

BUGLER'S POST

Official Newsletter of Bugles Across America



Doing What It Takes To Serve

by Tom Day, Founder



Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow Bugle Players of Taps.

During the last few months we have tried to use the web site to see if there was an interest in more communication. We tried the experiment of having a log in by Directors

and we did get a good response.

The idea was to see if you were still out there, these are, changing times. The experiment is over. The web site is open and the best way to stay informed is to visit the web site on a regular basis and to read the Buglers Post.

We are now seeing about three or four new members signing up everyday all across the land. This is great as we lose several each month due to changes in the lifestyle and location.

The idea behind BAA was to find real horn players to help out with Military Funerals. We have done this thru BAA, a Registered NFP. We charge no dues and uniform's are optional.

During our thirteen years I have, at times, heard that a horn player showed up at a funeral and they were not up to par. So, what do you do? You want the name BAA to reflect the best. This is when we asked State Directors to audition new members to qualify them for placement on the Bugler list . It is a one minute test. Enough said.



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Things that may interest you

Over the past thirteen years, as BAA and since 1950 when I started sounding Taps for Veterans and their families I have done so at their request. I stand by our affirmation that "The family is in charge at the burial of their Veteran."

Should a family want Echo Taps I have tried to do this for them. There have been times when a family wanted an additional call played after Taps. When able, I also performed it. Why? Because it was requested by, THE FAMILY. It is the last time with their Veteran. I have never been a hired bugler for the Military, never received one dime from the government for playing and don't really expect to in the future.

Some in the Military state that Echo Taps is not protocol and will not do it, no matter what. It is true that all service branch Directives or Instructions state the Echo Taps is not to be done. To the best of my understanding, this prohibition was included not because Echo Taps is disrespectful in any way, but was put in there because of the real shortage of available military bandsmen to do funeral honors. The military admits that they don't have enough horn players to do all the funerals that are taking place, so they certainly don't have the resources to send two buglers to the same funeral. That shortage doesn't hamper BAA. If we have two volunteers available, and the family asks for Echo Taps, we will accommodate their wish. The Military Funerals we do with BAA are the last time the family will be with their Veteran. It's my duty to do for the family what they want whenever possible.

This said, I would like to turn your attention to a case that happened last month. As you may have read, we questioned the funeral procedures in one state. We never got an answer, so I said we would not do requests in five specified cemeteries run by the state. We have taken this unprecedented step only to protect the families from undeserved harassment or concerns. If the situation comes up, we will have to explain that we would be glad to provide a real bugler at no cost, but the responsibility at that particular cemetery has been taken by the National Guard and their paid buglers. The family will have to contact them and be certain they ask for and expect to receive the real horn player. Live Taps, not recorded. This applies only for Army and now Air Force services.

Then on February 25th we got a request in Maryland and the family and the Veteran wanted Echo Taps. The veteran had left written instructions that he wanted BAA to do the Taps, and he wanted Echo Taps. We took the request, and as I write this the State Directors of BAA in Maryland are on their way to play Echo Taps live. Even though it was a BAA request the family was called by The Chief of Buglers and told the Maryland State Guard would not do Echo and it would never do it. The son thought he was being told that Echo Taps could not be done at all. He spoke to the BAA Director who told him they were on the way, and they were prepared and intended to sound the Echo Taps as his father had specifically requested.

Bottom line is that BAA will do funerals in the five state cemeteries but only through the BAA request system and ONLY for The Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. The Maryland National Guard will continue their paid bugling for the Army and Air Force. If a SPECIFIC request should come in for BAA at one of these cemeteries for Army or Air Force, we will wait and see if all parties believe in honoring the wish of the family and veteran.

We look forward to continue our service for Veterans and their families free of charge.

Maryland State Directors Chip Stickler and Dean Martin, we say Thank you on behalf of this Veteran's family and those who will contact us in the future.

There are former members of BAA who are out there that feel BAA is not run right. That of course is the American way. But, as it is we are still over 7,000 strong and still doing 35% of all Military funerals.

Our Web people, and all of our State Directors, and I do what we can to run the show everyday. We too have families and do what we can to support our families.

Contrary to the opinion of some former members, I feel we have reached out to all America and have been very successful. To have a vote would mean you need to have an investment. BAA does not collect dues or ask you to come to monthly meetings in your state, or yearly national conventions where campaigns take place for those running for some office.

Here is what we ask of a Member/ Volunteer of BAA...

Sign up, audition, maintain a good email address, accept requests whenever you can, and call the requestor and confirm your intent to serve. Show up early and do a good job. If you cannot do a request that comes to you, just hit delete. Should you move, let us know. If you want to be more active we have things to do. That's it.

Those who feel the program is not what they want have that American dream to start their own unit.

To close this update I want to thank all members again for all the missions completed, and ask you to get ready for more work as our elected leaders try to run our country.

God Bless you all, and remember to Fly The Flag.

One more thing... A special note appreciation to Marine Bugler Ed Crobie who has just completed his 6,300th Taps at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Illinois.

Tom Day Founder

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 include special meetings for state and assistant directors.



When: September 25th - 28th, 2014 **(This date is flexible. but we NEED to hear from you when it 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 Comapny 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.

Our Maine Director Speaks

Dear Tom,

It is sad that politics, turf and attitude get in the way of providing funeral services for us veterans, retirees and fallen warriors. I have been serving on honor guards or as the "lone" bugler since the 80's after I rejoined the Army Reserve at age 47. At that time, I played with the local Navy honor guard (NSG Winter Harbor) that provided all the military honors here in Western Washington County, ME or if they didn't I was called in our area for most of the veterans funerals as the "Lone" bugler and received "retirement points" for each event.

After Congress and DOD codified "Funeral Honors", things changed. As each service established their programs, there were growing pains as they scrambled to comply. The Legion and VFW established Honor Guards and the Army National Guard got tasked with establishing the "coordination" HQ for all requests. The veterans organizations got themselves trained under DOD regs and were proud of their ability to provide "full" military honors even to single enlistment veterans.

I helped the initial National Guard effort mostly because the SSG in charge had been on my instructor team at West Point where I ran a big piece of cadet basic my last three years before retiring from the Army Reserve. He switched over to the Guard and was tasked to build a program. We did fine until he went AD - his replacement was a NG MSG who built a program that did not include cooperating with any non-Army National Guard personnel.

There were no more live buglers, no veterans organization participation, etc. In fact, since the State office received most of the requests from funeral homes, requests for non-army services weren't always passed on to that service. Needless to say, the ugly image of funeral rivalry arose with appropriate funeral honors a casualty. It has settled down some because the Air Force established a strong Honor Guard Team, the Navy has their own coordinator and the Coast Guard goes mostly to BAA.

The sad ingredient in all this is the solicitation and turf protection that goes on often when a grieving family does not know what their choices and options are. As your examples pointed out, the family often suffers. I know because I have backed out of events when there were "turf" conflicts. At other times, I have stepped in and taken charge to keep an event "proper", smooth and dignified for the family - it's always about and for the family.

Since I retired at West Point wearing a Master Sergeant uniform with an armload of gold braid

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for 30 years service but was retired at my highest rank - 1LT, I have both sets of blues so can present myself as an Honor Guard soldier and/or officer that by appearance commands attention. I have an advantage that a civilian bugler, a legionnaire or a lower rank National Guard soldier doesn't have and with the experience I can "make it happen" without ruffling feathers too much and in the end, if it's a good event, all are happy and probably relieved as well.

What to do next as DOD Funding for funerals declines? Key (active) buglers should be invited to training where they learn funeral protocols like folding, presenting and even firing. In the spring, I intend to invite such buglers to training with the 101st Air Refueling Wing Maine State Honor Guard at the Bangor Air Base.

Thanks, Tom for founding BAA.

Peter Duston
Cherryfield, Maine

State Director Spotlight: Florida

Wilbur Smith (Smitty) - Assistant State Director

How long have you been with BAA?

I have been with the BAA almost from the beginning when John Murphy contacted me and got me interested. I had been playing Taps around the area and have known John from our military days; we were playing in bands together at that time. John had talked about Tom Day's vision about the program and how we could help and with John's enthusiasm I thought I should get involved.



How long have you been playing?

I started playing in elementary school and continued on throughout high school. After high school, I joined the Navy Music Program; completing 26 years. I retired and came back to Orlando, Florida. Since my retirement from the Navy, I worked for Walt Disney World and many other jobs; however, always staying in music. Along with playing Taps for the National Guard and BAA, I conduct the VFW Post 2093 Community Band as well as performing in many other musical organizations.

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

Being a Veteran, I feel a need to be able to give honors to those who have honorably served their country. It is a good feeling to be able to help get a bugler or be able to perform at one of the services. It would be nice for every state to have the capabilities to perform for all our deserving veterans.

I do like to fish and spend time with my family, however, I spend a lot of my time with the musical units I perform with and the bugling that I do thorough the Central Florida area. It has been an honor to server in the military and still be able to work with BAA and the Nation Guard in honoring our men and women who have served.

Wilbur C Smith CWO4 USN (Ret)

Director VFW Post 2093 Community Band

Orlando, FL

Leo Murphy - Assistant State Director



How long have you been with BAA?

I'm not positive but it must have been since about 2004.

What inspired you to join?

I read about BAA on line after seeing a piece on the news. I am a veteran and have always liked military ceremony and bugle calls. I remember when I was stationed at the Presidio of Monterey, CA going for walks late in the evening where I could hear the bugle calls played better than I could from my barracks, to hear tattoo. I always liked that call. The whole concept of playing a recording or a digital reproduction of

Taps just did not seem to me to be respectful or adequate for any veteran much less one who died for his/her country. Despite not having been a draftee I felt that if recorded Taps was adequate for their funeral then they should have been able to send in a picture when they got their draft notice.

How long have you been playing?

When I joined BAA I went out bought a trumpet and started taking lessons. I wanted to learn to play well enough to be able to do a good job for Taps. Since then I have kept taking lessons and can play the trumpet adequately if not great.

Hardest part about the job?

The hardest part is the few times that a request comes in that I can not get filled. It has not happened often and when it does I try to do it myself if it is not too far away. However, I work a full time job as a paramedic so it is not like I can take off work just anytime I want either.

Best part about the job?

The best part is the great people we have as members. As I stated it is rare that we have a hard time filling requests. Our members are there to do what needs to be done and I appreciate it. I am always concerned when a request comes in that it will be covered but most of the time I will watch my email and see that it has been accepted in short order, many times within minutes.

Best experience with BAA?

My best experience was getting to participate in the ceremony last May at Arlington. The other memorable, not best I guess but bittersweet was a couple of years ago I was waiting at a cemetery on Memorial Day to sound Taps at the conclusion of the event. My father, a WWII vet, had been suffering with cancer for sometime and we knew the end was near. He lived with my sister. My phone vibrated in my pocket, I knew I had about two minutes before I was going to have to play. I answered when I saw it was my sister and told her I only had a minute. She said to call her back but I could tell by the sound of her voice. I asked if he was gone and she said yes. I told her I would call her back. I had about thirty seconds and then the rifles fired. After sounding Taps my trumpet instructor who was there came to me and said that he has heard me play Taps many times but thought that there was just something extra about this time. I told him what had happened. I guess the emotion could be heard. That time was for Dad.

Do you have a goal for your state?

I would like to be able to staff every request with a qualified bugler. That no veterans family that wants live Taps should ever go without. If the veteran could be there for our country, we should be there for the veteran.

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

In closing the only thing I would say is that every organization is made up of a wide range of members, each of whom has his own personality and story. Hopefully we can keep our goal of providing buglers first in our minds and hearts, let the petty politics and hurt egos be kept in the background and let the only thing that is heard from BAA be clear crisp notes that honor those who have served.

BEHIND THE BUGLE - YOUR STORIES



Mark L Dallner - Wisconsin

Today, I played Taps at a grave side service for a Air Force Colonel and a Coast Guard Seaman. His wife died some years ago and now that the husband had passed the family decided to have full Military Honors for both.

Honor teams from both services were present.

I was there to play Taps in Bugles Across America uniform. Afterwards, I had decided to go to the Milwaukee VA Medical Center for my volunteer duties in Palliative Care, remaining in my BAA uniform. Too lazy to go home and

change or pack a change of clothing... My past visits at the VAMC had been somewhat unproductive for a lack of a better way to say it. I was not able to connect for some reason. Today was much different as I was in uniform with my service ribbons. The connection was almost immediate. Must have talked with 5-6 people! Residents and staff. I talked about BAA briefly and then visited with the residents.



Scouting picture from 1966, bugle in hand.



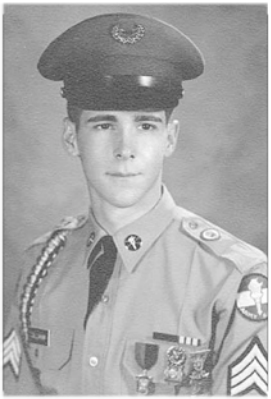
Bethany Jameson - Florida

Playing Taps, 01/19/13, American Heroes Air Show, Jet Blue Park, Fort Myers, FL

Bill McIntosh - Georgia

I recently was called to sound Taps for a WWII veteran. At the conclusion I was talking to one of his sons. His son was telling me that his father never talked about the war, like so many WWII veterans seem to hold it private. This veteran's son was recalling sitting with his father watching the Ken Burns special on WWII. This son, with a real joy and respect in his eyes told me about how his father lit up when they came to the part about the huge swastika being blown off the top of the big monument. At this point the son told how his father came to life when that part came on. His father, with excitement about his service that his son had never seen started telling his son..."I was right there! That is what I did in the war! I did not push the plunger but I ran all the wires for that explosion". The son spoke with such pride about his father! As I sat there in the country cemetery after most had left I was so moved to realize that I had got to sound the final "thank you" for another WWII veteran. I would say important veteran but they are all important in my eyes. This was a powerful moment for me.

Jay Callaham - North Carolina



My first experience of sounding Taps for "real" was in 1967 as a ROTC Cadet at North Georgia College (now the University of North Georgia) in Dahlonega, GA. It's a full-time senior military college, one of only a half-dozen or so outside of the Service Academies. The day is regulated by bugle calls, mostly loudspeaker recordings. There was one exception. I was there during the height of the Vietnam War era, 1967-71. We had a tradition that whenever we were informed of the combat-related death of a former Cadet, that evening Taps was sounded live, and his former company along with other friends would silently parade around the drill field in his honor. It became quite an honor among the trumpet players in the Band

Company to be tapped to be the live bugler for that ceremony. When called upon to do so during my Freshman year, it was an honor, but a rather impersonal one. During my sophomore - senior years, I often had known the young officer whose name was read out that day, and it came to mean a great deal more. It has never lost any of that meaning, throughout my own service and in retirement where I still serve as a live bugler for an all-veteran honor guard.



John Gonzales - Washington (Former Kansas BAA Member)



Being a part of Bugles Across America (BAA) has been an honor and blessing; first in my adopted home state of Kansas, and now here in Washington. My most current mission was met with gratitude, not only from the family, but also from the small honor guard that was preparing for the service. I arrived early and approached the team who were expected to sound a recording of Taps from a digital recorder housed in a mock brass-looking horn. This is the exact situation for which BAA was formed, and for which I've proudly been a member of for the last 10 years.

Although I've played for dozens of memorials, funerals and events – large and small – by far the most memorable was in Caldwell, KS on July 5th, 2006. Caldwell is a tiny town about 1.5 hours south of Wichita. I thought that I would arrive early enough to grab lunch at a fast food place once I got to Caldwell. But as I learned, there is no fast food place in Caldwell, KS in fact I saw only one grocery store and one gas station, as I drove through and then out of the town in the span of about 30 seconds. With the help of some kind Caldwell citizens, I eventually found my way to the small rural cemetery.

As I normally do, I arrived approximately 30 minutes before the scheduled service. I met the daughter of the deceased briefly and spoke to the presiding pastor to work out timing and logistics. I typically play about 50 paces from the gravesite and sometimes because of the distance need a visual cue.

As I waited for the service to begin I was filled with an overwhelming calm, listening to the birds, the gentle breeze rustling leaves, the quiet. I focused on the music, playing those 24 notes over and over in my mind preparing to sound the emotionally-laden melody. I thought about the deceased couple for whom I was playing. I didn't know much about them; a husband and wife, both having served in our military.

Instead of the usual detail of honor guard in dress uniform bearing rifles, there was a single elderly gentleman in full military uniform, circa WWII.

The service began with prayers and music. Then the pastor began to tell the story of the deceased couple. The husband, a navy man, in fact a submariner who served his country with honor and selflessness for decades, serving in WWII, the Korean and Vietnam wars;

and a wife, a nurse in the army for years, faithfully attending to the needs of injured soldiers for years in several theaters of war. I was humbled at their story of courage and service to our country. They had two daughters, but had dedicated their lives not only to protecting their own children, but mine too. These were patriots who spent their lives serving our country and safeguarding our freedoms.

My time came and I sounded Taps slowly. I could feel the melody move from the bell of my horn, pause reverently over the gravesite and then drift across the beautiful rural Kansas landscape. I focused on each note, on its tone, its length and how it melded with the echo of the one before. I was pleased with my small contribution on this day.

As I left quietly to my car I heard a voice calling my name. It was the pastor running after me; I normally parked far away from the actual gravesite in order to be as inconspicuous as possible. The pastor, out of breath from the 60 yard dash he'd just run, told me that Lori (one of the daughters) wanted to speak with me. I quickly moved toward her, and met her about halfway back to the gravesite.

I could see that she still had tears in her eyes from the ceremony. She wanted to thank me for playing so beautifully and then offered me a handful of money. There was no hesitation in my response. I politely declined the gift, and explained that it was my honor and privilege to have played for her parents; that it was my small way of saying thank you to them for the service and dedication they gave to us and to their country.

Lori's eyes flooded with tears, and although I had met her only 30 minutes before, she embraced me as if we had known each other for years. My eyes also filled with tears as we separated and I thanked her again for the privilege of playing.

This was absolutely the smallest ceremony for which I had ever played. No honor guard, no flag folding ceremony, no 21-gun salute and only a handful of mourners were on hand. This was a very simple, very small, very rural service for which I would spend 3 hours of my driving to and from. This was also, absolutely the most gratifying service for which I have ever played.

I am thankful for the privilege of being a part of BAA.



Roy Perrin - Texas

Being new to BAA, two concepts became readily apparent:

1. Upon arrival at one of my first services, a member of the honor guard told me she was very glad that I came, because she has to play the recorder bugle, "and it is so embarrassing for me."
2. Those 24 notes also "touch" the bugler's heart.



Samuel Young - Kansas

I have two stories.

1.) In the early 1960's, as a 14 or 15 year old, I periodically played Taps with an American Legion Team from my hometown of Crawfordsville, IN. It was during one of my first funerals that I experienced a very vocal supporter. The funeral was at a rural cemetery and the Rifle Team stood near one of the boundary fences. They positioned me further down the fence row. On the other side of the fence were a number of cows who naturally were peacefully watching us very intently, even during the firing of the three rifle volleys. However, as I played the first note of Taps, the cow nearest to me decided I needed assistance and let out a very loud "Moooooooooooooooo"! Fortunately I kept my composure and completed Taps while my bovine assistant continued to accompany me.

2.) The picture was taken in September 2009 when volunteers and staff from Fort Larned (KS) National Historic Site (where I am a volunteer bugler and saddler) dedicated a memorial marker at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery honoring the 60+ deceased Fort Larned soldiers reburied at Fort Leavenworth.

Like a lot of buglers, I know my picture is being taken, I just never see them.

The rank on the uniform if you are not aware is Cavalry Chief Trumpeter. The service stripes represent 40 years. I should have two more service stripes for a total of 50 years as a bugler, but there is no room on the sleeve!



Paul Hobbs - Missouri

Taps For Family Members: Shortly before the Taps 150 event last summer I had finished reading Bill O'Reilly's book *Killing Lincoln*. The book goes into some detail of the battles near Appomattox at the end of the Civil War. I had known since childhood that my Great Grandfather David Kerr and his brother Samuel had enlisted in the Pa. 140th Volunteer Infantry early in the war. Great Grandfather, being very young was made a Fifer. Shortly after Gettysburg he was transferred to Coles Cavalry in Maryland. Samuel on the other hand was given arms. I had known that "Uncle Sam" had been



wounded or killed in a battle near Farmville, Virginia and family lore had led me to believe he was probably wounded in the Battle of Sayler's Creek, much discussed in O'Reilly's book.

Wanting to attend the Taps 150 event and visit family in Pennsylvania while back east, Jan and I started planning an RV trip that would include some Civil War research.

Here I digress..... Three events are responsible for me finding and joining Bugles Across America even though I had not played my high school trumpet for 50 years. All three were funerals of family veterans where Taps was played on a cassette tape player. During our planning, I got the idea to have a family gathering at Millcreek Cemetery in Hookstown, Beaver County, where I was raised, and sound a proper Taps for family veterans interred there. Word was sent out of my plan and we had a wonderful turnout of relatives. We went from grave to grave of family veteran's and a close relative who was assigned to research for the event told of the Veteran's story, or as much as was known. We all learned many new details of their service. When finished we all gathered under a big oak tree and I sounded Taps for our family heroes. It was a tearful event.

We then headed to the Berkeley Plantation via the Skyline Drive and very much enjoyed the Taps 150 celebration.

Following Taps 150 (that's a whole other great story) we headed for the Appomattox area. Our first stop was the Sayler's Creek Battlefield. Here we found a new Visitors Center with a library. While touring the visitor's center library Jan found a book of Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Our excitement spiked when she found Samuel Kerr in the index.

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We turned to the referenced pages and read with watery eyes the words of Uncle Sam's gallantry in the final days of the war. We read of the April 7, 1865 battle of Cumberland Church between Lee's Army and Maj. Gen Humphries II Corps. We read Col. George W. Scott's report of this battle. He wrote *"The men who compose this noble old veteran brigade may well be proud of the part taken by them in this as well as in each and all of the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac. On the same day were wounded Captain's Ricker, Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers and Kerr, One hundred and fortieth Pennsylvania Volunteers, acting aides-de-camp. These two officers were particularly distinguishable at all times for their gallantry in action."*



The staff of volunteers at the visitor's center did not know the location of Cumberland Church or if it was still standing. All was not lost however. When we parked the rig, we noticed a few tents down the hill from the visitor's center. We saw some uniformed folks there and decided to see what was happening. Turns out it was a group of Confederate Marine reenactors there for the weekend. We struck up conversation and I showed them the pages we had copied from the book and asked if they knew anything about the Cumberland Church. They did. They said the church was still there and gave us directions. The route took us through Farmville and north of town a few miles. We found it! The original church is still there with a few additions. There is a plaque describing the battle and maps showing

the positions of the various Union and Confederate units involved. We found the Pa. 140th on the map and right then we knew where they made the charge in which Uncle Sam was mortally wounded just two days before Lee surrendered. We spent some time studying the maps and taking photos then I got out the bugle and sounded Taps in the church yard for Uncle Sam.

We have since learned that Sam was transported to a hospital in Annapolis where he died of his wounds on May 3.

Following his death, he was appointed Major by Brevet "for conspicuous gallantry in the engagement with the insurgent Army of Northern Virginia of April 7, 1865."



On a subsequent trip in August to Gettysburg, we found the markers in "The Wheatfield" where the Pa. 140th fought. We hope to enjoy the 150th anniversary of that battle this summer and continue our research.

Tom Cushing - Indiana

Still Bugling After Fifty-Eight Years: Before the days of Bugles Across America back in 1955 when I was a Sophomore in the St. Gregory High School Drum & Bugle Corps, I was asked to play Taps solo for Veterans Day at Union Station in Chicago. Well the attached photo appeared in the school year book as you see it. I'll never forget because the natural echo created by the hard surfaces of granite, marble, and concrete set shivers up and down my spine and gave me goose bumps all over my body as I played in my school uniform. Unfortunately St. Gregory the Great High School made the new recently with the announcement that the Chicago Archdiocese would be closing the high school. It's where I got my start.



The next photo is yours truly in uniform as a First Soprano; later Obligato horn player with the Norwood Park Imperials Drum & Bugle out of Chicago. In the last photo you see me in playing for the Griffith American Legion Post 66 and Bugles Across America, honored to be one of it's Bugler's Hall of Fame members.



Who would have thought those fifty-eight years later that I would still be playing Taps? Yes I am a veteran, but its sort of pay back to the Veterans Organizations that once sponsored the units I marched with and who sent me literally all over these United States competing with other units and marching in parade under their flags.

Pierre Guertin - Connecticut

I have the humble honor to share a home with the first woman to ever host a syndicated television show. Her name is Georgia Louis. Having been on the same bill for shows at "Freedom Land" in NYC, Louis Armstrong came up to her and said, "I've been all over the world, worked with countless singers and musicians, but you touch a part of my soul that no one has been able to reach." with that, he took off his mouthpiece and handed it to her and asked, "If you would, please be my Musical God Child". The only time she lets me play on it is for Taps. Otherwise it's locked up tight!!! It's a humbling thing. The old joke of how do two Trumpet players great each other... They shake hands and say, "I'm better than you!" And the response is, "No you're not!" That has nothing for me cause I play with Satchmo.



Det. Sgt. E. R. Tony Banks - Pennsylvania



Some folks never forget, good or bad, exactly how well (or not) we play Taps.

My story is that I have played Taps at a number of memorable occasions in the Pittsburgh area; Taps for the late Mayor O'Connor. two of the three Officers tragically slain in Pittsburgh and so many other funeral situations.

I play Taps 13 times on the day before Memorial day, all at cemeteries and memorial sites in the Coraopolis area, one after the other, as quickly as a bus can take our large contingent of retired and present day soldiers from one location to another. It takes about 4 hours or more. I have been doing this for many years.

Almost nearly perfect, if that is possible, until half way thru the tour in 2011, when I "glissed" a note ever so lightly. Again, in 2012, I was honored to be asked, again, to do the Taps playing for the V.F.W. Half way thru the 13 renditions of Taps, just as I was about to start, a gentleman about my age (71) came up to me and said, "Well, I hope you do better this time!" I thanked him for the reminder to concentrate. I played the 24 notes as well as I have ever done, all the while the man stood two feet away. They do pay attention, don't they?.

Bruce Otis - Illinois

In 1958, I was in the U.S. Marine Corps Field Music School at Parris Island, SC, as Duty Bugler. We had to learn to play 21 bugler calls a day. Well, one morning I had the duty to play morning Colors. It was not so good. For some reason I couldn't hit the right notes. It came out awful! Well, no sooner did I get back to the barracks, I was told to report to the Officer of the Day's office. As soon as I entered his office and said, "Private Otis reporting as ordered Sir!", the Captain jumped up and shouted, "That was the worse Morning Colors I have ever heard! If I ever see you here again I will have you court-martial!" Well, as you can guess that was the last I attempted to play Morning Colors at Parris Island!



Steve Wyatt - New York



I was playing Taps at a 911 memorial in Wappingers Falls, NY on 911.

Unexpectedly and unknown to me in advance, this gentleman came by with the remains of his brother who was killed in the WTC on 911. This addition made the experience of playing Taps at each crash time more personal and meaningful for me.

Thomas W. Anderson - Ohio



On January 19th, 2013 I was called by the US Coast Guard to play live Taps at a memorial service for a deceased Coast Guard member that had served in World War II. I accepted the invitation and arrived at the appropriate time at the venue where the ceremony was to take place. As I walked in I was greeted by one of the ladies working in the kitchen area by the statement, "I remember you, you played Taps at my grandfather's funeral about two years ago." Amazingly I did remember the event. It was just a small chapel where the memorial for her grandfather had taken place and I had to stand in the hallway to play. One of the Coast Guard representatives that showed up for the memorial for the 19th

had also been at the ceremony of two years ago. I introduced him to the lady and she was overjoyed at the reunion. She said to us that it was just like we were honoring her grandfather all over again at the current memorial. I was pleased and thankful that I could have a part in her joyful time of remembrance.

Steven P. Sparks - Florida

As a Soprano Bugler in the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps in the 1980s, I've had many experiences playing Taps in a wide variety of situations while in The Corps, and since. When I was stationed at NAB Little Creek in 1985, a Norfolk (Virginia) Police Officer had been killed in the line of duty, and was being buried at a cemetery with rolling hills which overlooked the city. In my Dress Blues, I was positioned several rolling hilltops away from the burial site. I rigidly watched as many hundreds of police cars arrived, followed by a great number of police motorcycles in escort of the long procession. I stood motionless through the service, and waited for the rifles to fire. I popped to Attention, and began to blow. I could see my Blues blouse picturesquely flapping lightly in the wind, I could hear each of my notes echoing & bouncing among those rolling hills, and then it happened.... I awoke from the moment and suddenly realized that I was ascending toward "the note of doom", but without an ounce of abdominal support or even the tiniest bit of mental concentration necessary to make it. I got lucky that day and did just fine, but if not for playing 5-7 hours per day back then, I could've just as easily cracked it.....because I got lost in the moment. That was probably only the 4th time I'd ever played Taps, but that was the LAST time I ever let the moment endanger my reason for being there, which is to do my best. Hope this helps someone else; Stay focused!

Martin Gerhard - Minnesota

Hello BAA:

I just spent another week in Frederick, Oklahoma as a member of the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team. Not only am I the team's official Bugler, but I also have the honor of flying this historic C-47 aircraft as a Copilot and donning a parachute and jumping from 1500 feet above the ground.



We run a parachute jump school twice a year in January and July, where all walks of life come to earn their jump wings, after a week of training and five jumps from a C-47. Each day starts with Reveille at 0600 hours, blown by yours truly with Assembly, Mess Calls during the day, and finally Taps at 2300 hours. The days of training are long and hard and include learning parachute landings falls, proper exits from the aircraft, emergency procedures and proper packing of parachutes.

We have numerous veterans from WWII who saw action in France, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Germany as Paratroopers, who do us the honor of telling their stories and sometimes even climb aboard the C-47 with us to watch us jump. We shake their hand and salute them as we exit the aircraft with the purpose of remembering, honoring and serving these great warriors. Many spend the week with us and the highlight is when each graduate gets his Jump Wings pinned by a WWII Veteran during the formal graduation ceremony.





As you know, these Veterans are rapidly passing away in great number. Even last week we lost one of our Legacy Members, Mr. Jake McNiece, who was a Pathfinder Paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division. My greatest honor was playing Taps for him during our dedication for him at Frederick Army Air Field, Oklahoma.

Yours truly, with one of our senior members all suited up and ready for action. We host

an Open Hanger Day at the end of each Jump School.

Details can be found at www.wwiadt.org

Anyone is welcome!

Best regards,
Martin Gerhard
BAA Bugler
WWII ADT Parachutist/C-47 Pilot
Minnesota



Bill Vann - California

In Lake County, California we are blessed with not only 2 active Buglers, myself and Boyd Green, but a Full Military Funeral Honors Team consisting of Veterans from every branch of service, representing WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, Iraq and Afghanistan. As of today, the TEAM has Honored 913 Veterans at their final salute.

Rich Feiro, Retired USAF E-9 and team leader put the team together officially on May 1, 2001. Larry Mick, US Marine Corps Veteran is our Sgt of the Guard. Numerous awards have been given to the team including the County's non profit of the year.

Today was like most funerals; precision. The Marine Corps sent three Marines, two to fold, with one of them presenting the Colors, and 1 on standby with a fake bugle (which I promise will never be used here. I'll do it).

We also have two team Chaplains, both are ordained ministers as well as retired military officers. One is a retired Navy Captain and the other an Army Lt Colonel.

It's a rarity to not have seven rifles firing the three-volley salute, as well as the flag of the appropriate branch of service.



We take pride in honoring our fellow Veterans by providing military honors because it's the right thing to do. On any given day, in any weather; rain and wind, heat or cold, we stand tall in honor of our Veterans.

Impromptu Taps on July 4th for Civil War Soldiers of Both The North and South

by Larry Quave, Texas



Last summer, I left Dallas, TX, on July 4th to begin what would become an almost three-week vacation to visit family members all over the eastern United States. I decided to make my first stop at the National Military Park in Vicksburg, MS, principally to visit the USS Cairo Museum. With my visit finished around 3:30 pm, I was driving back to the park's main entrance. I noticed a plot of ornate tombstones on the side of a hill. I thought this would make an excellent background for a snapshot of me playing Taps in my Marine officer's uniform, that I just happened to have with me for totally unrelated reasons.

I sought the permission of a clerk at the souvenir shop to take such a picture. I ultimately secured the permission of the Park Superintendent, after explaining that I was a bugler with Bugles Across America, and that I wanted to take the picture only for personal and non-commercial reasons. I changed into my uniform and drove back to the cemetery plot where I wanted to have the picture taken. I did not have anyone with me who could take the picture, so I waited around a little while, but did not encounter anyone whom I could draft to taking my picture. I drove back to the museum where I was able to find someone to take my picture, even though it wasn't in the location I originally wanted. As my drafted "photographer" followed me around and took pictures, a Park Ranger approached us and asked what we were doing. I explained and told the ranger that I had already secured the Superintendent's permission, the Ranger smiled and said, "That's not what I'm concerned about. What I want to know is why you're faking it, only pretending to play Taps." I explained that that wasn't my purpose; I hadn't been invited to play Taps, I didn't want to make a scene. The ranger replied, "I don't know why not. It's July 4th, you're in a National Military Park, and you have my permission, so play away."

So, that's how, on July 4, 2012, with only a few people around to observe, I unexpectedly found myself at the National Military Park in Vicksburg, MS, having the privilege of playing Taps in honor of the Civil War veterans of both the North and the South. It was an honor indeed.

Steve Kalowski - Texas State Director

On Saturday January 19, the Dallas/Ft Worth Texas area Buglers met for the 4th annual BAA Luncheon held at Fish City Grill in Irving, Texas.



Buglers from fourteen different cities were treated to a lunch sponsored by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, (BNSF) represented by Steve Pierce, General Director Intermodal Service Design. Steve was presented with a citation and BAA pin from BAA Texas State Director Steve Kalowski, (also an employee of BNSF) in appreciation for BNSF and their continued involvement supporting Veterans.

Bugler Barbara Reidl was honored with a Remembrance Award for her involvement and exceptional service in 2012.

New 2012 bugler Jon Larvick was presented with an award for his father, Jordis Larvick, a Veteran and bugler currently living in Williston, North Dakota, thanking him for his service, bugle playing, and patriotism. Jon is a retired Air Force Colonel living in the Dallas/Ft Worth area.

Assistant State Director Doug Ebersole and Bugler Jeff Harwell gave short presentations on their trip to Washington in 2012 and participation in the 150th anniversary of Taps.

Some of the other items discussed at the luncheon were national membership rankings, how to deal with media requests, uniforms, and playing opportunities at Dallas/Ft Worth National Cemetery.



Kelly Phillips, BNSF Intermodal Equipment Manager, volunteered her time Saturday and took pictures of the group that will be shared on the BAA website.

It was great to see some new faces and rekindle established friendships, and we look forward to next year's meeting and BAA's continued success in Texas!

On First Sounding Taps – 50 Years Ago

by Frank Dorritie, California

The old-timers called it Armistice Day, and it was the first time I would ever sound Taps in public, the second coming soon thereafter.



In that early November of 1963 I was Cadet Regimental Bugler at Xavier High School in NYC, a college-prep military academy run by Jesuits and the US Army ROTC. The entire daily routine was signaled by bugle calls: Assembly, Colors, Adjutant's Call, Drill Call, Church Call and Retreat. (Once in a while the corps played Ruffles and Flourishes to honor dignitaries, like JFK at the reviewing stand on 5th Avenue on St. Patrick's Day.) Since there were no boarding students there was no occasion to sound either Reveille or Taps, though all the buglers in the Xavier Drum Corps knew those as well.

When Father Reilly (the Director of the Bugle Corps) called me to his office one afternoon, I feared punishment for some infraction, my reputation being something short of the "Model Cadet." I reported, saluted, and remained at attention to await my fate.

"I have a mission for you", he said. This could mean anything from memorizing and reciting verbatim the Bill of Rights, to scrubbing the Quadrangle with a toothbrush. I wondered what form this "mission" would take. "You are the principal bugler and as such you'll play Taps next week at the Macy's Department Store on Union Square. Play it well. You represent Xavier. And, mister...spit shine those shoes!"

On November 11th, at precisely 11 AM, I found myself standing on a stopped escalator between the 2nd and 3rd floors of Macy's. An announcement had been made for a moment of silence. I was to wait a few seconds, then sound the call. I raised the horn, took a breath and only then realized I had never actually played Taps in public before. It was just a passing thought, and everything went just fine. I do recall holding the fermata a bit at the end. It just seemed appropriate.

As I was leaving, the store manager shook my hand and in so doing, passed me a \$5 bill. I was reluctant to take any payment and told him so. "That's ok", he said. "Just give it to the

fathers then.” I put it in the Poor Box at the church. I remember thinking that I might never have to play Taps again. I was wrong. Eleven days later, John Kennedy was killed in Dallas.

We all watched the Arlington ceremony and heard Sgt. Clark’s “broken note”. I thought, that’s probably the most important moment of his career, and felt a bit sad for him. The national press fabricated a myth that the split tone had been intentional, an emotional embellishment, rather than the result of having to stand at attention in freezing rain for hours without any chance to warm up.

A couple of days later I got another summons to the director’s office. There was to be a memorial mass for the late president at the cathedral, with many civic and church leaders in attendance. The Bishop would officiate, and I was to sound Taps at the final blessing.

I remember the moment well. It seemed every possible official from church and state was assembled, the mayor and his staff, police and military officers, more nuns and priests than I thought existed. I could hear the whirl of the cameras and see the television lights. “Present Arms!” and fifty sabers flashed.

Just before playing I thought about Sgt. Clark. At some level I suppose I realized the significance of the moment, but youthful naivete is a wonderful thing. I wasn’t nervous at all. Mostly what stands out in memory was the wonderful echo provided by the great walls of the cathedral.

That evening my parents were watching the local news. My mother called out, “Frank, look, it’s you.” There was a brief segment about the mass and the commentator remarked that unlike the Arlington bugler, this “kid” didn’t miss a note.

My father (a WWII infantryman) quickly said, “They’re trying to make that about you. It isn’t, you know. It’s about what Taps means.”

To this day whenever I sound the call, I thank my father.



Ron Bykowski - Illinois

Spirit of '45 is a very popular event that I have been involved with for the past three years. The highlight has been when Taps is played as I have been able to muster at least 18 Buglers to perform a moving rendition. Some are BAA members and some just former Drum & Bugle Corp members etc.

I am a former member of the 566th Air Force Band and have been the "Town Bugler" for over 49 years playing Taps for now nearing 1,000 events and funerals. I am sure each and every bugler associated with BAA (or otherwise) feels that the time and effort in performing these 24 notes is a distinct honor.



Bugles Across America / Wreaths Across America

Two great organizations complimented each other in December 2012.

As part of 2012's Wreaths Across America ceremony and wreath laying at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, PA, BAA was asked for buglers to range throughout the cemetery offering to play "Taps". I believe eight answered the call – from Scouts to elderly VFW members. As I travelled the expansive grounds providing transportation via golf cart to elderly and/or less mobile volunteer participants it was profoundly moving to hear those "24 notes" reverberating from every direction. It was indeed a most poignant blending of the senses – the sight and scent of those beautiful balsam wreaths with the solemn sound of "Taps" – again and again.

Towards the end of the day I happened upon an older gentleman in VFW insignia walking with his bugle through a section which had been completely covered with wreaths.

There was no one else left in the area. I stopped and asked him if he would like a ride back in. He refused, saying that he wanted to be there just in case anyone might come by and request his services. I told him that most of the volunteers had finished their work and had headed in. He finally agreed to a ride when I suggested that we could take the long way back and stop whenever we saw people along the way still laying wreaths. That was how I came to have one of those "never to be forgotten" experiences.



He told me that he was not officially with Bugles Across America but had been "recruited" by a BAA member in his VFW Post. He told me that he had never before played "Taps" and that his BAA friend had practiced with him and deemed him "fit for service". He told me that he had played a few times that day before I had come along and that it was one of the hardest but most rewarding experiences of his life. As we meandered back through the beautiful grounds we had the opportunity to stop three times when we saw family members visiting a gravesite. Each time he approached them discreetly, and respectfully asked if they would like him to play. Each time they accepted and he honored their loved one clearly and with great dignity. Each time we climbed back into the golf cart and wiped a tear or two.

- cont -

I was so privileged to have happened upon that lone bugler that December afternoon. I did not catch his name. I don't know whether he joined BAA (I hope so). I do know that it was an amazing moment in time for us both.

Lisa L. Lugovich

Harrisburg Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution

Services for Veterans co-chair



Do you have an unusual, memorable or funny story to share regarding an event or request you played 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 15th

Please email BAA.JDAY@gmail.com

BAA- IN THE NEWS

Making Musical Connection

November 3, 2001 by Donna Healy of the Billings Gazette Staff



Dave Rahn, bugler for the American Legion honor guard, uses a century-old bugle mouthpiece belonging to fellow Billings honor-guard member Bob Fears.

When the deep, rich sound of the honor guard's Taps lingers in a cemetery's stillness, a bit of Montana history hangs with it in the air.

The connection comes from a bugle mouthpiece that was lost more than a century ago and found about 60 years ago.

The bugle mouthpiece belongs to Bob Fears, a fourth-generation Billings resident. Fears' great-grandfather was an Army engineer who helped build Fort Custer in 1877 and was stationed there until the fort closed in 1897. In 1887, Fears' grandmother was born at the fort, which stood on a bluff across the Bighorn River from Hardin.

When the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a monument at the site of Fort Custer in 1939, Fears' grandmother and his uncle went to the ceremony. While they were there, his uncle searched for bits of Fort Custer trash around the site. One of those pieces was the bugle mouthpiece.

"I can remember it as a little kid, seeing it in my grandma's china cabinet sitting on a shelf, Fears said. It didn't mean much to me back then."

Fears worked as a process operator at the Exxon refinery in Billings for 21 years. When, he retired in 1994, he became active with the American Legion Honor Guard, a group that renders military honors at veterans' funerals.

Dave Rahn is a Bugles Across America member residing in Montana.

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

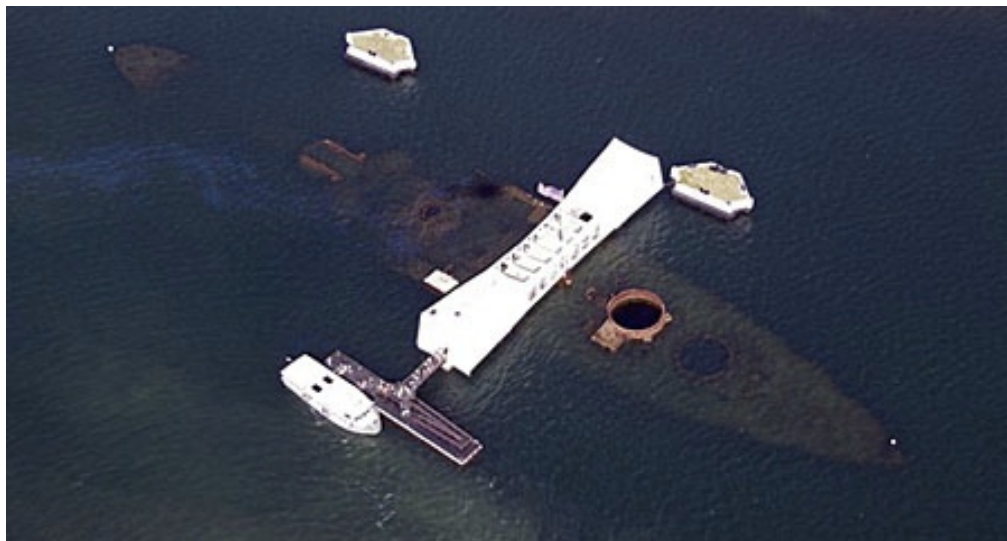
BRASS FROM THE PAST

Returning To the USS Arizona

This beautiful video describes and shows what happens when a USS Arizona survivor has passed and has requested to be interred with shipmates.

Interment Aboard the USS Arizona

[Eternal Peace](#)



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



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 7000 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: 93 Years Young Jack Steidl of Issaquah, Washington still sounding Taps.

Tennessee State Director, David Cox. As well as running the affairs of BAA in his state, David is also the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division Vice Commander; Thank You David for all that you do to honor the Veteran.



Army Veteran, and Texas State Director, Josey Johnson. Josey has been with BAA almost since its inception; acting as bugler, and formerly serving as forum moderator and National Coordinator. Thanks Josey for all that you have done for us over these years.

Massachusetts Bugler and Trumpeter Extraordinaire Dave Edwards. Not only is Dave an accomplished musician, he is also a composer of some wonderful music. Go to his website...<http://www.quietcovemusic.com/>





BAA Pic of the Day: National Coordinator & National Spokesperson, Susan D. Wiseman, stands at the Vietnam Memorial, paying tribute to her cousin Guy Lamar Mears, KIA Vietnam 1970.

BAA Pic of the Day...This is South Carolina State Director Linda McDonald, left, with her two children, and husband, Army Bandmaster Scott McDonald. Linda is an Air Force Veteran, and a professional photographer.



BAA member, Joe Giannetto, USAF Retired, Liverpool, NY; salutes after sounding Taps at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens. His wife Dale is also a long standing member of BAA, and a fine bugler, as well.

GySgt Robert Marroquin plays "Taps" at a memorial service in honor of Sgt Bradley W. Atwell at Camp Bastion, Helmand province, Afghanistan Sept. 20, 2012.



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
- * Illinois
- * Mississippi
- * Montana
- * Nevada
- * New Mexico
- * 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

KEY LINKS

[Bugles Across America](#)

[Getzen](#)

[BAA on Facebook](#)

[Kanstul](#)

[BAA on YouTube](#)

[Spirit of '45](#)

[BAA New York on Facebook](#)

[Drum Corps International](#)

[BAA Kentucky on Facebook](#)

[Flags For Vets](#)

[BAA Nashville on Facebook](#)

[Operation Taps](#)

[BAA Hawaii on Facebook](#)

[Association of Military Musicians](#)

[BAA Oklahoma on Facebook](#)

[Wounded Warriors](#)

[BAA: Ohio's Blog](#)

[Freelancers Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps](#)

[BAA: New Jersey](#)

[The Tribute Lady](#)

[BAA Bugler Directives](#)

[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.