BAA Briefing

Just about 20 years ago I was serving to honor a Civil War Veteran at a memorial at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. A law that would soon be put into effect on January 1, 2000 would assure that all Veterans are to be provided Military Funeral honors upon request. The law stipulates at least two people to fold and present the flag and ‘play’ Taps. Even then, acknowledgement was made that the military would not be able to supply a bugler for all the anticipated funeral requests, so provision was made to allow “a high quality recording of Taps” to be played. The military directives and instructions that were produced to support the implementation of the law’s requirements even stated that if a real bugler could not be found, the recording could be used…… but, the record player (think ‘boom-box’) should be kept out of site. Of course the digital “Ceremonial Bugle” was soon thereafter created to at least attempt to make this playing of a recorded version of Taps just a bit more ‘presentable’. But, we all agree that it’s still a recording… not Taps powered by heart.

As soon as I heard about this law and that it allowed for Taps to be played by recording, I was very disturbed to think that the veteran’s dignity could be stolen in this manner by having a boom box sitting there ready to play Taps at the push of a PLAY button. I just knew that there had to be a sufficient number of capable horn players that could be found to supplement the military funeral honors teams (as the law allowed that “the bugler could be military or civilian”), and I started contacting fellow Buglers. I told them about the law and that I was starting a new program to be called Bugles Across America. The response was terrific.
As I got the word out, buglers were signing up all over the country. I put a notebook together and loaded them in by hand, organized by state. I soon decided to make this a federally recognized organization as a non-profit. The man who did the federal paperwork was Gene Horner with help from his wife, both are CPAs in Alaska. We kept getting more and more members and really needed a computer system to keep track. This is when a computer programmer in Chicago asked if I needed help. “Help?”, what an understatement! This fellow put together a fine package that allowed us to record the names and contact information for all our volunteers, as well as a way for the public to contact us with a request for this volunteer bugler support. As our organization and the capabilities continued to expand, the demand on the computer program grew along with it. This soon became a chore that expanded beyond what could be expected to be provided by one individual… and, on a pro bono basis at that. Within a few years, Dave was telling me that he’d continue to do what he could, but was warning us to be looking for his ‘replacement’. Although we made some effort to find help for him, it was not coming together. Finally in May 2010, he ‘pulled the plug’. This was not done without warning, but it left BAA adrift nonetheless. That’s when Pennsylvania State Director Howard Reitenbaugh found ITArchitechs in St, Louis. We presented our needs to them, and they quickly agreed to build and host our website. That new web presence was launched in October of 2010, and we remain with them today.

So, I want to thank ALL of you for what you have done to make BAA what it is today and to secure its place in history. We now have more than 4,000 bugler volunteers, and we have officially served over 125,000 funerals plus thousands of special memorials and other appropriate ceremonies. All have been done at no charge or cost to the vet’s family.

Along the way we had a news section but those folks moved away. My daughter-in-law Jen Day took over. As a result you are now reading the 50th volume of the Bugler’s Post newsletter. Published every other month, this newsletter has continued to be refined and expanded. Our great Bugler’s Post has been recognized by many observers as one of the best organization-related information and news publications available today. Kudos to Jen for the hours of hard work she puts in to this, and to all those who assist and provide materials for inclusion in the newsletter.

I also want to thank all the State Directors we have had these last 20 years. Without their hard work and attention, the program could not continue to grow and properly serve the many requests we receive for real bugler support. We are receiving a steady rate of requests that recently have been averaging more than 20 per day. A short time ago we hit a high (so far) of 41 requests in one day. Yet the very wonderful thing is that even with the growing need, BAA still maintains an acceptance rate across the country of close to 80%. Some localized, and heavily demanded, regions are holding to nearly 100% fill. This is well beyond my
wildest dreams when the effort had its humble beginnings some 20 years ago. Now let's keep this one of a kind unit going for another 20 years. Thank you all for doing what we do for our Fallen Veterans

God Bless you all as we work together for a great New Year.

Tom Day, founder and bugler
Thank you! You’ve just clicked the VOLUNTEER button to accept that request for bugler support. Now all you have to do is show up, right? Not exactly!

There are a few very important things yet to do before arriving at the designated location for the service. And, while polishing your shoes may well be on the list, it is not the most important of details requiring your attention.

First, chronologically as well as in order of importance... Call the requestor. In case you were reading too fast, I’ll repeat that... Call the requestor.

Yes, the system is set up to send a message to the requestor to let them know they have a bugler, but the real world has proven over and over again that this auto-generated email is not the end-all of communication needed. As the bugler now committed to serve this event, you must communicate directly with the requestor. This direct contact serves many purposes, not the least of which is to give positive assurance of your intent to be there to sound the honor.

For any number of reasons, the requestor may not have read that message sent from the BAA Request A Bugler system.

One variation of the breakdown occurs when the request is submitted by someone at a funeral home. No intended slight on their internal organization, but experience has shown that they are good about sending messages, but don’t always open and read incoming messages.

This same scenario can often play out when the request comes through from a military unit. Incoming message traffic is not always routinely monitored.

Even when the requestor is a family member or responsible friend, they all too often have many other concerns on their mind in times like this. Sorting through and reading incoming email traffic is not necessarily at the top of their list of priorities.
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
* Wisconsin
* Wyoming

Qualifications:
* Computer literacy
* Passion for serving veterans
* Communication Skills
* Spare time you can dedicate

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

The Great Horn Giveaway contest for December is complete!
The winners drawn from all who entered are….

Julie Levine of California  
Dan Westrum of Minnesota

Congratulations to these fine BAA members!

The next drawing is in December. 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 from Issue 49

Thank you for my new horn.  
Very nice.  
Respectfully,  
Larry Schillings  
New Jersey State Director
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 February 1st. 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 Pacific Time 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.
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: ___________________
We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #49 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

And the winners are....

Joe Dorgan of Arizona
Michael Randles of Illinois
Everett Ackley of Tennessee

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

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

The Grand Prize Winner is....... Kevin Griffin of Massachusetts

Where was it!!
Kevin Griffin - Massachusetts, Grand Prize winner
I was very pleasantly surprised when Howard Reitenbaugh notified me that I'd won the latest Grand Prize drawing. The horn I won is an Andalucia bugle/trumpet that is a big step up from the beat-up student model I've been using for trumpet lessons (with Daryl Robbins of Strike Up the Band in Natick, MA).

I first became acquainted with Bugles Across America this past summer when the Honor Guard at my Marine Corps veteran uncle's funeral did not include a bugler. The funeral director told me that the U.S. Military is not providing buglers for funerals. I searched online to find more information regarding military funeral buglers which confirmed what the funeral director told me and, I found the Bugles Across America website. I then decided that I would learn to play the bugle/trumpet well enough to volunteer for BAA. After a month or two of trying to teach myself on an inherited M1892 field trumpet and an old U.S. Army Field Music manual, I bought an inexpensive trumpet and started lessons with a professional teacher. I expect to be able to play well enough to sound Taps for military funerals some time in 2020.
NEW STATE DIRECTOR

Dan Pinda - Arizona State Director

I joined Bugles Across America in August of 2017. It had been a goal of mine after seeing Tom Day on TV one Memorial Day discussing the organization. My dad was a retired Navy veteran who served in WWII and Korea. When he died we had a difficult time finding a live bugler for his funeral (I was not prepared to sound Taps). Somehow a live bugler showed up and we were grateful. I saw BAA as a way to repay that honor.

I grew up in LaGrange, IL. My dad bought me a used bugle when I was in kindergarten. That piqued my interest in playing trumpet. I played in several musical organizations growing up including the Chicago Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Band, University of Illinois Chicago Concert Band, the Guardsmen Drum and Bugle Corps and the DuPage Symphony Orchestra. After I received my Master’s Degree in Electrical Engineering I stopped playing to focus on my engineering career. My career eventually led me to Tucson, AZ where I currently reside. A few years ago I started playing again with my church choir.

I joined BAA as I approached retirement and I felt I could start taking time off for missions. Since retiring I have done many missions. Every one has been an honor for me. I have the opportunity to honor those who have served our country. I believe this was my dad’s hope/dream when he bought me the bugle many decades ago.
Roy Zanni - California Assistant State Director
Okay... the San Diego area buglers did it again. **Over 1000 events** completed so far this year in the San Diego area. I think we will end up with about 1025 by the end of the year. That number represents about 83 a month and about 50% of the total # of military details done here. Outstanding work for our vets people.

There are about 200 extra events included in our total that were not specific BAA requests, but ones we did because we were at Miramar National Cemetery doing scheduled BAA events and were ask by the military to help them out with others while we were there.

Glenn Traylor - South Carolina State Director

**Tyler Crownover** of Clemson, South Carolina is one of the newest members of Bugles Across America. She is a freshman at Daniel High School in Pickens County and a member of the Lion’s Pride Marching Band, which was just named the 2019 AAA State Champions. Tyler is in her 4th year of playing trumpet, including the school’s jazz and symphonic bands, and was selected as 1st chair in region band this past year. She was also honored to be chosen to sound Taps at the Veteran’s Day assembly at two different schools last year.

Tyler plans to continue playing trumpet in a college marching band, and then to tour the country with a military band after graduating college. She is humbled to be a part of Bugles Across America and having the opportunity to pay the same respect to other veterans that was shown to her grandfather at his funeral.
Howard Reitenbaugh - Pennsylvania State Director, BAA National Coordinator

Recently, I was discussing a strange disturbance that occurred during a funeral service with one of our local buglers as he started sounding Taps. An ambulance came rushing down the street nearby with lights and siren blaring. He felt that he shouldn’t stop and then restart, so he just kept playing. He called me afterwards to ask if he did the right thing. By the way, when the ambulance operator saw what was happening, he apparently at least cut the siren until they were on down the street (nice of him, I thought!).

Anyway, I told him he did exactly what he should have done... just keep on sounding those notes of honor. (Just this week, I told a member of the honors team I often serve with here in Huntingdon County that if I fall down, just let me finish and then pick me up when the detail is dismissed.) I related some of the unexpected and potentially disturbing occurrences that I’ve experienced over the years, and then from the top of my head I said, “You’ve got to prepare for the unexpected, and expect the unprepared”. After getting off the phone, I started to run those off-the-cuff words through my head (short trip, I know..... ) and thought, that’s really some good advice for all our buglers.

Prepare for the unexpected: We’ve often told folks that every service is going to be different in some way; there is always the chance that some last minute change may catch us by surprise, so be ready to ‘roll with the punches’ and keep our mind focused on the service at hand and our specific part in it.

Expect the unprepared: This can actually contribute to the first adage, in that we may come across a participant on occasion that is not so thoroughly trained or is not at all sure of their duties for the service. Again, we are to keep our thoughts on our part (sounding those 24 notes with dignity at the correct time), but if possible offer advice or encouragement to the detail member, funeral home worker, family member, etc that is not clued in to what is about to happen.

Happy trails to all,
Howard
**Bob Schuler - Louisiana**

My name is Bob Schuler and I am a BAA member here in Lafayette, Louisiana and also a manager at Rock ‘n’ Bowl in Lafayette. We recently hosted a Veterans Day ceremony so it was only natural that I would be honored to sound “Taps”. Thank you and God bless to all Veterans for your strength, courage, service and sacrifice for our great country!

**John Lawson - Idaho**

In the summer of 1967, my brother was a Marine serving in Vietnam. He was severely wounded during an ambush while crossing a rice paddy. His squad backed into cover and returned fire while my brother was down in the paddy unconscious. A fellow Marine ran back into the paddy under fire and attempted to carry my brother out, dropping him a couple times on the way. Unable to carry my brother alone, the fellow Marine had to leave him on the ground while he ran back to the squad, grabbed a medic and forced the medic to go back out into the open paddy with him. Together, the two of them dragged my brother back to safety and to an evac helicopter. Fifty years later that fellow Marine located and contacted my brother. They had an opportunity to meet again. That same fellow Marine passed away last week in Laramie, Wyoming. My brother, who lives in Boise, was invited by the family to attend the funeral services. I drove to Laramie with my brother and was honored to be the bugler at those services which included full military honors. The family was extremely grateful and appreciative.

**Brent Hrncir - Virginia**

On Thursday, Nov 14th, 2019, BAA member Brent Hrncir of Toano, VA, played reveille as part of a veteran's program at Trevvett Elementary School, Henrico, VA. The 30-minute program featured the Trevvett ES first grade chorus singing a variety of patriotic songs. The program honored approximately 50 veterans from the local area and included planning and comments from Thomas Sherlock of American Legion Post #244 of Glen Allen, VA.

Left to right: Brent Hrncir (BAA member, USAF retired), Mr. Thomas Sherlock (Am Legion Post #244) and Ms Bethany Bushey (Trevvett Elementary School Counselor)
Gary Marquardt, State Director, Minnesota

As State Director for Minnesota, I have embarked on working to raise awareness for BAA’s mission in our state and nationally. My journey is perhaps not so unusual to our fellow volunteers, but it appears to catch the interest of journalists around Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Volunteerism is the life blood of BAA and we have to accept different levels of passion for the mission from our members. But I urge any BAA member who has the time and energy to do whatever they can to propagate the BAA formula for honoring our Vets. Any time you are near a funeral home or VFW or American Legion, stop by give them your card and ask them to post any honors requests on our website. This is extremely important work. As we all know, the funeral homes are very good at arranging an honor guard, but typically don’t ask if they have a REAL BUGLER for Taps. My state does not get the traffic BAA would like through our website bugler requests. I have some experience working with mass and local media so have been able to foster articles in magazines, newspapers, radio and even NBC Nightly News a few years ago.

A massive advertising budget simply doesn’t exist in BAA, so your help is critical. If any of you have an interesting BAA journey that might be newsworthy, please feel free to contact me for guidance in getting your story out in the public. garymers@gmail.com Always press the writers and editors about our 95% + fulfillment ratios, that it is done from the heart without charge, and most importantly, that when you hear Taps, you can look at the faces in the crowd and tell immediately if it is a live performance with a heartbeat behind those prayerful notes or a digital accommodation because they didn’t know we are standing at the ready every day.

Tim Park - Colorado State Director

This is a photo of Colorado buglers, Henry Stoeffer (R) and Mike May (L), sounding TAPS at the Rocky Mountain Sub Vets Memorial Ceremony for the USS Grayling (USS-209) on September 7, 2019.
Larry Weber - Maryland

Marking one year since joining BAA, I was invited to sound Taps at two Veterans Day events on November 11, 2019. This was the 100th anniversary of the first Veterans Day Memorial in 1919.

The first was at 8 am in the main entrance of the Frederick (MD) Memorial Hospital. A brief ceremony began with posting the colors, recognition of all present who had served in the several military branches, and those who had relatives who were veterans. Chaplain Derek Mosher, 114th Signal Battalion, Ft. Detrick, MD gave the Invocation. The speaker was COL Peggy McNeill, USAF. Master of ceremonies, Kevin Bedell, U.S. Army veteran, is a FMH employee. At the conclusion those gathered stood for the sounding of the 24 notes of Taps.

The second invitation was a repeat mission as part of the community Veterans Day program organized by the American Legion Morris Frock Post 42, in my home town of Hagerstown, MD. It is held on the plaza in front of the Washington County Courthouse one block from the downtown square. Police block traffic for the one-hour ceremony which begins on the 11th month, 11th day, and the 11th hour each year in recognition of the Armistice ending WW1 which was signed at that moment in 1918.

As the director of the Hagerstown New Horizons Band, I conducted a 30-minute program of patriotic music and marches before the 11 o’clock start of the commemoration. After the posting of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the band played the Star Spangled Banner as the audience sang. Mayor Robert E. Bruchey II welcomed all those assembled. Twenty-six different veterans organizations, city, county, and state officials placed wreaths. Proclamations were read from the two U. S. Senators, and the 6th Congressional district representative was present and spoke briefly to the audience.

After a moving speech by the keynote speaker, Sara L. Toscano, from the Baltimore, MD, Veterans Administration Hospital, the band played a musical tribute to veterans, Eternal Father, Strong to Save.

A moment of silence honoring all who have served was followed by the Honor Guard Salute, and the sounding of Taps for which I use an authentic WWI-era bugle. With the benediction
and the singing of God Bless America led by the band, Retirement of Colors concluded the ceremony.

As an 80-year-old civilian, I am humbled to "honor the sound, sound the honor" for all who serve the cause of liberty and freedom in the uniform of the United States military. My uncle and brother served in WWI and Vietnam respectively, and a grandson who is an officer in the U.S. Army with the Ranger tab ready to be deployed to Afghanistan. Serving now by sounding Taps is a way of honoring those who have given their lives for us.

Sound the Honor; Honor the Sound

Kimberley Shaw - Massachusetts

Members of Rhode Island American Legion Post 18 were quite glad to have a bugler for their 2019 Veterans's Day ceremony. How glad? Bugles Across America got a full paragraph in their program booklet, plus a very nice thank-you note, gift card, and challenge coin for the bugler!

I hope everyone else's Veterans' Day missions went as well as this one did.

Ron Lundmark - Ohio

This is a picture of me sounding Taps at a Flag Retirement Ceremony at American Legion Post 385 in Bay Village, OH on Nov. 10, 2019.
Tom Sneeringer - Washington DC

I just completed a mission sounding Taps as part of a veterans’ “pinning ceremony” at a retirement home in Baltimore. It was very moving.

This is a scene of a page in the event program, that tells the story of Taps being sounded to mark the end of World War I. I was not aware of this historical moment, one of great meaning to anyone who sounds Taps.

Michael J. Del Vecchio - New Jersey

Here’s a photo for a recent mission. It was for the Borough of Newton, New Jersey, in Sussex County.

It was a ceremony to honor local Veterans who fought and died in previous wars. I was asked to sound Live Taps by the American Legion post 86, who provide military honors at all burials in the Veterans cemetery in Sparta, New Jersey.

Larré Robertson - Idaho State Director

Honored to sound TAPS for our fallen at Idaho State Veterans Cemetery today. Chopper, a Vietnam veteran helicopter pilot stood by my side. This all took place for Wreathes Across America 2019 at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.
Constance Snavely - Pennsylvania

When I read Ron Tranmer’s article in the last Bugler’s Post, I decided it was again time to try to rectify the disgraceful issue of the Reserve Marine units’ flagrant violation of Title 10, U.S. Code § 1491 *Funeral honors functions at funerals for veterans*, pertaining to sounding Taps live when possible. The Marines also violate their own Marine CORPS ORDER 3040.4, Subject: *Marine CORPS CASUALTY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM* (SHORT TITLE: MARCOCASASTPRO), dated 01 Mar 2011, which reiterates Title 10.

Two years ago I wrote a letter to the Marine Corps Commandant imploring him to order his subordinate units to follow the integrity of the law in providing dignified, respectful honors to our fallen comrades. I received no response from his office. I then contacted PA State Representative Frank Ryan who is a retired Marine Corps Colonel to ask his assistance in correcting the issue. I believe he tried even going to meet with his contacts in DC.

I tried to fight this issue after an incident with the Reserve Marine unit personnel who argued with the funeral director over who will sound Taps. They insisted that they are ordered to do it to ensure it is done correctly. She told them in no uncertain terms that she is in charge for the service and speaks for the family and that they want Taps sounded by actual person with an instrument. All this arguing took place in front of the Honor Guard I serve on and near the family who was already gathered under the awning with the casket in place.

Last month I was appointed as the Chair for the Honor Guard Committee of the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, Inc. The War Veterans Council membership is comprised of the major federally recognized Veterans’ Service Organizations. One aspect of our mission is to discuss legislation and other matters that affect the general welfare of our state’s veterans and their families. I was also appointed as the Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission. The State Veterans Commission is established in accordance with Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes and is tasked with advising the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs on all matters pertaining to the status, welfare, benefits, employment and support of veterans and veterans' programs in the Commonwealth.

With these two new positions and the backing of the organizations, I intend to continue the battle with the Marine Corps. There is a new Commandant in charge of the Marine Corps so perhaps he will be more receptive in allowing real buglers to sound Taps with all the respect that should be bestowed on our Nation’s veterans.
Drew LeBlanc - Mississippi

After being accepted into the BAA family, I wondered what kind of experiences I would have as I received the assignments. Sounding Taps since I was 12 years old and a member of the Jr High Band in Bogalusa, LA, never prepared me (at age 74) for what happened to me last week.

Since joining BAA, I have taken assignments in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. My wife and I live outside a small town (Tylertown, MS) in southeast Mississippi. Our farm is over 10 miles from the nearest "town". To say I've played in some strange places and under some strange circumstances is an understatement.

Last week's assignment was one for the books. It started very normal. I have had several assignments where the funeral directors folded and presented the flag. This assignment was one of those. It was to take place in the middle of nowhere. A family cemetery on a very rural Mississippi farm was the site for burial.

On the way to the assignment, I loaded the address in my GPS. The funeral home director told me the address was for the residence across the road from the cemetery - sounded simple. As my wife and I approached the road on which the assignment would be played, 4 tenths of a mile from the turn a one lane bridge was out. A quick call to the requestor gained me an apology for not telling me the bridge was out and a new set of directions was given.

My personality is one of a person who would rather be 2 hours early than 2 seconds late. This time it served me well. Upon arriving, I find two van-loads of Army personnel. Guns, flag folders, signal caller, 6 pallbearers and of course that "plastic-thing" they often bring. They got excited when they saw me get out of my truck with a bright shiny bugle.

I forgot to tell you about the weather. No sunshine, temp in the low 30s and 20 mile an hour wind, you guessed it, out of the north with 96% humidity. In the deep South that's plenty cold. Guess I need to get some BAA "thick-britches" that wind won't blow through!

Our part of the graveside took place without a hitch - almost. Everything was moving as planned, the guns and then I began to sound Taps. I must tell you this was my first time to use my new bugle, so my nerves were a little on edge. I blew the honor without fault and was feeling great. As I blew the last two notes I heard something that sounded similar to overtones. Having a degree in music from my alma mater, William Carey University in Hattiesburg, MS, I thought, I guess it's possible for this to happen with the wind, the temp, the thin britches, the bridge out, Uncle Sam showing up and a new horn!
- cont -

As the last note died away, folks at the graveside began to turn around and look behind them. Right then and there I realized as I played the last two notes, three donkeys in an adjacent field had joined me in the salute! They were as "gung ho" as I was! My first thought after the realization of what had just taken place - I've seen it all and now have heard it all - Lord You can take me on home!

David Dodson - Mississippi State Director

We got a referral for the sounding of Live Taps from the Mississippi Army Honor Guard NCOIC. I called the requester (Colonel Tillman) and he specifically wanted someone to sound Live Taps in uniform. I contacted MS Bugler, Charles Wallace, since he wears his uniform. He graciously accepted the off-the-books request to sound live Taps (memorial to honor 5 soldiers from WWII and one from the Korean War).

Charles Wallace drove six hours round trip to honor these six soldiers and did a fantastic job! I decided to attend and surprise Charles Wallace since we have never met in person. It was a great day to be an American and a fond memory.

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

All stories must be written, edited, ready for publishing and a photo is desired but not required. If you don’t have a photo from the event, one of you works nicely as well. The deadline for this is February 10th.

Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com
I just wanted to thank y'all for the wonderful bugler you provided to my father’s grave side service. Please thank the bugler for the great job he did sounding Taps.
Sincerely,
Melvin Ray Cook II

I wanted to send out a big shout out to Dave Devine, who is one of your buglers. I sent a request in and wasn’t sure what to expect because I heard about this place from a person of a Facebook group. We laid my brother to rest in the national cemetery in Holly, MI. Dave accepted my request and WOW was I pleased. Dave was a very nice and sincere gentleman. He was dressed in his ARMY uniform and played awesome! I am so pleased that there are people out there that are willing to do this HONOR, and Dave was excellent!

Thank you for offering this service and I will recommend this honor to anyone that I can, because I believe this service is so needed for our veterans!

Thank you
Dave Radke
Thank you, **Eva (Husted)**, for coming up to Florissant to sound Taps for the burial of the deceased retired USAF Captain, Jon Didleau, on Saturday afternoon December 7. Bugles Across America is a wonderful idea and deserves praise to you and all its volunteers.

John Rakowski
President Pikes Peak Historical Society
Trustee, Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

---

**Dear Mr. (John) Schroeder,**

*It is with an extremely grateful heart that I thank you for spending the afternoon with us yesterday, celebrating and honoring my dad, Mac Bryce. Your dedication and willingness to take time out of your personal day for a family you don't know is a beautiful act of kindness. My family will be forever grateful to the Bugles Across America program and all it stands for.*

Thank you **Mr. Reitenbaugh** and **Mr. Blair** for coordinating all the efforts and making sure my dad was well honored. Even as little girls, my sister and I always knew that the sound of Taps was special and reverent.

*With much appreciation,*

*Tara Pessia, Mac Bryce’s Daughter*

---

We recently scattered my father’s ashes at sea in San Diego. He was a proud subMariner who loved his nation. What an absolute privilege to have **Roy Zanni** there to play the bugle during my father’s memorial.

I made a donation this morning in Roy's name since I was so impressed by his service.

Thank you for providing this beautiful service.

Best regards,

Marc Mares
LCDR, USCG
Dear Tom,
Thank you for all you do. It is such important work. God bless you and all your volunteers.
Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas
Bil & Kate Murphy

We couldn’t find my dad’s DD214 in time for his service. My brother thought of your organization. We made a request and immediately we were set up with a bugler. Thank you! No vet should go without Taps and a flag. We didn’t catch out bugler’s name. please tell her that it meant the world!
Mrs. Susan Pinto

I’d like to thank you for the services you provide for our veterans. My dad passed away at the beginning of November and the only request my father asked for was a bugler to sound Taps. Patricia Bocker sounded Taps for my dad at the veterans cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada, and it was perfect. It’s in Pat’s name we are making this donation so the work you started can be continued.
Thanks again,
The Mueller Family

Hello BAA!
Thank you for what you do. There are thousands of people who have tears hearing Taps.
Lewis Miller

Tom,
Thanks for being such a positive influence to Sister Sue Kildusi and everyone else you educate.
Merry Christmas to you and your daughter.
Take care,
Rich Long

Thank you for all you do. It means so much to all the family members.
God bless you!
Rosemary Holt
I wanted to thank Ken Carstens, who played the bugle at my mothers’ service on December 5, 2019. I believe he was a commander. I would have thanked him personally but he was gone before our services were complete.

My mother served in the Air Force, in a time when most women did not serve. She was very proud of this and would have been honored by the bugle playing. My father, whom she met in the Air Force, was deeply moved by the honor and respect shown to her.

The playing was beautiful and his presence had a profound impact on all of our family. Please pass on our gratitude as it meant so much.

Thank you,
Tricia Formanski

David (Dodson),
May this Christmas be a time of joy, peace and treasured blessings, and may the New Year bring you much joy and good health! Please know I deeply appreciated all your good help with our military program on October 27, 2019.

Charles Wallace did an outstanding job and I thank you for securing him. It was so nice of you to be present and I hope we can meet again.

Phillip Tillman
Gary Marquardt - Minnesota State Director

Below is a link to a recent interview about BAA that originally aired on WBUR (Boston NPR Affiliate) November 5th and will soon be aired on many NPR affiliates across the country, on their social media sites, blogs and podcasts.

A Retiree Who Couldn't Serve Finds His Own Mission: To Honor Veterans By Playing Taps
WBUR
November 5, 2019
by Andrea Asuaje

In 1965, the first American combat troops landed in Vietnam. Within two years, the number of American soldiers stationed there would rise to half a million, and the death toll would reach nearly 20,000.

Gary Marquardt was 16 when the war began, but he already knew he was going to Vietnam. He didn't think he'd live past 25.

"I could see my own death," Gary said. "I was going to be running with an M16 [rifle] through a rice paddy and get shot up."

Gary was one of six children in a poor, working-class family who lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His father was a World War II veteran who worked at the local meat-packing plant. Home life was rough — Gary's father was an alcoholic, and the family sometimes didn't have enough money for heat.

As the draft for Vietnam ramped up, young, healthy men with no college deferments — men like Gary — were at the top of the list.

Click for full article

If you have seen BAA in the news recently or have been featured in an article while sounding Taps with BAA, Please send the article or information to JenDayBAA@iCloud.com
My contact information has changed. How do I update my email, phone number or address?

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

1.) Log in with your username and password. If you need assistance with the log in credentials, please send a message to Contact Us and we will assist.

2.) Your name is in the upper right corner of the page. Click on your name.

3.) To make any changes, click on "Edit Profile"

4.) On this new screen, click “Contact Information”

5.) Type in the new address information.

6.) Scroll to bottom of the page and click on UPDATE. This step is vital to save your new information.

7.) Use the Contact Directors link on the website to notify Directors of both states (the one you have left and the one you have moved to) of your change in location.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Help!! I’ve lost the email with the event information!
The place to find that is under the “My Events” tab after you’ve logged into the BAA web site. This page will show you all the events you are scheduled for and the information regarding them!
Other F.A.Q.s

How do I contact my State Director?
Log in to the BAA web site and use the Contact Director option under the Contact Us tab. You will only see the Contact Directors option if you are logged in.

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

Emergencies.. Please contact your State Director. Sending an email to any official BAA email will not reach us in time to help you. If you accepted a request and have a medical emergency keeping you from sounding Taps, Contact your State Director ASAP! If you don’t have your director’s contact information, log in to the BAA site, under the ‘Contact us’ tab you will see Contact Directors. Click that. Fill out necessary information. An email will be sent.

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

Is there a way for me to record or get “credit” for events that are not requested through the BAA website?
There is no way ‘record’ missions that don’t come in through the request system. We have never kept count of individual's missions on BAA register or archive. Many members have kept a personal 'log book' of their missions, and this has been more for personal reflection and memories than anything.

I’ve lost the information for the request I’ve volunteered for!
Log in, click on the ‘My Events’ tab. Ta-da!

A very handy Quick Start guide for BAA members is available on the BAA web site in the Education tab.
The BAA Learning Center is open for visitors!

What’s inside:
Over 140 horns: Specialty and historic
Different types of mouthpieces
Military memorabilia
Uniforms from 1776 to today that you can touch
Bugle and military history
History books and maps from all US wars.
CDs and DVDs you can watch in the Media Room
Historic Drum and Bugle Corps media
Bugles Across America medals and patches
Copies of BAA's newsletter, Bugler’s Post
A Congressional Gold medal
Stories from Tom Day himself!

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

Hours: By appointment. Please call (708) 484-9029
Admission: No fee but donations welcome
Parking: Street Parking. Please be aware of street cleaning hours on Friday

1818 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Illinois, 60402 For tour information: (708) 484-9029
The BAA Supply Closet

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

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

Coins: We have just a few BAA coins left.

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

Flags: We have BAA flags and Gold Star Mothers flags

Horn Accessories: I have 3c & 7c Kelly mouthpieces.

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

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

Please send requests via email to Tom Day at TomJDay@sbcglobal.net
SHOW YOUR COLORS!

Cool Weather Jacket - $65 (plus shipping)
This beautiful embroidered black jacket is nicely lined, has elastic cuffs, 2 side pockets and a zippered inside pocket! The embroidery is a 9 ½ inch replica of our BAA logo on the back and your name embroidered on the front.

Warm Weather Jacket - $50 (plus shipping)
This is a high-quality, light weight, embroidered jacket. It is solid black, microfiber (will protect from light rain), Raglan sleeves, standard color, lightly gathered elastic bottom and cuffs. There are slash pockets on the outside and one velcro-closed inside pocket (Large enough to hold a large smartphone). Large, full-colored BAA logo embroidered on the back.

Price includes name on the left breast. There is an extra $3.00 charge for the embroidered bugle with the name.

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

Individuals may order the jacket by contacting Jeanie Buchanan at:

GENIE BEE’S EMBROIDERY
586-749-9700
geniebees@gmail.com

She takes check and requires half as a down payment at the time of ordering. Sizes beyond 1XL may require a slightly higher price, but Jeanie will work with you on this. Current turn around time has been running about a couple weeks, but will depend on demand.
BAA Name Tags!

Introductions are always easier if someone knows your name. Help them remember yours with a BAA name tag.

Veteran, Teresa McCuean has been making BAA name tags for BAA for about 13 years now. Your choice of clutch-pin or magnetic back.

$7.00 for one (this includes shipping).

Contact Teresa at
TMK Awards
tjmccuean@sbcglobal.net
(313) 999-4111
At Ease: Off-duty Apparel

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

Short sleeve t-shirts: $20
Long sleeve t-shirts: $25
Hoodie sweatshirt: $35

(plus tax and shipping)

Website to order
www.supportbaa.com

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

Thank you Jim Owens for your generous support for BAA.

http://my-tgraphics.com
American Heritage Field Trumpet by Getzen

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

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

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

The M2003 AHFT is available in two presentations. The Standard model or the Elite in silver finish. 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 either 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.
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 its 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](https://www.cdbaby.com/cd/boothillbandits)

Visit Boot Hill Bandits™ at [http://www.boothillbandits.com](http://www.boothillbandits.com)
Are you not receiving emails from BAA?
You could be having...

Internet Service Provider and Firewall Problems

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

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

**Bugles Across America Pages**
- Bugles Across America
- BAA Bugler Directives
- BAA on Facebook

**Gear & Decorative**
- Getzen
- Scentsy Service & Sacrifice Warmer

**Organizations**
- Spirit of ’45
- Boot Hill Bandits
- Drum Corps International
- Flags For Vets
- Association of Military Musicians
- Freelancers Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps
- The Tributes Lady
- Regimental Drum Major Association
- The Bent Prop Project
- Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes

---

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.