

Operation Taps DCA Challenge

Contest will run from December 7, 2007 through August 15, 2008

What is it?

A challenge to all DCA units (Competing, Alumni, Mini-Corps, and Brass Ensemble) to connect with their communities and provide live Taps buglers for US Military Honors funerals.

How is it judged?

Points can be achieved by reporting the **(1)** number of organizations your corps has registered with as the “go to” guys for any veterans honors events, points are also gained by **(2)** performing at community or veterans related events, and most importantly, points are gained by **(3)** actual live Taps performances by a member of your corps at a Military Honors funeral.

You will all be encouraged to share success stories and ideas for earning points.

How can our corps participate?

Designate a person or persons to report to OperationTaps.org on a monthly basis the number of points you have accumulated.

Why should our corps do this?

You don't have to. OperationTaps.org is NOT part of DCA. I decided to undertake this project after seeing years and years of stories about how military vets are being buried to the sound of Taps on a recorded device, and hearing the national news media report that there are “no more buglers.” I'm a life long drum corps guy who wants to pay respect to the drum corps leaders who have passed on. I think they would be pretty disappointed to know that we've dropped the ball on something that was once at the foundation of what his activity is all about.

Many of your corps are already connected to VFW or American Legion Posts so no corps should score a zero... but I will be keeping track and posting monthly results on the website.

For a lot of us, we learned to love this activity from “old timers” who always found a way to make drum corps seem like a very important part of the American experience.

The drum corps activity, especially the “open age group” part of it, has progressed so much in so many sophisticated ways...This just seems too important to NOT give our best shot.

Please visit the website for more background on this project. www.operationtaps.org.

Sincerely,

Tom Allen
OperationTaps.org
info@operationtaps.org