

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

By; Skypilot

Well folks here it is America's 235 Birthday on the fourth. She has been through a Civil War brother against brother, Texas Independence, WWI, WWII, Korea (Police Action), Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, 911, Iraq and now Afghanistan. Over those 235 years she has lost a lot of her men and woman and a lot of Blood has been spilled in the one name that makes our country what she is "FREEDOM".

Even with every thing our Glorious Nation has been through look around from Canada to Mexico, from the West Coast to the East Coast.

Our Flag, her symbol still fly's over our Nation's Capitol, Banks, Business Building, Post Offices, and for those who love her and have fought for her it fly's over their homes.

We as a Nation that understands "Freedom Is Not Free" know that it has been paid for by the blood of those who "GAVE ALL" for our beloved country. I for one am proud to have served this Nation, service to the United States is a way of life for my family, going back to WWI with my Great Uncle SGT. Alvin C York recipient of the Medal of Honor, eight out of nine uncles (on the York side of the family) served in WWII and Korea, my father was a Naval Veteran and survivor of Pearl Harbor, my older brother over twenty five years in the Army, two tours in Vietnam and lost a leg in Desert Storm, myself twenty - one years as an Army Ranger, two tours in Vietnam (Jan 3 69 - Dec 27 70) and now my youngest son followed in my footsteps and became an Army Ranger as an Officer, his Team and Him are deployed now. No we don't want a pat on the back, we were all just proud to do what we could to keep "Our Nation Free and Our Flag Flying).

I know there were many more families who had the same backgrounds as my family, that is what made "AMERICA" what she is today and I wish some of our leaders felt the same pride and love for her as those out there do. Hell we have over 80,000 still unaccounted for from all wars and a lot of our elected officials don't give a DAMN if our "HEROES" our brought back and laid to rest or not. "A Country Who Forgets It's Heroes, Is Also Forgotten". We as Americans can do something about that call your Local Congressional Representative (1-866-727-4894) and tell them, "I voted for you now it's your turn to vote YES for House Resolution 111 to bring our Heroes home. Don't just to it once, I make it a habit when I'm having my morning coffee to call every day. I am not saying you have to do it everyday, but two to three times a week will work. All it cost you is your time as an American to help bring our men and woman home where they belong.

Happy Birthday America and Americans remember when your having your picnics and BBQ to take a minute and reflect on those 235 Years and the ones that ALL GAVE SOME ~ SOME GAVE ALL.

Be safe out there, watch out four the cages because at times we are invisible to them on our Iron Horses. My Love to all, may the Great Eagle guide your path and the Great Wolf watch your back. Until we meet on the trail again say a prayer for our Troops and our POW ~ MIA. Thank you for reading our paper and please keep reading. When you see a SERVICE PERSON or VETERAN go up and shake their hand and thank them for helping America stay Free. " Keep On Triken' ". Skypilot



I first heard this on Memorial Day this past year and found it to be very interesting. There are many versions on the net since Taps has changed over the years, who knows which is the true version. This one taken

from

http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil/intro.html

The History of Taps

Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than Taps. Up to the Civil War, the traditional call at day's end was a tune, borrowed from the French, called Lights Out. In July of 1862, in the aftermath of the bloody Seven Days battles, hard on the loss of 600 men and wounded himself, Union General Daniel Adams Butterfield called the brigade bugler to his tent. He thought "Lights Out" was too formal and he wished to honor his men. Oliver Wilcox Norton, the bugler, tells the story, "...showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, (he) 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. The call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac."

This more emotive and powerful Taps was soon adopted throughout the military. In 1874 It was officially recognized by the U.S. Army. It became standard at military funeral ceremonies in 1891. 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.

- from an article by Master Sergeant Jari A Villanueva, USAF.

(Note: there are no "official" words to Taps below are the most popular.)

Words to Taps ..

*Day is done,
gone the sun,
From the hills,
from the lake,
From the skies.*

*All is well,
safely rest,
God is nigh*

*Go to sleep,
peaceful sleep,
May the soldier
or sailor,
God keep.
On the land
or the deep,
Safe in sleep.*

*Love, good night,
Must thou go,
When the day,
And the night
Need thee so?
All is well.
Speedeth all
To their rest.*

*Fades the light;
And afar
Goeth day,
And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well;
Day has gone,
Night is on.*

*Thanks and praise,
For our days,
'Neath the sun,
Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.*

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