You sound Taps for free”).

After the talk Bob and Lori presented BAA with a giant cardboard check for $1000. It has since been reduced to normal size and sent on to Tom Day. We did get to sound Taps (Barry) and echo (Roy). Many folks approached us after that, some in tears, thanking us for what we do. Bob wrote me an email a few days later thanking us for coming up and spreading the word about BAA. Part of his email read “Of all the events we have done I never saw so many folks cry/choke up when you and Barry sounded Taps and that echo” Very rewarding for Barry and me and we were honored to do it.
Aidan Peterson - Pennsylvania

To say I was busy in November and December is an understatement. Here are just a few of the events I attended.

I started out with an invitation from the city of Philadelphia to kick-off their live coverage of the 4th Annual Veterans Day Parade on 6ABC by sounding Taps and being interviewed about my volunteerism.

For the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, I took part in the nationwide Taps at a ceremony hosted by Saving Hallowed Ground.

I also participated for the fourth year-in-a-row at Brittany Pointe Estates Veterans Day Ceremony, where I thanked a 103-year-old WWII veteran for his service.

I was invited by Delaware County Community College and Harcum College to participate in their campus-wide Veterans Day observances as well.

The biggest honor was to serve at the funeral of Army Staff Sgt. Karl R. Loesche, who was a POW and then declared MIA. His remains were identified and returned to his home in New Jersey after 76 years. The Philadelphia Inquirer included me in their front page story of the coverage of this event.

On Giving Tuesday, November 27, I was selected as one of 20 young people, from across the Country, to receive the TruStage Community Spark Award for my service to veterans. The competition recognized exemplary young people from coast to coast who are actively taking strides to improve their communities through volunteer and community service activities. In recognition of my efforts, TruStage donated $1,000 to Bugles Across America.

I participated in the nationwide sounding of Taps for former President George H.W. Bush on December 6.

As the convoy headed to Arlington for Wreaths Across America, I participated in the ceremony held at The Chapel of Four Chaplains, as well as the wreath laying at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.
Tom Day - Illinois

I had the honor of sounding Taps on Veteran’s Day at Rose’s Fish Fry at the VFW hall in North Riverside, Illinois.

Guardian Corps of America’s founder and president, Anthony LaPiana and GCA’s Area 1 DuPage County, William Gebel Jr., came to visit and get a tour of the BAA Learning Center.

The BAA Learning Center is a museum dedicated to the U.S. Military and preservation of American Values.

This was La Piana’s second visit and Gebel’s first. They were very impressed with all the historical documents, photographs, military uniforms, bugles, news articles and so much more.
Michael Newbrough - Washington

I decided to join the worldwide commemoration of Armistice Day (as part of BAA) on November 11th, 2018 and ventured over to a park in our small town (“Causland” – after the first soldier from our area to die in WW I)

Taps came out perfectly, and after the last note died away, a man in his forties came running up – from a block away – to ask if I would do it again. I declined (It shouldn’t be repeated as a “request” though I did drive quickly home & sounded it again from my front deck out over another part of town). Anyway, he seemed very moved, had fought in Iraq, and thanked me profusely. We then exchanged salutes; very poignant moment for us both.

BTW, I’m a retired college professor & lifelong trumpeter (still in two bands locally), and have sounded Taps at several local cemeteries and events on Memorial Days over the years. It’s the easiest and yet most profound kind of “volunteering” that I’ve ever had the honor to do.

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 February 10th.

Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com
Letters of Gratitude

David (Dodson), the service was beautiful. We miss her and it was a hard day. We are so thankful for the service of the Bugler (Steve Guinn) and for all the follow Buglers that give their time. It would not have been the same without him. Thank you for getting me in touch with all the right info and for helping make it happen. And thank you again, above all for your service to our country. May God bless you in all that you do.
Sincerely,
Wendy Scallions

Good Morning Kimberley (Shaw),
I am the mother of Robert Thomas Sferrazza.
I personally want to thank you for doing the honors of sounding Taps at my son’s funeral. You did a beautiful job and I wish I thought to tell you that morning. It meant the world to me and my family, that you would take the time to this for us. I know Robert was smiling and proud.
You forever touched our hearts, thank you,
Denise Barbuto

Thank you so much Robert (Fluss) for sounding Taps at my father’s funeral. Your playing was flawless and beautiful. I wish he had been there—he would have been so proud.
Another beautiful job by your bugler James Gallombardo at Rosemont Cemetery, Rosemont NJ for Charles Ray Douglass, USMC. The clarion call of the bugle rang out across the the cold, clear air at the quiet, rural cemetery as the Marines reverently folded the flag and gave it to the family in a way that always causes me to tear up without even knowing the deceased. Thank you for all your volunteers who honor those who gave this country some of the best years of their lives. This occurred today, Dec. 11, 2018 and we are the people who set everything up at the cemetery. 

God bless you all and prosper what you do!

Dear TSgt Raymond Keel,
I wanted you to know just how much our family appreciated you and your service when you sounded Taps for my father, William Netzhimer, on March 11, 2013. It was very moving to see you waiting for my dad at the Montevallo National Cemetery, never flinching even in the rain. The memory of the sound of Taps still resonates in my ears and my heart.

I've been to other military funerals where they have used the tape recorder behind the trees and there is absolutely no comparison to having a live bugler send a veteran off to their final resting place. What you and your fellow buglers do for the veterans and their families is remarkable and greatly appreciated.

I apologize for not sending this earlier. I have thought of you and your service many times over the past nine months and could not let another day go by without telling you of my deep gratitude for your service.

Thank you and I wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.
Jane McMunn

Dear Bugles Across America,
Thank you fo the work you do for our veterans.
Rosemary Holt
I discovered your organization earlier this year when my youngest brother, Peter O’Sullivan, passed away unexpectedly. I reached out via the website and heard back that day! Bugler Dennis Aquilina was assigned for my brother’s memorial service, which was held on August 11, 2018 in San Francisco.

My family is ever so grateful for the absolutely wonderful service your organization provided in respectfully helping us pay last respects to my brother.

A donation was made today via Network For Good but I wanted to send a note to let you know how pleasant and kind Dennis was. We will never forget what his live performance added to the memorial service/military honors.

What a wonderful organization and how lucky you are to have Dennis represent you.

Thank you
Mimi O’Sullivan

Dear Mr. Isaac Cruz,
I would have sent you a note but didn’t get your address! Thank you for giving me your card so I could email you.

My family and I are so very grateful for your part in honoring our husband, dad and grand dad. The ceremony was so beautiful. I really appreciate you giving your time and talent to serve in this way. It added great respect to the whole proceedings.

God Bless you and Yours,
Laura Stone
Wife of Don Stone, deceased
The story behind why this bugler sounds Taps each night to honor veterans

By Bruce Henderson
The Charolette Observer
November 08, 2018 03:40 PM

When dark falls, the people of a Matthews neighborhood listen for the lonely military call that signals a days’ end: A bugler sounding Taps.

“I keep track of what time the sun goes down, step out on my front porch and sound Taps,” said former Army Reservist Don Woodside. “If I forget to play, I get phone calls from neighbors — ‘Are you sick?’”

There are stories within the story, this Veterans Day, of Woodside’s bugling. They’re tales of loss and remembrance that begin before World War II, recount the tears shed for a father’s sacrifice and are still playing out today.

Woodside, 77, is a volunteer with Bugles Across America, which offers players to sound Taps at the funerals of military veterans. He also sometimes sits at the Mecklenburg County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, playing into the long, granite arc to magnify his horn’s sound.

He does this to honor all those who served, but one in particular: his late uncle, Milton Woodside, a Charlotte native and World War II fighter pilot who survived more than three brutal years as a prisoner of war in Japan.

After his 1940 graduation from the Citadel, the Charleston military college, Woodside had entered flight school with the Army Air Corps and become a pilot of P-40 Warhawks, a single-engined fighter plane. In the summer of 1941, the young second lieutenant was stationed at Clark Field in the Philippines with the 20th Pursuit Squadron.

Click to read more
Kimberley Shaw - Massachusetts
I got the surprise of my life when I opened the Boston Globe recently. Then later in the day, a friend told me that my picture was in the Boston Herald as well!

Remembering the attack on Pearl Harbor at the Charlestown Navy Yard
By Emily Sweeney
Boston Globe
December 7, 2018

State Veterans' Services Secretary Francisco Ureña and other officials stood solemnly aboard the USS Cassin Young and watched as a colorful wreath went over the side of the ship and dropped into the cold waters below.

The wreath-laying ceremony was held Friday afternoon at the Charlestown Navy Yard to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Ureña noted the absence of Pearl Harbor veterans at the ceremony, and said there are only a handful of survivors left in Massachusetts.

Click for online article

Tim Park - Colorado
This is from The Denver Post!

By Kirk Mitchell, November 12, 2018
Tim Park, with Bugles Across America, gets covered with snow as he waits to play “Taps” during the Fort Logan VA National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony at Fort Logan National Cemetery on Nov. 11, 2018 in Denver.
Roger Ellis - Arizona State Director
General Motors publishes a newsletter for all retirees on a monthly basis. I sent in a suggestion in response to a call for ideas for articles about the activities of retirees that was received favorably.

Retiree Sounds “Taps” To Honor Veterans
GM retiree Roger Ellis didn’t know Army Specialist Ryan M. Lumley, but as members of the Patriot Guard Riders, Ellis and his wife Mitzi accompanied Lumley’s casket from Lakeland, FL, to the Bushnell National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL in 2012. Lumley had been killed in action in Afghanistan.

At Lumley’s funeral with full military honors, Ellis was struck when “Taps” was sounded from a recording device, not by a real bugler.

“That was an epiphany for me,” Ellis said. “I had just become aware of Bugles Across America and I knew then that I wanted to get involved with the organization.”

Congress passed legislation in 2000 that provides at least two uniformed military people to fold the flag and pay Taps at the funeral of all military personnel. The sounding of Taps is almost always done using a recording, due to a critical shortage of qualified musicians. Bugles Across America (BAA) was founded that same year with the mission to identify real buglers to volunteer to sound at the funerals.

“It’s all about dignity. We want to leave the family with something uplifting, and to know someone came out without pay to sound Taps and honor their loved one,” Ellis said.

Today, BAA has more than 4,000 volunteer buglers nationwide and a growing number overseas.

Ellis is the state director for Arizona for BAA, and Mitzi is the assistant state director. Their goal is to provide a live bugler at 100 percent of the military, law enforcement and first responder funerals in Arizona, as requested.

His roster of 58 volunteer buglers have serious musical backgrounds. It includes former Army musicians, music teachers and concert band members. Ellis himself started playing trumpet in the fifth grade and has played in competitive drum and bugle corps, concert bands and quintets. He currently plays trumpet and flugel horn in a big band.
“We’re always looking for volunteers, and we ask them to audition, because it’s more than just sounding the 24 notes of Taps. The services are highly emotional, and it takes a certain amount of concentration and experience to be able to sound and not let your emotions get involved,” Ellis said.

In addition to providing buglers at funerals, BAA uses the donations it receives as a 501©3 non-profit to “help vets across the land not only with Taps, but wherever we can,” including: a food pantry that serves vets; a program that provides clothing to vets who are transitioning to civilian life; and a special recognition flag and pin to Gold Star Mothers.

Ellis retired from General Motors on March 1, 1998, after a 30-year career in manufacturing and manufacturing engineering.

Veterans have a special place in the hearts of Roger and Mitzi Ellis. His father was an Army Air Force pilot during World War II, and Mitzi’s aunt and uncle were liberated from Auschwitz by US troops.

It’s been Ellis’ honor to sound funeral Taps for more than 175 veterans.

Please visit Bugles Across America to request a bugler, volunteer as a bugler, or for more information.
Patricia Fedler-Konyha - Kansas

I was featured in the VFW Nebraska November newsletter for the Taps Across The Nation event, and sounding Taps for it.

Auxiliary Member Honors the Fallen
Patricia Fedler-Konyha is a life member of VFW auxiliary 131 in Lincoln. Patricia started a Facebook group named Taps Across the Nation on August 26. Her idea was to try and get as many trumpet and buglers across the United States to stand up where they live and sound Taps for John McCain at 2 PM EDT on Sunday, September 2 as a last sound off. 229 people decided to sound Taps at that time when John McCain would be buried at Annapolis. Patricia organized everyone who volunteered to play and made a map to show locations of the players. Forty-four states had individuals sounding Taps at all the same time from various locations. When all had finished on September 2, they sent videos and pictures of themselves. Pat took the videos and photos and made a single video to send to John McCain’s family. She is pictured here at the Vietnam war memorial in Wichita on September 2nd.

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
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 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: I have 3c & 7c Kelly mouthpieces.

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)

Website to order
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
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 aol.com, 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 and 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.

**“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
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

## 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

## Gear & Decorative
- Getzen
- Getzen Order Form
- Kanstul
- Scentsy Service & Sacrifice Warmer

## 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

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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.