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For Immediate Release

**Lone Bugler Travels 12,000 Miles to Perform “Taps” at
Harvard Memorial Church’s Wall of Honor this Sunday**

***Pre-Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony to honor Harvard men
who made the ultimate sacrifice during WWII***

(Sunday, May 4, 2014, Cambridge, MA) The public is invited to a special pre-Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at the Harvard Memorial Church on Sunday, May 4th at 1:00 PM.

The brief 20-minute ceremony will honor the men of Harvard University who died in WWII whose names are carved in stone on the wall that stands to the right of the Church altar.

The ceremony will conclude with a performance of “Taps” by Auston O’Neill, whose father was a decorated combat infantryman during WWII, and whose son and daughter-in-law are currently serving in Afghanistan.



O’Neill and his wife are on a 2-year national unity tour to help raise public awareness about Spirit of ’45 Day, the new annual day that honors the WWII generation that is observed on the second Sunday in August (aligning with the anniversary of the end of WWII on August 14, 1945.) They have traveled more than 12,000 miles since leaving their home in Virginia in February.

“It is a great honor for me to have this opportunity to perform ‘Taps’ in this historic Church and to pay tribute to the WWII generation who came together to accomplish great things in difficult times,” said O’Neill. “We need to revive their spirit of courage, shared sacrifice, ‘can do’ attitude, and service to others so our country can meet the challenges of today.”

Several major events are planned to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII next year, including a kick off in Times Square and a round the world wreath laying that is being organized by the Military Order of the Purple Heart in cooperation with the American Battle Monuments Commission, the National Parks Service and other groups. O’Neill has personally recruited more than a thousand buglers to participate with him by performing “Taps” in their local communities.

"We are proud to have this opportunity to draw attention to the sacrifices of men like Joseph Kennedy and other Harvard men who gave their lives in defense of freedom," said Leo David Agnew, State Commander for the Purple Heart. "They are part of a long tradition of sacrifice for freedom, and a symbol of the qualities of leadership for which Harvard is universally recognized."

Following Sunday's ceremony, the O'Neill's and the Spirit of '45 Day Express visit Battleship Cove in Fall River, before continuing on to Washington, DC where they will appear in the National Memorial Day Parade by with hundreds of youth volunteers carrying poster sized photos of those who lost their lives in WWII

For more information about the Spirit of '45 Day tour, please visit www.Spiritof45.org or contact Warren Hegg, National Coordinator, "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!"
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