BAA Briefing

My fellow Buglers,

There are times when news travels by way of the ‘grapevine’, and it becomes a bit garbled or misleading. A very recent case in point is the change in leadership for New Jersey. I would like all to know what is currently happening with BAA as well as some history of how we got started as an organization.

In 1999 I was doing a reburial service for an Irish Union Army Veteran at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. I believe this has been posted on the net. While doing this mission I heard that a Federal Law was being passed that would assure Veterans are able to a secure Military Funeral Honors, if requested. I thought this was a very good thing, but wondered where they would be getting all the LIVE Horn players.

I soon discovered that they would allow the use of a recorded version of Taps. Say what? Yes, the government did allow a recorded Taps to be played on a cassette tape or CD in a boom-box.

This proved to be so very much less than the veteran’s family expected, or the veteran deserved. It is almost beyond my imagination to comprehend how anyone felt that pushing the Play button on a boom-box represented the true dignity of honors the veteran deserved. In fact, there was enough of a cry of complaint that in 2002 the government approved the use of a new device they called the Ceremonial Bugle. The only difference between this electronic device and the boom-box is that it looks somewhat like a bugle. In reality, though, it is still a gadget to play a recording when someone pushes
the button and fakes playing Taps. The dignity is still not there. Although if all works as it is supposed to, the sound of accomplished Army bugler Woody English rendering those 24 notes is usually very nice, but it is still ‘faking it’. However everything does not always work as planned. Batteries fail; operators push the button at the wrong time (or not at all); the MP3 recording track can skip or keep repeating the same two or three notes; and probably the most inglorious… that little device would fall out of the horn and roll on the ground while playing the notes of Taps. I introduced the military folks in this area to those handy little Velcro squares! This digital horn, or e-bugle, or Ceremonial bugle is still being used around the country, but that brings us to the reason for our beginnings.

In January of 2000, I began Bugles Across America with the idea of creating a database of available horn players that could be called on to sound live Taps and keep the batteries in the box. As word got around, horn players would call me and I would write their name and contact information in a book organized by state. Soon thereafter a computer operator in Chicago called and offered to organize my notes into a searchable computer file. This beginning started our wide-spread collection of buglers that could be directly contacted as a need for sounding Taps became known. This was working and becoming ever more inclusive to include a discussion forum for members and sharing of information. As the system grew in complexity and use, it became more of a chore than the one-man operator was able to keep up with. In May of 2010, after much warning, he reluctantly ‘pulled the plug’ on us. We were floundering in search of a replacement computer networking host, when Howard Reitenbaugh in Pennsylvania called me and offered to approach “IT Architechs” of St. Louis, MO. They agreed to take us on and have donated most of their services while building a replacement network to host BAA. They have been serving our needs since launching the current website in October of 2010.

Then in late 2015, former New Jersey State Director said that he could put together a website that was more functional and responsive to our growing needs. As an employee of IBM, he told us that he could arrange for them to take on BAA as website host. We gave him the green light to pursue this project. In spite of reported progress in planning, the project drug on for well over two years with no apparent target being made available for this change to take place. So over the past 18-plus months when we were being told the plans were moving forward, in reality it seems that the only thing being done was this director along with two non-members were transferring our data to the Cloud with intent to run a web system themselves. Then I directly asked Jim when IBM would be taking over our system and putting us online; he finally had to admit that “Big Blue” was not going to be serving as our web host.

With this extended delay and basically hiding the intent, I stopped all further approval for these individuals to grab our data. The New Jersey State Director was dismissed from
serving in any capacity as tech advisor for us, and when it became apparent that he had
made his member profile ‘invisible’, I made the decision to remove him from all access to
Bugles Across America data. We need to be served by a tech host that allows us to call in
and talk to them, and should something happen to me or Howard, we, as an organization,
could continue to function and grow. I will be attending the National Elks Convention in St.
Louis in July and have made arrangements to meet personally with the owners and techs for
IT Architechs while I’m in town.

We advise anyone who would consider taking our data and format to be aware that they may
be stealing copyrighted material. We have successfully gone to court before in order to
protect the Bugles Across America trademark and copyright.

I want everyone to know that we intend to ‘live on’ in service to the veterans and their families, just as we have for the last 18+ years.

We have already put in place a new and capable State Director in the important state of New Jersey, and as shown elsewhere in this newsletter we are seeking directors in several other states. If you reside in one of those states, and have the administrative capability, please consider taking on the role to further the mission of BAA in your area.

All annual financial filings have been completed and delivered to the federal and state offices. We have used the services of H&R Block for these tax filings, and with their national reputation and insurance, I know it’s been done right.

As a note of correction, in the last issue of our newsletter, I spoke of a fine group of brass players that would be providing entertainment for the Chicago Memorial Day parade, and we mistakenly identified them as “Seen Wave”. Oops! That group is properly known as “Sein Wave Brass”. I’m going to have to ‘hire’ a better team of editors, I guess.

We are heading quickly in to one of our busiest times of the year as we support all manner of Memorial Day activities, parades and ceremonies, but of course those are in addition to the on-going primary mission of BAA..... providing live, real buglers to sound the honor and honor the sound.

I thank you all for this outstanding and unselfish offer of your time and talent to serve this mission.

Tom Day, founder and bugler
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:
* Delaware
* Iowa
* Massachusetts
* Michigan
* Montana
* 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 April is complete!

We have FOUR winner this issue! The winners drawn from all who entered are…. 

Linda Lee Stanley of Massachusetts  
Commander Loretta L Stroth of Maryland  
Rebecca Weber of Illinois  
Terry Dowd of Florida

Congratulations to these fine BAA members!

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

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

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

Winner of #45

Dear Tom,  
Thank you so much for sending this wonderful Andalucia trumpet. It was a complete surprise! It plays really well, and has a great sound. I can’t thank you enough. It has been very rewarding for me to sound Taps for Bugles Across America. The families of our veterans are very appreciative, and have been so kind to me. BAA is truly a great organization and was much needed.

Tony Scuderi
Check us out in **Drum Corps World!**

**Drum Corps World** is published FREE 17 times per year as an on-line electronic magazine by Sights & Sounds, Inc., Madison, WI. It is supported by advertising from manufacturers, service providers, drum corps, circuits and show sponsors. The publication began in October 1971 at the same time Drum Corps International was formed and has been produced continuously as a tabloid newspaper until April 2011 and on the Internet since May 2011. It is released monthly, as well as five additional e-mail blasts — one in late June, three during July and one in August, between the June, July and August monthly editions.

The worldwide staff of writers and photographers provide show reviews during the season and interviews, feature articles, news and human interest stories during the off-season.

The photographs and articles that appear in the magazine and on this Web site are provided exclusively to Drum Corps World by 30 staff photographers and 38 writers who are scattered around the world. The publication covers World and Open Class Drum Corps International corps, Open and Class A Drum Corps Associates corps, alumni, mini-, SoundSport, Drumline Battle, parade and standstill units, as well as the growing activity in Europe, the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Philippines, South Africa, South and Central America.
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 May 30th. Winners will then be contacted by email.

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

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

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

Good luck, happy ‘bugle hunting’!

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

In the Bugler’s Post, Issue #: _____
I found the BUGLE hidden on page: _____
in the: _________________________
(describe the specific location, such as article, paragraph, line number or picture)

Name: ______________________

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

Telephone: ____________________

Mailing Address:
  Street: _________________________
  City: ____________________________
  State, Zip: ______________________

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

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

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

Copy and Paste this form into your email. Fill in the blanks and email the entry to findthebugle@gmail.com
We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #45 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

And the winners are....

Con Snavely of Pennsylvania

Robert Groeling of New York

Drew Bahlmann of Iowa

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?!
Grand Prize winner from issue 44

Dear Bugles Across America,

I want to thank you for the wonderful Grand Prize of the Andalucia horn I received earlier this year. I was pleasantly surprised when I opened the case at the beauty of the piece. I love the bolder and richer tone, and its ease of play.

I had the opportunity to sound Taps with the horn a couple weeks ago in Pasadena TX. for an Iraqi War veteran who was tragically killed. It was a windy day and the horn carried superbly through the wind.

The ceremony was organized by several of his service friends and was a very emotional event for all and the most difficult for me to date. It was truly an honor to be able to sound Taps for him.

With Many thanks,

Donald Root
CAPT/USN (ret)
Gary Marquardt - Minnesota State Director

My name is Gary Marquardt. I have been a BAA Bugler since August of 2015. I have been appointed as State Director for Minnesota.

I am very happy to be able to serve my fellow Minnesota BAA Members as your State Director. I have experience leading non-profit, volunteer organizations. I am past President of the Minneapolis Rotary Club, past President of The Children's Program of Northern Ireland as well as having started my own successful business in 1980 in Minneapolis, Engineering Repro Systems. After a long career, I retired in 2011 and devoted my time to my family, Rotary, watercolors, and in 2015, after a disappointing funeral recording of Taps, I met Tom Day, bought a horn and took lessons having never played an instrument.

I will have been married 50 years to wife Joan this May. We have eight wonderful grandkids. I love boating, golf, playing my trumpet and painting watercolors.

BAA has given me a name and a reputation to stand behind as well as a mass of information on protocol, mistakes to avoid and a respected brand that stands for nothing but to honor our veterans with the most dignified and respectful symbol of gratitude possible. Taps.

I look forward to meeting as many of my team-members as possible and working to make every members experience a rewarding gift in their lives.

I look forward to helping Tom and BAA fulfill our mission.
Pat Bocker - Nevada Assistant State Director

Pat began her marching career in 1978 with the Cadets of Greece from Rochester, New York as a mellophone player in her first year. After the DCI season of 1982, she entered the United States Marine Corps as a mellophone player with the drum and bugle corps in 29 Palms California. This was her last year marching drum corps for twenty-four years as no all age corps was close to her home in Southern California. All that changed in 2009 when So Cal Dream changed their location to about five minutes from her home. She joined Dream in 2009 until 2010 playing mellophone. Pat marched all age corps from 2009 until 2017 marching with So Cal Dream, Empire Statesmen, Fusion Core and Kidsgrove Scouts, from the U.K. In 2018 Pat was elected to the Vice Presidency of Drum Corps Associates, the governing body of all-age drum corps. Pat also continued supporting junior corps and taught for the Watchmen for two years. During the 2011 season, Pat was introduced to Bugles Across America. Being retired from the military as well as a bugler for the Marine Corps, this was her calling. Unfortunately Pat was unable to volunteer as she was still working.

Pat retired from her full time job in 2017 and she and her husband Anders moved to Henderson, Nevada. She volunteered for Bugles Across America and has been a member for over a year. She feels that this is an ideal way to give back to the military and fellow Veterans, a very worthy cause. She is excited to take on the next step in her work with BAA and hopes to spread the word in Southern Nevada so that military honors are always sounded live.
Larry Schillings - New Jersey State Director

Larry has been a member of BAA since 2011. He was born and raised in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, where his father put the uniform on every day as the administrative officer for the US Army National Guard unit in Northern Wisconsin.

Larry started sounding Taps at MFH at the age of 14 as his Dad organized all MFH ceremonies for Northern Wisconsin. This continued through high school and college as well. Larry’s brothers were in the US Army as well with his oldest brother being a Captain and his youngest brother awarded the Bronze Star in Viet Nam at age 19.

Upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in music Larry took a job as a high school band director in NJ. In addition, he was also the brass instructor for the Garfield Cadets and a Drum & Bugle Corps judge for many years.

In 1977 Larry left teaching and joined his wife’s family business, resulting in the purchase of the company in 1999. He did not play a trumpet for thirty years until two events took place.

His youngest brother, a Bronze Star recipient, died in 2010 and Larry went back to WI to help organize his full MFH ceremony and was surprised to hear that live Taps was non-existent in his hometown area. The following Memorial Day he was moved by BAA’s Founder, Tom Day’s interview on national TV on the Fox News Sunday program.

Larry went out and bought a trumpet and it took him one year to get into acceptable playing shape before joining BAA in 2011. Being semi-retired Larry has been active in our organization receiving the New Jersey Honor Ribbon in 2017, one of four presented to the New Jersey Chapter of BAA members.

Larry and his wife Jean live in Morristown, New Jersey, and are the parents of three sons.
John Noonan - Kansas

I am bugler and a volunteer for The Kansas Honor Flight (KHF) organization. I got involved with KHF after meeting them at a “Veteran Providers’ Coalition of Sedgwick County” meeting. I provide BAA information at the Coalition meeting along with other veterans services organizations.

In 2018, KHF sent 437 Veterans to Washington DC in 12 flights. When the flights return to the Wichita Dwight D Eisenhower National Airport, the veterans are welcomed home with a ceremony. They are escorted to a meeting area led by a musician playing a bagpipe. Friends, families, and veterans line the route, saluting and clapping for them.

At the meeting area, the leader of the Wichita KHF opens the meeting by thanking the airlines, airport and sponsors. A high school junior ROTC color guard presents the colors. God Bless America is sung, and the Pledge of Allegiance recited. There is usually a dignitary who speaks such as a congressman/woman, city/county official, etc.

Then for each set of the veterans, we “Welcome home” the WWII veterans, known as the Greatest Generation. Then we “Welcome home” the Korean War veterans, often known as the forgotten war veterans, you are not forgotten. After that, the Viet Nam Veterans, who were not welcomed when you came back… welcome home. Then we remember and pay a tribute to a special group of veterans… those who made the ultimate sacrifice and did not make it home. We observe a moment of silence in their honor. Finally at this time, I sound Taps.

It is a significant honor to memorialize the hundreds of thousands men and women who did not make it home. Each time, there are one or two attendees who approach me to say thank you and share a special meaning Taps had for them.
Pete Gasiewicz - New Jersey

I’m a 64 year old Marine who served during the Viet Nam Evacuations in 1975. I joined the corps in 1972 to keep the family tradition as dad served on Guadalcanal in WWII with the famed First Marine Division.

I’ve played trumpet since the fifth grade. I tried to get into the Marine Band but they had other ideas and put me in the infantry. I’ve been an executive in the HVAC industry my whole life and I’m currently CEO of CCOM GROUP INC here in Hawthorne, New Jersey… soon to retire.

I’ve played on and off my whole life. When we came back from Viet Nam people did not feel the same way about us as they did other vets so I wanted to show respect to all veterans by joining BAA. I’ve done five funerals so far and I can tell you this has made me more proud of my service by sounding Taps for other vets. I am so happy to be doing this.

My goal is to get down to Marine regulation weight, cut my hair to regulation length and to sound Taps in full dress blues. I’m not far from my goal! I’m hoping this further helps the cause and I can’t tell you what BAA has done for this Marine.

Michael Amodio - New York

This is a photo of me sounding Taps for the dedication of a memorial for Medal of Honor recipient Michael Murphy. The memorial is located in front of the Patchogue Post Office, Long Island, New York. The women in the photo looking at the memorial is Michael Murphy's mother Maureen. I have had the honor of sounding Taps for three other memorials dedicated for Michael Murphy.

The others are located in front of the American Legion Post 269 in Patchogue, NY; by Lake Ronkonkoma, Ronkonkoma, New York and at Long Island MacArthur Airport, Ronkonkoma, New York. It was truly an honor to be chosen to sound Taps for our local Hero who was born and raised in Patchogue, New York.
Gary W. Lapine - Massachusetts

As a Veterans Services Officer for three towns in south-central Massachusetts, I meet dozens of veterans, and their spouses, widows, and children every year. However, a few years back, while attending a Memorial Day dinner, I met Charles Kady Sr. Charley was a local legend. While at the dinner, he spoke of his experiences in World War II. He landed on Normandy Beach in the second wave assault. He was a mechanic! He left the beach an infantryman. Shortly afterwards, he was assigned to the 3rd Army under General George Patton, and they fought their way across France to the German border. By then, it was winter and the Battle of Bastogne was in full swing. General Patton, and Charley went north to relieve the siege, then onto the Ruhr valley. Charley had been wounded twice and received the Purple Heart.

Later, I learned that in a few weeks, Charley was to receive the Croix de Guerre from the French government for his service in France. Since he no longer had a uniform, I thought it fitting to get one for him. So, I did. He was tickled wearing it, and was so proud to wear it during the presentation.

Charley died earlier this year. He was dressed in his uniform, and while his family did not request military honors, I showed up, assisted the funeral personnel in folding the flag, and after the family left. I sounded Taps.

Bruce Caswell - Michigan

On Veterans' Day 2018, I sounded Taps in my neighborhood and also at the Veterans' War Memorial here in Dearborn, Michigan.
Mark Wentz - Minnesota

Recently, I sounded Taps at a funeral for the first time. I was pretty nervous going in, but I think I did well. Before the mourners arrived, I was talking to the two soldiers who were there to perform the flag folding ceremony. I mentioned that I had only started learning a year ago, so I had to practice most days to get to the point where I was ready. One of the soldiers asked, "You play this at home a lot?" I told her yes, I did. She replied, "Oh, your poor wife." She had a good point, so, as a thank you for putting up with my learning to play an instrument for a year, on the way home I stopped by Baker's Square and bought her, my son, and my daughter some pie and cookies. I also bought a gift card for the person from whom I was taking bugle lessons. A lot of people supported me on my way to that funeral.

The next day at work, I told my supervisor that I had finally sounded Taps. She told me I should contribute my story to the department newsletter. I did and my coworkers were very supportive as well. A week or so later, the news department for the business I work for caught wind of my story. They wanted to write their own story about it. Well, a local television station caught wind of THAT story, and asked if they could do a story about it. That's a more complicated situation, so that hasn't happened; at least, not yet.

The main responses from the stories have been thankfulness to me for helping and reiterating that live bugle is more meaningful than a recording of Taps--even if cold weather affects the sound of the bugle.

Richard Greco - Florida

My father was a disabled veteran of WWII. I volunteer to sound Taps to honor my father, and the rest of the veterans who should be honored.

I had the honor to sound Taps for a Veteran of WWII who fought bravely in the Battle of the Bulge. His son wanted to thank me by sending me a copy of his father's memoirs of the war. It was truly meaningful and incredible to hear his stories.
Joey Stone - Oklahoma

Tuesday December 4, we laid to rest my 92 year old father-in-law, George Franklin Waggie. He was a WWII Veteran. I drove 4 ½ hours from Granite, Oklahoma for the funeral. After the service at our local Assembly of God Church in Wynona, Oklahoma, we were escorted by the Honor Guard Motorcycle group to the Oak Grove Cemetery in Chautauqua, Kansas. Part of the motorcycle group missed the turn to the cemetery and the other two turned around and followed us in. We waited for a short time while they tried to get the others on the phone.

The temperature was 46 degrees with a slight northern wind. After a several attempts and no luck at getting them to answer, the minister proceeded with the graveside service. When he was done, they called for one of the Honor Guardsmen to at least present the flag. He apologized for the mishap from his other riders and stated that all he could do was present the flag. I leaned over and told my wife that before I left our home that morning, I had an intuition to grab my trumpet. My wife got his attention and said that I brought my trumpet. He stated that he didn’t know how to play one. I said that I did. So, Tuesday, I got the honor to sound Taps for my wife’s hero and father.

Jeff Kaplan - California

Each year the Boulder Creek Historical Society sponsors the Veterans Day Dinner at a local restaurant. The first year this was held a member of BAA sounded Taps at the end of the dinner. After this speaking with this bugler, (I’m sorry I don’t know his name), my wife decided that I should join the organization, and I of course agreed. Here I am at this year’s dinner.
Deborah Moulton - Indiana

Veteran's Day holds a place in our hearts as golden as the bugles we play and this year was no exception for me.

My mission was at Radford Green at Sedgebrook in Lincolnshire where the elder veterans were assembled in a cozy room. I was tasked with blowing the Call to Order to begin the observance and, of course, Taps at its end.

But the middle...now THAT was truly poignant. Linda Rockwell, program director, announced each veteran by name, branch of service, rank and years of service. They were approached by a young staff member who was also a veteran. He presented each honored veteran with a framed certificate, a pin and a small flag. He then took a step back and saluted. This was done for each and every veteran in attendance. For those who were not able to attend the ceremony a similar presentation was to be done later in each in their rooms. It was all done with such respect and dignity; I was deeply moved and impressed.

I was also, surprisingly, asked to speak about BAA; what it is and how I became a part of it. It was an honor to enlighten others as to the service of this remarkable volunteer organization. I only hope I did it justice in an off-the-cuff speech.

I am grateful to my parents whose demonstrations of patriotism were so influential. Not only that, but it was due to their hard work and sacrifice during very hard times that my cornet was purchased despite their meager income. Yes, I play that very same horn today, 53 years later. Just as I have squeaky joints and wrinkles, so does my cornet have its dings and crimps. But that is of no consequence because we can both still "sound the honor and honor the sound."

Bob Burtness - California

I learned about BAA from a scout leader at our camp 13 years ago. After retrieving my trumpet, which I have had since the fifth grade, I decided to practice the necessary time to get my lips back into shape to sound Taps in a manner where I imagined that I personally knew the honored veteran.
Larry Icenogle - California

I had an interesting thing happen to me recently. I received an e-mail request for a bugler, but this was for a TV show scene involving a bugler. My calendar was clear, so I called the phone number listed on the request. The lady answering the call was from an organization called Veterans in Media & Entertainment, and she had submitted the request through normal BAA channels.

I sent her a photo and bio, as I do with all my requestors, once I've accepted a mission. About 20 minutes later, she calls to tell me that the production team 'really liked me' for the job, and that she was setting me up for a fitting next day in North Hollywood. I took my uniform and trumpet with me to the fitting, in the event the wardrobe folks wanted to send a photo of me to the production staff. When I got to the fitting, however, it was decided that 'since I didn't look like a young Army bugler' -- probably since I'm 6 weeks' shy of turning 70 -- they'd cast me as an Army chaplain. I told 'em, "My mother would be so proud; she always wanted me to be a priest!"

They hired a young man to be the Army band bugler, but the irony is, he wasn't an actual bugler at all. He just 'looked the part,' and they used one of the digital recordings for the shooting of the scene. This is a photo of me in costume as 'Chaplain (Lt.Col.) Denison, U.S. Army.'

Everyone participating in the filming had to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement about the scenes involved in the shooting day, so I can't tell you what show it is or when it will air, but I nonetheless thought you might find the story a tad interesting, in that it all began so routinely, as all my previous BAA missions have been! I did use the opportunity to hand out several of my BAA cards, however, in order to get us some additional exposure for the good things we do in supporting our veterans.

Mike Saliba - Georgia

I sounded Taps at Andersonville National Cemetery for the annual "Wreaths Across America" event. Over 15,000 Wreaths were placed on most of the 20,000 grave markers by more than 500 volunteers.
Sarah Gamblin-Luig - Missouri

On November 3rd, the Soldiers Memorial in St. Louis reopened after a two-year, $30 million renovation project. When the memorial closed, I was asked to sound Taps as part of the closing ceremony, which I did on February 28, 2016. This was a special honor for me, not only because of that event, but because I had worked in the building and knew the desperate need for so many of the upgrades that were about to happen. The memorial was once again going to be fitting of the purpose it serves.

I joined the crowd and awaited the reopening ceremony. As this was a celebration, my services were not needed and I was able to watch and listen to the ceremony and the many distinguished speakers who were there before walking through the newly expanded gallery space. It was an incredible transformation. The week was filled with many events to celebrate the reopening and honor our service members ahead of Veteran's Day. The following Sunday, I once again put on my BAA uniform, and climbed the memorial stairs to stand in my specially selected spot (where it sounds the best) and just after the firing was complete, I sounded Taps at the memorial once again.

Manuel Fíorez - New Mexico

I just want to tell you about sounding Taps on Veteran's Day 2018. It was in two cemeteries here in my town of Artesia, NM. No special ceremony, just myself, my horn, and all the veterans resting there.

I then traveled to a neighboring town (Roswell, NM) to render Taps at their small Veteran's Cemetery. My brother, a Vietnam vet, is buried there.

It was very cold, in the mid-thirties, so it was a chore to keep my chops warmed up! Thankfully I sounded Taps with no major "glitches".

I am honored to sound live Taps for our fallen brothers & sisters and I am so proud to be a member of BAA.
Steve Bow - Assistant State Director, Ohio

There was a big surprise waiting for me when I showed to sound Taps for a graveside mission on March 30, 2019.

The US Army soldiers gave me a folded flag in appreciation for me sounding live Taps for them at this graveside mission. The challenge coins are the Warrior Citizen Award of Excellence and the Service to America War on Terrorism coin. I was somewhat of a celebrity too because these young soldiers (a lieutenant and an SPC) had never met a real Taps bugler before. They asked lots of questions. The soldiers were also a little green doing graveside honors and since I’ve had 6 years doing these I was able to gladly help them with positioning, rendering arms and so on. It was just a very nice gesture.

At first I thought they were joking and after a few seconds I realized it wasn’t and choked up a little. Doesn’t happen often.

Anyways - I’m proud to serve the Veteran - no more and no less! Sound the honor and Honor the Sound!
**Richard Mühlbauer - Wisconsin**
I sounded Taps at a couple Veterans Day programs.

Horizon Elementary School, Pewaukee, Wisconsin

The Veterans Day program here, a tradition for over 20 years and organized by Guidance Counselor Amy Farrow, included remarks by Principal Pete Gull, introduction of Veterans, a History of Veterans Day by Jean Miller, student speeches on Patriotism, a patriotic song by the Horizon Choirs directed by Amy Barootian, Presentation of the colors by the American Legion Color Guard, and the sounding of Taps. After the program, Veterans visited classrooms to answer questions about their military service.

**Veterans Day Mass - St. Jerome Catholic Church, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 11/11/2018**

This program was organized by the local troop of the American Heritage Girls, the premier Christian-based character development organization for girls ages 5 through 8.

The program included Presentation of the Colors, refreshments for the Veterans after Mass, a ceremonial folding of the American Flag, and the sounding of Taps.

**Hal Herdklotz - Texas**
I am a volunteer and have sounded for military honors since I was 15 years old. I am now 66. I joined this organized because we share the same mission. The last time I accepted and sounded Taps was for a memorial service. The person had seen a tv news show about this organization and told his family he wanted someone from Bugles Across America to provide service. I was honored to be there to represent us and his family was very kind and appreciated the service.
Samuel Young - Kansas

Like all buglers I am frequently asked by a family member, or the individual before passing, to sound Taps at the deceased's funeral. Several years ago my wife introduced me to a Korean War/Vietnam War veteran and Class of 1950 West Point graduate who owned the jewelry store near the shop where she works. She said I needed to visit with him as he has very interesting Korean War stories he enjoys sharing. She had already told him about me. When I entered his shop I immediately saw his Korean War experiences display. As we chatted, he pulled a bugle off the shelf and handed it to me. He asked me if I could play it. I immediately sounded Taps on it. As I handed it back to him he said he wanted me to sound Taps at his funeral. He then told me he captured the bugle from a Chinese soldier during one of the many Korean War battles in which he fought. We met many times after that initial meeting and he frequently reminded me I was to sound Taps at his funeral. Just a few weeks ago I asked him if he wanted me to sound his Taps on his captured Chinese bugle? He immediately and bluntly replied "NO!" I emotionally sounded Taps for him on my U.S. Model 1892 bugle on 21 December 2018. Colonel, thank you for sharing your combat experiences and giving me the honor of sounding your Taps.

Bill Nelson - Texas

Bill Nelson, Nelson Dotson and Mike Davis sound Taps honoring veteran and 41st president of the United States, George H.W. Bush, at the Lubbock Area Veterans War Memorial. Nelson, Dotson and Davis were part of a cooperative effort of about 500 people sounding Taps at the same time across the country.

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

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

The deadline for this is June 10th.

Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com
Letters of Gratitude

Larry Cichelli sounded Taps for interment of my parents on April 6, 2019. He was very professional and excellently played Amazing Grace and Taps for my father who was a WWII veteran who served in Northern Africa and Italy. His efforts in obtaining a flag and bringing a respectful military presence to the ceremony were most meaningful to our family who attended from Indiana, Ohio, Oklahoma and Colorado. Thank you for providing this wonderful service. A donation was made in his name to the Wounded Warrior program.

Sincerely,
Mary Musson

My uncle, CWO Freddie J. Turlo USCG (Ret.) was buried today in Waterville, Maine. One of your buglers (he served 5 years in the Marines) from Bangor, Maine attended and sounded Taps. Excellent. Thanks for the wonderful service that you perform.

Patrick A. Turlo, Captain, US Coast Guard (Ret.)

Steve Bow,
Very difficult to put into words how thankful we are for your participation in dad’s special day. The beautiful song will forever play in our memories of him. I know he was smiling down on you that day!

Dave
I want to thank you for volunteering your time to sound "Taps" at Florian Kovacevich’s funeral at Resurrection Cemetery on January 14, 2019. It was a beautiful tribute and very much appreciated. Our entire family sends their heartfelt thanks.
Sincerely,
Jeannette Daddono

Col. Larry Isonogle sounded Taps in honor of my brother, RM1 John R. Roche, and my dad, MSGT John J. Roche, at the Veterans’ Memorial at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, CA.

His “Taps” was the most beautiful I've ever heard. I am an Army brat and have heard Taps many times. Col. Isonogle showed heart and respect for his comrades and their families. He was impeccably dressed in his Army blues down to his spit shined shoes. You have a great ambassador for Bugles Across America with Col. Isonogle.

Dear Friends,
Once again BAA came through for another veteran. February 9th, 2019 was sunny, but the temperature was 21 degrees with a stiff NNW wind. Your bugler, whom I've met before at this cemetery, recognized me and warmly shook hands. I so appreciated his willingness to come out this blustery day. Also, he always leaves humbly without giving us a chance to thank him. The funeral director did acknowledge your group to the gathering as he pointed to all the flags flying stiffly among the many headstones. Your volunteer played Amazing Grace as the flag-draped casket was carried to the grave and then sounded Taps. He played it beautifully and from his heart. Thank you all once again; well done! FYI, the location was St. Magdalen’s Cemetery in Flemington NJ and the deceased's surname was Fullan.
Rosemary Fields
Carla Beaudoin - Maine State Director

I'm writing to commend one of my buglers. His name is Gerald Riley from Caribou, Maine. During his latest mission Gerald endured an outdoor temperature of only 29 degrees with wind. The military Honor Guard did not attend. With Gerald being the only one there, he presented the flag. The family was very disappointed the Honor Guard but I feel that Gerald went the distance to facilitate a better outcome. This action gives me cause to suggest all BAA buglers learn what the military is saying to these recipients at this poignant moment, and take a knee to present the flag in the absence of military personnel. Thank you!

I want you to know that everything went very well. Rene Serrano (Florida) was the bugler at my dad's military funeral on March 30th. Rene was extremely nice and played well. He would not accept a gratuity either and said to add it to the donations we got in honor of dad. Rene Serrano was superb. Thanks to BAA and Rene the service was a success.

Regards,
Brad White
David Dodson - Mississippi State Director

Mississippi BAA bugler, Drew LeBlanc, sounded Taps recently for a fallen Army Veteran in Hattiesburg, MS. You can see and hear him here. Well done Drew!

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: I was recently told by a local VFW representative that civilian buglers that had not served in the military were not allowed to sound Taps at veterans' funerals. Is this true?

A: This all too often repeated (and utterly false) claim is nothing more than an attempt at 'turf protection'. I invite you to find (on-line available) DoD Instruction 1300.15, pub Dec 27, 2017. See Section 2.4, paragraph g. I have included it here for your convenience, but best to have full reference to give to these folks at your local VFW.

Many times each month various branches of the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard) come to us directly to request a live bugler to support their honors details, and they don't try to specify the bugler be military (active or veteran). They know full well who we are and that we have bugler volunteers of all ages and no requirement of being military veteran. Of the total membership of Bugles Across America, I would guess that we have just as many (if not significantly more) civilians as veteran. I say that I would have to 'guess' because we have no reason to ask the individuals who apply for membership with BAA if they are military or veteran. It doesn't matter to us, and as you can see, it doesn't matter to Dept of Defense.

Howard T Reitenbaugh
National Coordinator

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**. If you’ve lost track of your password for log in, send a message through our Contact Us link to let us know. You will shortly thereafter be contacted with a temporary password to allow log in and instructions of setting it to your own choice.

**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 Directors’ in the blue tab bar next to Contact Us. 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
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
"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

Bugler on Duty
Sounding “Taps” For Heroes
BuglesAcrossAmerica.Org

"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 two presentations. The Standard Model (M2003S), and the Elite Model (M2003ES), both in beautiful silver plate. 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
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
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.