

NY GOLDEN OLDIE

Bugle attuned to sad farewells

BY KNUT ROYCE
WASHINGTON BUREAU



A Bach signal trumpet, bottom and above, as played by Keith Clark, the Arlington National Cemetery bugler. Clark had been the bugler at the funeral of President John F. Kennedy.

WASHINGTON — When the Army's top bugler performs the 24 serene notes of "Taps" at Ronald Reagan's burial ceremony in California tomorrow, Garden City attorney John Vincent Bach will be watching "maybe a little misty-eyed, but proud," he says.

The bugle will be a Bach bugle, perhaps the one designed by his late grand-uncle Vincent Bach in 1962 that bade farewell to John F. Kennedy the following year. Or maybe it will be a more evolved model built by the company that bought out Vincent Bach's musical instrument factory in Mount Vernon, N.Y.

John Bach and some Reagan family associates said they hope it's the Kennedy bugle, which later sounded "Taps" at the funerals of Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1969, Harry S. Truman in 1972, and Lyndon B. Johnson in 1973.

A close Reagan family friend, who did not want to be further identified, said he had gotten a tentative approval from the Defense Secretary's office to fly the Kennedy bugle to California. The former president will be buried at the Reagan library at Simi Valley. Sgt. Maj. Woody English, the Army's 6-foot-4 master bugler, will perform the mournful solo that has been a standard at funerals, wreath-laying and memorial services since the Civil War.

A Pentagon spokesman said he did not have an im-

mediate answer on whether the bugle will go to California.

Bugle historian Roy B. Hemp-ley described the one-of-a-kind, gold-plated Kennedy bugle as "the best-proportioned bugle I've ever seen." Vincent Bach himself called it his Stradivarius bugle.

After the Johnson burial in 1973, the bugle was loaned to the Smithsonian Institution. It was moved later to Arlington National Cemetery, where it has been on display at the Visitor Center.

Master bugler English tried out the Kennedy bugle several months ago when he and

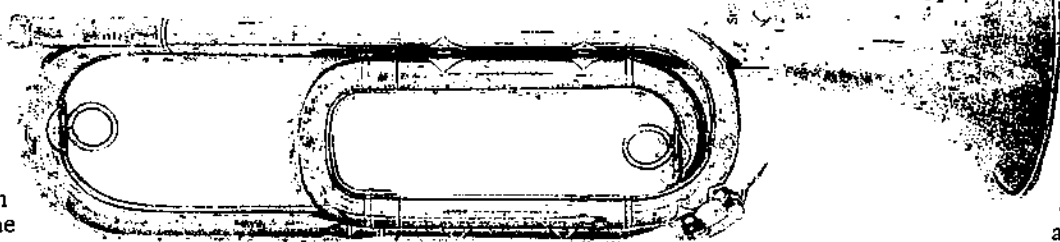
some Army concert band colleagues visited Arlington Cemetery.

Army Sgt. Maj. Chuck Seipp, assistant brass group leader of the concert band, said he called English Tuesday night to ask whether he would be able to use the Kennedy bugle. English, he said, was skeptical, saying there wasn't enough time to practice on the bugle before the service.

"Woody is fabulous," on the bugle, Seipp said. "But if you're a brass player you get used to your instrument." He said English will be under enormous pressure tomorrow, and "if you throw in anything that's different into the mix" it could add to the stress.

English and the Army band have been using bugles manufactured in the 1970s and 1980s by the Selmer Company of Elkhart, Ind., which purchased the Bach company in 1961. Vincent Bach designed the Kennedy bugle for the Army in 1962 while a consultant for Selmer. The newer bugles are "still called Bach bugles . . . [and] they're excellent," said Seipp. He said the designs are faithful to the original Bach blueprints.

Lawyer John Bach is sure they're not as good as the Kennedy bugle. But whatever the outcome, he said, he will be watching tomorrow on TV. I'm going to be proud. This is part of history. I may be a little misty-eyed, but proud," he said.



QUOTE OF THE DAY
'Litigation secrecy has kept information hidden from the public that could have prevented injuries and deaths to thousands of people.'

— From 'Secrets Kill,' a report by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. Story, A22

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BY ANNE Q. HOY
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — In a visit marked by its brevity, President George W. Bush yesterday evening joined tens of thousands of Americans paying tribute to Ronald Reagan, the nation's 40th president, lying in state in the nation's Capitol.

With light from windows overhead dimming, Bush and first lady Laura Bush briskly entered the imposing Rotunda, the Capitol's ceremonial chamber that has held the bodies of nine other presidents, and bowed their heads. Each appeared to recite a brief prayer. Bush then smoothed a spot on the flag-draped casket and departed. His visit, while lasting less than a minute, took some visitors by surprise.

The president, fresh from a meeting of the world's eight industrial nations off the Georgia coast, is slated to deliver a eulogy at a funeral in the National Cathedral this morning. A sunset burial at Reagan's presidential library in Simi Valley, Calif., is to follow.

The invitation-only service is expected to draw the nation's four living former presidents as well as world leaders including former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In perhaps the most poignant moment, Gorbachev, with whom Reagan forged a close friendship and reached a major pact to cut both nations' nuclear arsenals, paid his respects, remaining far longer than Bush. He stood tall and placed his hand atop the casket as if giving a single, certain farewell to

a longtime friend.

Bush and the first lady later had a private meeting with Nancy Reagan, who received visitors at Blair House, the official guest house across the street from the White House.

The president was preceded into the Rotunda by a long line of notables, including the interim Iraqi President Sheik Ghazi Ajil al-Yawar, escorted by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.).

Former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and his wife, Judith, paid a visit at the same time his friend Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and his wife, Cindy, were honoring Reagan. The couples briefly greeted one another.

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, tapped by Reagan to become the nation's first female justice; former Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), a onetime Reagan presidential rival; and Paul Wolfowitz, deputy defense secretary, counted among other special visitors.

Accompanying Wolfowitz was Marine Cpl. James "Eddie" Wright, formerly of Seattle, a Bronze Star recipient who lost both hands in the Iraq war in April. Wright turned and stood erect before the casket and raised his bandaged right arm to his forehead, where it lingered before he executed a crisp and moving salute.

They came dressed up and dressed down, walking and in wheelchairs, throughout the night. Most were solemn, not sad. Some saluted, their expressions often summoning the Wednesday night words of Vice President Dick Cheney hailing Reagan as "a graceful and a gallant man."

Every half-hour, visitors witnessed the cadenced changing of the five honor guards.

Michael Killough, a Capitol Police spokesman, said that by 2 p.m. yesterday, some 30,000 visitors had filed by Reagan's coffin, according to counters on magnetometers and officers armed with clickers. While

there were no arrests, several people were stricken with dehydration.

Outside the Capitol, many visitors carried umbrellas to deflect the bright sun as they waited three-plus hours to snake through barriers and tight security. At the base of the Capitol, guests signed condolence books and collected 4- by 6-inch commemorative cards marked with formal script and a gold presidential seal.

Don Riley of McLean, Va., brought his daughter and four grandchildren and a friend "to see a piece of history."

Bill Fowler, 40, a state employee of Dunellen, N.J., drove to pay tribute to someone he counted as the most important president of his lifetime.

Ellen Horvath, 41, and her husband Dean Gomor, 45, of Northville, Mich., flew in to pay respects to a man Horvath called "the last of a special breed."

After viewing the casket, Dole, the former Senate Repub-

lican leader, was asked about calls by some Reagan backers to rename the Pentagon after the deceased president. "What I'd like to see is some sort of an extended living memorial through more research and things of that kind on Alzheimer's," he said.

Reagan, 93, died Saturday at his home in Los Angeles after a decade-long battle with the disease. Nancy Reagan recently called on Bush to lift restrictions he placed in 2001 on the use of stem cells for research because they require the destruction of human embryos.

In many ways, Reagan's return to the Capitol was draped in irony as much as pageantry.

The former actor turned president was a master of transforming the Capitol — where he delivered 10 formal speeches to joint sessions during his two-term presidency — to his stage. Since Wednesday, it has been the nation that has erected a solemn tribute to him.

In January 1985, fierce cold forced Reagan's second inaugural into the Rotunda for the first time in history. Then-Chief Justice Warren Burger administered the oath as Reagan stood in the Rotunda's center.

His coffin rested on that spot yesterday, awaiting today's final farewell atop an 11-foot pine catafalque first constructed for the state funeral of Abraham Lincoln.

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Bugle will go to Reagan Library

WASHINGTON — Ronald Reagan will have his own bugle.

After Army Sgt. Maj. Woodrow English, the Army's master bugler, finishes playing "Taps" at Reagan's California gravesite tonight, he will donate his bugle to the Reagan family.

That will end three days of talk among Reagan associates, bugle historians and performers and Garden City attorney John Vincent Bach over whether the one-of-a-kind bugle used at the funerals of John F. Kennedy and three other presidents should sound Reagan's farewell.

Bach and some Reagan associates had lobbied for the so-called Kennedy bugle, on display at Arlington National Cemetery, which was

designed in 1962 by Bach's late granduncle.

But the Reagan family and English settled Thursday on a later model, from the 1970s. It is also a Bach bugle and is the one English has used for more than two decades.

English said the bugle will be retired to the Reagan library in Simi Valley, Calif.

Bach said he was happy with the Reagan family's decision.

"While the JFK bugle has rich historical significance because of the line of presidents for which 'Taps' was played, President Reagan, because of his enormous accomplishments . . . does deserve in his own right his own Reagan Bach bugle."

— KNUT ROYCE