

7 Lafayette Band Musicians Play for Worldwide Taps Event

Lafayette members in photo include: trombonist Denis Mello, nearest camera; near center in blue jackets and caps, trumpets Chuck Perhamus and John Smith.

On Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, the Lafayette Band trumpet section, along with other horn players, participated in the Echo Taps World Wide event. The musicians, trumpets Chuck Perhamus, Bob Vacca, George Sehl and John Smith, Euphonium Martin Hellewell (who organized members' participation) and trombonists Denis Mello and Jack Thompson joined about three dozen other musicians from around the State at the ceremony. Organizing, rehearsing and playing in a steady drizzle for two hours, their enthusiastic participation reflects the commitment of the Lafayette Band, and its volunteer members, to serving the community.

The world wide Taps performance honored our nation's veterans and commemorated Armed Forces Day. The Rhode Island event was held at the State's Veteran's Cemetery in Exeter. Similar ceremonies occurred at 11:00 AM local time, in over 200 locations around the world, beginning at American Battle Monuments Commission sites in the Philippines, in North Africa and then throughout Europe. Then, crossing the ocean, a variety of programs followed at Arlington and other National Cemeteries, National Park Service Cemeteries, and participating State Veterans' Cemeteries across America, beginning on the East Coast and concluding in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Participants and guests included musicians from many musical groups, Active-Duty Military, Veterans, and families of veterans. Echo Taps World Wide is organized by the VA National Cemetery Administration and Bugles Across America. Lafayette members in photo include: at far end, trombonist Jack Thompson; 4th down in red jacket, euphonium Martin Hellewell; near center in green jackets, trumpets George Sehl and Bob Vacca.