

# Every citizen should know

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

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**Patriotism in Action** tells how Veterans Day started in Alabama, provides lessons on 10 character traits, and provides a patriotic guide for students, teachers, and other patriotic citizens.

Cover: Reagan honors Weeks as "driving force"

Alabama Founded  
**AMERICA'S VETERANS DAY**  
AND THE  
**NATIONAL VETERAN AWARD**

PatriotismInAction.us  
NationalVeteransDay.org

LAMAR

America's Veterans Day started in Alabama

And  
*Central Alabama is a potential Top 5 destination for patriotic events and education...*

<=Billboard courtesy of Lamar Outdoor, former company of Raymond Weeks



November 11, 1946:  
General Dwight Eisenhower supported the proposed "National Veterans Day 1947" presented by Raymond Weeks, with Congressman John Sparkman (AL) facilitating.

**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.

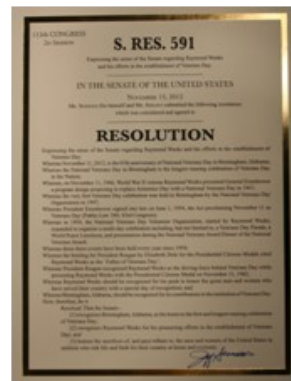
U.S. history: Birmingham, Alabama hosted the first national celebration honoring all veterans in 1947 and started America's National Veteran Award in 1948, the year President Eisenhower signed Veterans Day into law as a federal holiday. The U.S. Senate led by Senator Sparkman and Shelby passed a resolution in 2012 recognizing Birmingham as home to the first and longest running celebration of Veterans Day. Alabama: a national leader organizing Veterans Day celebrations and educational events to honor veterans, celebrate freedom, foster peace, and teach character traits to build good citizenship for America.

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

PatriotismInAction.us ♦ NationalVeteransDay.org

Poster for schools, veterans halls, tourism and government buildings.

Raymond Weeks petitioned General Dwight Eisenhower at The Pentagon in 1946 to establish "National Veterans Day 1947." Kansas joined the national movement in 1953, plus NY and more. President Eisenhower signed into law Veterans Day as a national holiday in 1954. The National Veteran Award was established in 1954 by National Veterans Day in Birmingham.



The U.S. Senate passed a resolution 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...."*

**NATIONAL VETERANS DAY**  
Founded in Birmingham, Alabama 1947

WWW.NATIONALVETERANSDAY.ORG ★ WWW.PATRIOTISMINACTION.US

Design of Parade Banner donated to National Veterans Day

You can get free resources to teach how and where Veterans Day started:  
[www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org](http://www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org) / *Veterans Day Founding Education Page*

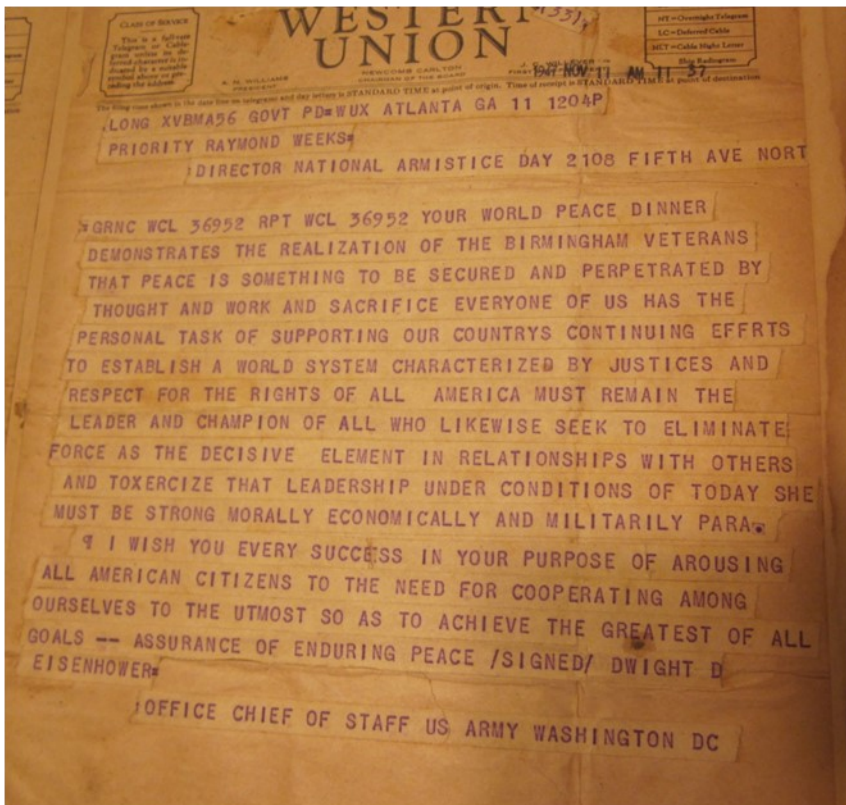
Life Leaders America is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization advancing 7 Priority Callings serving America based in Alabama

[LifeLeadersInstitute.org](http://LifeLeadersInstitute.org) / [PatriotismInAction.us](http://PatriotismInAction.us)

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# Veterans Day honors Veterans, Liberty, Peace...

Telegram from General Eisenhower to Raymond Weeks and Birmingham, Alabama, November 11, 1947



“Your World Peace Dinner demonstrates the realization of the Birmingham Veterans that peace is something to be secured and perpetuated by thought and work and sacrifice. Everyone of us has the personal task of supporting our country's continuing efforts to establish a world system characterized by justice and respect for the rights of all.

America must remain the leader and champion of all who likewise seek to eliminate force as the decisive element in relationships with others and to exercise that leadership. Under the conditions of today, she must be strong morally, economically, and militarily.

I wish you every success in your purpose of arousing all American citizens to the need for cooperating among ourselves to the utmost so as to achieve the greatest of all goals—assurance of enduring peace.”

GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army  
Washington, DC

## Character Traits Education

Veterans have long been examples for students in educational programs. Now, teachers increasingly include the who, where, and why Veterans Day began in Alabama.

Alabama adopted 25 character traits in 1995 to teach for 10 minutes daily, along with The Pledge of Allegiance. The Veterans Day Founding History of purpose and action supports teaching at least 5 of Alabama's character traits:

**Patriotism**

**Courage**

**Perseverance**

**Loyalty**

**Citizenship**

We recommend adding 5 more:

**Freedom**

**Peace**

**Honor**

**Trust**

**Leadership**

[www.PatriotismInAction.us](http://www.PatriotismInAction.us)

[www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org](http://www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org)

Events: [www.NationalVeteransDay.org](http://www.NationalVeteransDay.org)



Veterans Shrine Display, The American Village

Teachers of millions of students in America can teach the *who*, *where*, and *why* National Veterans Day started—connecting history to character traits and plans for school & life to inspire patriotic action.

Patriotism in Action leads on resources to teach the *who*, *where*, and *why* National Veterans Day started in Alabama.

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