

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



Welcome to 2013!

by Tom Day, Founder



Welcome to 2013 and the Thirteenth Year of BAA.

We have come along way since 2000. Back then, the word Bugle was almost forgotten. In 2000 the government said there are NO Buglers and the word and meaning of Taps was almost gone too.

Now look at us all.....Because of all of you, we are reaching almost 8,000 in numbers. The government at the Pentagon says we are doing over 35% of all the funeral details. We are strong with people of all ages, color, and religions backgrounds. We have over 2,000 female players. We are Scouts, CAP, Veterans, Patriots, just about all walks of life.

We had a great 150th anniversary year of Taps and we get stronger everyday.

Think about it. Even the folks in Washington D. C. said let's make Taps the USA's National song of Remembrance. Think about that a little.

We have helped Veterans all across this land. We have a great tool for all to use with our web site.

Let us stand tall and be ready as budgets are cut and WE, BAA becomes even more important to the Veterans and their Families.

THANK YOU ALL, and remember everyday; "Do good things, and tell people about it". Might just catch on.

I pray you all had a great Christmas and have a safe New Years.

Tom Day, Founder



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UPCOMING EVENTS

2014 Bugles Across America Conference

In 2014, Bugles Across America will be hosting a BAA Conference which will be open to all members and will be special meetings for state and assistant directors.



When: September 25th - 28th, 2014 **(This date is flexible. but we NEED to hear from you when is good for most people!)**

Where: The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago.
1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60523,
Tel: (630) 472-6000

We are currently looking for American sponsors to be presented in a hospitality room showing off their products. American made horns, flags, mouthpieces, etc. **If you have any suggestions, please email Tom Day** at TomDay@sbcglobal.net

The convention will include two trips:

- * To The Getzen Company in Elkhorn, WI, to see how horns are constructed
- * To Oakwood Cemetery in Chicago where 4000 Confederates are buried.

We are taking suggestions for seminar topics and speakers. **Please email Tom Day with your ideas of what you'd like to hear and learn about.** TomDay@sbcglobal.net

Seminars currently scheduled:

- * Care and upkeep of valved and valveless instruments
- * Military Funerals - How BAA members can take part. Flag folding, M1 rifle firing, prayer, and presenting the flag.

Please do NOT make reservations yet. This is just to inform you that a conference is in the works. We are trying to get the best rates possible and to have a great weekend lineup of seminars you won't want to miss! With your ideas, we will have an amazing and memorable convention.

Know of an event?

Submit events to BAA.JDay@gmail.com for inclusion into the next newsletter. The Bugler's Post is published every other month so please give plenty of time for the event's notice. Please have event information in the format and worded as you'd like to be published.

State Director Spotlight: Connecticut

Steve Smith - State Director

How long have you been with BAA?

Since Jan 2011

What inspired you to join?

My dad shared an article in the Atlanta Journal Constitution with me in Dec 2010. It shared Tom's story and what BAA does, and why. It really made an impression on me. I felt an immediate, overwhelming sense of purpose for me to join. I played the trumpet since I was 13, and had just recently played Taps for my Grandmother's service. I just felt this was the right thing to do, to join and play whenever I could to do my part, a small part, but which could help give families breath from a real heart at their loved ones funeral service.



How long have you been playing?

I'll turn 50 next year, so 37 years

Hardest part about the job?

The hardest part is making sure each member gets the attention he or she deserves. I work full time, have a young family, and I try to make sure members in CT feel welcomed, prepared and part of a group that cares deeply about what we do.

Best part about the job?

Meeting new members who share their stories of why they felt compelled to join.

Best experience with BAA?

Giving back to our service men and women. I did not serve in any capacity, and have a tremendous respect for those who have are currently serving our country in the most unselfish role. I feel in some odd way, that maybe those years of trumpet lessons when I was a teenager were to help prepare me for playing Taps today.

Do you have a goal for your state?

To increase the numbers of missions we participate in, and to do so with the utmost professional and heartfelt manner.

Is there anything you'd like to share with your audience?

Open for Q&A at any time!

WE YOU ARE BAA !

With BAA moving into our 13th year, both volunteers and those in leadership need to remember that all members need to act like officers, have the ability to lead, help those who need help, to suggest ways to do it correctly in a professional manner, and only suggest help to burial details when requested.

We all know the "LAW" says, "look for a real horn player before using a recorded message". Will the Military do that? They are, in many places. As they experience more cut budgets, perhaps the Military will call on us more. My point; The only way they will call on us is if we ALL show that we are professionals in what we do. We have to LOOK the best and act like respected participants.

Those who do not do their best to uphold these standards will be dropped from our ranks. Why? Quite simply: We are at a "one - time performance" when we have said we as a Bugler we will sound The Hardest 24 Notes of Taps. We are there to give thanks for a person's service.

What we do and how we act and look sends an important message. WE are Bugles Across America. Those who do not act professionally must not be allowed to spoil it for the rest of us. When we are advised of a member who has acted poorly in the past and is not ready to abide by our BAA code, they will be removed from our program.

Thomas J. Day
Founder

BAA National Director, Howard Reitenbaugh's, comments on Tom's message:

- 1) We can't expect or demand professional behavior and decorum from the rank and file membership if we don't first require it of our leaders.
- 2) When we are working with any Honors Detail (military or VSO), we are there as a part of that detail; we are under the direction of the Detail leader and should abide by their directions. **Only in a case of that detail leader demonstrating blatant unprofessionalism or disrespect for the ceremony should we countermand their directions..... and then, only in a manner that will not further disgrace the ceremony or cause undo emotional harm to the family of the veteran or other invited guests. This scenario would, I firmly believe, be one that is extremely rare.** I am not speaking here of the team doing something that we feel is less than 'perfect', I am speaking of very obvious and totally disrespectful behavior.

Example from personal experience: a couple years ago I was to serve as bugler with a nearby VSO detail. As the team members arrived, I became quickly aware of one individual who was 'well into his cups', or as the Navy might say, 'three sheets to the wind'.

I approached the team leader and had a private conversation. I asked if I was perhaps mistaken in my observation of this man's behavior or condition. The team leader then paid closer attention to the guy and agreed that he was 'too early into the wake', as he put it. He then, to his credit as a professional, approached the individual privately and strongly suggested that he should wait for them in the car as he was not needed to conduct the honors ceremony. Point being, it was my observation that a situation existed that was below the dignity the ceremony required, but I was not in charge. It was not my place to openly confront the drunk. I took the matter to the team leader in confidence. I allowed the team leader to 'be in charge' and take appropriate action.

3.) If we are going to be prepared to 'answer the call' from more and more military teams we must show that we are an organization that is committed to upholding high standards in the performance of our intended mission. We must be consistent in our representation..... as much as is possible for an organization of this size that is comprised totally of volunteers. The oft repeated maxim of "One bad apple spoils the bunch" comes to mind.

4) Yes, "We are Bugles Across America"; each and every one of us. I have said before, that any time any one of us is doing anything as a representative of BAA, we ARE BAA at that time and place. Our appearance and behavior represents the TOTAL group.

5.) I do believe in giving any individual the opportunity to recognize their less-than-acceptable demeanor and to make a change. BUT, if the individual is not willing or is unable to admit their fault and make a determined effort to change... that action (or inaction, as it may be) on their part then calls for their removal for the protection of the group's reputation and honor.

Howard

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES

Gary O'Neal - Pennsylvania

Gary O'Neal spoke to local veterans at a dinner given by the Berwick Elks on Veterans Day. His speech included the origin of Taps, which he also played at the service.



Anthony Van Campen - Virginia

Playing Taps on Veterans Day while at sea in the Gulf.

Vessel: NOAA Ship Gordon Gunter

Location: Gulf of Mexico

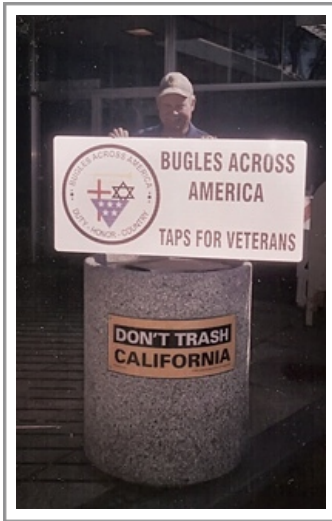
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David Blade - Montana

On Armed Forces Day I placed this geocache near the Montana State Veteran Cemetery on Honor Drive at Ft. Harrison where I serve as a bugler.

I thought this geocache would be a unique way to generate awareness of the Taps 150 celebration. There have been many favorable comments logged by persons who found the cache, and it has received three "Favorites" cache votes.





Stan Smith - California

Thank you BAA member Stan Smith of California for showing a BAA sign he made for cleaning/trash pick-up on the north-south section of Hwy 395 about 40 miles south of Bishop, between LA and Reno on the east side of the Sierra.

"The thought was our major tourist traffic (approx. 6 million vehicles annually) would have a chance to see the BAA and veteran Taps service availability....no matter where I go and get to talking with people about BAA some just haven't gotten the word.....also many do not know they can get a veteran a flag or honor guard through their funeral director, and the local postmaster in really small towns has access to a supply on hand or by special order for the flags."

After a minor hassle with the state of California over the "slogan" on the the BAA logo/crest, they finally allowed the wording. If anybody else wants to do the highway clean-up in their territory and they get static from CalTrans with the use of the BAA logo, please let Stan know as he has offered to help from what he's learned. UseStan@earthlink.net

John Stevens - Arizona

American Legion Post 6

Veterans Day 2012, VA Hospital, Prescott Ariz.



Kris Larson - BAA Assistant State Director, Utah

This photo was taken recently at the regular business meeting of Uintah Lodge #7, Free and Accepted Masons of Utah.

I decided to honor all veterans that night. I invited them to wear their uniforms or medals. I had them all come up and get a photo with me.

As I am Worshipful Master of the Lodge I am required to wear a hat in Lodge so I wore my cover with my uniform.



Starting at the left we have an Army veteran, Air Force, Navy, and Marines veteran, Air Force veteran, me, Army veteran, Navy veteran. The gentleman second from left has honorable discharges from the Air Force, Navy, and Marines. On his VFW hat is a mini medal for the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The regalia is of course Masonic regalia we wear. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve with BAA. I am so honored for being able to honor those who fought and fight for us.

Nebraska's Loss, Illinois's Win - Tom Day

Sounds like a sports story, but it's about horn playing. Bugler Stephan Garmon had been playing funerals in Nebraska with the VFW until this past September when he and his wife were moved by their church to Palatine, Illinois. Now he is all registered with BAA in Illinois.

Yesterday, I attended a funeral in Forest Park. The Marines sent three men, I was there with my rifles and horn to be ready as I had never met Steve. I talked with the Marines and organized the activities. After they lifted the flag, I would fire and after the last shot, Steve would play. Everything went great with the lift and the shots... then it was Steve's turn. I could not see Steve but I could hear each note so slow and just perfect. One of the finest Taps I've ever heard.

Once it was over, I packed my rifles and then asked Steve to see the great horn. It was a 60 year old Rexcraft G bugle he used in Scouts. WOW what a great addition to Illinois.

Michael Smith - (Fort Snelling) Minnesota

In mid-October, I had the honor of playing Taps at Fort Snelling in Minnesota, for Bradley Allen Berntson who was an Army Ranger. Bradley served at Fort Lewis in the early 1980's. He also proudly served as a detention Sergeant at the Hennepin County Jail in Minnesota.



While working at the jail, he was bitten by an inmate that was HIV positive. Bradley passed away due to complications from that incident on March 15, 2012.

Present at the gravesite for the private gathering were family, friends, and several fellow Army Rangers.

As for me, I am a patrol officer with the Bloomington Police Dept. in Minnesota. I am currently a member of their Honor Guard, and have been a proud member of BAA for many years.



Steve Bolander - Georgia

This was taken last year at the annual Peace Officer Memorial Day ceremony at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (Brunswick, GA).





Gene Ramsay - Alabama

Wreaths Across America at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo. Great program and so many people honoring US Veterans.

Michael Timson - California

Bugles Across America meets Wreaths Across America
Mirimar National Cemetery
Dec 17, 2012



Chip Stickler - Maryland SD

The mission with Wreaths Across America went off without a hitch and was a very moving service/ceremony.

Dean Martin (MD SD) and I traveled down to the area the night before, and arrived an hour or so before things got under way. The first person we met was with the Civil Air Patrol, in charge of the firing squad. The Flags and Rifles were all CAP Cadets. They did a terrific job. Very professional.

We heard a low rumble in the distance, and watched a beautiful parade of motorcycles come in and begin lining up to park. All ex-military mc, flags on every bike.

Next came a squad of Marines, looking sharp. I pitied the enemy when I talked to them. I didn't look that tall when I was that tall. Really nice guys.

After that came the Navy, Coast Guard, Army Rangers, Merchant Marines, Police, Fireman, and a whole host of supporters. We felt extremely safe there.

When Major.Scott Harris, CAP, began to speak, Dean and I were behind him and facing the crowd. When we heard him call in the color guard, we came to attention, and the ceremony began. Toward the end of the ceremony, and after the 21-gun salute, we sounded a slow Echo-Taps followed with salutes. They retired the colors, and we marched off the field.

After the crowd began placing the wreaths on the individual graves, Major. Harris asked if he could put us down for next year, and made BAA a permanent part of the Ceremony of Crownsville, MD, Veteran Cemetery's Ceremony.

Humorous Events and Unusual Stories

Gerald Pallesen - BAA State Director, Iowa

SPREAD TOO THIN: Three funerals, less than three hours & forty five miles?? I think I can!! The first two are in Sioux City, IA, with the Marines- five miles, one hour apart. The third one is with the Navy, forty miles out, not much more than one hour later.

I make a deal with the Marine 'gunny.' At the second funeral, he allows me to break ranks immediately after sounding 'Taps', instead of standing at attention while they 'fold and present.'



Gerald's grandson Cody Dias, Brigadier General (US Army, Ret) and Gerald Pallesen

The road out of Sioux City is hilly, with many curves. I'm kicking it pretty hard, when the fuzz-buster says, "You just got nailed." The state trooper tells me I was speeding, I readily agree, and I told him why. "Drivers license, registration and insurance card, please." He took maybe three or four steps away, turned and handed the papers back. "I'm sorry about this, but I must issue you a verbal warning that you were speeding. I just clocked you at 87 in a '55'. Have a nice day!" I've been told that I look quite impressive in my American Legion uniform!

When I arrive at the cemetery, the funeral procession is already there, and the Navy people are posted at the gravesite. I park where hopefully they can see me. Having done many 'militaries' with the Navy, I know the drill. When they 'tabletop' the colors, I sound Taps.

After the 'fold and present', I catch up with them as they are leaving the gravesite, and I see a third sailor putting away that electronic marvel! He says, "We didn't know you were here! I hit the switch, heard you sound the first note, and real quick shut it off!" Timing is everything!!

WHO MADE THE CALL?: Many of you know the routine: The funeral director calls, "The family has requested a live bugler for Taps. Can you do the honors?" I humbly accept.

I'm alone, in my American Legion uniform, at the gravesite thirty minutes early. Finally, the funeral procession arrives. I quickly confer with the director - where is the military? An open palm slap to his partially bald forehead. (Probably bald because he's done this before).

"OOOOOoooooooh.... I forgot to make the call!" (Now he's in full panic mode.) "OK, Mr. Meyer, I'll cover your rear." (Not audible - just my thoughts.) So I said, "Have your assistant hold my bugle. You hold, I'll fold and present, and then sound Taps." Not by the book, but it worked out OK. I learned a few things during my three year military service. First, learn to improvise. I also found out early on, survival depends on staying on the good side of two people - the cook and the quartermaster!

Peter Duston - BAA State Director, Maine

The Ultimate Fake!

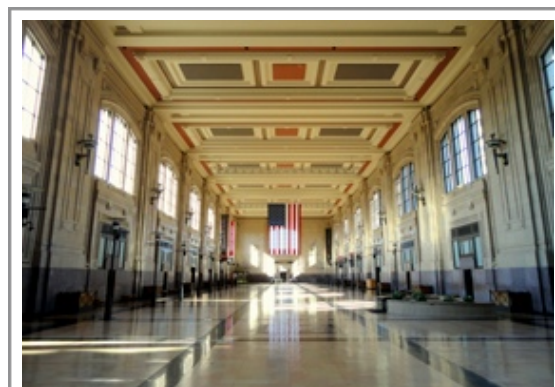
The Camp (Camp Roosevelt, Katahdin Council, BSA, Maine) was assembled on the parade ground in front of the dining lodge for morning colors - the troops at their positions with uniforms and flags. The color guard was at attention prepared to march to the flag poles for the traditional ceremony but "Oh!" where was the bugler? "Hey, Pete!" I was in the dining lodge having my morning cup of coffee. "No bugler and they're ready to sound Assembly". I grabbed the bugle I use for Bugling Merit Badge from under the podium and rushed outdoors just in the nick of time to march on to: "Color detail, advance to present the Colors". A bit out breath, I stood at parade rest on the customary "bugler rock" as the color detail hitched the three flags to their respective halyards: "Camp! Attention" "Bugler, sound off!" I raised the bugle and to my shock - NO MOUTHPIECE! Out of my mouth came "To the Colors" in fake bugle sound as the camp saluted and my beloved "Old Glory" was raised and I bet there were plenty of scouts and leaders who didn't even notice I was faking it.

John C. Parcel - BAA State Director, Missouri

Warren Hegg, National Supervisor for the Spirit of '45, was at the Union Station in Kansas City, MO for the presentation in which the statue was on display of the *Kiss Seen Around The World* as copied from the Life Magazine. Warren had asked me to play "Taps" at the conclusion of the ceremony. What I noticed was that the acoustics in this large former railroad station was outstanding. I started the first three notes, and continued as if there were a cascade of buglers playing at the same time, in perfect rhythm, and perfect harmony.

I have played "Taps" a great number of times, but I've never experienced such perfection in acoustic as this before. It was quite eerie, because Warren had mention in his speech that more than half of all the soldiers had gone through Union Station in Kansas City, MO as they were transported to their assignment for World War II. It was as if this sounded for them one more time, in the perfection of rhythm, pitch, and harmony to celebrate this ceremony in honor of them.

Musically in CHRIST and GOD WE TRUST!



David Breth - New York

I have a handful of stories that were unusual in my book. Once when the son of the deceased greeted me at the door of the church, delighted that Taps would be played for his father's memorial service. I never saw him after the service, which surprised me. The widow invited me to their luncheon, and I asked about the son's whereabouts. She told me that he passed out in the pew the instant I started playing. That was the first time I realized how powerful those notes are. I played for a WAC one time, but the graveside service had to wait a few moments, because a WAV was being buried nearby. I stood in one place, and played for both of them, simply turning 180-degrees. What were the odds? But the story I have to relate to you is my fondest memory of playing Taps, and it almost didn't happen.

I noticed a mission request for Taps to be played for a Korean War vet, an hour's drive from where I live. I accepted the mission, and shortly after, realized that it wasn't for a week from that day, it was a request for that very day. My family had plans. I had to back out. With great reluctance, I called the widow and explained my mistake. She was disappointed, but not with me. It turned out she had made her request two months prior. Apparently there was a notification problem with the website at the time, and this was the result. She reassured me that it was ok, and not to worry about it, but I knew she must be disappointed. I contacted BAA of course, so the problem could be avoided in the future, but I couldn't get the widow out of my mind. I felt lower than dirt. How could I not play for her? I called my wife, we scrapped our plans, and I called the widow to tell her we were "on". She said "I knew you were going to call me back."

I left work early, hustled down there, and arrived just in time. I positioned myself in the cemetery, but repositioned myself because there were so many infants buried in that area that it bothered me tremendously to be there. I played Taps, and held my position to avoid being a distraction to the family. A gentleman started walking toward me from graveside. When he got close enough for me to realize he was coming to see me, I stepped toward him. We shook hands, and the first words out of his mouth were "that was my best friend." It bothers me still. He was "the friend". The family was there consoling one another, and he needed somebody to talk to. We spoke for several minutes. This gentleman was a Vietnam vet, and served early in the war. I happened to mention why I had moved from the one area of the cemetery to the other, and he said "you'd think you would get used to it, but you never do." I understood instantly, and did not press - he was telling me he had seen terrible things involving children during his time in war. Shortly after, we both made our way back toward graveside.

- cont -

When the circumstances permit it, I make it a point to visit with the family afterward, and I did so this time. The widow gave me a big hug, and then said “Oh!”, in a way suggesting she had forgotten something. She started fishing in her pocket, and all I could think of was “Oh, please don’t pull out money or a check”. She pulled her hand out of her pocket, in a little fist, and said “I knew I wanted to give you something, but I didn’t know what until I saw this on my way out the door.” She stuck her fist in the palm of my hand, opened her fist, and left there one of her husband’s dog tags. I was in absolute disbelief. I asked her once or twice if she was sure, and she was. The biggest rule is never argue with the widow, so I simply sputtered to her that I was honored, and promised I would find a great place for it. I was getting misty. The gentleman I had just met saw the exchange and he was getting misty as well. I found a good place for it before I left the cemetery. It had been on a keychain in her house. I put it on my keychain, and it remains there today, several years later.



Don Grumblatt - Pennsylvania

"In the winter of 2010-2011, I was serving as bugler with the Billy Simpson VFW Post #470 at Calvary Cemetery in Erie, PA. There was quite a bit of fresh snow on the ground and a lot more falling that day. While waiting for the funeral party to arrive I noticed a bunch of strange mounds in the snow. I figured they were planters that had fallen over and were now snow covered.

The funeral procession arrived, and the ceremony began. The firing squad had lined up about 15 or 20 feet in front of the mounds in the snow. When the first volley was fired, those clumps of snow erupted. The second volley had geese squawking and flapping their wings. When the third volley was fired there were 30 or 40 very upset geese taking flight.

The mourners had been watching the honor guard, and at first were startled, but then they started laughing.... me too. Did you ever try to sound Taps while laughing? All this time the poor guys in the firing squad had no idea what had happened because the geese had been behind them. This was a first for me"



As Don describes his photo, "Just sittin' there with my hat and my horn." Don turned 86 on November 3, 2012, and is still actively serving as a bugler for BAA and with his Erie County Honor Guard.

Bruce Christensen - Illinois

Here's a humorous bugling story. I was asked to coach some Boy Scout buglers and trumpeters, so they could play Reveille, To the Color, and Taps at their campout and ceremonies. There were two buglers and two trumpeters who were going to play together and who had played together before. So my first lesson was to tell them that since the bugle is in the key of G and the trumpet is in the key of B flat, the trumpeters should press the 1st and 2nd valves when playing with buglers.



They said, "Oh, that must be why we sounded so bad before."

This photo is of me, BAA and American Legion member, playing Taps on Memorial Day, 2004 at American Legion Post #1941, La Grange, IL. I am using my Getzen official BAA commemorative bugle.

The International Connection

Bugles Across America does, indeed, have an international connection. We all know of our “Bob the Bugler”, Hartmut Hausser who represents us well and often in Germany, and of course we have our very own “Crocodile Hunter”, Ian States in Australia. As often as either of these fine gentlemen serve a mission on their own, they are also keenly aware of the capability to reach across the continents and gain the assistance of the BAA volunteers in the United States.

A few years ago, I came back to the house and found a telephone message on my machine from Hartmut. As a security officer at the Landstuhl Army Hospital in Germany, he makes it his ‘second duty’ to become a friend to as many of our wounded warriors and their visiting family members as he can manage. He is, therefore, often one that knows very early on when a service member loses their fight and will be returning home a departed hero. In this case he was also aware of a fellow airborne soldier whose family was seeking a live bugler to serve in providing honors here in the States. His call to me was as a reach across the miles to seek help in obtaining that bugler. We saw to it that it happened.



The week before the Wreaths Across America event, I got a message from down under as Ian told me of an American who is now living in Australia. This man’s father is buried at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery here in Pennsylvania. Ian is aware that I am involved in the ceremony there each year. I was put in touch with Mr. Thomas in Australia and we made arrangements for a Set-Aside wreath to be available here. With the help of my son and wife, the wreath was picked up at the distribution point. As several thousand patriot-volunteers placed nearly 6000 wreaths at the graves in several sections on the grounds, we had eight buglers roaming the cemetery to sound Taps at individual graves where family or friends were



placing a wreath. I joined in this very meaningful tribute, but had a specific mission to accomplish as well. My son carried the wreath, my horn case and a camera. With about a dozen stops along the way to sound Taps, we eventually made it to the far end of the cemetery to lay this special wreath for U.S. Navy veteran John I Thomas. While I performed the promised ritual, my son took the accompanying pictures so we had visuals to send to our new friends in Australia.

I know that there have been other instances of request for bugler presence coming to us from across the globe, and it is very comforting to know that we have grown to be an organization of willing and able volunteers that allows for the fulfillment of such with hardly a tremor of extra effort involved. I thank all of the fine Bugles Across America volunteers for being a part of this great and caring family.

Musical Instrument Inspiration

Like most of you, I got my first bugle from Tom Day. The day my box came, I got very excited and opened it on the spot. Inside it was my new pride and joy: a gleaming, shiny cavalry bugle. I'd practiced for weeks on a plastic mouthpiece he'd sent me and was delighted when I passed my phone audition. This was the culmination of my efforts.

My road to become a proficient bugler was long. Though I'd played trombone in school and was a natural at this, there was one problem. I had a bad case of nerves. As you all know, enough nervousness almost completely disconnects the brain from the lips.

I spent many pleasant conversations on the phone with Tom asking questions and seeking advice. It was during one of these conversations that Tom mentioned to me that he donated musical instruments to schools. He'd already sent me a nice trumpet after my playing at many funerals, so I asked him, "Tom, my wife is a Guidance Counselor. Her school could use some instruments." He said he'd try but my wife jumped the gun and told her music teacher about it. It turned out it would be a long time before Tom could get any more instruments but I felt obligated by now. Here's what I did and continue doing.

I go on Craigslist and look at musical instruments. I start one month back and gently inquire if they've been sold yet. Very often people say, "No." At that point I tell them that I donate instruments to schools. I tell them I can offer very little money but that the instrument will go to good use because children in music programs score better academically (true). I mention that school programs are underfunded.

So far I have gotten a clarinet, a trumpet and a trombone, all in working condition, for a hundred and fifty five dollars total. This is my contribution to charity and I don't have to worry about some executive taking a chunk of my money. Try it, guys.

Steve Grzesik - Florida

BAA- IN THE NEWS



On December 12, 2012 The Wappingers Professional and Business Association held a luncheon to honor BAA-NYS Director Danielle Masterson for her many years of service in sounding Taps for fallen heroes. The event included speeches in her honor by the Mayor of Wappingers Falls and other dignitaries, an award from the WPBA, and a special presentation by the local newspaper. The event highlighted her more than 20 years of service comforting families in her community during their time of loss.

BAA has gained national mention by way of the National Park Service web page.

This was for the [Veterans Day ceremony at Valley Forge](#).

“Howard T. Reitenbaugh, National Coordinator of Bugles Across America, will play Taps during the concluding wreath laying ceremony, coordinated in part by The Friends of Valley Forge Park.”



Jay Souweine - UMass Lowell University - Lowell, MA

<http://www.uml.edu/Profiles/Jay-Souweine.aspx>

“For musicians, UMass Lowell is a great place with its programs in sound recording technology, music business and music education.”

On Sept. 11, 2012, Jay Souweine stood outside Durgin Hall and played a solitary rendition of Taps, in honor of the country and all those who died. Across the country, other members of Bugles Across America (BAA) played Taps at the same time, the hour the twin towers fell.



Souweine (pronounced Swayne), who has been a bugler for military funerals since he was nine years old, began learning to play trumpet and became the youngest member of BAA.

“Serving with Bugles Across America is a real honor,” says Souweine. “We provide live playing of Taps, free of charge, for military funerals, so that vets have the honor they deserve. I’ve seen how moved the family is – Taps is haunting music in memory of those who put their lives on the line.”

Military service runs in Souweine’s family. His mother works at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. His father, both grandfathers and an uncle have been in uniform.

Playing 10 to 20 services each weekend can be physically tiring and climatically challenging – rain, snow, temperatures cold enough to freeze lips to the horn – but is always emotionally uplifting, he says.

On campus, Souweine plays in three groups: concert band, marching band and studio jazz. Ensembles require time and commitment, while each offers its own rewards.

“My primary training is in jazz, but I also love marching band,” he says. “It’s like a giant family and what we do with all the moves is fantastic, it’s making art.”

Souweine is glad he chose a university setting over a conservatory education.

“The university is more rounded,” he says. “You meet people who are not musicians, so you’re not competing constantly. I have friends in history or English. It’s more of a community, where we all have UMass Lowell in common. And for musicians, UMass Lowell is a great place with its programs in sound recording technology, music business and music education. We’re trained so well here, it’s an amazing school.”

- cont -

This summer, Souweine was an orientation leader, a great way to “learn about the University and about myself,” he says. “I met so many incoming students, all with their own individual personalities and the full range of emotions, from nerves to excitement. I helped show them around the campus, letting them know there is nothing to be afraid of here.”

Souweine also has taught trumpet for many years and enjoys “seeing the sparkle” when a student learns something new.

“As a musician, as a human being, you should not keep knowledge to yourself,” he says. “We should always be giving it away, letting others build their own talent.”

Souweine’s advice to students considering UMass Lowell for college?

“Give it a shot,” he says. “Join us.”

Veterans Day 2012

Here in Rhode Island, we are very proud of BAA Bugler, Patrick Hentschell on his performance and his unending support to assure every eligible veteran here in Rhode Island receive “live Taps” at their final farewell!

Patrick gave a [wonderful speech](#) all about the purpose and the history of BAA at the American Legion Post 18.

Thank you Patrick.

Mike Jackson
BAA State Director, Rhode Island



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

BRASS FROM THE PAST

"This photo is from 1941 at the burial of the last Civil War veteran residing at the Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie, PA. I was the bugler. That's me, the 14 year old boy in the white shirt. The firing squad was comprised of residents of the Home. They were WWI vets, and I'm sure some from the Spanish American War. Check out the swallow-tail coat on the funeral director. The cemetery is directly behind the Soldiers and Sailors Home and is quite impressive. It's a real military cemetery and is well maintained. Coincidentally, I was serving as a bugler at the Home in December. I was assisting the VFW Post 470.

On November 3rd I was also bugling.... on my 86th birthday. Never in all my dreams did I ever think I would still be bugling at this stage of the game."

Don Grumblatt



If you have any interesting facts or history to share with BAA, please email BAA.JDay@gmail.com Photos desired but not required.

KEY NOTES

Warming Up Is Critical

by G.P. (Chip) Stickler
BAA Maryland State Director

Warming up properly, is one of the most critical things that we can do, yet as brass players, we often neglect it. As an Instrumental music director, I hear players say, *"It takes time away from what little practice time I get."* Or maybe, *"I know how to play, what do I need that for?"* I've even heard so called "professional players" say, *"I take it easy when I first start out, that way I am getting the warm up during my practice time."*

Wrong! Do a simple Google search on improper warm-ups, and you will find countless examples of players who have been side-lined, and even knocked-out of playing permanently, due to the lack of, or improper warm-ups.

A simple warm up can, not only assure that you are able to hit the notes without "cracking", but can also make sure that you will be able to play again the next time.

The fancy "fanfare", or show-off "high scales" are definitely not warm-ups. Long, low tones such as a low C for 8 counts, then down to low G for 8 counts. This gets your lips vibrating on the proper frequency, and helps assure that you are not pushing too hard on the mouthpiece. That is the main reason not to go high too quickly. Most people push way too hard when they attempt to go higher.

A good warm-up should not go above the "C", above middle "C". On the next page are warm-ups that I have my students start with, every time they pick up an instrument. Try it out for a few weeks, and see if you don't have a much easier time of playing, no matter what level you are playing at.

Another thing that will really hurt your playing, is allowing your mouthpiece to get cold, after your warm-up. An easy way to keep it warm, is to place your mouthpiece folded in a hand warmer. Our local grocery store sells a pack of six, disposable hand warmers for \$2.50. You can also get them at hunting / fishing, departments of Walmart, K-Mart, etc.

As you are standing at parade rest, waiting to sound Taps, place the mouthpiece wrapped in a hand warmer under your arm. When it is time to play, bring the horn up and simply let the hand warmer drop. Can't take credit for that tip, it came from Howard Reitenbaugh. Excellent Idea!

Try this warm up, or follow the long low tones, and make your own. No faster than 60 beats per minute. Hope it helps.

G. P. (Chip) Stickler
BAA Maryland State Director,
sticklersmusic@gmail.com

Warm up Tips

These Warm Up Tips are meant to be played before you play anything else. By playing them slowly, your lips will vibrate at the proper frequencies, and will warm the mouthpiece and horn properly. This will build stamina, tone, and endurance. Try them, They will surprise you.

Play Very Slowly 60 bpm

G.P. Stickler

Trumpet in B \flat
Or Bugle in C

Fingering 0 1-3 0 0

B \flat Tpt.

0 0 0 0 0 1-3

B \flat Tpt.

0 0 0 1-3 0 0

G- Bugle

Repeating this Exercise may seem excessive, but doing so during practice will build up your stamina, and improve your tone amazingly! Try it.

G.P. Stickler

Play Very Slowly 60 bpm

Bugle in G or
Trumpet in B \flat

B \flat Tpt.

B \flat Tpt.

Repeat When Time Permits



Important Member Reminders

If you can't volunteer for a request, it is not necessary to reply and tell us why you can't make it. While we truly appreciate your willingness to serve, you are replying to an automated message.

If you are available to volunteer for a request, please 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.

After you've officially volunteered for a request, please contact the requester ASAP with the contact information that will have been sent to you. If you don't see an email with the requester's contact information, please check your spam folder.

Changing Your Contact Information: If you need to update your email, phone number or address, please log in to the BAA web site and update your profile. Click on your name in the upper right corner to get started.

Formally volunteering for a request and then needing to cancel 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, please log in and use the Contact Director option under the Contact Us tab to contact your State Director to let them know. You will only see the [Contact Directors](#) option if you are logged in. Not showing up lets down the family of the deceased and is grounds for membership removal.

If you've lost your 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!

If you find that the event you've volunteered for already has another bugler, please contact your state director and they can find out if the event was posted twice accidentally and who accepted the request first.

Thank you so much everyone. We really do appreciate your generous hearts. We just wanted to remind you of a few things that will help make things run a little smoother.

A Reminder To All About Our Bugler Request System...

Since its inception in October of 2010, we have processed over 5800 requests. Now, admittedly, some of them have been done as a means of testing by Directors, and some have been unintentional duplicates, but the vast majority of that number represent legitimate requests for the provision of a live bugler to support military funeral honors or special memorial events. We are averaging, at this point, 10 to 15 requests coming in to our national system each day.

With that expanding public reliance on the Request System have come some growing pains. We have had to make adjustments to the coding on several occasions, and we will continue to monitor for any additional tweaks that may be required. When you stop to think of the size of our organization and the magnitude of the potential, we have been doing amazingly well. **A heartfelt and most sincere “Thank You” is extended to all that have had a part in making this a successful endeavor.** To serve in honoring the veteran is our highest calling and the core of the BAA mission.

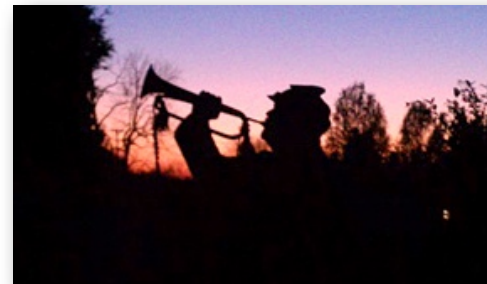
In order to continue to serve this rapidly growing outreach, we must all take it seriously and be prepared to do our part. Your level of involvement in support of Bugles Across America determines the particular attention and action required.

For the volunteer bugler:

- 1) Maintain a regular watch on your registered email contact address so that you will see the requests as they come in;
- 2) Carefully consider your availability as to date, time, and location. If the date or time would prevent you from attending, or the distance is beyond your personally-established limit of travel, simply delete the request;
- 3) If you are certain that you can serve the mission, follow the hot link within the email, and then volunteer for the mission.
- 4) As soon as reasonably possible, contact the requestor directly to provide assurance of your intent to serve.
- 5) Save and print out the request details and the message acknowledging your assignment. Always carry that with you when you report for the service.
- 6) Provide a message of feedback to your State Director after serving the mission. While some states have established this as a requirement, it is certainly a good thing to do in all cases.

SEEN THIS MONTH ON FACEBOOK

BAA Pic of the Day - BAA volunteer Harry Dillon playing Taps at the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Luminary service. He played every half an hour from 5:30 to 9:30. Thanks Harry for all you do for BAA!



BAA Pic of the Day - BAA volunteer and Alaska State Director Gene Horner. Thank you to Gene and all our BAA volunteers that provide Taps during inclement weather.

BAA Pic of the Day - Today we spotlight the beautiful artwork sometimes found on the tool of our craft. Pictured is the bell of a 1917 Conn 80A cornet made for the US Navy.



BAA Pic of the Day - From BAA member Mitch Steils - Emily Steils, who came to Arlington with me this spring to play Taps. My twin sons came in their Boy Scout uniforms along with my wife and our whole family took part in the honors. I was a very proud man. A family that plays Taps together...stays together.....THANK YOU for all you do for BAA!

BAA Pic of the Day - BAA member C. Douglas Kroll, Ph.D. from Palm Desert, CA. Playing Taps for a USCG WWII veteran at Riverside National Cemetery in California on 12 October 2012.



Tom and his daughter, Julie Day in Austin, Tx at an Elks Convention. July 2012

From Paul Hobbs – Just finished this flag case for a friend and fellow American Legion member. Thought I would try some creativity with the camera. It is a 48 star flag of a Veteran from his family.



BAA member Bruce Walker from NJ

BAA Pic of the Day - BAA member Mike Badley – Bugler 20th Maine.



BAA Pic of the Day - BAA member Ernie Marquez performing Taps at a flag dedication at Calvary Cemetery in Seattle Memorial Day 2012. Thank You Ernie for all you do for our nations veterans and for BAA!



2013 Bugles Across America Calendar

We are pleased to start taking pre-orders for the 2013 Bugles Across America Calendar

Each month shows our volunteers honoring our nation's veterans with LIVE Taps.

Calendars are \$15.00 each +\$2.50 shipping and handling and will ship the first part of January 2013.

**** ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO BUGLES ACROSS AMERICA ****

This is a great way to support a good cause and to help publicize the terrific work our volunteers do in honoring our nation's Veterans with LIVE Taps.

We want to thank BAA volunteer **Rick Peterson from Gordon Bernard Company** in Red Wing Minnesota for making this project a reality!

For questions on the calendar, please contact Mark Paradis at (908) 236-8464 or via email at BAAMedia@markparadis.com

Please note that we accept payment via the PayPal link below and on the Bugles Across America web site at www.buglesacrossamerica.org or you may send a personal/bank check made payable to Bugles Across America NFP.

Mail all checks to -

Mark Paradis

84 Brunswick Avenue

Lebanon, NJ 08833

To pay by PayPal click [BAA 2013 Calendar Page](#)



New Items for Buglers at T & T Uniforms!

T & T has a few new products on our [web site](#) that are offered to you. Thanks again for the privilege in servicing you and your buglers needs.

Ryan Heiden

T & T Uniforms South, Inc
285 A North Main Street
Jonesboro, Ga 30236
770-210-3399
770-210-3366



Editor's Special Note !

I just wanted to make a special thank you to three people who help me make this happen:

- 1.) BAA National Director and BAA Pennsylvania State Director, **Howard Reitenbaugh**. He is a remarkable editor when I need him. He catches all the goofs that I have failed to catch. Thank you Howard.
 - 2.) BAA National Coordinator and New Jersey Assistant State Director, **Mark Paradis**. He has taken our social media and taken it to the next level. He keeps it fresh and adds some great additions to the Bugler's Post. Thank you Mark.
- Lastly...
- 3.) I can't do this without **your** stories. Thank **you** for writing and sharing your stories and photos. Without you this newsletter would be terribly thin and boring! Thank you!

Do you have a most unusual or funny story to tell regarding an event or request you played Taps for? The Bugler's Post wants to publish your most unusual bugling 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 15th

Please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

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.

These states are:

- * Delaware
- * Massachusetts
- * Mississippi
- * Montana
- * Nevada
- * New Mexico
- * North Carolina
- * Oregon
- * West Virginia

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.

Not Getting a Chance To Volunteer?

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

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

Location for BAA business cards and BAA letters

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

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



[Taps 150 Store](#)

In the Taps 150 store you will find Taps 150 Medals, pins, coins, patches, t-shirts, coffee mugs, a booklet written by Jari Villanueva and the Day is Done CD

The *Day Is Done* CD has 33 tracks of Taps and Taps related music including calls and settings of our National song of Remembrance. It is also available on [iTunes](#)

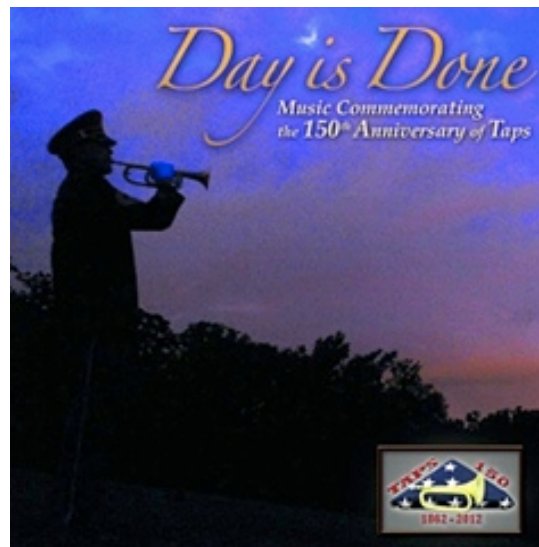
All proceeds benefit the Taps 150 projects this year. Please support Taps150 and BAA in these worthy projects! [Make a purchase today.](#)

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

And visit our [Facebook Page](#)

Thanks!

Jari Villanueva, President, Taps 150



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Find and subscribe to us on the following web sites:



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<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/BAA-Bugles-Across-America>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/BuglesAcrossAmerica>

KEY LINKS

[Bugles Across America](#)

[Taps Bugler](#)

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[Getzen](#)

[BAA New York on Facebook](#)

[Kanstul](#)

[BAA Kentucky on Facebook](#)

[Spirit of '45](#)

[BAA Nashville on Facebook](#)

[Drum Corps International](#)

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[Flags For Vets](#)

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[Operation Taps](#)

[BAA: Ohio's Blog](#)

[Association of Military Musicians](#)

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[BAA Bugler Directives](#)

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[Taps 150](#)

[The Tribute Lady](#)

[Day is Done on CD](#)

[Day is Done in iTunes](#)

[Regimental Drum Major Association](#)

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

All stories 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.