

..... PARTING SHOT



Joe Gromelski/VVA Veteran

Il Silencio

Staff Sgt. Brent Proseus, a trumpet and cornet player with the famed “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, plays “Taps” atop *The Wall* to conclude the 2024 Memorial Day commemoration on May 27 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

Earlier during the ceremonies, Staff Sgt.

Proseus, at the request of Keynote speaker Fred Smith, the founder of FedEx who served as a U.S. Marine lieutenant in the Vietnam War, played the “Taps”-like “Il Silencio.”

As Smith noted in his speech, the “Il Silencio” bugle call has been performed annually at the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten in the south of

Holland. That hallowed ground, which was dedicated in 1960, is the final resting place of 8,288 American servicemembers who lost their lives during the World War II liberation of Holland in 1944 and 1945.

See more from Memorial Day at *The Wall* on p. 18.

— Marc Leepson ♦