

Brittany Pointe Estates Veterans Affairs Committee



BPE Pointer Article

Veterans' Corner **by Bob Berger**

Every time I hear the haunting sound of Taps being played, my mind remembers the sadness that overcame me. During my first three years as an airman at Perrin Air Force Base, Sherman, Texas I had volunteered to be the base bugler as an additional duty. Simply put, I would travel with the funeral detail to the many gravesites of those veterans who had passed away. Although I no longer play the melody, my emotions just become flooded when it is played.

I researched Taps on the web and found this, "It is the last bugle call of the day, signaling lights out. It is also used as the last salute at the burial of a serving soldier, and often at the funeral of a veteran. Taps is not peculiar to the British military - the American military use it also, and for the same purposes. In fact, this bugle call is used today for taps was written by an American infantryman in the mid-19th century. Dan Butterfield became a general during the civil war. His bugle call (a beautiful and haunting tune) was originally known as Butterfield's Lullaby."

Recently I found articles about one of Britain's modern-day heroes, Winston Churchill. He suffered a stroke in 1953. During this time, he began planning his funeral. Twelve years later, he passed away and Britain carried out his plan on January 30, 1965. It was the largest state funeral in British history. When the body was set in a place of honor in Westminster Cathedral, a lone bugler played Taps. This melody was perfectly fitting for the event. What surprised me in my research, when the casket was solemnly carried to the main entrance of the cathedral, another bugler played REVEILLE! Churchill requested this song because he knew that at the end of history the last note would not be "Taps" but "Reveille." I sincerely believe that his thought on this matter is so true and reflects God's love for all of us. So, next time you hear that wonderful melody being played for a veteran, please consider the Reveille that will surely be played for those we have lost.