Newsletter – EchoTaps Worldwide – November 2006

We continue to hold weekly meetings with representation from the Veterans Administrations, American Battle Monuments Commission, Veterans State Cemeteries, the National Parks Service, and Bugles Across America in preparation for the 2007, May 19 EchoTaps Worldwide.

Building a Process
The first phase of the EchoTaps Worldwide project was to set up a tracking system and try some small scale performances to see how the process worked. Gerry McDonald and Marty Naugher have been working relentlessly on the registration program and it seems to be working very well. We are able to see when you sign in and where you plan to volunteer. The system was utilized prior to the Veterans Day trail run and all went well. They will continue to make refinements.

Veterans Day Trial Run
The reports coming from many National and State Veterans Cemeteries indicate that the Veterans Day trials went very well. Buglers arrived in the morning, received their instructions and formed lines to play cascading Taps. For all that participated, this was a learning experience that will pay big dividends in preparation for the May 19 event. .

Become a Coordinator
Now it's time to move to the next phase, recruiting key coordinators for each of the National Cemeteries and many of the State Veterans Cemeteries. The two key positions we need to full are the Music Coordinator and Logistics Coordinator. It is important that we get as many of these positions filled by January 1. These positions are not difficult task, they just need someone that is willing to watch the signup reports and answer questions that new sign-ups may have. I just heard of a 13 year old taking on the task for his cemetery. If you are willing to help with one of these positions, sign up through the EchoTaps website and register as the Music Coordinator.

Kick-off and World Premier
On January 14, 2007 we will be the official kick-off for EchoTaps Worldwide. This event will be held in conjunction with the world premier of the documentary *EchoTaps: The Long Brass Line*. The screening will be held at the Corning Museum of Glass and will include visits from Acting Deputy Under-Secretary Richard Wannamacher, documentary writer Jennifer Eolin, and Tom Day, founder and president of Bugles Across America. DVD copies of this made-for-television documentary can be purchase for $20 on the day of the event or by ordering online through www.echotaps.org

Media Kickoff
The kick-off event will also initiate the media blitz designed to inform the public and recruit volunteers for the May 19, 2007 event. The Veterans Administration media group has outlined a package that will include radio, television and print coverage on a national scale.

Registration
Go to one of the following websites and register as a playing or non-playing volunteer. You can sign up as an individual or bring your band/group.
www.buglesacrossamerica.org
www1.va.gov/volunteer/EchoTaps_form.cfm
www.echotaps.org

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