



POST 90 Gazette

Memorial Day Special Edition
May 2020

Wearing a red poppy on Memorial Day began with a World War I poem.

In the spring of 1915, bright red flowers began poking through the battle-ravaged land across northern France and Flanders (northern Belgium). Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, who served as a brigade surgeon for an Allied artillery unit, spotted a cluster of the poppies shortly after serving as a brigade surgeon during the bloody Second Battle of Ypres.

The sight of the bright red flowers against the dreary backdrop of war inspired McCrae to pen the poem, "In Flanders Field," in which he gives voice to the soldiers who had been killed in battle and lay buried beneath the poppy-covered grounds.

Later that year, a Georgia teacher and volunteer war worker named Moina Michael read the poem in Ladies' Home Journal and wrote her own poem, "We Shall Keep the Faith" to begin a campaign to make the poppy a symbol of tribute to all who died in war. The poppy remains a symbol of remembrance to this day.

You can obtain Poppies from Marti 435-668-5770 and WEAR A POPPY TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE WORN OUR NATION'S UNIFORM and all Donations go to help our Veterans. Get your Poppy today!



FLANDERS FIELD

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Post 90 Ritual Team performs military honors for those Veterans who pass away. Post 90 has been honored as the best in State.
Find out why. **See page 2.**



"Taps" originally began as a signal to extinguish lights. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for "Extinguish Lights" was the one set down in the Infantry manuals which had been borrowed from the French.
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POST 90 RITUAL TEAM

When I was about 6-7 years old, my Uncle Johnny passed away. At his funeral, which I distinctly remember today, there were several men in military uniforms and I said to myself "I wonder who they are; and why are they there." Little did I know it was an American Legion post ritual team performing military honors for my Uncle. I remember being scared out of my wits when they fired the rifles and totally amazed as they folded a beautiful American Flag. I often wonder if that experience played a part in me becoming a United States Marine.



A couple of years ago, I had a visit from Pam Palermo, when she was the membership coordinator for the St. George Chamber of Commerce. We immediately hit it off and when she found out I was a Veteran, she invited me to join the American Legion. As soon as I attended my first meeting, I knew immediately that this was the same organization I had seen so many years earlier at my Uncle's funeral. The funny hats with all the shiny do-dads on them was the dead give-a-way.

Since joining the American Legion, I have had the privilege and honor of being part of the Post 90 Ritual Team. The tears sometimes can't be contained as the military honors are presented by an ALL volunteer team. This Memorial Day, I thought I would include the military honors and when you read it, imagine how it might feel as a family member of the Veteran they are honoring. It's no wonder Post 90 was voted best in State.

Commander's Speech:

We of the American Legion consider it to be a privilege and an honor to be invited here today to provide the Military Honors for _____. We have come here today to honor the memory of _____ a man who offered his life in the service of his country. Proudly we remember his military service in the United States _____. Because of his military service and the military service of those who have served and those brave souls who are currently serving in our military today, our lives remain free. It is because of them that our nation lives and it is because of them that our world has been blessed and is a better place for all to live. We pray that the services of today will deepen our reverence for our departed veterans while we realize how futile are mere words to express our deep and abiding sympathy in your loss but may you feel _____ is at peace and at rest.

In a moment this Honor Guard will be called to attention and our Firing Party will fire a Rifle Salute consisting of three volleys. These weapons can be quite loud and you may wish to cover your ears and please be cognizant of your young children's ears. Directly following the Rifle Salute our Bugler will sound "Taps". At that time it is customary and appropriate to stand if you are able and place your right hand over your heart. If you have served in the military please render the military hand salute.

Thank you!

After the rifle party fires the three volleys, the Chaplain's speech is read while the American Flag is lifted from the casket and folded neatly with care to be presented to the family.

Chaplain's Speech:

Upon entering the Armed Forces, _____ and we took the oath to uphold and to defend the Constitution of the United States of America and we pledged our allegiance to this Flag, and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all. _____ honored his commitment and so today, this Flag becomes a memorial to his honorable service.

As we look upon this beautiful Flag being folded the Red Stripes remind us of his Courage and devotion to duty. The White Stripes represent the Purity of his unselfish Patriotism and the Blue in that Starry Field recalls his steadfast Service in War and in Peace to his Country and to his Community. May we always remember _____'s defense of our freedom.

May God Bless all in attendance today and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

In Remembrance of Lester Keate

Daniel Lester Keate was born to Julius and Lucy Keate on October 26, 1895. Lester served with the 5th Marines during World War I. He died on October 4, 1918 in action at Champagne, France.

The next time you are in the St. George cemetery look for the headstone of Post 90's namesake, Daniel Lester Keate, and pay your respects to a true American hero. Below is a recent picture of the Daniel Lester Keate family.



Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

Memorial Day, for most of us, will be different this year. The meaning, however, does not change.

I'm calling on The American Legion Family to encourage communities far and wide to pay tribute to our nation's fallen heroes at dusk May 25, Memorial Day, by lighting candles of honor and placing them on front porches. Such a display will remind everyone that our resolve to honor those who served before us will continue even as social-distancing measures limit our ability to perform traditional Memorial Day remembrances.

We must adapt and overcome the pandemic in order to pay our respects to the true meaning of Memorial Day. The manner and placement of the candles of honor are up to each individual. If possible, I recommend using a front porch as a visible reminder of the price that was paid for freedom.

Color options for consideration could include:

- ❖ A **red candle** to remember the blood-shed in battle for the protection of our freedoms.
- ❖ A **white candle** to keep our POWs/MIAs ever in our thoughts and prayers as we await their return home
- ❖ A **blue candle** to salute the memories of those who made it home but are no longer with us.

However you choose, whether it's one candle or three, I ask that photos of those candles be shared on social media, tagging The American Legion National Headquarters and using the hashtag #candlesofhonor so our message will reach families everywhere. An additional option is to show your gratitude by having each member of a family or group hold up a sign spelling out a message of Memorial Day. **WE SHALL NEVER FORGET** would be a good choice.

And let's not forget that Friday is National Poppy Day. While our poppy distribution plans may be different this year, it's also an opportunity to innovate. The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters is planning a Facebook watch party May 22 at noon EDT. American Legion Family members across the country are also planning other low-contact ways to remember the fallen and keep faith with the disabled through the symbol of our official flower, the red poppy. No matter how we remember this year, the most important message we need to send is that we will never forget.

For God and country, James W. "Bill" Oxford National Commander



24 NOTES THAT TAP DEEP EMOTIONS THE STORY OF TAPS

by Jari Villanueva

Taps Historian Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to evoke emotion than "Taps." The melody is both eloquent and haunting and the history of its origin is interesting and somewhat clouded in controversy and myth.

The use of "Taps" is unique to the United States military, as the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying ceremonies and memorial services. "Taps" originally began as a signal to extinguish lights. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for "Extinguish Lights" was the one set down in the Infantry manuals which had been borrowed from the French. The music for "Taps" was changed by Major General Daniel Adams Butterfield for his brigade in July, 1862. Butterfield was not pleased with the call for "Extinguish Lights" feeling that it was too formal to signal the day's end. With the help of the brigade bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton, he created "Taps" to honor his men while in camp at Harrison's Landing, Virginia following the Seven Days' battles during the Peninsular Campaign.

Butterfield did not compose "Taps" but actually revised an earlier bugle call. The call we know today as "Taps" existed in an early version of the call "Tattoo" which had gone out of use by the Civil War. Butterfield knew this early call from his days before the war as a colonel in the 12th New York Militia. As a signal at the end of the day, armies have used "Tattoo" to alert troops to prepare for the evening roll call. Butterfield took the last 5 and a half measures of the "Tattoo" and revised them into the 24 notes we know today. The new call soon spread to other units of the Union Army.

Oliver Willcox Norton wrote about the experience later in his life: "During the early part of the Civil War I was bugler at the Headquarters of Butterfield's Brigade,... One day, soon after the seven days' battles on the Peninsular, when the Army of the Potomac was lying in camp at Harrison's Landing, General Daniel Butterfield sent for me, and showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody as he first gave it to me. After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for "Taps" thereafter in place of the regulation call. The music was beautiful on that still summer night, and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day I was visited by several buglers from neighboring brigades, asking for copies of the music which I gladly furnished. I think no general order was issued from army headquarters authorizing the substitution of this for the regulation call, but as each brigade commander exercised his own discretion in such minor matters, the call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac."

The earliest official reference to the mandatory use of "Taps" at military funeral ceremonies is found in the U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations for 1891, although it had doubtless been used unofficially long before that time, under its former designation, "Extinguish Lights." The first use of "Taps" at a funeral was during the Peninsular Campaign in Virginia. Captain John C. Tidball of Battery A, 2nd Artillery ordered it played for the burial of a cannoneer killed in action. Because the enemy was close, he worried that the traditional three volleys would renew fighting.

The origin of the word "Taps" is thought to have come from the Dutch word for "Tattoo" - "Taptoe." More than likely, "Taps" comes from the three drum taps that were beat as a signal for "Extinguish Lights" when a bugle was not used.

Other stories of the origin of "Taps" exist. A popular myth is that of a Northern boy who was killed fighting for the South. His father, a Captain in the Union Army, came upon his son's body on the battlefield and found the notes to "Taps" in a pocket of the dead boy's Confederate uniform. There is no evidence to back up the story or the existence of the Captain or his son. As with many other customs, the twenty-four notes that comprise this solemn tradition began long ago and continue to this day. Although General Butterfield merely revised an earlier bugle call, his role in producing those twenty-four notes gave him a place in the history of both music and of war.

Today, "Taps" is sounded as the final call every evening on military installations and at military funerals. In 2012 Congress recognized "Taps" as the "National Song of Remembrance." More information on Taps and bugling in the United States can be found at www.TapsBugler.com "There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air."

-Oliver Willcox Norton