



LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BAND

By Dawn Anderson

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band

A TRADITION OF SERVICE THROUGH MUSIC

Greetings from the LASD Band! It is our greatest privilege to honor our fallen heroes, and I would like to acknowledge our buglers who attend, grieve and, with integrity of spirit and gratitude, perform Taps for our fallen deputies. For it is in these moments that we can offer support to the families who have given so much of themselves when their loved one took on the commitment to better our communities. The obligation to the badge and the LASD is made in an effort to make a difference and to keep us all from harm.

Sometimes the memorial event to a fallen deputy is intimate, but more often there are hundreds in attendance, and there are always uniformed personnel, a color guard and a bugler for the playing of Taps offered to the family of the fallen. These gifts of ceremony in honor of our deputies are welcomed because they are heartfelt and given to our brothers and sisters as part of the greater Los Angeles Sheriff's Department family.

Taps became a tradition for military funerals as far back as the mid-1800s, when Daniel Butterfield and his bugler, Oliver Norton, rewrote a bugle call that was used by the American military, but borrowed from the French. The bugle call written by the French as early as 1809 was called "Tattoo," and it is still used today for military ceremonies. But the beauty and haunting Taps bugle call became the most requested call by neighboring base camps and spread quickly throughout the military. Originally





played for "lights out," the Butterfield/Norton version took on another meaning. As Taps, it became the standard piece of music to honor our fallen military, law enforcement officers and firefighters for their service to our country and communities.

Lyrics for the Taps bugle call:

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Today, Taps is both mandatory and ubiquitous at the funerals of fallen sheriff's deputies. They are entitled and deserving of this honor, which signifies the dignity and esteem our country and its citizens feel for them.

The LASD Band has numerous buglers who stand ready to perform Taps for End of Watch ceremonies. All our buglers are humbled to perform this service. Julie and Sheldon were recently called upon and are pictured sounding out that mournful final honor.

Please call us for your Sheriff's Department musical needs and/or events, such as retirements, celebrations or holiday/patriotic festivities. We are here for you!

If you play an instrument or previously played an instrument, it may be time to dust it off and join the LASD Band. If you would like to have one of our bands perform for an event, either the dance band or concert band (subject to Department guidelines), please contact me at Dawn.LASDBand@gmail.com. Please visit our website, LASDBand.org. ☆