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**PLAY • HONOR**

# Two Great Teams Coming Together For One Cause!

## Hancock County Veterans Memorial Squad

The Hancock County Veterans Memorial Squad is a 501(c)(3) organization that traces its roots to Company F of the local National Guard, which performed burial rites as early as 1947. In 1973, the rites were performed by the local veterans organizations, which rotated the duties among themselves. The memorial squad officially formed in 1987, taking over duties of military rites.

The funeral service rites include seven riflemen performing the three-volley salute; a folder who takes the flag off the casket and presents it to the next of kin; with the presenter; a commander; a guard; and a rendition of Taps to close out the rites. Extra squad members are assigned flags representing service branches and POWs. Following the service, a card thanking the deceased for their service and three empty and polished shells are given to the family.

*Families looking to have rites given for a deceased's funeral should make their **intention known to the funeral home**. The funeral home will then contact the memorial squad coordinator to finalize details.\**

## Want to join our squad or support our mission?

The squad is a volunteer service, which means anytime there is a funeral to attend, a call is put out to members. Whoever shows up forms the team for the day. The Hancock County Veterans Memorial Squad is always looking for new members and support. Our local squad usually has an average of 30 active members at any given time to cover the 13 positions involved in performing the funeral rites.

Veterans looking to join are required to commit to participating in 12 funerals per year. Funerals may be held at any time. The squad has provided rites at churches, graveside, funeral homes, private residences and more.

### Requirements to join the Memorial Squad:

Membership in the Hancock County Veterans Memorial Squad is open to any honorably and under honorable conditions discharged veteran. He or she may be from any branch or of any rank or period of service. You must agree to participate in a minimum of 12 funerals per year. There are no age restrictions. Uniform items and transportation to service locations is provided.

### Looking to support the Veterans Memorial Squad in other ways?

Call (419) 424-7036 or e-mail [HCVMSFindlay@gmail.com](mailto:HCVMSFindlay@gmail.com) for more information.

\*Membership in a veterans organization or a DD214\* on file is required for military rites.

\*\*Service members unsure about the status or location of their DD214 may contact the Hancock County Veterans Service Office.



## The Hancock County Taps Program

Taps, the ceremonial bugle call that signals the end of service, is played with 24 of the most powerful, meaningful musical notes for our veterans. It is a long-standing tradition that dates back to the 1860's.

The Hancock County Leadership Class of 2023, under the founding idea and leadership of Carl Hayslett, started the Hancock County Taps program with a mission to ensure that every Hancock County veteran is honored with a **live rendition** of Taps at their funeral or memorial service. The Hancock County Taps Program is **completely self-sustaining** due to the generous donation of time from our buglers. We appreciate all of their hard work and commitment to help the program continue.

The program has a pool of talented musicians who can deliver high-quality performances of Taps on a bugle or trumpet and want to participate in this honorable military tradition. Participants are available to play for funeral services in the Hancock County area region.

*Interested in a **LIVE PERFORMANCE** of Taps in addition to the Memorial Squad's memorial for your loved one's funeral service?*

Any family member can honor a Hancock County veteran by requesting a **live rendition** of Taps to be played at their final service, which is provided by the Hancock County Veterans Memorial Squad. This additional service is **FREE** and no charge to the family of the deceased veteran. \*\*\*

To request a live bugle or trumpet Taps performance, please talk to your funeral director, a member of the Hancock County Veterans Memorial Squad or by visiting us online at... <https://qrco.de/bdrRkf> or by scanning this QR Code.



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*Together, these **TWO PROGRAMS**, the Hancock County Veterans Memorial Squad and the Hancock County Taps program, serves **ONE MISSION** and purpose:*

*To Honor and Respect our local veterans who gave their all for the military service of the United States of America*

\*\*\* Hancock County Taps cannot guarantee the availability of a live performer at every funeral service, as this is based on our volunteers' schedules. Please rest assured, a high-quality recorded version of Taps is available to honor your Veteran when a live bugler is not available."



# Want to learn more about either organization?



**Hancock County  
Veterans Memorial Squad**  
P.O. Box 273 • Findlay, Ohio 45839  
Phone: 419.424.7036  
e-mail: dmckinniss@woh.rr.com

## ***I am interested in supporting the Memorial Squad!***

The Memorial Squad is always looking for new members and support. There are a variety of ways in which you can help us support our mission of making sure that all local military veterans receive an honorable funeral or memorial service.

You can help by:

☐ **Becoming a New Member** of the squad

You can also help financially:

☐ I am interested in **making a donation** to the Memorial Squad to help with upkeep on their uniforms, bus transportation to and from funerals and other operating expenses.

Checks can be written to the  
Hancock County Veterans Memorial  
Squad and mailed to the:

Hancock County Veterans  
Memorial Squad  
P.O. Box 273, Findlay, OH 45839

**You can also call 419.424.7036 or  
e-mail dmckinniss@woh.rr.com for more  
information on how to get involved.**



***Are you interested in having a  
LIVE RENDITION of Taps played at  
your loved one's memorial service?  
This additional service works in  
collaboration with the services  
offered by the Hancock County  
Veterans Memorial Squad and  
is free of charge.***

***Talk to your funeral director  
about either or both of these  
services because our country  
owes it to our veterans.***

**Make your request online at:  
[www.hancockveterans.com](http://www.hancockveterans.com)**



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The Hancock County Veterans Memorial Squad  
and the Taps programs are proud to be promoted by:



*"Serving Those Who Served"*

1100 E. Main Cross Street  
Suite 123 • Findlay, Ohio 45840  
Ph: 419.424.7036  
Fx: 567.250.9389

**[hancockveterans.com](http:// HancockVeterans.com)**

