Emma Caise, a Bradley Central student, was recruited to play taps at military funerals.

"I found her very patriotic," said Stanley Giroux, a member of Detachment No. 153 and chairman of the Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Council.

"How many children do you think there are in our community who would do this?" giroux said. "Patriotism is sometimes not very easy. You find people in places not putting their hands on their hearts.

Throughout the years, Emma has become friends with the Marines in Detachment No. 153, who think of her as a member of their team. She keeps her uniform clean and pressed, and often wakes up early for funeral practices.

"It means a lot to the family and being able to relate to what the people are feeling because I felt that pain when my grandparents died. Being able to see the Marine Corps pay their respects is huge," said Giroux.

"It means a lot that she does this, never accepts anything or anything. She just does it because she wants to and for the country. She is an inspiration to the whole family," said Emma's father, Michael Caise.

At the start of the Memorial Day weekend, the Marine Corps, through the Marine Corps Association, was serving Washington, D.C., the site of the debut of a short documentary about children who are military children. Emma, who must carry and transport her notes of taps, Vu Ngoc Xiem, a Marine veteran of the North Vietnamese Army, said: "It means a lot for me to be able to do this because it is a way to honor the people that the country say we are, and the country say, 'We never forget,'" said Xiem.

"I think it's an emotional morning as Vietnam war and American children of parents of killed on opposite side the war is related to honor lost fathers and mothers and to remember each other as brothers and sisters," said Xiem.

"They have a lot of respect for the Marine Corps and the Illini Marine Corps," said Emma.

Despite her busy schedule, Emma maintained her grades and continued to attend Bradley Central, a high school in Illinois.

"It makes me happy to see a student that is working among those people instead of being a part of a mobbing," said Emma, now 15. "She is a mean more than anyone else's child's funeral. Emma has played the taps for two dozen services. Thanks to a 2010 amendment to the Illinois state school code that requires a 4-year-old boy to play taps for his father's funeral, Emma has been able to lose classes at Bradley Central School to help.

"I don't have much time," said Emma. "I'm in the band, and I'm in the choir. I have to leave classes at Bradley Central School to help."