

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



Reaching Out

by Tom Day, Founder



Now, a look back at Arlington and the great job Jari Villanueva did with Taps 150. The people, the feeling, and the results.

BAA members had a huge part in the numerous Taps 150 and Memorial Day events across the country. You made new friends, saw old friends, told your stories... and what happened.. we now have over 400 new members! Thank you!

Ladies and Gentlemen keep up the great work.

Our Logo

I've often been asked how we came up with our BAA logo. Well, when I was starting BAA I knew we needed a logo. It just happened to be that I had just seen the movie *Saving Pvt. Ryan*. I got to the last part and tears just flowed as I saw all the Crosses and Star's of David at the Normandy Cemetery. I added the Bugle and the words and that is how it happened. Later, John Collins of Mass. suggested the logo would look great in color. So John did up the new logo and sent it in. I loved it and now we have what you see today.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Taps 150 Ice Cream Social!

September 29, 2012 in Countryside, IL

Please join us for a great music and history program with ICE CREAM.

Our program is called "Requiem for an Era" in honor of Col. Truman Crawford U.S.M.C. Drum and Bugle Corps

8th and I Streets, Washington, D.C. and the 150th Anniversary of the hardest 24 notes called Taps.

The Taps 150 Ice Cream Social will be September 29, 2012 at Helping Hand Center, 9649 W. 55th Street, Countryside, IL from 1:00-4:00 P.M.

The program starts with a prayer by Civil War Rev. Jerry Kowalski, followed by a 45 minute program of Patriotic Civil war songs, a short presentation and then about two hours of spirited patriotic music.

At the close of the show will be a short history of the origin of Taps and its first player, Mr. Oliver Wilcox Norton, who after the Civil War finished his life in Chicago and was cremated at Oak Wood Cemetery at 67th Street and Cottage Grove in Chicago. Civil War ReEnactors are welcome to set up a table to pass out info about their programs.

Then on September 30, we will have two buses at Helping Hand Center at 10:00 A.M. for a trip to Oak Wood Cemetery. Many important Chicago people are buried there, like Jessie Owen, famous Olympic track star, Mayor Washington, and many more. Part of this cemetery is a National Memorial Site as it is the location of a big memorial for over 4,000 Confederate Soldiers who died at Camp Douglas, down the street, during the Civil War. Here a wreath will be place in honor of Bugler Norton and Live Taps played for Norton, who died about October 1, 1920.

So come on out and fill your sweet tooth and your soul with history and great patriotic music.

The program is free for Helping Hand clients and their families and other guests. It is a chance to see one of the finest care centers for those with disabilities. The bus ride on September 30th is optional, and will be for the first 78 people who sign up. The program is sponsored in part by Helping Hand Center and by Bugles Across America nfp & Taps150.org



The 1st Annual Honor & Remember Concert Hamilton, Ohio

Join us for a day of entertainment and fellowship at Veterans Park in Hamilton, Ohio. Help us honor Ohio's Hero's and their families.

Our event will include a selection of live music, speakers, food vendors and local vendors including area 501(c)(3) organizations. Help us honor these parents, spouses and families.

This event will be on Saturday August 11, 2012 from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Food and music will be from noon to 10 pm.

Our headline act is Nationally known local blues artist and Veteran, [The Sonny Moorman Group](#)

Tickets are on sale NOW: \$10 per person ages 13 and up. 12 and under FREE.

Concert Sponsorships are also available for sale. Levels start at \$100. Sponsorship Levels of \$1000 and above have flag sponsorships built in.

All profits from the concert will be used to purchase personalized Honor and Remember Flags for Ohio families that have lost a family member in our country's Armed Forces.

For tickets or sponsor information (click) [Contact Tom Mitchell](#)

or by mail at:

Honor and Remember of Ohio, LLC.

P.O.Box 13079

Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Know of an event?

Submit events to BAA.JDay@gmail.com for inclusion into the next newsletter.

The Bugler's Post is published every other month, so please give plenty of time for the event's notice.

KEY NOTES: MEMBER EMPOWERMENT

Dear BAA Member,

There has been an alarming amount of emails that have come into us over the past several months, all regarding the same several themes. These are all things that have been discussed in the previous issues of Bugler's Post.

- * **Loss of username or/and password:** We understand this happens from time to time. May we suggest using a password that isn't difficult or complicated to remember. We can appreciate the desire for privacy, but this isn't your bank account.
- * **Updating your contact information:** if you move, you don't need to create a new profile. Simply log in and update your contact information. It takes the same amount of time to do that as it does to email one of us to ask us to do it *AND* it will be done faster.

To update your password or contact information...

- 1.) Log in with your username and password.
- 2.) Click on your name in the upper right corner.
- 3.) You'll see "Edit Profile" at about the middle of the page. Click on that.
 - * Address: The screen that comes up will be where you can update your address. Click "update" at bottom left if changing anything.
 - * Password: If you want to update your password, there's bold red letters at the top that says "Manage Password" Click that. The rest is self explanatory.
 - * Email: Click on "Manage User Credentials"... a new screen comes up, change your email and click "update"

- * **Earthlink Verification Forms:** IF you have an email (Earthlink or otherwise) that requires people to fill out a verification form so it will accept their (our) emails.. Please put us (info@buglesacrossamerica.org & contact@buglesacrossamerica.org) on the accepted list. We love the fact that you want to be a part of BAA but we will not be filling out the requested form for every Earthlink email that comes in.

* **Contacting your State Director.** If you have questions or concerns regarding activities in your state, bugling, need to let them know something, the best resource for you is your State Director. If you don't know how to reach them offhand, there is a Contact Us tab on the BAA web site.

- 1.) Log in with your username and password.
- 2.) Hover your cursor over the **Contact Us** tab. A secondary choice will appear. Click on **Contact Directors**.
- 3.) Choose the State that you want within the drop down menu.
- 4.) Wait a moment.... another drop down menu option will appear with the names of the directors in that state. Select one.
- 5.) Fill in the rest of the required info and the message you want to send to them, then click on **Submit**.

* **Messages informing us that you will accept a request.** When you receive an email with a request, it's sent via an automated message from the web system. This is sent to all buglers within a 100 mile radius. *(Also, no, we can not personalize this for you.)* If you want to accept the request, please first check your schedule to make sure you are available. Then click on the hyperlink at the bottom of the request stating, "**Click here to see more details about the request**". Clicking on the **link** in the email does NOT accept the mission for you. You are simply taken to the BAA site where you are given the opportunity to volunteer if it is still available. Only you can formally **volunteer** for the request. We can not sign you up for it.

* **Messages informing us why you can't accept a mission.** Again, please remember that this is coming from an automated system, not an actual person. We truly appreciate your volunteer heart but if you can't accept it... it's really OK to delete the email.

* **You lost or forgot the information for the request you volunteered for.** This is where logging in and your **My Events** tab comes in. Your My Events tab will show you details for all the events you have volunteered for since October of 2010.... including that one you have to play at tomorrow but can't find the address which you wrote down somewhere.

Bottom Line – Make it a habit to log in to the BAA web site on a regular basis. It is a great way to stay connected with and informed about BAA. Learn to use the varied tools that have been provided there for you.

State Director Spotlight: Arkansas

Jerry Halsell State Director

How long have you been with BAA?

Since January of 2007

What inspired you to join?

It was MY way of honoring those who served since I didn't serve myself. My family has a lineage of veterans and I grew up around my granddad's American Legion Post which instilled patriotism and respect for veterans.



How long have you been playing?

I've been playing since Jr High. Took some years off then started playing in church the past 20 years.

Hardest part about the job?

Getting the appointments lined up with short notice but my state's members do great and don't let the families down. Other than that, the HEAT! It gets hot out there sometimes!

Best part about the job?

The personal pride and the comments from the family.

Best experience with BAA?

On Memorial Day, I take my horn to local cemeteries and play Taps. Watching the families is quite an experience.

Do you have a goal for your state?

I would like to have a State Convention for all members and potential new ones.

Greg Squirrel Assistant State Director

How long have you been with BAA?

5 years

What inspired you to join?

going to funeral of veterans that i respected and hearing fake bugles



How long have you been playing?

20 years

Hardest part about the job?

staying calm and not getting nervous

Best part about the job?

Happiness to family and respect to our vets

Best experience with BAA?

Echos Across America

Do you have a goal for your state?

Completely eliminate electronic or fake bugles

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES



Carl Copp, Capt. USMC ret. - Maryland

I was honored to play Taps at the request of park rangers at the evening lowering of the American Flag at Fort McHenry on May 11, 2011.

I joined a group of civil war roundtable members from Boston on a tour of sites around Washington involved in John Wilkes Booth assassination and capture and the War of 1812. I have rendered Taps over 200 times for interments, memorial and other patriotic ceremonies since joining BAA in 2002.

The flag was enormous and took all 15 members of our group to properly fold and return it to be raised again the next day. The Star Fort and Fort McHenry park in Baltimore is in excellent condition and well worth a visit by any American.



Daniel Oakey - Georgia

The following pictures are of me playing Silver Taps at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Georgia for the dedication of Riverside's War Memorial for Cadet Alumni who had lost their life in Service to our Country. I was the Battalion Bugler at RMA when a Cadet from 1971-1973. The dedication was conducted in the fall of 2010. I am a member of the Virginia Contingent of BAA.

Daniel G. "Bud" Oakey,
RMA '75 and member BAA With Cadet Lieutenant
Smithy, Battalion Bugler, RMA 2010-2011



Ef (Etheljean) Deal - New Jersey

It was my great privilege in July to be able to play Taps for the group known as “Spirit of ‘45” celebrating the veterans of a senior citizens community and care facility. I arrived a little early to find a little bit of chaos, as the woman in charge was frantically trying to put the entire program together and decorate the room all by herself. I set the trumpet aside and asked if she needed some help, and the two of us managed to put the room together in time for the ceremonies to begin.

However, the facility had scheduled another event opposite the starting time of the ceremonies, so at 2:00 pm, we had an audience of three. The coordinator decided to postpone the opening until 2:30, when the other event would be finished. Meanwhile, a few more people wandered in and were bewildered that nothing was going on. When I saw two of them get up to leave, I decided I had another role to play.

I picked up my trumpet and began playing songs for “Spirit of ‘45”: *The Caissons Go Rolling Along, Anchors Aweigh, Wild Blue Yonder, From the Halls of Montezuma, Semper Paratus*. After that, I played a few patriotic melodies: *America the Beautiful; My Country, 'Tis of Thee; The Battle Hymn of the Republic; The Navy Hymn*. It was now 2:30, but it would take some time for those who were at the alternate event to make their way upstairs to our ceremony. So, I began a few of the popular songs of the era from the Big Bands, especially the Dorseys and Glenn Miller, finishing with *My Buddy*, which was a favorite through more than one war.

When the ceremony finally began, as if not enough had gone wrong, the recording of the national anthem wouldn't play, so once again I stepped in and played *The Star-Spangled Banner*. An hour later, I finally stood to play what I was called upon to play: *Taps*. But in the meanwhile, based on everyone's enthusiastic words afterwards, I had brought a bit of joy to everyone there with my trumpet.

The Spirit of '45 celebrates the joy of welcoming home with gratitude those who served selflessly. May we all always be ready to serve.

Ed Bilger - Washington's Day in Philadelphia



I was asked for the second year by the Philadelphia Chapter of the SAR to join them. We did two ceremonies...one at Washington Square and at Independence Hall.

Honoring our first President and first Commander of the Continental Army at Washington Square.

Washington Square is one of the five original squares laid out when Philadelphia was established. Washington Square has had a diverse and checkered history. Public park, dumping ground, Potter's Field and then finally a part of the Independence Mall Historical Park.

There is a tomb dedicated to the Unknown Soldier of the Revolutionary War, but there accountings that about 9,000 bodies are interred in the square along the outer walls. These are comprised of civilians who died during the Yellow Fever epidemic in 1793, Continental and civilians who died in a prison across the street, British and Hessian soldiers who perished in battle in and around Philadelphia.



I participate in the City of Philadelphia's Veterans Day on the square. Last year, I did a ceremony for the 100,000+ soldiers that came through Philadelphia during the Civil War and laid a wreath for the 116 MOH recipients from Philadelphia.

Jeff Jones - Texas

The Boy Scouts of America are well aware of BAA as they have called upon me for the past several years to perform bugle calls at the National Museum, located on the grounds of the H.Q., in Irving, Texas. Should you come through Texas, it is definitely a place to see, as it also displays the original Norman Rockwell Boy Scout Calendar paintings. Admission is free on Mondays!!!

It is indeed a great honor as a former Boy Scout to be able to play at the National Headquarters. The first year I used my Bb trumpet, and for the last two years have used a 1964 mint condition nickel plated BSA bugle that was given to me by a Patriot Guard Rider at a 9/11 service. He had purchased the bugle when he was a scout, never learned to play it well, and gave it to me to use as a member of BAA. One museum docent has even asked me to donate it due to the pristine condition. For now it is only used at Boy Scout events and on one occasion, the funeral of a PGR member.

Richard Yndestad - Illinois

Bill Seaman, BAA Wisconsin State Director, and members of Bugles Across America sounded Rolling Taps for the VA Welcome Home Event held in Milwaukee, WI.

The VA event was a Patriotic Veteran Tribute and Living History from Colonial America through the Iraq & Afghanistan Wars.



Peter Dustin - Maine

Things are "cool" here in Maine. Bugle missions are in the pause mode although one of our Buglers did a couple of Coastie funerals recently. The Coast Guard has no established Honor Guard here so unless it's a serious Coastie Funeral, they use BAA. We had a sad one a year ago when a young Coastie was killed in a car accident with his wife and daughter. He was stationed near here. The Coast Guard flew their DC Team in for the triple funeral - very sad! I attended as a representative of the Maine State Honor Guard.

I was the Bugler at a big Scouting event - the annual Klondike Derby. 500 Scouts from all over Maine camp out at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, haul a gear-laden sled around a 3 mile course and compete at various skills stations. 300 of the Scouts slept over two nights in the Academy's field house - I woke them up in the morning with Reveille, put them to bed with Taps, assembled them with Assembly and called them to chow with Mess Call. Our use of the live bugle in Katahdin Arae Council camps, camporees and at the National Jamboree gets solid support from adults and kids and helps keep bugling alive.

Being a uniformed Bugler with Honor Guards has it "perks". Here is a photo of me with hockey's famed Stanley Cup. Uniformed Honor Guard members got the chance to escort the "Cup" through the Streets and onto the ice in Boston for the opening game of the Bruins. In the pre-game, we escorts got to touch the trophy. Attached is me being un-military.



The Maine Air National Guard and the Maine Warden Service team up every January to remember the 7 crewmen lost in a B52C crash on a mountain top near Moosehead Lake. The plane was lost on a sub-zero day in January 1963 and the wreck is still on the upper slopes of Elephant Mountain. Two crew were able to eject but the subzero temps and deep snow hindered the rescue in the remote wilderness so one of the crew suffered serious frostbite and was medically retired. The pilot returned to duty and eventually retired from the USAF.

Peter Dustin (Continued)

The local snowmobile club has taken on the task of sponsoring the annual memorial program at the crash site now reached by a 20 mile snowmobile ride into the back country near Greenville. One of my Scouts accompanied our Honor Guard Team this year to the Memorial and helped fold the Flag at the crash site with Colonel John Thomas, Logistics Group Commander of the 101st Air Refueling Wing at the Bangor Air Base. Thomas is also a BAA Bugler and played Amazing Grace in the subzero weather during the Program at the Base Lodge.



Following the Flag folding, the firing party fired the usual three volleys, came to "present arms" and I played Taps from a obscured location higher up under the twisted remains of giant

landing gear. The sound echos across the mountains and is extremely clear and crisp at 8 above. The Warden Service provides the Flag Detail for the event and leads the party into the back country. The surviving navigator calls the Club's "lodge" each year to thank the team for remembering his "buddies" from so long ago during the Cold War and is especially glad that young Scouts are being educated to also "remember". The pathology nurse from Bangor who handled the remains back in 1963 was there with her husband to also "remember" - her first trip back.

So there, the latest from Maine....

Peter Dustin



My Favorite Air Force Task Ever: “Taps” at the Alamo

A1C Daniel N. Thrower

23 April 2012

It is difficult to understand the paradoxical human phenomenon of receiving the most gratification from the most demanding and strenuous activities that we voluntarily put ourselves through. About a month and a half ago, for example, I ran my first 50K race (31 miles). It was a *miserable* experience! I even lost a couple of toenails and ruined a pair of running shoes. But there hangs at my desk the Texas-size finisher’s medal that still elicits a sigh and a smile of utter satisfaction. Such was today’s official USAF Band of the West assignment—perhaps the highest pressure “gig” I have ever had (including my 15-plus years as a professional civilian musician), but definitely among the most fulfilling musical experiences of my entire career.

I don’t recall exactly when I received the assignment, but the request was submitted at least six

months ago for a bugler to play “Taps” to end the annual “Pilgrimage to the Alamo”—a somber Fiesta event. I am somewhat new to San Antonio, still figuring out all this two-week Fiesta stuff. Having been born in Texas and raised by Texans, however, I was well-versed on the story of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto that led to Texas’ independence from Mexico and its eventual annexation into the United States. *That* is what Fiesta is all about.



The Airman at work that handed me the mission was almost apologetic as she asked if I would be willing to do this. I am *always* willing to play “Taps,” but this time a thrill shot through me as I energetically accepted the task; for I have ancestral connections with the Alamo!

My Great-Great-Great-Grandfather, Joel Walter Robison *knew* those brave men who died at the Alamo. He was purportedly General Travis’ last messenger sent to solicit help before the Mexican Army arrived and slaughtered them all, even those who surrendered. I was to honor *those* men—my ancestor’s brothers in battle; his countrymen, united in a just cause.

I wonder how Joel felt when he received the report that his comrades had been brutally slaughtered. War is ugly, and the killing by both sides was obviously heated. The brutality of the Spanish-style execution of those who had delivered up their weapons in defeat, however, was the cruel and inhumane act that inspired retribution from the Texans elsewhere.

Shortly after the fall of the Alamo came the fateful Battle of San Jacinto. With the faces of those who died here flashing across his mind, I can only imagine the fervor of the words as they shot from Joel Robison's lips: "Remember the Alamo!" The Battle of San Jacinto lasted approximately 18 minutes, and is said to have been the most decisive battle in American history. The subsequent hunt and roundup of the scattered forces led by General Santa Anna followed. Among the deployed parties was a group of four men that included my ancestor Joel Robison. One soldier that they found had been hiding in the bushes. Robison was the only one among them who spoke Spanish, and as they marched him back to camp Joel understood the man's pleading explanation that his feet hurt badly, as he was a cavalryman, unaccustomed to marching. Again, war is ugly; to kill is easy! This deed was suggested, but the act that followed is what makes Joel Walter Robison a true hero: he took the miserable captive upon his own horse. "Remember the Alamo?" Indeed, he remembered, and *learned* from what had taken place there! Such barbarism was not to be adopted—not even for the sake of revenge upon a brutal enemy. To slaughter the helpless is lawless, cold-blooded murder. To extend mercy to the helpless—even to a foe—is supernal heroism and bravery!

Imagine the surprise of that little group of Texans as they entered camp and heard the exclamations of the prisoners, "¡El Presidente!" They had unwittingly captured, *and spared alive*, the "Napoleon of the West," General Santa Anna. He immediately requested to be brought to Sam Houston, and treaties were subsequently signed. These events led to the independence of Texas, and its eventual annexation into the United States, as well as parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Idaho, California, and other states.

When I contacted my POC to coordinate for this event, little did I realize that by divulging my Texas roots to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, my function would become exponentially exposed. That one succinct email became viral among the DRT (Daughters of the Republic of Texas) within minutes and I was soon told that the President General of the organization, Karen Thompson, wanted to meet me early for a special presentation. A small camera crew from Channel Four beat the presenters there, and they interviewed me briefly about my heritage (no Air Force talk—I learned better in Basic Training), to be aired some time this evening. The Sons of the Republic of Texas were also keenly interested in my connections. Several helpful people offered to assist me in documenting my lineage in order to join the SRT, which I plan on doing.

The presentation was of a neatly folded Texas flag that has flown over the Alamo, accompanied with a certificate of authenticity, personalized for me. That flag will forever be a family treasure! I was profoundly honored to accept it on behalf of Joel Walter Robison. Since receiving this assignment, it has most definitely been a deeply meaningful one to prepare for.

The circumstances surrounding it all are so providential: my coming to San Antonio from Utah 2½ years ago, becoming a member of the Armed Forces three days shy of a year ago, being tasked for this job without my petition—it is all so movingly special, it is impossible to describe.

I met many animated people, shook countless hands, posed for a host of photos, and underneath the ceremonial uniform, my purely American soul and deeply rooted Texan heart had never been prouder than to be a serviceman in uniform today, to pay official homage to these absolute champions of freedom.

Everything went longer than expected. How glad I was to have my little soft practice mute to buzz on occasionally as I waited behind the north outer wall of the Alamo for the Procession to finish. It persisted a good 15 minutes longer than planned. My contact told me that I would be playing “Taps” from there—a very unexposed, comfortable position. However, the chaplain who offered the benediction to the ceremony introduced me beforehand, including a synopsis of my connections to the Alamo, and I was prompted outward. My heart pounded harder than it has in years during that closing prayer, and I lifted my inner voice with that of the pastor for help! “Taps” may seem like such a simple little ditty, but to those who have ever had the duty of playing it for any official function *know* that those 24 powerful notes can be sheer terror even for the greatest of trumpeters. With all the publicity, presentations, people I met, and the pastor’s introduction, one may be able to imagine the pressure I suffered to not split a note! My silent prayer calmed me, and after the “Amen” I slowly came to attention and raised my bell to play the most momentous rendition of “Taps” I have ever executed, for that expectant crowd of perhaps 2500 patriots. Every note was laced with meaning, and I hung on to the last tone with a more prolonged diminuendo than ever before. Many spectators afterward approached me with tears, and one elderly lady gave me a big kiss on the cheek for lack of words.

When my contact, Meg Barron, later expressed her gratitude for “being flexible,” it dawned on me that there were indeed a few things that I *could* have become annoyed over. But I thought of the profound honor it was to pay tribute to those who here epitomized flexibility and gave their “last full measure of devotion” for the cause of freedom. How could I not be flexible?

This day will be burned into my memory as one of the most special days of my musical career, of my military mission, and of my life. ¡Viva Fiesta! And *remember* the Alamo!





Rich Yndestad - Illinois

Gene Vanden Bosch and myself sounded Echo Taps May 5th, 2012 at the DuPage Airport for Honor Flight Chicago at the fund raiser.

Kevin Hussey Sr - New Hampshire

If anyone ever asks a bugler why he does what he does. This is one reason. This picture was taken on October 23rd of this year. This is a group of Marines my buddy served with in Vietnam. Paul was KIA on May 24, 1968. "No One Dies - Till Their Memory Dies"

We as buglers will not let this happen.

Yes that's me at the Wall. I won't bore you with how I came to do this. My poem "For Whom the Bugle Sounds" led me to write a book over the last 4 years. It is called *For Whom the Bugle Sounds - Memoirs of a Stone Talker* I hope to publish it soon.



Chicago Memorial Day Parade 2012

by Rich Yndestad



This year being the 150th Anniversary of Taps, Tom invited all the BAA Buglers in the area to come out for the Chicago Memorial Day parade on Saturday, May 26, 2012.

Our day started around 10am at the Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago. About twelve BAA Buglers were present for the event. Harmut Hausser came all the way from Germany to be with us.

Three of the BAA Buglers present, also volunteer as Buglers at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. (Rich Yndestad, Dave Kennerly, and Cleveland Holden)

At 11am, there was a presentation to the Gold Star families present, by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Governor Pat Quinn of Illinois. Also in attendance was retired General David Petraeus, US Army. There was a Wreath Presentation, followed by three rifle volleys and the sounding of Taps.

The parade down State Street followed, with members of BAA marching along side of the USA float. We stopped to sound massed Taps along the parade route and in front of the reviewing stand. It was a beautiful day in Chicago and a nice tribute by BAA to Taps 150th Anniversary.





As you know we got separated by the crowd and I didn't know what number your float was and we could not find it at the staging area. So not to abort the mission we hitched a ride on another float that was Civil War themed. Mike and Debbie as Pres. Lincoln & Merry Todd were very receptive to my request to let us on their float. As it turns out I meet Mike two years ago at another event. (All those Lincolns look alike).

- Jim Z.



Blood and Steel

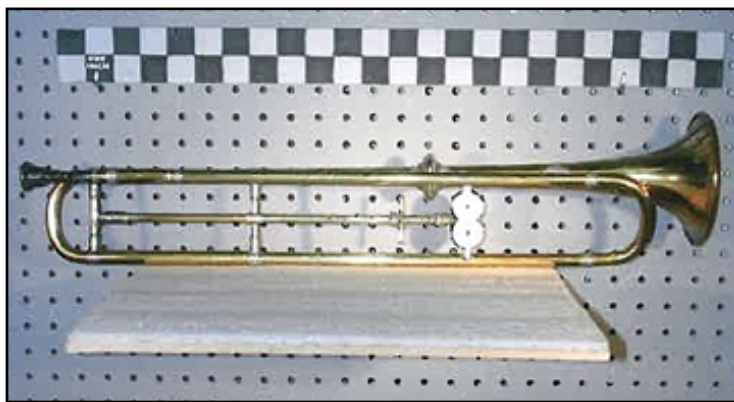
The Story of Two 3RD Cavalry Bugles

by Craig Fischer

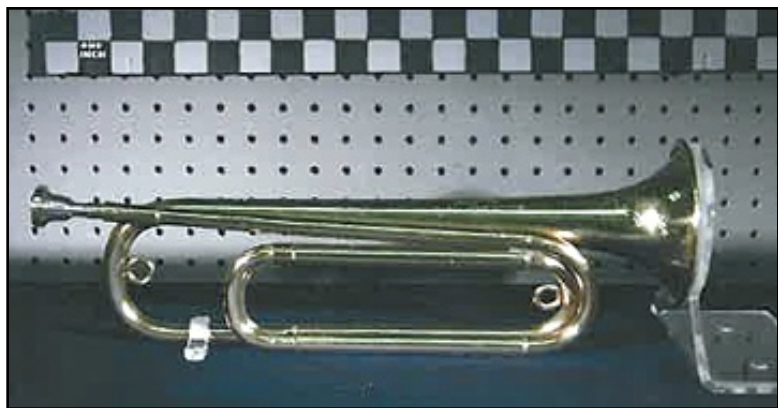
The 3rd Cavalry Museum, currently housed at Ft Hood, possesses two bugles of historic importance. One has a curious history while the other is intimately associated with Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1861, a bugle was presented to the newly named 3rd Cavalry Regiment. Prior to this, the unit was designated the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen, first organized during the Mexican War of 1846. The bugle, actually a type of field trumpet, then disappeared. It somehow turns up in an Irish castle in 1916. It next appears in a London antique shop and was subsequently presented to General Eisenhower following the Second World War. In 1947 General Eisenhower presented the bugle to the 3rd Cavalry. Home at last, the regiment refers to it as the AWOL Bugle.

As the photograph (right) shows, it is a rather odd instrument. It is silver, is 22" long and has a bell diameter of 3 ¾ ". A separate slide allows it to be used as a chromatic instrument. These were sometimes referred to as "inventions" bugles. This type of horn probably preceded later keyed bugles, popular prior to the Civil War. The instrument



was most likely manufactured in England. The inscription on the bell tubing reads, "From the Women of Washington to 3rd Cavalry 1861". The bell inscription reads "M'd LONDON MEDAILLE E Fa T C a Pe Facure duc 9 Arthur Ch L Sole Agent Bond Street LONDON".



The second bugle (left) is a standard 1892 pattern field trumpet manufactured by Reiffel and Husted between 1916 and 1925. It was used by 3rd Cavalry trumpeter Frank Witchey (next page) for several notable services at Arlington National Cemetery.



Following his discharge he bought the bugle and had it inscribed. The inscriptions read "General Nelson A Miles May 19, 1925. Arlington National Cemetery. William Jennings Bryan July 31, 1925. Arlington National Cemetery.

Taps sounded over the body of unknown soldier at Arlington National Cemetery Nov 11, 1921 by Staff Sgt Frank Witchey of Headquarters Troop 3rd U S Cavalry Ft Meyer Va. Heard through amplifier at New York and San Francisco. Taps sounded over the body of our late president Woodrow Wilson Feb 6, 1924 at Mount Saint Albans Cathedral Washington DC by Sgt Frank Witchey".

I believe this bugle ranks in equal importance with the famous Kennedy Bugle. It was used to honor great Americans in the early 20th Century on America's most hallowed ground. I believe there can be no greater honor to an American than to have Taps sounded over their grave at Arlington.

Unfortunately, the curator declined my request to play these horns when I viewed them in 2003. I would like to think that a second request might have gotten a different response but the regiment has since relocated from Ft Carson Colorado to Ft Hood Texas.

"Blood and Steel " is the Regimental Motto of the 3rd Cavalry. It dates to the Mexican War when General Winfield Scott, after viewing the regiment's heroic actions at the battle of Contreras stated, " Braves Rifles! Veterans! You have been baptized in fire and blood and come out steel."

Thanks are due to Scott Hamric of the 3rd Cavalry Museum for use of the images of the AWOL bugle, the Witchey bugle and Frank Witchey. I would also thank Jari Villanueva for the "inventions" bugles information and sparking my interest in Frank Witchey and his bugle.

BAA- IN THE NEWS

Bugles Across America provide Taps for grieving families

[Youngstown Ohio Vindicator](#)

Published: Sun, August 14, 2011

The strains of “Taps” from Reagan E. Moon’s bugle floated across Poland Riverside Cemetery as he paid tribute to the grandfather he never knew, William “Bill” Willis Barris, a World War I “doughboy.” Ironically, Barris was his company bugler.

He had seen a picture of Barris at his mother’s home near Houston, Texas, standing astride a trench in France holding his bugle. But it didn’t make much of an impact on the retired career Air Force veteran until he became a member of Bugles Across America, a volunteer organization dedicated to ensuring that a live person plays “Taps” at every military funeral.

Bugles Across America was founded in 2000 by former Marine Tom Day in Chicago to provide a live bugler for military funerals. The organization now has 7,700 members. Moon, who had never played any musical instrument, took eight months of lessons before he was declared ready to begin playing “Taps” for funerals in November 2010.



“Taps” was being played on boom boxes and with trumpets with digital recordings. Those are better than nothing, but Bugles Across America believes every veteran deserves a live bugler, said Moon, who is Louisiana state director of the organization.

There is no cost to, or charge for, the rendering of Taps for the families of our deceased military heroes. Bugles Across America can be reached at www.buglesacrossamerica.org, he said. Moon, 57, was an Air Force flight engineer mainly on C-130 cargo planes and in-flight refueling missions from 1973 to 1993, when he retired from the military.



During his career, he participated in Operation New Life in 1975 evacuating Vietnamese refugees from Saigon, in Operation Eagle Claw in 1980, as well as Operations Just Cause, Desert Storm, and Desert Calm and numerous humanitarian missions.

After retiring from the Air Force, he became a flight engineer and pilot for commercial airlines, and a job from which he expects to retire this year.

Barris was born in Poland in 1897 and went to school here. He enlisted in the Army June 29, 1916, at the age of 22 and left for France June 27, 1918, where he was attacked with mustard gas that caused him health problems the rest of his life.

He returned to the United States April 2, 1919, but was killed at the age of 32 when the car in which he was riding crashed in the Steubenville area. Moon's mother, Dolores Barris Moon, just a year old at the time, was born in East Liverpool in 1928 and lived in Canfield from 1928 to the mid-1940s. She attended Salem High School and in her junior year moved to Arizona. "My grandmother remarried several years later and lost contact with my grandfather's family," Moon said.

Moon made contact with family members in Canfield and Poland and West Middlesex, Pa., when he was researching his family genealogy a few years ago. He called some of those relatives to ask if the bugle existed.

"I was told it might be with a family member and that they would look for it for me. They also informed me that they were about to have a family reunion on Sunday and invited me up. I further learned that my mother's side of the family was having its family reunion the following Sunday Aug. 14 in Canfield, so I made plans to come up from my home in Bossier City, La., in the Shreveport area, to attend both reunions and see about finding my grandfathers WWI trench bugle.

"My hope was to sound "Taps" for my grandfather on the same bugle he used in WWI," Moon said. "Unfortunately, the bugle was not found but the family is still looking. However, my relatives did find my grandfather's helmet that he wore in France during the war and gave it to me. It is something that I will always cherish and honor," he said.

Moon said he still hopes to someday sound "Taps" at the grave site again, but this time using his grandfather's WWI trench bugle.

Note from Reagan: *I do not normally wear a helmet while sounding Taps. The helmet is my grandfathers WWI helmet he wore in France in WWI. He was mustard gassed with it as well.*



Bugle corps ensures Taps at military funerals

Posted: Monday, May 28, 2012

By JEFF DEMPSEY, [DAILY NEWS-SUN](#)

Bugles Across America was founded in 2000 with a simple goal in mind: to ensure all veterans who pass away have Taps played at their funerals by a real person.

Anyone with the courage to serve their country deserves better than a recording of Taps played through a boombox, said David Geffen, Bugles Across America's Arizona director.



The organization has more than 7,500 volunteers in all 50 states, playing Taps for free at any veteran's funeral they are asked to attend.

"We don't believe in synthetic bugling," Geffen said. "It's phony. We believe Taps should be live and genuine."

It may seem like a simple enough task at first, Geffen said, but that is not the case.

"The principal requirement to be a volunteer is that you can sound Taps and sound it well," he said. "And sure, it's only 24 notes, but that doesn't make it easy. Particularly in those circumstances."

Retired Air Force Col. Bill Fedor, a Sun City Grand resident and a Bugles Across America volunteer, said he wasn't prepared for how challenging it was to play Taps at a funeral.

"A lot of us say it's the most difficult 24 notes you'll ever play in your life," he said. "I mean, just think about what it means to the friends and family of the deceased. But you have to keep from thinking about that when you are playing. Otherwise, you'll choke up."

Fedor said he and his wife once drove all the way to Lake Havasu City to play Taps at the funeral of an Air Force veteran who wanted his ashes scattered on the lake.

"There was no one available there to do it so I said I would go and we drove up," he said. "They had two pontoon boats out on the water. They scattered flower petals, and then his ashes, and then I played Taps. It was really beautiful."

Why go to all that effort when a recording of the song could be played? There are fake bugles with speakers built into the bells, so someone can even have the appearance of playing the song live.

“The family might not even know it’s not real but to us, it just doesn’t seem right,” Fedor said. “When we have people all over the country who are capable of playing it, it just seems like the least we can do.”

Bob Marshall, a Sun City resident and an Army veteran, was the post bugler at his American Legion post in Wisconsin for 10 years. He got involved with Bugles Across America after the daughter of a Marine asked him to play at the funeral.

“I said, ‘Just tell me when and where,’” he said. “That’s how I got started.”

Marshall, too, said he feels like it is the least he can do.

“There are so many World War II veterans dying every day,” he said. “Soon they’ll all be gone. They served our country and we owe them the respect of playing Taps live.”

Geffen said Bugles Across America is stepping up its efforts to raise awareness of the organization in the hopes that every veteran gets the respectful playing of Taps they deserve.

“Typically, we are contacted by the mortuaries,” he said. “And part of my job is to communicate directly with every mortuary in the state so they know to call us. We’re really expanding our efforts in that regard.”

As difficult as playing Taps can be, as emotionally draining as it can be, Fedor said he would never even think of giving it up.

“I don’t know of anything I do in my retired life more important than playing Taps at military funerals.”

Bob Chavanne - New York

This is a picture from last Memorial Day. I was up there at 6:00am putting the flags on the stones with the Knights of Columbus and saying prayers. Here I am honoring John Warren who served in Vietnam but to all the Veterans that gave everything for my freedom, I am grateful.

Here is an article from [Newsday](#), our Long Island paper.

Boy Scouts decorate soldiers' graves

At Long Island National Cemetery , Pinelawn, a team of Boy Scouts were among many groups holding ceremonies and placing small American flags at tens of thousands of gravestones.

Bob Chavanne, of Valley Stream, played a bugle at a solemn ceremony for a local serviceman who was killed in Vietnam.

"When I can give honor to the great veterans, I do so because without them I would not have the great freedoms," said Chavanne, who plays at military cemeteries for a project called Buglers Across America.

"When I play, I try to play with perfection because they deserve it," Chavanne said.

After playing "Taps" at the ceremony for John Warner, who Chavanne said was killed in Vietnam when he threw himself on a grenade, Chavanne spent hours walking among the graves, stopping to play for Medal of Honor recipients and at a section of the cemetery for Iraq War dead.

He said he always makes a point of playing at the final resting place of a Union soldier who died during the Civil War in 1862.

"There's a story behind each tombstone, some young, some old, and our heart goes out to each family," Chavanne said. "If I could, I would play at every tombstone . . . I do it for the souls to let them know that somebody really cares out there."



Carla Beaudoin - Maine

The state of Maine recognizes all female Veterans with this silver coin ceremony. This was the second year I participated in this and it is such an honor.

(For video of the event and of Carla, click the link)

More than 40 Maine women are honored for their military service with commemorative silver coins.

[The Portland Press Herald](#)

By GILLIAN GRAHAM/Staff Writer

May 8th, 2012

SCARBOROUGH — Carol Reynolds flipped slowly through a stack of her old service photos, smiling as she recounted the years she spent serving the country as a specialist 4th class in the Army.



Norma Doody of Westbrook looks on during the State of Maine Silver Commemorative Coin presentation at the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough on Monday. Doody received the coin for her service in the Army during World War II.

Carol Reynolds of Westbrook was honored during the State of Maine Silver Commemorative Coin presentation at the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough on Monday.

"I wanted to be in the service," she said. "I wanted to do something that counted."

What counted to Reynolds was serving in the Army for two years beginning in 1958, following in the footsteps of her father, a parachutist who brought his children up for flights over Brunswick.

Fifty-four years after she reported to basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., Reynolds said she was proud to finally have a certificate recognizing her military service to hang on the wall next to her discharge papers and dog tags.

Reynolds was among 41 female veterans who were honored Monday for their military service during a ceremony at the Maine Veterans' Home. Each veteran was presented with a

certificate and a commemorative silver coin that depicts the four decades of female veterans from Maine.

Rep. Linda Valentino, D-Saco, led the effort to raise \$50,000 to create the silver coins and a bronze plaque that hangs in the Hall of Flags at the State House. Since last year, more than 1,000 of the state's approximately 10,000 female veterans have been recognized in ceremonies across the state.

Valentino said the intent of the effort is two-fold.

"It's about recognizing women and getting them the services they need," she said, noting that there is no comprehensive list of women who are veterans. "So many of the women we've talked to in the past few years didn't even know they were a veteran."

Elizabeth Chittick, 79, a resident of the veterans' home, served seven years in the Navy and 26 years in the Army. She said she enjoyed serving the country and was honored to be recognized along with others. "It's really great women are beginning to get the recognition they deserve," she said.

Clelie Welch, 65, a retired Air Force communication specialist from Casco, agreed that women deserve the recognition they may not have received during or shortly after their service. She enlisted in the Army in 1968 and served for 18 months, joining four brothers who served in the armed forces.

"It's important to let people know that women are patriotic and want to serve," she said. "It's not just a man's job anymore."

Pennsylvania BAA member, Joe May is featured on WGAL News about playing Taps at Arlington National Cemetery. BAA member Megan Stock was also mentioned in this news feature.

[Lickdale bugler will be among group playing Taps at Arlington National Cemetery](#)



'Taps' Marks 150th Anniversary On Memorial Day

May 28, 2012 12:05 PM

CHICAGO (CBS) – One of America's most recognizable bugle calls, one that will be heard again and again in towns big and small on this Memorial Day, reaches a major milestone this year. This is the 150th anniversary of Taps, the nation's song of remembrance.

WBBM's Steve Grzanich reports the origin of Taps dates back to the Civil War when Union Maj. Gen. Daniel Butterfield changed an earlier piece of music called "Tattoo" which had previously been used to signify lights out.



Butterfield considered the older infantry call too formal and wanted something to honor his men. In July 1862, he enlisted the help of bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton, took the last part of Tattoo, made a few changes and came up with the 24 notes we know today as Taps.

"It was such a melodic 24 notes, they thought that since they used it at the end of the day, why not use it as a funeral piece as well and that was the birth of Taps," said [Bugles Across America](#) Founder Tom Day of Berwyn.

Day, an ex-Marine, founded Bugles Across America in 2000 to make sure a live person would be available to play Taps at military funerals. Congress had just passed legislation guaranteeing veterans the right to have Taps played at their funerals but not enough buglers were available for every burial. A recording of Taps was usually the only option available.

"It's stolen dignity for that veteran," said Day. "You don't have to have a recording. A recording is a recording and the military throws the device back in their trunk and they're gone. Ours is no battery required, from the heart and real breath."

Bugles Across America has enlisted nearly 8,000 horn players from around the world who travel to towns big and small to play Taps at hundreds and sometimes thousands of military funerals each month.

“We’ve done over 200,000 funerals and we’re requested now by the military. The Pentagon credits us with at least 36 percent of all the funerals,” Day said.

According to Day, playing Taps is always emotional because of the live interaction with veteran families.

“It all comes from the heart and goes through this horn. When a family hears it and they know you came out for their veteran, they come over and give you a hug, a handshake or a kiss on the cheek and they’re very appreciative,” he said.

On May 19, Day joined 200 other buglers at Arlington National Cemetery, where they sounded Taps and individually to mark the 150th anniversary. Day, who graduated from Chicago’s Taft High School, played at President Howard Taft’s grave.

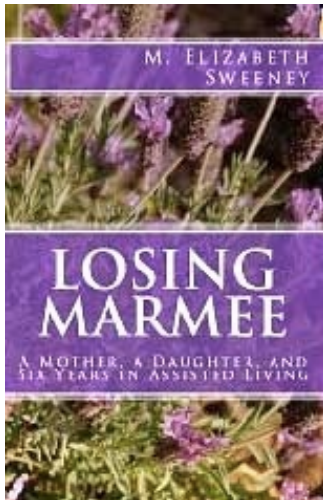
Being able to honor veterans and their families is what drives Day from funeral to funeral.

“I’m still serving my country and doing something for that family and giving the dignity that that veteran deserves. It’s an honor to pay that respect and give that last piece of music—that going away song to a veteran,” he said.

Day will play Taps at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery southwest of Chicago this Memorial Day.

“Memorial Day to me is not a picnic, it’s not a sale. It’s seeing a veteran and thanking them. And if you’re family had someone pass away as a veteran, dropping by that headstone and maybe dusting it off a little bit and remembering what war is all about. This man or this woman put it all on the line and taking a few minutes of one day a year might not be a bad thing.”

If you have seen BAA in the news recently or have been featured in an article while playing with BAA, Please send the article or information to BAA.JDay@gmail.com



There is a new book on bookstore shelves titled *Losing Marmee: A Mother, A Daughter, and Six Years in Assisted Living*, written by M. Elizabeth Sweeney. Bugles Across America is shown on page 286.

Actually BAA is very close to this part in life as we are called very often to help so many families when the end is near. It's good to be considered by a writer when putting a book together. God bless the players of BAA.

Come Visit The TAPS 150 [Store!](#)

This is the place to purchase TAPS items:

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



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

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

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

Thanks!

Jari Villanueva, President, TAPS 150

Raffle to Benefit TAPS 150!

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

2nd Prize: Aman plastic bugle

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

WINNERS DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT.

Cost per ticket Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Buy Four tickets and receive one free!!

Purchase your ticket [here](#):



Not Getting a Chance To Volunteer?

Are you not seeing as many opportunities to honor our nation's heros in your state as you'd like? Fact is, in many areas, the word about what BAA does needs to reach the attention of unknowing funeral directors, VAs, VFWs, ALs and cemetery locations.

You are more than welcome to share with them about Bugles Across America. Already available to you on our web site is a BAA business card template and a letter that you can modify with your contact information if you choose, print out and take or send to the business, organization or person of choice.

Location for BAA business cards and BAA letters

<http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/Education/ForBuglersOnly.aspx>

The business card template is a standard Avery template #8371 for simple print and separate cards or Claude at Sir Speedy has a great format for our cards too. His email is

sirspeedyberwyn@sbcglobal.net

DAY IS DONE - TAPS CD

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

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

Send a check or money order for \$18.00 for each CD plus \$2.00 shipping to:

TAPS 150
124 Maiden Choice Lane
Baltimore, MD 21228

(Allow 2 weeks for mail orders)

Also available on [iTunes](#) to download for only \$9.99!



All proceeds go toward the 150th commemoration of Taps which takes place in 2012.

Attention: State Directors Needed!

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

These states are:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| * Mississippi | * North Dakota | * Washington |
| * Montana | * New Mexico | * Oregon |

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

KEY LINKS

[Bugles Across America](#)

[BAA on Facebook](#)

[BAA New York on Facebook](#)

[BAA Kentucky on Facebook](#)

[BAA Nashville on Facebook](#)

[BAA Hawaii on Facebook](#)

[BAA Oklahoma on Facebook](#)

[BAA: Ohio's Blog](#)

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[BAA Bugler Directives](#)

[Taps 150](#)

[Day is Done on CD](#)

[Day is Done in iTunes](#)

[Regimental Drum Major Association](#)

[Taps Bugler](#)

[Getzen](#)

[Kanstul](#)

[Spirit of '45](#)

[Drum Corps International](#)

[Flags For Vets](#)

[Operation Taps](#)

[Association of Military Musicians](#)

[Wounded Warriors](#)

[Freelancers Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps](#)

If you have any articles or bugler stories that you would like to see in the next Newsletter, please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

All stories should be written, 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.