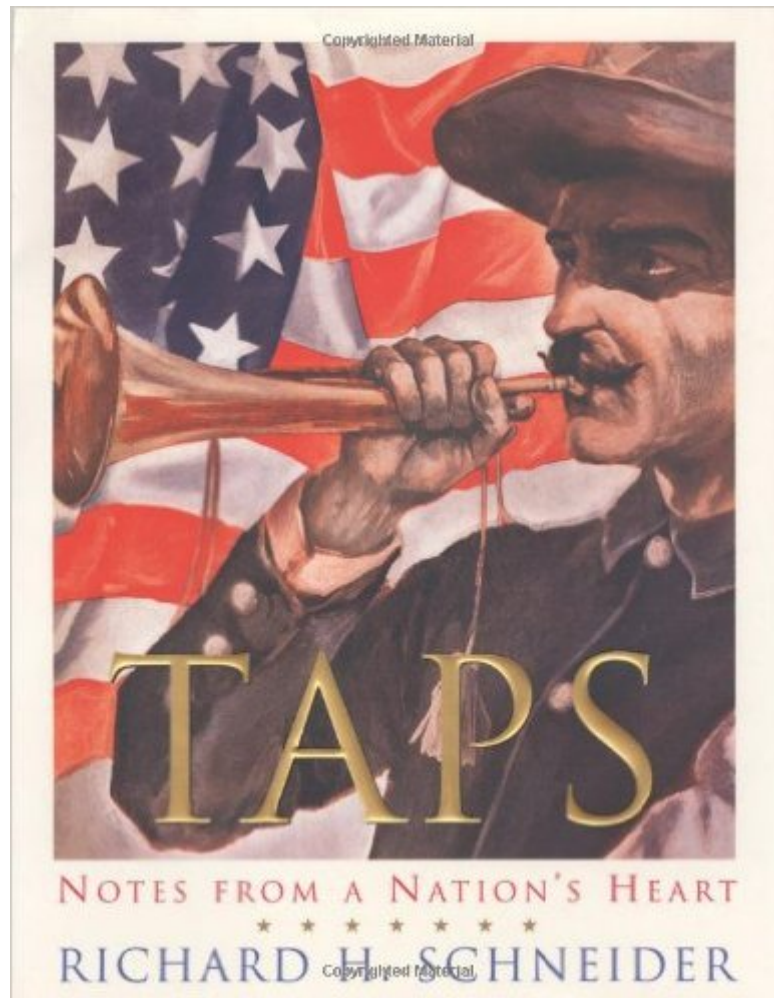


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# Taps: Notes From A Nation's Heart



## Synopsis

No song is more intrinsically woven into the American tapestry than "Taps." Composed of a mere twenty-four notes, for nearly a century and a half it has been played to honor our country's fallen heroes, to pay tribute to our flag, and to herald the end of another day in a nation where freedom never sleeps. At one time or another every American has been touched by its haunting melody -- its clear, sad tones conjuring up memories of loved ones lost, instilling hope, bringing comfort and peace. In a work of heart and scholarship, author Richard H. Schneider examines the legends, the history, and the enduring importance of a simple, soaring anthem that was first played in the aftermath of a horrific confrontation on American soil -- the gift of a Union officer to his brave, battle-weary troops. Here the truths and myths of this plaintive bugle call are brought to light, mingled with poignant and stirring recollections of people from all walks of life -- soldiers and civilians, men and women, young and old -- whose lives have been influenced by it. A song for the generations -- past and to come -- its power is unequalled, its legacy is every American's. In these challenging times of tribulation and uncertainty, Richard H. Schneider's "Taps" serves as a reminder of a great nation's struggles and triumphs, offering a balm for the spirit and hope for a new century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam war, I have to say that Richard Schneider has written (composed from the heart, would be a better description) a wonderful little book about the most beautiful notes ever written. The book is not only a "feel-good" book for those for which "Taps" holds a special place in their hearts, it is also an informative book with historical elements and anecdotes

to please the history minded reader. I especially liked the poems in the rear of the book that added to the poignancy of the theme. This book fills a certain void that occurred after 9/11 because even though the flag got a lot of attention, "Taps" deserves some attention also.

Has all the information related to Taps. Also, what happened to those people who wrote and played it. Recommend this to all and all libraries should have this on their shelves.

The book is truly a labor of love, and it's obvious. Schneider is to be commended for having once and for all related the history of "Taps," and debunking many myths about its origin. It is fortuitous that the author connected with Jari Villaneuva, an outstanding trumpeter, and the foremost authority on "Taps," living or dead. One minor flaw is an erroneous reference to an E-flat trumpet, near the end of the book. The book loses one star in this review because of the awful design, in which the text is interrupted again and again by sidebar stories. Editor: there had to be a better way to present this information!

This book gives us a handy reference to the origins of Taps. We need it, for, as well as the true story, here is also an exploration of the other, long told and beautifully poetic myth about the origins of the tune. One challenge for historians is this: who wrote the words that we most often sing (or think in our minds silently) to go with the music.... "Day is done...(etc.)" Even the authorities Schneider relies on don't have the answer. It goes back to Harrison's Landing and General Dan.

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