

The Loudest Secret in Town Must Also be Seen

At 5 pm every evening, on every day of the year, at Pershing Square adjacent to the grounds of the White House and across from the Willard Hotel, the baleful and sorrowful echo of “Taps” is sounded by a bugler dressed in the uniform of a WWI Doughboy. Everyone, where ever they are within ear shot, knows the meaning of this tune as it waffles through the air. Everyone feels the bugler’s notes in their own personal way. All have thoughts of remembrance.

Rain or shine in the heat of summer or cold of winter a bugler stands erect and sounds the call in remembrance of all American servicemen and women from Concord to the present who have made the supreme sacrifice while defending’ our freedom and our democracy. It is fitting that the bugler stands atop the new World War I Memorial.

The World War I Memorial commemorates the journeys of millions of Americans and the sacrifice of more than 150,000 U.S. soldiers who perished during this “Great War” that was supposed to end all wars. It marks the beginning of the Great American Crusade to help preserve freedom and democracy in the world. Although the hopes that the Great War to end all wars did not occur it had, nevertheless, changed the entire world and still affects us all today. The American Crusade to preserve freedom that began then has continued to this day. Every U.S. War Memorial erected since the Great War commemorates the sacrifices of Americans committed to preserve the freedom of our nation and the freedom of others in the world.

Hence, the bugler at the WW I Memorial blows Taps out of remembrance and respect to every American who made the supreme sacrifice down through the years in the Great American Crusade to defend freedom where ever it is challenged. The sounding of Taps at the Memorial is a reminder to all who travel to the nation’s capital of the price paid for our freedom. The goal is for Taps to be sounded every day at the WW I Memorial – eternally. Just as the flame burns

eternally for President John F. Kennedy at Arlington. The American men and woman who willingly went into harms-way to defend our freedom and democracy and the world's deserve no less.

The WW I Memorial is like no other in Washington and is a contemplative place that offers the perspective of a bygone growing American Nation at a crossroad in its' history; when its' sons and daughters rose to embrace a new role on the world stage to defend freedom, a role that has driven the nation ever since. It is a place which recalibrates us and makes clear that war is the ultimate tragedy and must only be embarked upon as a last resort. It is a hallowed place.

The memorial is now complete and it is a must for everyone to see, and a must for everyone to hear the bugler sound the immortal Taps for the fallen. The program to ensure that a uniformed bugler will continue to play Taps in perpetuity is well along. Although additional funds are needed to ensure an endowment forever.