

Taps and Normandy – 150th and 80th Anniversaries
Inspiring future Generations with the Cost of Liberty

Paul Jehle



Blending the French “Extinguish Lights” and the British “Last Post,” both Union and Confederate troops eventually used the 24 mournful notes of “Taps” to honor the memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Inspired in 1862, and officially recognized by the U.S. Army in 1874, it has become standard in military funerals. Its words in part read *“thanks and praise, for our days... as we go, this we know, God is nigh.”*

This year, watch for the float with an individual in uniform playing “Taps.” The emotions that rise when these 24 notes are played, in conjunction with seeing the boots of a veteran worn on D-Day, can inspire the next generation to admire the courage, sacrifice and dedication of their ancestors who fought in 1944.