Attention Buglers: We are now well into our 20th year. It is hard to believe. Our computer file shows that to date WE have done over 126,000 funeral and memorial services for the Families of the Fallen. Over 200 BAA designed Gold Star flags have been presented. Recently we gave 51 Gold Star flags in cooperation with the Special Forces "Alumni of the Green Beret".

Five states passed a law that provides for young trumpet players in 7th and 8th grade to go with their local Veterans group and sound Taps. When they return to school they can tell the class all about it. The state of Wisconsin took this a step further and created a system to document data on each funeral the young Buglers serve. The state puts $25.00 aside so upon enrolling in college they can apply for the return of these funds to be applied to their college expenses.

Throughout these years so many Buglers got in touch with their local media and shared our story. These efforts at PR have served to increase awareness of BAA and our mission. This growing awareness and positive service results in an ever growing input to our system to request a real bugler. Very recent check shows that we are routinely receiving over 20 requests each day. In one seven day stretch the last week of February, we received 221 requests, which results in an average of almost 32 per day. And, the most important part is that you have done your part to maintain that very high overall percentage of missions served.

A few years ago, BAA worked hard to prevent the Boy Scouts from eliminating the Bugling Merit Badge from their list.
Very recently released statistics would indicate that we may be on that precipice once again. The Bugling Merit Badge ranks dead last (137th) for badges earned in 2019. This indicates a decline of 18% from the previous year, and a full 466 fewer than the badge in 136th place.

I encourage every BAA member to do something to keep this very important badge of achievement on the list. If you are able, become a Merit Badge Counselor for this badge. Go speak to your local troops to share the importance and privilege of being a recognized bugler in their outfit as well as the community. We can’t depend on others to encourage bugling to remain a vital part of the scouting tradition… that’s our territory, that’s our heritage! Let’s all do our part to keep it alive, or instead of a Troop Bugler the units will soon have a Troop DJ to play recordings of the calls.

Note for all Chicago area buglers, the Chicago Memorial Day Parade will take place on May 27th. If you would like to take part let me know. tomjday@sbcglobal.net

YOU have made so many families of the Fallen, proud and happy, so let’s go for the next 126,000 missions served in 2020 and beyond.

I could not have done all this without your help. So, Thank You and may God Bless you all.

Brother Tom
Your fellow Bugler from Berwyn, Illinois.
Now that I have your attention...

As the editor to this delightful publication, I can not do this without you. I really can’t. I need your:

✦ Stories
✦ Photos
✦ Thank you letters/messages that come your way
✦ Any media that you might have been featured in while representing BAA
✦ Questions you need answered
✦ Your ideas of what you’d like to see

Please email them to me at JenDayBAA@icloud.com

Please make sure:

✦ Stories are fully edited and ready for publication
✦ No more than 1-page long please… unless special approved situation
✦ Word is fine but directly in the email is best. PDF can give me troubles
✦ Photos are best as jpgs attached directly IN your email

Thank you so much.
All my best,
Jen Day
BAA National Coordinator & Editor
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
* Maryland
* 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 contest for February is complete!

The winner drawn from all who entered is....

Stuart Freeman of North Carolina

Congratulations to this fine BAA member!

The next drawing is in April. 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.
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 April 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.
I Found The Bugle!

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

Name: ________________

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

Telephone: ________________

Mailing Address:
  Street: ______________________________
  City: ________________________________
  State, Zip: __________________________

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

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

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

Copy and Paste this form into your email. Fill in the blanks and email the entry to findthebugle@gmail.com
We want to extend a hearty congratulations to the three winners of Issue #50 who were selected at random from all the correct entries.

And the winners are....

David Battaly of Mississippi
Richard Caddam of California
Mark Wentz of Minnesota

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

Where was it?!
NEW STATE DIRECTOR

David McGowan - North Carolina Assistant State Director

In June of 1966, I entered the U.S. Army and trained as an Infantry Rifleman before attending Officer Candidate School and then Fixed-Wing Flight training. In February of 1969, I was sent to Vietnam and flew the Cessna 0-1 (L-19), flying low and slow over the Mekong Delta region in search of, and engaging the VC and NVA armies. I served six years in the Army as an aviator. I then worked as a Baltimore City Police Detective, and just prior to retirement, spent 14 years as the Stadium Announcer at Camden Yards for the Baltimore Orioles. Now in retirement, my wife of fifty years and I live in North Carolina where I am the founder, and a trumpet player with the Neuse River Big Band, an elected member of the Wilson’s Mills Town Council, and of course, a proud bugler with Bugles Across America.

As an Army brat in my formative years, I was exposed to all nature of bugle calls on Army posts across the United States. Coupling that with my affection for, and loyalty to all military members, it was natural for me to be drawn to BAA. As a new Assistant State Director for North Carolina, I'm very eager to expand my role with the BAA and direct my energies to recruiting new buglers and spreading the word of the BAA mission across the state.

Regards,

David McGowan
Bob Chavanne - New York

On Dec 15th, 2019, at Calverton National Cemetery in Long Island, truckloads of wreaths were unloaded and 2,000 volunteers walked the stones, remembering and honoring our fallen heroes.

As the volunteers laid the wreaths, I played Christmas songs adding Christmas spirit through out the cemetery. I played Silent Night, to let our fallen heroes know to sleep in heavenly peace. A Day of giving, a day to express to our fallen that they are not forgotten and to wish them a Merry Christmas.

A Medal of Honor recipient was present that day.

326,000 Veterans are buried at Calverton National Cemetery. It is the largest National Cemetery in the United States.
Bill Dooley - Montana

You would think, that after fifty years, the sting of losing friends in combat would fade somewhat. Not so in my case. Over the past fifty years I have spent a great amount of time and a bit of study into this issue. The best theory I have come up with is: the intensity of the friendship is directly linked to the intensity of the shared experience that formed the friendship.

This is the only reason I could find explaining why, after fifty years, I have such close personal friends, based on fifteen minutes of intense shared experience during The Tet Offensive in 1968.

One day while discussing this and other issues with Pam, my wife, she commented that we should go to Washington DC and visit the Vietnam Veteran Wall. EXCELLENT IDEA!!!!!!!

For the past year, I have been attempting to learn to sound Taps on the bugle in order to help out the local Honor Guard. The folks on the Honor Guard are very supportive of my efforts, even when my efforts are less than perfect. So, we decided a trip from Wolf Creek, Montana, to Washington DC, to sound Taps at the VV Wall was in order.

The trip to DC was long. Washington DC was a bit of a cultural shock to us, they had parking meters that took a credit card. We agreed maybe we have lived in the woods too long. We were told that the sounding of Taps at the Wall would require a permit from the Park Service. I decided that if they needed to arrest me for honoring my friends, so be it. I am sure my friends would get a kick out of it, and it would only add to the honor for them.

Upon arrival at the Wall early in the morning, we waited until only a few people were around the panel which listed my friend's. My efforts at sounding Taps may not have been technically correct, but they were absolutely perfect coming from the heart and soul of a wounded fellow veteran, who has shared the intensity. A small crowd of crying visitors seemed to agree as they thanked us for our efforts.
Mike Wendell - Washington

My first experiences with a horn were as a preschool child, a neighbor had a bugle and the twenty or so kids on our street took turns slobbering into it. I could actually make a half decent sound… I also come from a family of musicians. My great grandfather, William Baptiste was a cornet player/instructor. He was also the conductor of the Royal Hawaiian Band in the 1950’s. His daughter, my grandmother, played the ukulele, my father played Marimba, my sister played the organ, and I became a trumpet student in 4th grade at Walnut Grove Elementary in Pleasanton, California.

I continued my music learning in the program at Harvest Park Middle School in Pleasanton; Marching and concert bands. I had begun private lessons with Steve Buetler, who went on while I was attending Amador Valley High School to try out and succeed at his first attempt at San Francisco Symphony, and he became first horn, first chair…first try-out! Sadly, his career was woefully short as lung cancer took his life a couple years later. He never smoked.

While I was at Amador, I played in every music program, soloing, marching, concert, jazz/ stage, orchestra for the Drama class etc. My favorite was the Jazz Band and competing in the Reno International Jazz festival annually. But the highlight of my trumpet playing came in 1979. I was now the first trumpet at Amador and our school was selected to perform at the Oakland Coliseum for a live professional game. I played a solo performance of the Star-Spangled Banner for the pre-game and in the marching band for the half-time show on National television. Sometime after that, my lips were impaled onto the metallic braces on my teeth, and trumpet playing was off my activity list for quite a while. Needless to say Jim Campana, the music director was not pleased. I graduated in 1980 from Amador and joined the US Navy in 1981. My trumpet playing took a hiatus while serving until 2007 when I retired. Now, a Navy retiree of ten years, I was searching the internet looking to see if anyone was sounding “Taps” for the local public. We have a VERY large Navy retiree population on Whidbey Island. I found BAA and decided to volunteer…again.

My 4th grade Olds Ambassador

My High School King Silver Flair. My horn of choice, especially when I was in HS Jazz!
Gary Stewart - Connecticut

I am a Junior at Roger Ludlowe High School in Fairfield, Connecticut. I started sounding Taps at 14 years old as the Bugler for my Boy Scout Troop. I heard about Bugles Across America and was interested because I wanted to honor those that had served our country. I brought the 40 year old dented troop bugle to my audition. The State Director told me that I had potential but I should get a trumpet and audition again. My grandmother bought me an intermediate trumpet as a birthday gift. I took a few lessons and started to improve. About six months later, my scout troop was asked to assist at a Sea Ceremony on Memorial Day. My scoutmaster said that I’d be sounding Taps at the ceremony. When I arrived, there were several hundred people there and I was very nervous. I stood at attention during the long ceremony, and after the rifle salute, the Commodore announced that Taps would be performed by a recorded bugler. I didn’t know what to do. I looked over at my Scoutmaster and he signaled for me to begin playing. The recording had already started so I was not in perfect sync. When it ended, the Commodore said that he had never heard it that way before but he was impressed by my performance. After that, I auditioned two more times with Bugles Across America. I still needed to fine tune Taps. I signed up for my first mission about two weeks after becoming a member at the age of 16. I arrived early, in my scout uniform, and introduced myself to the funeral director. After talking with the family, I felt a deep sense of duty to fulfill my mission, knowing the incredible achievements of the man who had passed. I was positioned on a hill above the grave site so the sound of Taps traveled down almost like an echo. When I finished, I felt relief that I performed well because I had been nervous about it for the entire week.
David Dodson - Mississippi State Director

We had a good day in Mississippi honoring a fallen Marine with Live Taps. Our bugler, Charles Wallace, did a great job. He’s in the middle with the Marines in the picture. Charles is wearing his uniform as he is also in the Mississippi State Guard.

Russ McDuffie - New Mexico State Director

I had come across a post on the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Facebook Page regarding honors for James Griffin at Santa Fe National Cemetery, with the biggest concern being he was unaccompanied with no living family remaining. I contacted the funeral home and offered a bugler, to which they readily and enthusiastically responded YES!!

In the Letters of Gratitude section, is the letter of thanks from the Funeral Home for Bugler Ralph Harris’ sounding Taps and in the media section, is a link to the story regarding this service.

David Harrison - Ohio

I’m David Harrison, now a member of BAA. I have sounded Taps for years at Western Reserve Cemetery and many other places for our fallen soldiers who we need to never forget.

On June 4th this year I will be sounding Taps for the first closing ceremony in Northfield, Ohio, for the traveling wall. It is always a great honor to sound anytime for those who have so much to this country.
Shane Pratt - Idaho

I am a civilian volunteer who has been an BAA member since 2017. I had not played the trumpet for 20+ years. I became a BAA member when I saw a news piece focused on the shortage of buglers in our state. I called the BAA State Director, Larre Robertson, for an audition and he has helped mentor me.

I told my parents and they were really happy that I was playing the trumpet again. I also explained the mission of BAA. I am sounding Taps with a donated cornet I got from my school's music program. I am a school administrator for a Charter School in Boise, Idaho. I sound for the students of my school every morning to signal line up time. This was my way of practicing and getting my lip back into shape.

When my father was diagnosed with leukemia, February of 2019, he visited me in Boise and requested that I sound at his funeral. He is a Veteran of the Army. I told him, "If you want me to, I will be honored. Please excuse the missed notes because I will be crying the whole time."

He chuckled and said, "I know you will do your best and that is all I can ask."

On September 14, 2019, that dreadful day came. I stood away from my family and friends that showed up to show their respects at my father's internment. I was all by myself with my used rusty cornet in hand, remembering the encouraging words of my BAA State Director. With my stomach in my throat and following the cue from the Army Honor Guard, the flag unfolded and spread. I pressed the mouthpiece to my lips. Closed my eyes with a lump in my throat, and a prayer in my heart. "Help me! I don't want to miss a note".

I could barely breath as my chest felt compressed and tears fell down my cheeks with each note... all 24 of them. It was the longest minute of my life, knowing I will not be able to hug my dad and tell him, "I love you."

Afterwards, I bent over crying like a son who just lost a dad to cancer. I was heartbroken. I had to reach for my inhaler to open up my airway. Then my brother-in-law and others came up to me saying that was the most sweet sound they had ever heard.

My brother in law said, "It pierced my soul and was the most honorable thing I have witnessed."

Another, "Your dad is proud of you for what you just did."
I know that my father was my breath and supported me in sounding for him. He was my reason for living and sounding. It will forever be a great memory that I repeat every time I sound for another Veteran's military honors. Veterans are my reason for sounding and I want to honor them.

**Peter Duston - Maine**

January 25, 2020 marked the 75th Anniversary of the end of one of the most intense battles American troops faced in WWII. A ceremony was held on the property of Worcester Wreath Co. (the sponsor of Wreaths Across America) in Washington County, Maine.

On the vast Worcester property, a perpetual Christmas Tree remains lit summer and winter, day and night. This display is intended to provide a stark remembrance of "The Christmas they did not get to celebrate", as our troops battled for their lives in the Ardennes Forests of Belgium between Dec 16, 1944 and Jan 25, 1945. This battle for Bastogne was memorialized in the TV documentary, "Band of Brothers". General Anthony McAuliffe told the Germans, "Nuts" when they demanded the surrender of the 101st Airborne.

In the end, the line "bulged" but never fell, leaving the Wehrmacht to suffer enormous loses in men and equipment. That turning of the tide paved the way for crossing the Rhine River into Germany, and ultimately the end of the war in Europe in May of 1945.

I organized the remembrance ceremony, and dressed in a tattered WWII field uniform to remember the hardships suffered by our troops. Worcester Wreath Co, served as host.

BAA Bugler, Eli Brown, sounded Taps, as small American Flags were placed to honor the number of "Bulge" veterans and casualties the organizers were able to research and identify.
James Steele - Florida

It was my humble honor to Sound Taps January 17, 2020, as part of the Military Honors detail for John Meade Jr. Mr. Meade was an honorably discharged US Army Veteran who served 1966-68. Sadly, he recently passed away in St. Augustine, FL., homeless with no known next of kin. The St. Johns County, FL Veterans Council filled in as family and took charge of the burial arrangements, appealing to the North Florida community to step up and honor Mr. Meade's life and service. I was proud to be one of a couple of hundred citizens from all walks of life who answered the call and gave him a proper sendoff. The local news media had a strong presence as well. I was proud to bring some publicity to our craft by sounding Taps honoring John Meade Jr. His life may have been such that he was homeless with no next of kin... but he was a Veteran and WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN. Honor and Remember

John Noonan - Kansas

I accepted a Taps mission in Arlington, KS, a town of about 500 people on the prairie in central Kansas. I coordinated with the requestor and arrived at the cemetery in the customary 1 hour ahead of the scheduled graveside service. It was about 30 degrees and cloudy with a 20 mph north wind. I met up with the Army Honor Guard and walked through the logistics of our honors routine. The hearse arrived about 20 minutes early and we, the honor guard, took our posts. It took about 10 minutes to get the casket to the grave site and all participants in place. Freezing rain began to come down. The minister took about 20 minutes for the graveside service, then he turned it over to the honors team. At the salute, I sounded Taps and the flag was folded and presented to the wife of the deceased. We retreated to our vehicles. I noticed that there was a layer of ice on my trumpet.

The family had invited me to attend a luncheon at Carolyn's Essenhaus, a small Mennonite cafe in Arlington. It was made clear by everyone how much Bugles Across America and live Taps are appreciated. Visiting with family and friends was truly a joy. This will go down as one of my most memorable and enjoyable Taps missions.
Steve Bow - Ohio Assistant State Director

Last June 2019, I had the privilege and honor of returning to Normandy, France, to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, see our French friends/family once again, take my family, and sound Taps for my dad's cousin Sgt Harold O. Allensworth at the Wall of Missing at the Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville sur Mer, France.

We paid our tribute to Sgt. Harold O. Allensworth on 5 June 2019 at the cemetery. The memorial and monument on the east end of the cemetery was being prepared with the huge stage for the official ceremonies on 6 June by President Trump and the French President Macron. As a result, the steps going down from the monument to the Wall of the Missing were blocked off. I had made previous arrangements with the staff at the Cemetery’s Visitors’ Center to do a small ceremony with Taps by Harold’s name on the Wall, so we received special treatment.

The cemetery staff member brought wet sand from Omaha Beach with him and spread the sand in Harold’s name on the wall so that it stood out from the white marble. He planted the French flag in the soil in front of Harold's name and my dad, LTC Kenneth E Bow US Army (ret) placed the American flag in the soil next to the French flag. We had an audience of my French friend Bruno Cadeville and his son, Theo, my mom Judy, wife Chrissy, and my children, Mitchell and Claudia, plus our good friends the Priebe family from our church. Bruno placed a photo of Harold on the grass and the panel I had painted of the nose art of his aircraft, “Sweatin’ It Out.” Bruno’s son Theo placed a bouquet of flowers on the ground below his name. Dad then gave a small talk on the history of the B-24H bomber, “Sweatin’ It Out” on D-Day, 1944. My daughter Claudia and I then sounded Echo Taps in honor of Harold. There were lots of tears.

We spent some time discussing the significance of that day. We could not stay in the Rose Garden and look further at the Wall because of the work going on to prepare the stage for ceremonies on the next day. On the way out we found the names of two more members of the crew of “Sweatin’ It Out.” The cemetery proper was closed off to the public so I was not able to sound Taps at retreat like I did in 2015 or find several markers I had anticipated visiting.
On 6 June, we headed to Dead Man’s Corner to see some museums and a neat C-47 D-Day simulator there. After dinner, we went to Brecourt Manor where the famous battle was fought portrayed in Band of Brothers episode 2 (Day of Days) by then 1st Lt Winters and other members of the 101st / 506th PIR to lead an assault on a German gun placement artillery battery firing on Causeway #2 exit leading off Utah Beach. Here, I decided to grab my trumpet again, and sound Taps for these men at Brecourt.

Finally, we visited Omaha Beach on 7 June and held another small Taps ceremony right on the beach next to the Monument SIGNAL d’Omaha Beach at Easy Green sector where the 29th Infantry came on the beach. My dad and Bruno held an “Airborne” flag while my son and daughter held an American flag. We placed 75 flags on the beach in the shape of a “75” and I sounded Taps in the center. We had a small crowd show up too so I decided on the fly to talk with our guests and give them a flag.

Our experience here again was mesmerizing. Being able to represent BAA and offer our thanks and prayers for our cousin Harold this way has so exceeded my expectations being a proud member of BAA.

7 YEARS WITH BAA:
This January 2020, I celebrated my 7th year with Bugles Across America. I also passed another milestone of completing my 300th Mission on 12/22/2019. This Mission was a stop at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI to visit an old friend, Al Rasof of the 487th BG, WW2. Al was a good friend and a supporter of my role as a Taps player for BAA, so I found it fitting I stop and see him and pay my respects to him on this important Mission. I carried a flag for Al to Normandy in 2015. When I came home I offered to send it to him but he declined. He told me to keep it to remember him. I have it displayed on my desk every day to look at.

The last 7 years with BAA have been, well, life changing. It's hard to put down in a short paragraph or two how much pride that I feel in wearing the BAA uniform and giving
something meaningful back to our Veterans through Taps. I can't emphasize how much appreciation and admiration I have for Howard Reitenbaugh, Jennifer Day, and of course most importantly, Mr. Tom Day for all he's done for us and this organization. I am a changed person for the better because of this group. Not only have I sounded Taps, but I've also volunteered with supporting other veterans fundraising groups, our American Legion as an SAL, and given talks in front of groups about of course BAA, but also the long list of Veterans in my family, their history, and their heroism. Being a Taps player has led to so many different opportunities and memorable experiences supporting our Veterans.

In seven years, the list is long as to where I've been and the Missions I've completed. Some top ones are Missions in 2013, 2016 and 2019 at Arlington National Cemetery; Normandy in 2015 and 2019; The National DDay Memorial in Bedford, VA every year since 2014, many Memorial Days, Veterans Days, and 100 Nights of Taps in Gettysburg, PA. I was given the Warrior Citizen Award and a flag by the US Army, many challenge coins, patches, ribbons, and the like from Veterans everywhere. What matters the most to me though is still OUR mission to the Veteran, no more and no less, and that is sounding LIVE Taps for them to give back to them for what they gave to us - their lives. "The 24 notes of Taps are the last notes the loved ones of our Fallen Warriors will hear at their sending. We will always remember, and must never forget".

-Steve Bow

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 April 10th.

Please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com
Hi Russ (McDuffie),
Thank you again for contacting us about having Bugles Across America participate in James Griffin’s funeral. The ceremony was wonderful, and we look forward to working with you in the future.
Lane Karmiol
Rivera Family Funerals & Cremations

Dear Howard (Reitenbaugh)
John (Noonan) was a delightful, wonderful person and a bugler that BAA can be proud of. He does credit to the organization. He done good!
Love,
Doris

Please except this donation and sincere appreciation for Dick Peterson sounding Taps at our Memorial Day honor service at Woodlawn Cemetery in Milwaukee. He wanted his stipend to go to Bugles Across America.
Thank you,
Holly Miller

God bless you Mr. Day! We are a military family and we greatly appreciate the effort and honor you show our wires.
Thank you,
Mr. and Mrs. Halslander
Dear Tom (Day),
I was so excited to learn of you. I had no idea there was an organization such as yours. My husband, a 20 year veteran died three years ago. I live in Goldsboro, NC, near Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, and people often depend on a volunteer bugler from the base. However, there was not always one available and I have attended funerals that were electronically played. I wanted so badly to have a real person sound Taps, and was so blessed to have that happen. The two airmen and the bugler came from Seymour Johnson. All while he was sounding Taps, I thought of my husband… and how proud he would’ve been that there was a real bugler there. I am delighted to hear of your organization and will record it for keeping in case I hear of another veteran’s family needing a bugler. Thank you so much for the service you give and for all those that serve with you. May God bless you all abundantly!
Sincerely,
Nancy Poteat

Thank you for the work you are doing to honor our veterans and their families. My mother-in-law and father-in-law were retired from the Army and the sounding of the bugle was a very moving part of the services at Arlington.
This last Memorial Day, our pastor played an arrangement of Taps and spoke of its history and concern that not every veteran could have this honor - then later that night there was your story on Fox news Sunday.
With gratitude,
Linda McMillan

Dear Gretchen (Heffler),
Your bugle playing at Bob’s funeral was so moving. I held it together until the first (strain) of your Taps That brought the tears to my eyes and a lump to my throat. Thank you so very much. I’m sending a donation to Tom Day at Bugles Across America. I think it’s wonderful service you provide.
Anne Hoffman

Dear Mr. Day,
Tomorrow is Memorial Day and a very sad day for me. Even though I now have 47 under my belt, I still grieve the loss of my beloved brother, Charlie Goldbin, in 1971. Thank you again for the dignity that you show our “boys and girls”.
God keep you well so that your work can continue!
Sincerely,
Barbara Bick
So proud of all your good work.
Thank you and God bless.
Sandra Holtzman

Thank you Sarah for sustaining a tradition.
Al Groft, Veteran

Yesterday, I was so moved by your story and what a wonderful thing you’re doing. I mailed everyone I know and asked them to forward the email so more will see what you’re doing. You are truly an amazing man.
God bless America.
Kathleen and Don Jones

Dear Tom,
My husband and I, both veterans, just watched you on Fox this past Spring. You are doing wonderful work. My younger sister was buried at Fort Sam Houston in April. We were fortunate to have a bugler at her service and my 88-year-old mother was so happy with the ceremony. God bless you and the buglers for the wonderful job!
Sincerely,
Connie and Bill Ricks

Dear Mr. Day,
I think it’s a great thing you’re doing. I recently lost a buddy who served in Vietnam and they had a bugler sound Taps. It is very touching. I wish you the best of luck with your charity. Keep up the great work.
Sincerely,
Francis Pisano

Dear Mr. Day, thank you for all you do to honor our veterans.
Sincerely,
RADM & Mrs Bob M

Hello Tom, I saw your news interview and was so thrilled with what you do. Thank you so much! Our vets certainly deserve your services and I would be honored if you would except a modest donation and support.
With admiration and appreciation,
Geoff Darr, SUAF Veteran
Hundreds Honor Unaccompanied Veteran
James Griffin
Submitted by Carol A. Clark
on January 16, 2020
Los Alamos Daily Post

Some 300 people attended a burial with military honors held Wednesday for an unaccompanied Veteran, James H. Griffin, who passed away alone Sept. 9, 2019 in his Los Alamos home.

Griffin, born April 7, 1932 was escorted from Rivera Family Funeral Home of Española at noon Wednesday and taken to the Santa Fe National Cemetery. He did not have any known living next-of-kin.

Jim Martinez, manager of Rivera Family Funeral Home of Los Alamos and Española delivered eulogy, telling the crowd that he had the privilege of serving as Griffin’s funeral director while he was in their care.

“Thank you all for coming to this beautiful Santa Fe National Cemetery, where over 60,000 of our honorable and esteemed Veterans and their spouses are laid to rest on these sacred 80 acres of land,” Martinez said. “For some of you, this event is personal. While Mr. Griffin had no known living family, he did have friends, and for those friends who have attended today, I’d like to offer my deepest condolences to you.”

He said that losing a friend brings grief, and everyone moves through grief uniquely and at their own pace. Whatever anyone was feeling was okay, he said, adding that friends should care of themselves, reach out to others for connection and support, and remember the good times they had with Griffin.

Click for full story
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 your 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!
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.
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
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, micro-fiber (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.

Perhaps, the best collection of the pertinent information would be found in Congressional Research Service Report RS21545, - Military Funeral Honors and Military Cemeteries and FAQ
If you have any articles or bugler stories that you would like to see in the next Newsletter, please email JenDayBAA@iCloud.com

All stories MUST be written, edited, ready for publishing and preferably a photo along with it. I am also looking for bugle, bugler or Taps trivia & facts. If you know of any, please email me. If this information comes from somewhere specific, please site that. Thank you.