

Music Coordinators Update Only 17 Days to Go

I just got back from a promised vacation to the beautiful states of Kentucky and Tennessee. Now that I'm back and we are only a few weeks away from the EchoTaps Worldwide event, here is a quick update and a few important points that should be on your "to do" list.

Based on the reports I have received, things are coming together very well. The majority of the NCA and State Cemeteries are covered by buglers and all of the American Battle Monument Commission Cemeteries will have carill'on (bells) playing and some with buglers. Sign-ups are increasing rapidly and we expect this to continue right up to the day of the event.

Through a generous contribution we were able to order a sufficient number of T-shirts to cover 4000 registrations. Those who registered by March 31 will have their shirts on the day of the event. Others will receive shirts at our earliest convenience.

The May 11th date for online registration was established in order to give the coordinators an idea of how many people would be attending their location. Even though online registrations will be closed on that date, buglers can still go to one of the cemeteries and register on the day of the event. This event is about allowing people to express their gratitude to our veterans.

If you haven't contacted your buglers yet, time is short. They may decide to make other plans if they think nothing is happening. A phone call or e-mail will keep them informed.

The current Status Report on the EchoTaps web page gives you the e-mail addresses of the participants. If you need phone numbers or addresses for your group, please ask your cemetery director.

Video, photos, and stories – Try to get someone to video and photograph your program. Digital video is best if possible. On the day of the event, see if the local television station will give you some coverage. We made a documentary from the 2005 event, you never know what we could do here.

Please ask if your participants could share their stories about why they are playing and who they are playing for. Photos would also be beneficial. These may become part of a book of bugler stories.

Don't forget to audition your players. For most you will know after the first 3 notes and that's all it will take. Some will be marginal and could use a little encouragement.

Les Hampton
EchoTaps Worldwide Coordinator