



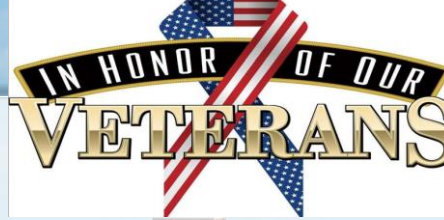
History, Character, Leadership

The Founding of America's Veterans Day in Alabama

College of Education

TROY UNIVERSITY™





“Find a need and fill it.”

Dr. Jack Hawkins

Leadership 1100 Lecture Fall 2017

TROY UNIVERSITY™



Purpose and Preview

1. **Story of Need and Opportunity**
2. **Missing History for 70 Years & 7 Compelling Events for Alabama**
3. **5 Character Traits mandated to teach supported by this history**
4. **Video clip from the White House**
5. **5 Character Traits that should be added in Alabama**
6. **3 Leadership Lessons from this Alabama and National History**
7. **Opportunity to be the National Leader for Resources Teachers Need**



7 Historical Events

Veterans Day National Movement Started in Alabama

1945: WW II ended. As November 11 approached, Raymond Weeks and others thought the USA should honor veterans of ALL wars (not just WW I) and work to perpetuate World Peace.

1946: Raymond Weeks and Alabama took action--planned the celebration, led a delegation to the Pentagon, and gained support from Gen. Dwight Eisenhower for “National Veterans Day 1947” to launch the next Nov. 11.

1947: Birmingham hosted the first Veterans Day with the World Peace Dinner (WWII Hero Gen. Omar Bradley keynote speaker), Memorial Service, Parade....General Eisenhower telegram endorsed.

1954: Birmingham created and presented the National Veteran Award.



7 Historical Events

(continued)

1982: Pres. Ronald Reagan presented “Raymond Weeks of Birmingham” the : Presidential Citizens Medal on national TV as the “driving force” for Veterans Day. Elizabeth Dole vetted Weeks and called him the “Father of Veterans Day.”

2005: *Tribute to the Founder of Veterans Day* commemoration led by Patriotism in Action at the Weeks Monument placed by “a grateful nation.”

2012: U.S. Senate affirmed Raymond Weeks-Birmingham-Alabama for starting Veterans Day in a resolution proposed by Patriotism in Action of Life Leaders.





Character Traits

Alabama Course of Study 1995—5 of 25 Traits

1. Patriotism

2. Courage

3. Perseverance

4. Loyalty

5. Citizenship



Character Trait

Patriotism



Character Trait

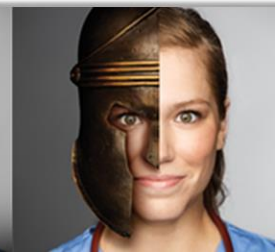
Courage

Raymond Weeks gained support from Gen. Eisenhower

Nov. 11, 1946

The draft program
Weeks presented
November 11, 1946:

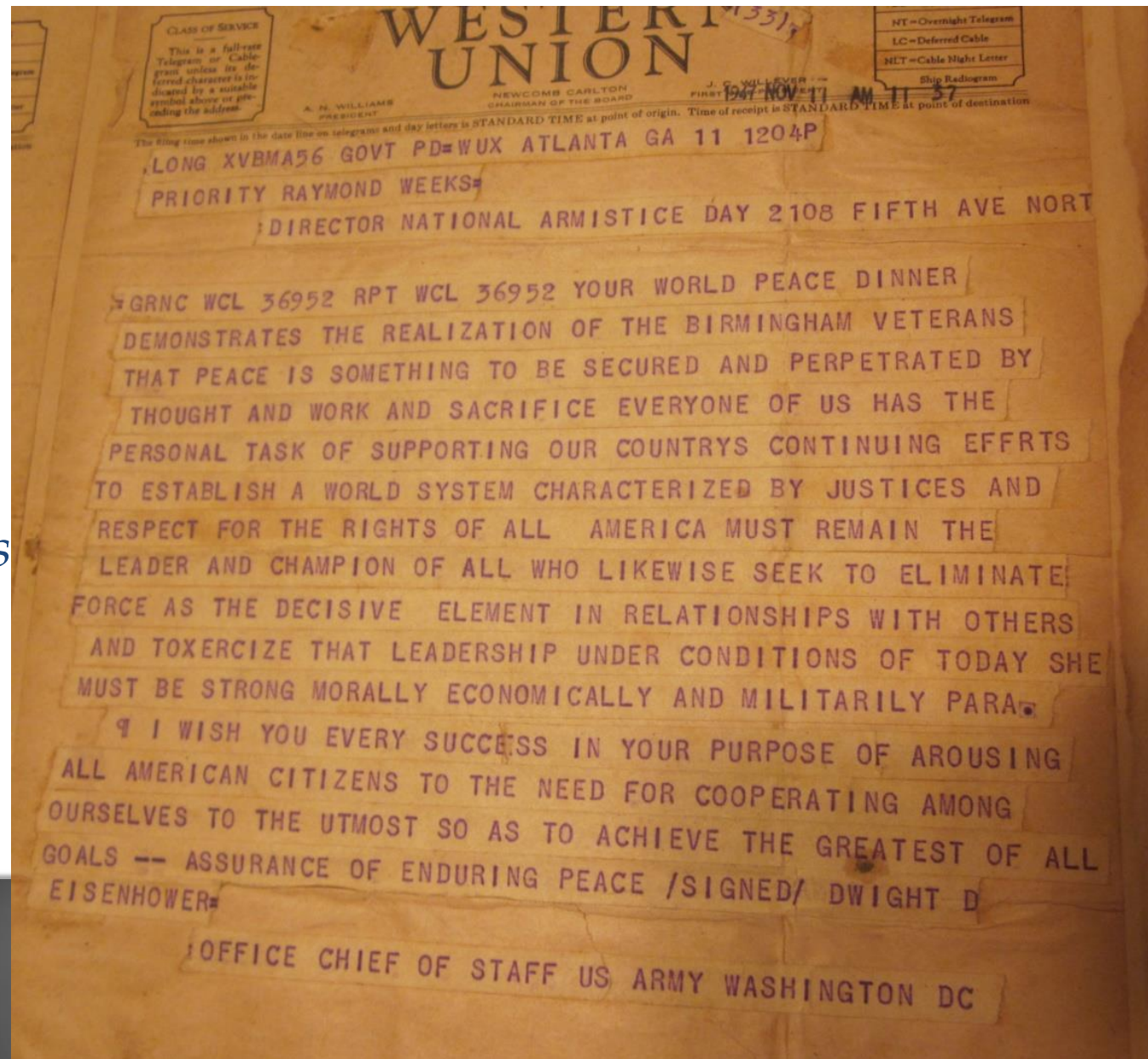
“National Veterans
Day 1947”



Telegram from GEN Eisenhower 11-11-11 in 1947

*I wish you every
success in your
purpose of arousing
all American citizens
to the need...*

Dwight D. Eisenhower





Character Trait

Perseverance

Weeks Persevered 1947-54 (7 Years)
until Veterans Day was federal law

President Eisenhower signed into law in 1954
the Act proclaiming November 11 as Veterans
Day (Public Law 83-380 signed June 1).

That year, National Veterans Day in Birmingham
created the National Veteran Award and Banquet and
moved the World Peace Dinner to a luncheon.



2013 Honoree The Tuskegee Airmen of Alabama



Alabama has stood as national leader for Veterans Day, Human Rights, Freedom, and Patriotism.

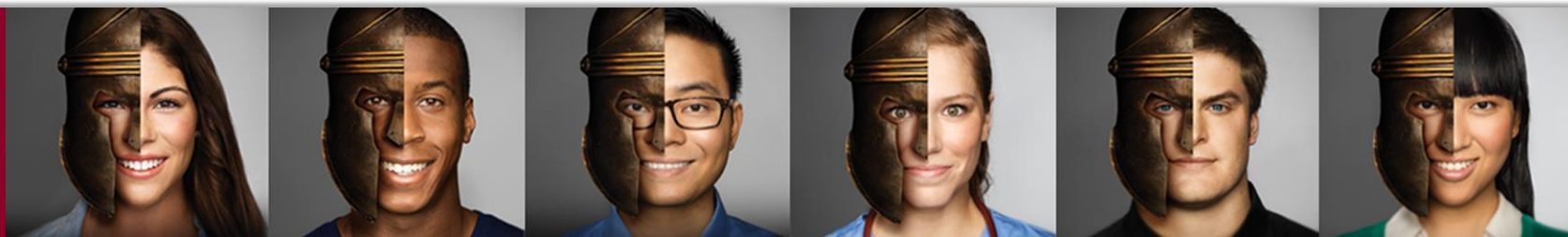
In 1947, the nation's Veterans Day was created in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1954, President Eisenhower signed into law Veterans Day as a national holiday. Since 1954, the National Veteran Award has been sponsored and hosted in Birmingham.

This year we celebrate the courage and valor of the Tuskegee Airmen.

This message provided by Friends of Freedom including The Daniel Foundation of Alabama, Welch Hornsby, Southern Museum of Flight, and Aviation Services Group, Inc.

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FREEDOM LIVES
freedomlives.org

TROY
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troys.edu/splrit





Character Trait

Loyalty



Character Trait

Citizenship

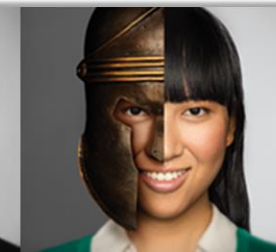
President Reagan honored Raymond Weeks with the Presidential Citizens Medal as “Driving Force” for Veterans Day



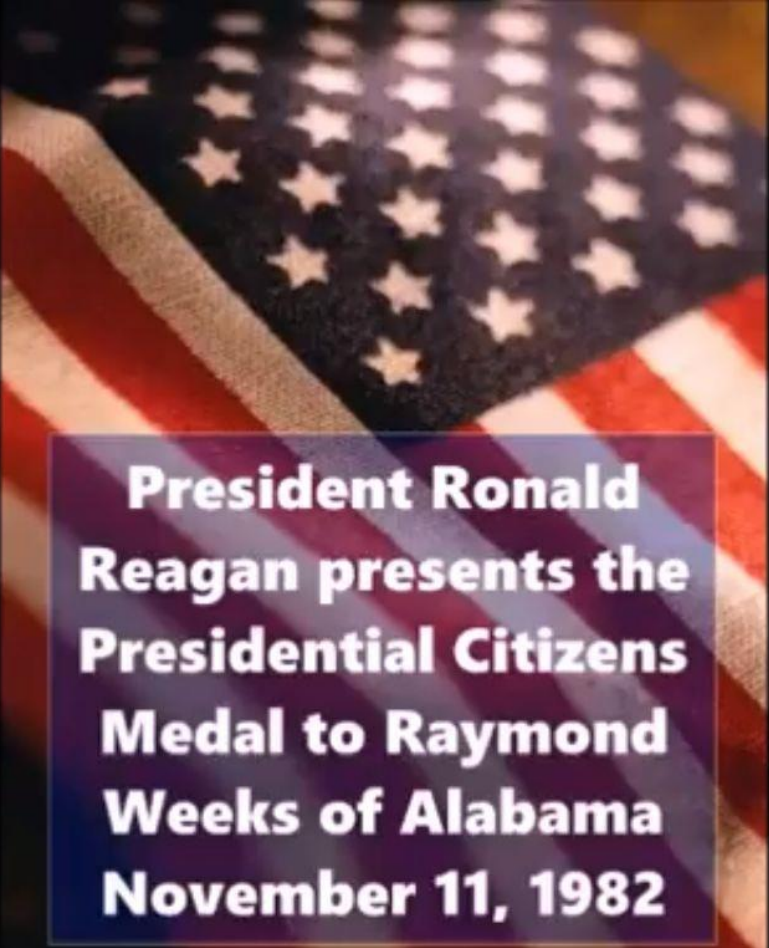
President Reagan speaks at the White House on national TV
*“We are here to honor an American patriot, Raymond Weeks of
Birmingham, Alabama”....the “driving force” establishing Veterans Day.*



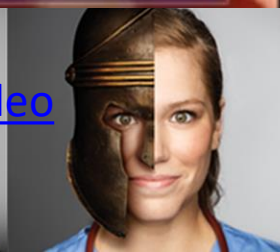
Reagan pins the *Presidential Citizens Medal* on
Raymond Weeks, November 11, 1982
(vetting and briefing for the award by Elizabeth Dole).



New Video updated for National Veterans Day and Teachers



**President Ronald
Reagan presents the
Presidential Citizens
Medal to Raymond
Weeks of Alabama
November 11, 1982**



[Play Video](#)

5 Character Traits and Values

That Should Be Added, especially in Alabama

1. Freedom
2. Peace
3. Honor
4. Trust
5. Leadership





Progress Highlights



PATRIOTISM IN ACTION

RESOURCE
PATRIOTS
GUIDE

*The Founding of America's Veterans Day in Alabama
and a Guide to U.S. Patriotic Holidays and Traditions*



Dr. David Dyson
(Founder, Patriotism in Action)



Col. "Stretch" Dunn
(U.S. Army Retired)

U.S. Senate Resolution
passed affirming
Birmingham, Alabama,
and Mr. Weeks as “driving
force” of America’s
Veterans Day

“...the first Veterans
Day was held in
Birmingham...1947”

112th CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 591

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Raymond Weeks
and his efforts in the establishment of Veterans Day.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 2012

MR. SESSIONS (for himself and MR. SHELBY) submitted the following resolution;
which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Raymond Weeks and his efforts in the establishment of Veterans Day.

Whereas November 11, 2012, is the 65th anniversary of National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama;
Whereas the National Veterans Day in Birmingham is the longest running celebration of Veterans Day in the Nation;

Whereas, on November 11, 1946, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks presented General Eisenhower a program design proposing to replace Armistice Day with a National Veterans Day in 1947;

Whereas the very first Veterans Day celebration was held in Birmingham by the National Veterans Day Organization in 1947;

Whereas President Eisenhower signed into law on June 1, 1954, the Act proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day (Public Law 380; 83rd Congress);

Whereas in 1954, the National Veterans Day Volunteer Organization, started by Raymond Weeks, expanded to organize a multi-day celebration including, but not limited to, a Veterans Day Parade, a World Peace Luncheon, and presentation during the National Veterans Award Dinner of the National Veterans Award;

Whereas these three events have been held every year since 1954;

Whereas the briefing for President Reagan by Elizabeth Dole for the Presidential Citizens Medals cited Raymond Weeks as the “Father of Veterans Day”;

Whereas President Reagan recognized Raymond Weeks as the driving force behind Veterans Day while presenting Raymond Weeks with the Presidential Citizens Medal on November 11, 1982;

Whereas Raymond Weeks should be recognized for his push to honor the great men and women who have served their country with a special day of recognition; and

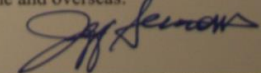
Whereas Birmingham, Alabama, should be recognized for its contributions to the institution of Veterans Day:
Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate--

(1) recognizes Birmingham, Alabama, as the home to the first and longest running celebration of Veterans Day;

(2) recognizes Raymond Weeks for his pioneering efforts in the establishment of Veterans Day; and

(3) honors the sacrifices of, and pays tribute to, the men and women of the United States in uniform who risk life and limb for their country at home and overseas.





Founded In Alabama



November 11, 1946 General Dwight D. Eisenhower receives a program announcing *National Veterans Day 1947* presented by Raymond Weeks of Birmingham



Patriotism in Action book cover: President Ronald Reagan honored Raymond Weeks with the Presidential Citizens Medal at the White House in 1982 as the "driving force" for establishing America's Veterans Day.

U.S. history: Birmingham, Alabama hosted the first national celebration honoring all veterans in 1947 and started America's National Veteran Award in 1954, the year President Eisenhower signed Veterans Day into law as a federal holiday. The U.S. Senate led by Senators Sessions and Shelby passed a resolution in 2012 recognizing Alabama as home to the first and longest running celebration of Veterans Day.

Alabama: A national leader organizing Veterans Day celebrations, educational resources, and events to honor veterans, celebrate freedom, foster peace, and teach character traits to build good citizenship for America.

Character traits for this national education

*Patriotism - Courage - Perseverance - Loyalty - Citizenship
Freedom - Peace - Honor - Trust - Leadership*

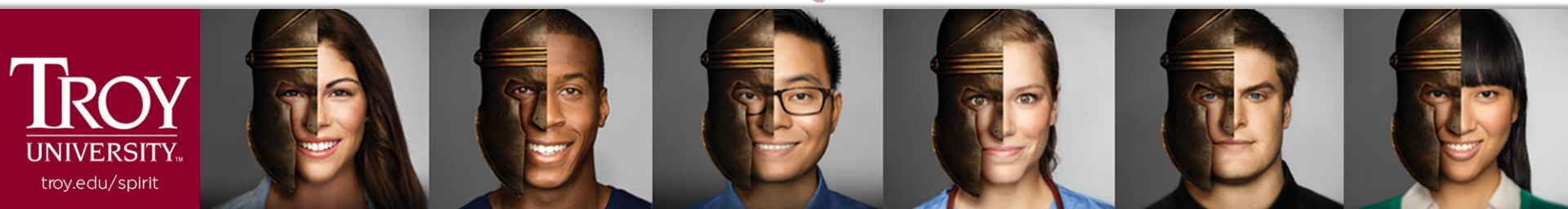
PatriotismInAction.us  NationalVeteransDay.org

Veterans Day Parade Banner

Donated by Patriotism in Action
and the Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation



Billboards have helped tell our story.



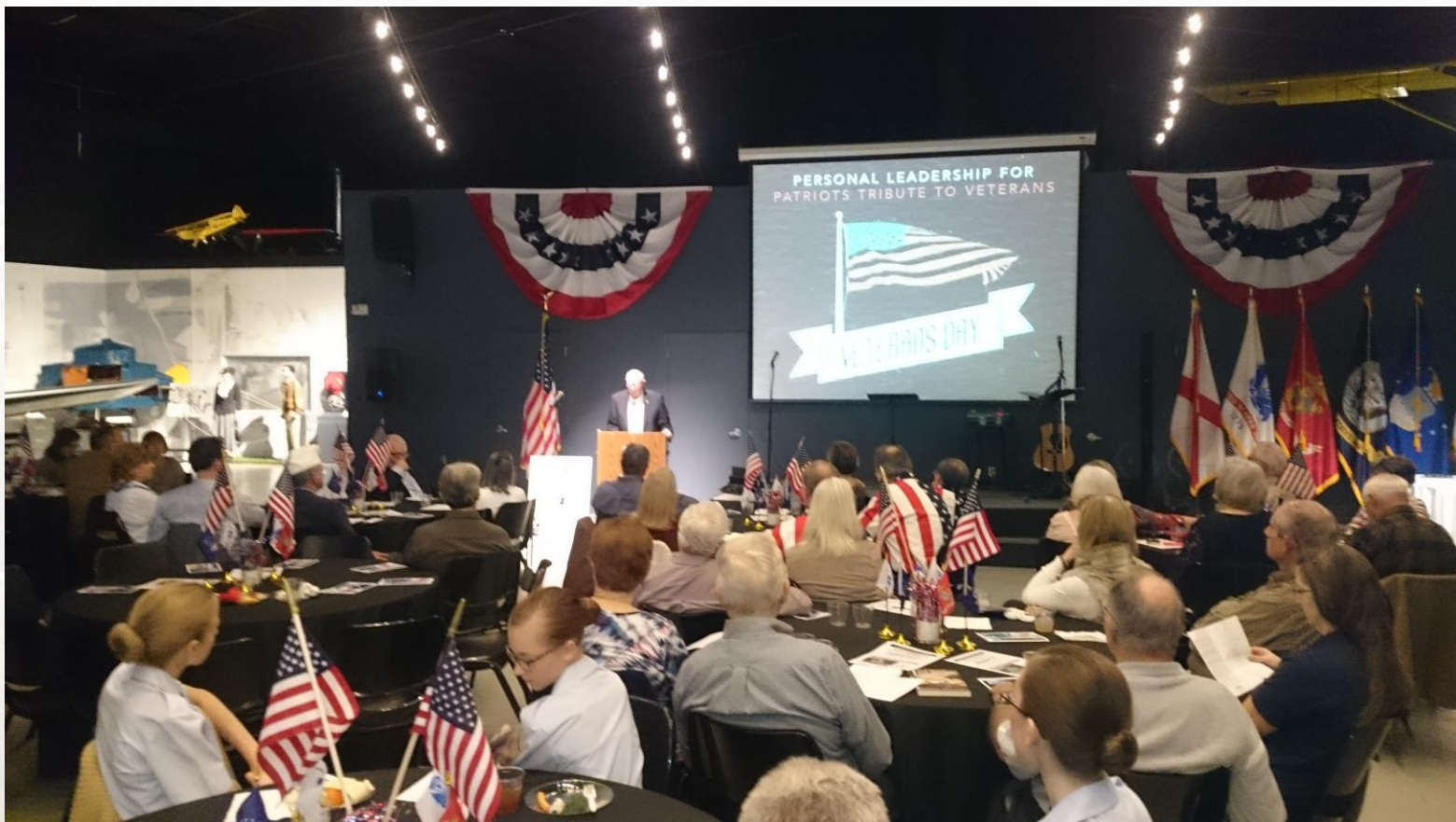
Weeks Family Carries Banner

(Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren...)



Personal Leadership for Patriots

Southern Museum of Flight



Tribute to Founder Raymond Weeks— “Driving Force” for Veterans Day, November 10



National Veterans Day Parade: Life Leaders on the Wells Fargo Stagecoach



Veterans Day Founder Family at the Parade



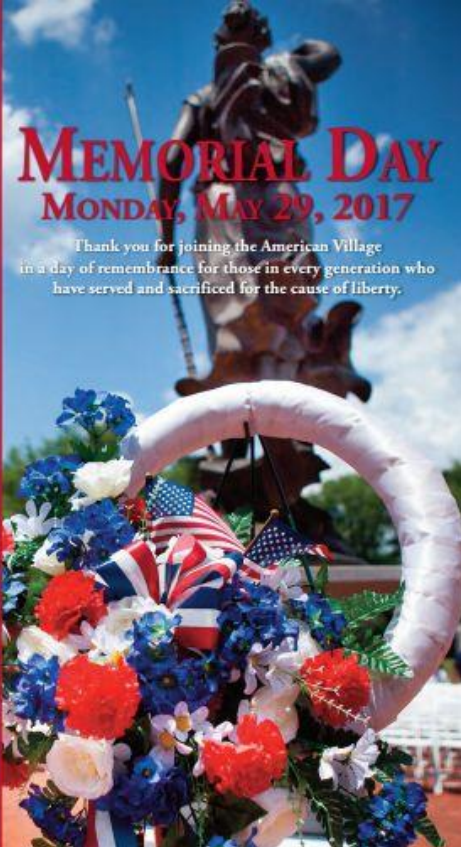
Veterans Day Founding History & Character Education in Schools

we started but must improve



Troy alumnus Major Jeff Brown (Ret), left, with State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tommy Bice (center) who placed this poster in his office and helped us put a lesson plan on “ALEX” in 2012.

American Village honored Patriotism in Action and invited us to speak at Teacher Conference



MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017

Thank you for joining the American Village in a day of remembrance for those in every generation who have served and sacrificed for the cause of liberty.

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

George Washington
President of the United States

100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I



Patriotism In Action
We believe every citizen should know...

Veterans Day started in Alabama in 1947 and, Central Alabama can be a Top 5 U.S. destination for patriotic events and education.

November 11, 1946: General Dwight Eisenhower supported the proposed "National Veterans Day 1947" presented by Raymond Weeks, WWII veteran from Alabama. President Eisenhower signed Veterans Day into law in 1954. Weeks served Veterans Day for 40 years.

The U.S. Senate passed a resolution in November 2012:

Resolved by the United States Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that Congress hereby recognizes Birmingham, Alabama, as the home to the first and longest running celebration of Veterans Day.

This official recognition restored and confirmed one of Alabama's most positive national distinctions.

NATIONAL VETERANS DAY
Founded in Birmingham, Alabama 1947

Parade Banner donated to Veterans Day by Patriotism in Action of Life Leaders

www.PatriotismInAction.us or www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org • see Veterans Day Education page

Director: Dr. David Dyson / 205.670.1733 • David@LifeLeadersInstitute.org
Chairs: Col. Bob Barefield (USA Ret.) and Nancy Barefield

Three Freedoms Alabama can advance/brand before the World Games 2021



1. **Freedom of Liberty:** Birthplace of National Veterans Day, American Village, Alabama National Cemetery...
2. **Freedom of Rights:** Cradle of the Civil Rights Movement, 4 of 10 cities commemorated in "50 Years Forward," Rosa Parks Museum, Civil Rights Institute...
3. **Freedom to Flourish:** *Plan for School and Life* Movement started...

Now What We Can Do

- Do you want to provide teachers in Alabama schools resources they need to help citizens know and use this history plus character traits and leadership lessons?
- Do you want Troy University to serve as and be known as the national leader providing these resources and preparing our future teachers to know and use our resources?





3 Leadership Examples

- ✓ *Driving Force*
- ✓ *Positional Power*
- ✓ *Inspired Influence*

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We Salute Veterans

Thank you for attending and supporting Veterans Day Education

