

VETERAN'S HONORS FUNERAL ASSISTANT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

The Tyler County Board of Education recognizes the need to facilitate collaboration that will encourage capable young people to assist with the sounding of *Taps* at military funerals honoring our veterans and, thereby, help them to develop a better understanding of the sacrifices, a respect for the commitment and an appreciation of the privileges that these men and women of the armed services have protected through their service.

The purpose of this county policy is to increase the number of buglers qualified to sound *Taps* at military honors funerals of deceased veterans, and to develop programs for qualified student volunteers to participate as buglers.

Creating a Registry of Qualified Students

The school's band director/music teacher shall create a registry of students. The registry shall include:

1. Student's full name and phone number;
2. School name and phone number;
3. Band director/music teacher;
4. School principal.

The registry shall be kept on file in participating schools and in the county board office. The registry shall be made available upon request to the funeral directors and established veterans' organizations.

After providing the appropriate musical training, information on the historical significance, and protocol necessary to ensure the integrity of the sounding of *Taps*, the band director/music teacher shall determine students eligible for the registry.

Credit

The sounding of *Taps* shall be a co-curricular activity. Participation in the sounding of *Taps* may be credited toward work-based learning or community service. Students are responsible for verifying that credit is recorded with the appropriate designated person in their school responsible for Community Service/Work-based Learning Credit.

Absences incurred through participation in the sounding of *Taps* shall be considered an excused absence as a school approved co-curricular/extra-curricular activity. (WVEIS Code X-1)

Responsibility for Implementation

The county shall distribute the Veteran's Honors Funeral Assistant Community Service Program Policy to all 6-12 schools. The county shall create a technical support reference file to assist in implementing this policy. A copy of the file shall be kept in the county office as well as in participating schools. The technical support file may include, but is not limited to, the following: The WV Department of Education Arts Coordinator; nationally recognized veterans' organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion; Marine Corps League; WV Division of Veterans Affairs; Bugles Across America; other community service organizations that have appropriate information on proper military protocol.

Liability

Student participation in the "Veterans Honors Funeral Assistant Community Service Program" is voluntary. The sounding of *Taps* for veterans' funerals is not a school-sponsored event; however is considered a community service for which school credit may be awarded. Parent/guardian permission must be obtained in writing for each occurrence in accordance with county board policy. A parent/guardian or student must be responsible for transportation and this information must be a part of the permission form. The school or the county may not reimburse expenses nor provide an honorarium. In accordance with W.Va. Code 18-2E-8e(d)(3), the Tyler County Board is not liable for student supervision while absent to participate in the sounding of *Taps* for veterans' funerals.

Incentive

Participating schools may consider the following incentives: Presentation of certificates, medals, pins, or other appropriate award symbols; Honorarium awarded by agencies other than the school or the Tyler County Schools; Public recognition at awards assemblies.

WV Veterans certificate of recognition may be obtained from:

WV Division of Veterans Affairs
1321 Plaza East, Suite 109
Charleston, WV 25301

Severability

If any provision of this policy or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this policy.

REFERENCE: HB 2286; State Code § 18-2E-8e

DATE: 3/21/16, 7/16/12, 8/3/09, 11/20/06, 1/9/06