

Bugle Bill

A sub-grant of \$90.90 is being sent to each county board to see that the BUGLE BILL is being implemented. Funds may be used in one or more of the following ways:

- a. Paying students for transportation costs to and from graveside services;
- b. Maintaining and upgrading county files of capable music students names and contact info (accessible to funeral homes);
- c. Starting a fund to purchase needed musical instruments for sounding Taps;
- d. Providing co-curricular training for students in the proper sounding of Taps at graveside, and
- e. Providing the participating music students an honorarium or minor recognition (certificates, pins, etc.)

Some counties, upon receiving the \$90.90, are still asking how to spend the monies. The sub-grant can be extended, plus we expect that the Legislature will appropriate at least the same amount of funding to continue supporting the Bugle Bill implementation.

Terry Harless, WVDE Exec. Director of the Office of Finance, writes the following to the counties:

Every county should have possession of, or soon be receiving, a Bugle Bill grant for \$90.90 recently sent for signature. The Project Code erroneously had 00000. It should have been Project Code 288XX. Your correction of the project code would be appreciated. Questions have arisen about the use of these grants since the \$5,000 appropriation split 55 ways results in \$90.90 each. Obviously not easily spread across a county but perhaps band directors can assist in determining specific uses. Suggestions within the scope include student transportation reimbursements, maintaining files in order to contact students with capabilities, training and purchase of, or toward, an instrument. I can extend the obligation period at a later time if you foresee building upon this amount since the appropriation is expected again in fy09. Feel free to ask Julia for further guidance if necessary. Again, while the amount of funding is minimal, the intent is poignant to many as described in the attached Code that speaks to this issue.

§18-2E-8e. Veteran's honors funeral assistant community service program.

- (a) *Findings.* -- The Legislature makes the following findings:
- (1) Serving in the armed services in defense of the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness enjoyed in our democratic society involves a tremendous sacrifice on the behalf of those who serve, often at the cost of their own lives;
 - (2) It is a fitting tribute to those who have served in the armed forces and the families who have shared in their sacrifice to honor that service and that sacrifice in the most respectful manner;
 - (3) It is often difficult for the families of deceased veterans who wish to lay their loved ones finally to rest in a military honors funeral to find a bugler to sound their final Taps; and

(4) Organizations within the state and nationally, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Bugles Across America and many others, have recognized the difficulty of finding buglers to sound Taps at military honors funerals and may be able to assist.

- (b) *Purpose.* -- The purpose of this section is to facilitate collaboration that will encourage capable young people to assist with the sounding of Taps at military funerals honoring our veterans and, thereby, help them to develop a better understanding of the sacrifices, a respect for the commitment and an appreciation of the privileges that the men and women of the armed services have protected through their service.
- (c) *State board guidelines.* -- The state board shall, in collaboration with organizations and supporters of veterans, establish general guidelines for the establishment of school level programs that encourage capable students in grades six through twelve, inclusive, to sound Taps on a standard or valved bugle, trumpet, cornet or flugelhorn during military honors funerals held in this state. The general guidelines shall address the issues to be set forth in the county board policies required under this section and shall include contact information for technical assistance from the department of education and organizations and supporters of veterans assisting in these programs. The state board shall distribute the guidelines to every county board. The state board shall also distribute an appropriate program summary and contact information to the colleges and universities in the state so that they may establish similar programs for their students.

County board policies. -- Each county board shall establish a policy for the implementation of a veteran's honors funeral assistant community service program that addresses at least the following:

- (1) The distribution of information to music and band teachers for their use in notifying capable students and obtaining the consent of their parents or guardians for voluntary registry as a candidate able to sound Taps during military honors funerals held within a reasonable distance from their residence;
- (2) The credit toward community service or work based learning requirements of the county or other recognition that will be awarded to a student for the registry and sounding of Taps during military honors funerals; and
- (3) The limits on the amount of regular classroom instruction that a student may miss for the sounding of Taps during military honors funerals to fulfill a community service or work based learning requirement or, if none, on the excused absences that the student may accrue for this activity.

County boards are not responsible for any costs associated with the program, may not be required to provide or pay for student transportation to funerals and are not liable for student supervision while absent to participate in funerals. However, county boards are encouraged to collaborate with organizations of veterans and supporters of veterans to assist with the veteran's honors funeral assistant community service program.