

## A Sound of Respect

*By Loweta Kimball*

As the trumpeter played the traditional music called 'Taps' for a military funeral at Fort Logan National Cemetery, we mourners stood in absolute silence at the gravesite with our left hand at our side, right hand over our heart, and our eyes focused on the flag-draped coffin before us. While tears flowed heavily from our eyes, no one uttered a sound. The atmosphere all around seemed filled with thoughts of our departed friend.

No one had to be told what posture to take while the music played. The distinct trumpet drew the entire crowd to the same conclusion – the deceased earned respect and honor and was receiving it. As I listened to the trumpeter, memories of good times on this earth with my friend flashed across my mind and I smiled.

That distinct sound of the trumpet rang in my ears long after I left the gravesite. Mourners spoke fondly of the deceased all the way back to the church and shared stories through the family dinner. It was during this time that these thoughts came to mind: what if, when someone was about to commit a crime of violence against a child, their spouse, a family member, they heard the smooth melodic trumpet sound of 'Taps'. Would they halt their pending violent behavior, take on that military gravesite posture of honor and respect – left hand at the side, right hand over the heart, eyes fixed on their loved one remembering the good moments together?

Could the sound of 'Taps' give rise to honor and respect to the living?

The sound of 'Taps' is an amazing musical sound without a single spoken word.