

Day Is Done

Sister Sue Kilduski provides a final salute to departed veterans



are grieving. As we perform there's a lot of emotion for me, too, but I'm able to set aside my feelings for those 24 notes.

St. Benedict calls us to work and to pray. *Ora et labora*—that's prayer and work. It's through our prayer that we receive the grace to go out and serve. When I play, my prayer comes out of my horn.

As Benedictines, we pray for peace and the end to conflict through nonviolent means. If we could do anything to end war, we would. But as long as we have war and we have countrymen and -women who are suffering and giving their lives, they deserve something.

My dad was in Korea, but that's my only connection to the military. These people have a whole different perspective on life, and I can learn from them while I serve them.

Some people think that when they get older there's nothing they can do to help others. Yet I'm amazed by the volunteers who are in their 80s and 90s who also sound "Taps" at veterans' funerals. Their willingness to do their part motivates me to keep playing. —As told to Mark Ray

Sue Kilduski, 62, is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

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Bugles Across America

Horn players perform "Taps" at veterans' funerals. buglesacrossamerica.org

Musicians on Call

Assisted by volunteer guides, artists play for patients in health care facilities. musiciansoncall.org

Sing for Hope

Volunteers perform in schools, hospitals and senior living facilities in several major cities. singforhope.org

I'VE PLAYED the trumpet since I was 11, and I even majored in music in college. After I became a nun, in 1992, I played only at Christmas and Easter, and I missed playing more. Fortunately, about 10 years ago, I heard about Bugles Across America and signed up as a volunteer.

Every veteran has the right to have "Taps" sounded at their funeral, but

there aren't enough buglers in the military to go around, so they'll often use a digital player stuck in the horn of a bugle, which is just not the same. I heard that at a funeral one time; it sounded like an oboe—it was horrible. What we do at Bugles Across America is sound "Taps" during the ceremony.

It's not always easy to do this, because you know that the families