



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*



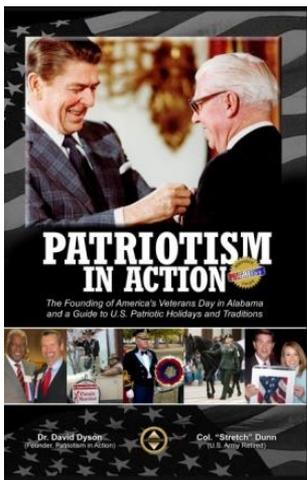
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Col. "Stretch" Dunn
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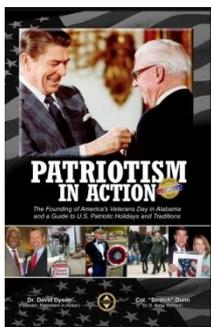
Dr. David Dyson

Col. "Stretch" Dunn



**For the
Learning, Inspiration, Application, and Library
of**

Purpose and Preface



A book for...

- ◆ Students and Parents
- ◆ Teachers of History and Character
- ◆ Veterans and Families
- ◆ Military Professionals and Families
- ◆ Citizens Who Honor Patriotic Holidays
- ◆ Citizens and leaders of Birmingham, AL
- ◆ Citizens and leaders of the United States

Highlights the local, state, and national history of Veterans Day founded in Alabama as a resource for teachers and students and a memento for visitors.

Profiles the founding of America's Veterans Day as an example of *patriotism in action*.

Supports values education—*courage, patriotism, perseverance, loyalty, citizenship, peace, freedom, honor, trust, and leadership*.

Provides a brief guide to America's patriotic holidays that helps parents and teachers explain the purposes.

Takes you to Arlington National Cemetery for a full military honors funeral, showcasing the riderless horse, "Taps," "The Old Guard," and the "21-gun Salute."

Shows several of America's national monuments and Alabama's state monuments to patriotism.

Classifications and Communications

Title: Patriotism in Action: Founding of America’s Veterans Day in Alabama and a Guide to U.S. Patriotic Holidays and Traditions

Authors: Dyson, Dr. David Hilton and

Dunn, Col. C.H. “Stretch,” Jr. (USA Retired), 1943-2017

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www.PatriotismInAction.us

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Preparing this book has been a “calling” to tell more of the story of founding America’s Veterans Day and teach students the history and meaning so they know they have *freedom to flourish*. We seek to provide inspiration and information without suggesting this is a complete patriotic guide. Some publishing traditions for layout have been adapted to serve reader and author preferences, such as our use of two-page spreads instead of starting new sections on the right page. We welcome feedback as we improve this book as a resource that merits your reading and sharing with teachers of millions of students.

–David and Stretch–

Collection and Companion Book

Previous Editions of Patriotism in Action



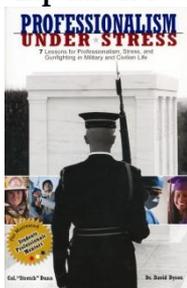
Patriotism in Action:
The Founding of America's Veterans Day in Alabama
and a Guide to U.S. Patriotic Holidays and Traditions
(2009-)

Patriotism In Action:
Saluting National Veteran Award Honoree Lt. General Hal Moore
(2006)

Patriotism In Action:
Guide to Veterans Day in Birmingham
(2004-2005)

Patriotism and Professionalism in Action:
Remembrances and Roots of Honor
(2003)

Companion Book



Professionalism Under Stress:
7 Lessons for Professionalism, Stress, and Gunfighting
In Military and Civilian Life
(2003-)

“The world cares very little about
what a man or woman knows;
it is what the man or woman
is able to do that counts.”

-Booker T. Washington-

Contents

Purpose and Preface	1
Title Page	1
Classifications and Communications	4
Collection and Companion Book	5
Contents	7
Seeds of the Calling for this Book	10
Mission and Vision	14
Patriotism in Action	17
Meaning of Patriotism in Action	18
Founder of Veterans Day/Weeks, Birmingham, Alabama	21
Eisenhower Telegram	26
America's National Veteran Award	29
Raymond Weeks Honored at the White House	31
Governor Bentley's Proclamation	38
Congressional Record Senator Heflin	42
Congressional Record Congressman Bachus	44
U.S. Senate Resolution Sessions and Shelby	46
Poster to Educate	48
Billboard to Educate	51
T-shirt to Educate	52
Corporate Citizen Honors Raymond Weeks	54
Raymond Weeks (1908-1985)	56
Raymond Weeks Memorial	58
Character Education	63
School Values Illuminated by Veterans Day Founding	65
Call to Action and Progress Report Patriotism in Action	78
Call to Action for a Patriot	80
Patriotic Holidays	83
Meaning of Holidays	84
National Veterans Day	86
Veterans Day Events	87
National Veteran Award Banquet / Peace Luncheon	88
National Veteran Award	90
National Veteran Award '06 Honoree LTG Hal Moore	91

National Veterans Day Parade	97
Personal Leadership for Patriots Seminar	106
Professionalism Under Stress Seminar	107
Veterans Day Event Resources	108
Memorial Day	109
Remembrances and Roots of Honor	119
Remembrance for One, Honor for All	120
“The Old Guard”	121
The Sentinels’ Creed	123
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier	124
This Warrior Will Not Ride Again	128
Personal Remembrance: Lt. Gen. Carroll Dunn, Sr.	137
Fallen Comrades Table	138
General Douglas MacArthur: A Patriot’s Farewell	140
Independence Day	145
Declaration of Independence	148
Monuments and Memorials	155
Washington Monument	156
World War I Memorial	157
World War II Memorial	158
Iwo Jima Memorial	159
Korean War Memorial	160
Vietnam Memorial	161
Alabama Veterans Memorial	164
The Flag of the United States	167
Display of the Flag	168
Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America	170
Historical Highlights of the U.S. Flag	172
Meaning in Folding of the Flag	173
Patriotic Songs	175
National Anthem: The Star Spangled Banner	176
America, The Beautiful	178
God Bless America	179
America (My Country ‘Tis of Thee)	180
Proud To Be An American	182
Taps: The Lyrics and The Story	184

Additional Resources and Information	187
7 Best Practices for True Professionals	188
Professionalism Lessons Illuminated in this Book	190
Oath of Citizenship in the United States	192
Oath to Serve in the Armed Forces	192
Oath to Serve as an Officer	193
Soldiers' Creed	194
Soldiers' Prayer	195
The American's Creed	196
America Must Stay Good	197
Armed Forces of the United States	198
U.S. Military Ranks	200
Alabama Medal of Honor Heroes	202
Glossary	204
Research References	213
Appreciation	216
Life Leaders	218
Author Biographical Summaries	220
Great Seal of the United States	222

Author and Reader Favorites

Booker T. Washington	6
Eisenhower and Weeks	22
President Reagan's Speech Honoring Weeks	31
Presidential Citizens Medal	32
Briefing for President Reagan by Elizabeth Dole	36
Transcript of Television Interview of Weeks	37
Dr. Bice Endorsing Poster and Project	49
RADM Marsh Receiving Poster and Book	50
Ronald Reagan on Character	64
Alabama Character Traits	65
The Riderless Horse (Arlington National Cemetery)	128
21-Gun Salute	134
General Douglas MacArthur: "Duty-Honor-Country"	142
Sketch of fallen soldier's name, Tom Hayes, at "The Wall"	163
Astronaut Neil Armstrong Places U.S. Flag on the Moon	172

Seeds of Our Calling for this Book

Our journey to write the first edition of this book started in 2001 after the “911” attacks by terrorists who killed thousands of innocent people at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and on a jetliner that missed another target thanks to heroic acts of passengers. Homeland Security had become a more vital national priority. Our country was beginning to fight back—to ensure we were safe. When at war, the call for *true patriotism and professionalism* should be at peak levels “now more than ever.”

Stretch, a graduate of West Point and a retired Army colonel, was invited to serve as the keynote speaker for the War Eagle Battalion Military Ball at Auburn University. His wife, Joan, and I attended with him.



On the afternoon of the banquet, Stretch and I arrived early to visit the Veterans Memorial in Auburn, suggested by my fraternity brother, Mayor of Auburn, Bill Ham, Jr. Visiting a veterans memorial with a friend who has fought with and lost

comrades reminds us of the reality of harsh sacrifice when we must fight those who murder our loved ones or other innocent people. The experience also can remind us to prepare as our best-selves—in case the worst occurs—because life and liberty depends on our collective preparation and action.



The Military Ball is a traditional event for cadets (students), cadre (faculty), and guests. The program that evening included a blend of serious speech followed by celebratory fun.

Col. C.H. “Stretch” Dunn (Retired) speaks at the War Eagle Battalion Military Ball, 2002.

Beginning of our Books

Stretch's speech to the cadets and cadre focused on how students should prepare for the profession of arms, what others expect of them, what they should expect of themselves, lessons from his combat experiences, and preparation that saved his life while in Vietnam. After the speech, I congratulated Stretch and remarked his ideas for preparation for the profession of arms match with what I believe is important preparation that should be learned in college and corporate life. I suggested we write an article to summarize our lessons and best practices common to college, corporate, and combat preparation.

Inspiration of Arlington National Cemetery

Within weeks of starting our writing on professionalism lessons for military and civilian life, Stretch's dad passed away. The ensuing trip to Arlington National Cemetery for the full military honors funeral for this career-soldier and three-star general



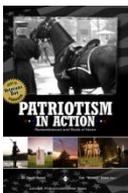
fueled my inspiration for the patriotism and professionalism of dedicated soldiers, such as those in "The Old Guard," and others who honor those whose watch has ended.



The article we started grew to a booklet, then a small book. As

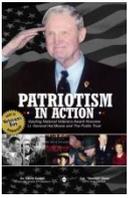


we added more patriotic information, especially after learning a Birmingham, Alabama native founded Veterans Day, we realized we had too much material for one book. We created a set, including the companion book, *Professionalism Under Stress*.



Our calling grew to want to organize and share lessons and best practices for professionalism as well as provide a patriotic guide that educates and inspires more Americans. We added history that Veterans Day started in Alabama.

Inspiration of National Veterans Day Founding

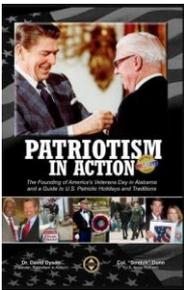


As we got more involved with National Veterans Day and then-president Colonel Bill Voigt (USAFR Retired), we nominated war hero Lt. General Hal Moore for the National Veteran Award. With LTG Moore, the hero-subject in the movie, *We Were Soldiers*, we organized a Walk of Honor to our new

Patriotism in Action Tribute at the Raymond Weeks Memorial to open Veterans Day events.

We also started encouraging city and state leaders in education, business, government, and tourism to take more action to brand Alabama as a top national location for Veterans Day and other patriotic events, thus boosting education, national branding, tourism, and commerce. Birmingham could become a “Top 5” city for Veterans Day events, along with others like Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and Washington, DC.

America’s Veterans Day Founding in Alabama Project



This new book edition is a core component of *America’s Veterans Day Founding in Alabama History, Character Education, and National Branding Project*. This “bucket list goal” got launched so teachers, students, historians, and U.S. leaders can know this state and national history.

Our research indicated when we started, only 1% of our citizens knew Alabama founded Veterans Day. If teachers, students, and parents learn how and why Veterans Day was founded, we can move closer to 100% knowing this inspiring history and the character education lessons embodied that can live on in us. This revised edition provides more research and teaching material, especially on the founding of Veterans Day during 1945-1954, the history often excluded previously.

We seek to advance the meaning of *patriotism in action*—sharing examples like Raymond Weeks founding Veterans Day—to inspire students and adults alike to dream and act to flourish at our callings to make our lives and our world better. The journey to offer books as well as teach and serve has added fuel to our desire to provide lessons, examples, and actions that can help us develop higher-level capacities so we have more to give.



The two books have grown to over 500 total pages requiring thousands of hours of research and writing. We hope many people read these books, though we wrote them with students, teachers, mentors, and families in mind.

Our broader callings include learning, organizing, and teaching common denominator principles and practices of doing our best in the *Seven Areas of Life*—*physical, financial, professional, personal, social, philanthropical, and spiritual*. That drives writing, teaching, and serving as it did founding Life Leaders America to help people *PLAN and LEAD in LIFE*. Inspired by this book, we started a program called *Patriotism in Action*, adding to *Plan for Life* and *Best-Self Leadership*.

I feel fortunate to work with Stretch, my partner in our books, as well as Bob and Nancy Barefield, whose servant leadership has taken our Patriotism in Action Program to a higher level.

David

Dr. David Dyson
Alabama / USA



Mission and Vision for this Book

Mission

To encourage appreciation, preparation, and action for history, character education, and patriotic remembrance.

Vision for Desired Results

Uses

- ◆ Resource for school educators and college of education faculty to support lesson plans teaching history and character education associated with founding America's Veterans Day.
- ◆ Resource to help cadre educate cadets.
- ◆ Resource for students completing assignments about the history and meaning of Veterans Day.
- ◆ Resource for the U.S. Congress and the Veterans Day Committee affirming the nation's founding state.
- ◆ Resource for veteran organization historians, leaders, and members.
- ◆ Resource to support America's founding national Veterans Day celebration hosted in Birmingham.
- ◆ Resource for tourism and chamber of commerce teams to help attract veteran organizations, reunions, and visitors to Alabama and for guests to take home.
- ◆ Resource for members and guests of Life Leaders as part of our annual *Personal Leadership for Patriots* and *Patriotism in Action Tribute at the Raymond Weeks Memorial*.
- ◆ Gift to the National Veteran Award honoree.
- ◆ Gift of appreciation and remembrance for the family of Raymond Weeks, founder of Veterans Day, who President Reagan called the "driving force."

Contents

- ◆ Highlight the local, state, and national history of Veterans Day founded in Alabama.
- ◆ Summarize the action of founding Veterans Day through the lens of seven character traits for use by students and teachers.
- ◆ Define and illustrate the meaning of *patriotism in action*.
- ◆ Offer a Call to Action for patriotism in times of war, conflict, or stressful challenge that citizens can adopt or adapt.
- ◆ Showcase and encourage development and fulfillment of *patriotism and professionalism* so more people will PLAN and LEAD in LIFE as their best-selves, thus making us, our country, and our world better.
- ◆ Provide a brief guide to America’s patriotic holidays that helps parents and teachers explain the purposes.
- ◆ Illustrate professionalism of the American military through a full military honors funeral for a soldier-general at Arlington National Cemetery – passing on lessons learned, inspiration felt, and action taken from witnessing “The Old Guard” honor “*noble warriors* who will not ride again.”
- ◆ Honor veterans and active military professionals who have served our nation, as well as encourage those called to serve.
- ◆ Affirm families of our men and women who sacrifice time with loved ones and sometimes much more.
- ◆ Show and describe briefly America’s national monuments honoring servicemen and women.
- ◆ Illuminate lessons in the companion book, *Professionalism Under Stress: 7 Lessons for Professionalism, Stress, and Gunfighting in Military and Civilian Life*.

Patriots in action do more than wave the flag.

True patriots love our “land of the free”
and help keep our country “the home of the brave.”
They take action to prepare and serve as
true professionals — to develop character
and competence to do the right things well,
even under stress — in anticipation of the call.
When “the call” comes, they serve as their best-selves.

If you believe in inspired integrity
and doing “the harder right”
even when no one is watching,
this book is for you and those like you.

If you serve this nation and global society
to the best of your ability,
offering your “blood, sweat, and tears,”
whether living and working in civilian life
or defending and protecting those who need you,
this book is also dedicated to you.

Patriotism In Action

Meaning of Patriotism in Action

Patriotism: Love and loyal support of one's country.

Patriotism in Action: a mindset that expects we will do what we can—great or small—to “be, know, and do” as our *best-selves* so we have more to give to our families, professions, and country. Like “active faith,” *Patriotism in Action* can include though extends beyond singing and remembrance; people are good stewards of their capacities to serve. Yes, we encourage displays of flags and mementoes. We are glad when people feel “the spirit of Old Glory” in their veins. We like memorials as well as parades. Yet, we also believe a *true patriot* demonstrates the *spirit of true professionalism* to prepare for and do one's duty plus to prepare for the call to serve in higher or different ways.

A *true professional* seeks mastery and *earned empowerment* through *trust in character and competence*, preparing and persisting to develop fitness and habits to do “the harder right” well—even *under stress*. *Professionalism* applies to any situation where someone depends on us—family, volunteer, or professional environment. Our *spirit of professionalism* helps define us and our behavior when we are accountable to others. Commitment to development as a professional, as a person, precedes serving as a leader of others. A *true patriot* seeks to develop self, influence others positively, and serve the greater good. Like those represented on the covers of the book set, *Professionalism Under Stress* and *Patriotism in Action*, running an organization or raising a child requires *doing the right things even when no one is watching*.

We must do our part—in family, profession, and civic service. To go on “living as usual” while at war, assuming the U.S. administration and military will “take care of everything,” is like ignoring good health habits assuming your physician will “fix your health” through medicine or surgery. Times of challenge call for peak performance from us. *What can you do?*

A patriot demonstrates a sense of calling and commitment that fosters perseverance—whether growing a child or a business or a concept like Veterans Day. The most decorated hero of WW II, Audie Murphy, was rejected by two military groups for being too short in height. He persevered, earned admission to our Armed Forces, and was awarded an unprecedented 28 medals for heroism—including America’s highest honor for valor, the Medal of Honor.

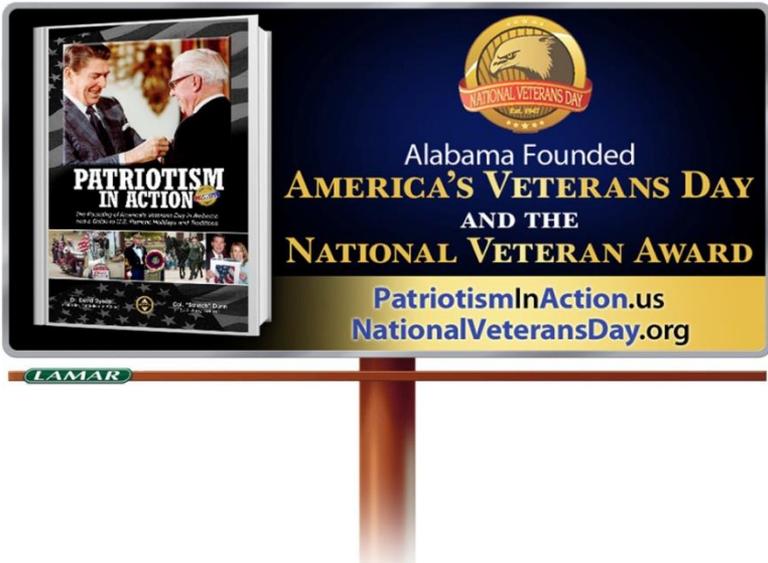


We believe expanded views and actions toward patriotism serve our nation and world, especially during tough times. Please think—and write—what you can do to live as your *best-self*, especially when we face threats from terrorism as well as economic and other domestic challenges.

Each of us can contribute by doing our best wherever we serve—and then by giving a little extra to help others. Plan and prepare. Walk your talk—take action. Find one main thing—or perhaps many small acts of kindness and service. Along the way, you likely will develop habits you want to keep because they help you live as your *best-self*.

Writing and organizing this book has been an effort for us to do one of the things we could contribute. The leadership seminar teaching some of the best we know from college-corporate teachings combined with combat-military teachings is another effort we determined our *best-selves* should give, just as is the companion book, *Professionalism Under Stress*.

We recommend reading in this book the *Call to Action for a Patriot* and select actions from the *21-Point Salute* meaningful for you. If you or someone you know can help the founding city and state move forward developing opportunities for enhanced history, character education, and national branding in Alabama, we would like to send to you the *Call to Action for a Patriotic State*.



Founder of National Veterans Day
Raymond Weeks
City of Birmingham
State of Alabama

Highlighting
*America's Veterans Day Founding in Alabama
History, Character Education, and
National Branding Project*

Presented to support
Education and Events

Patriot in Action

Raymond Weeks of Alabama Founder of America's Veterans Day

A *patriot in action* feels patriotism and also takes action to serve, to lead, to make a difference for country. She sometimes sees a wrong that needs to be corrected; sometimes, he sees something not yet done that merits commitment and energy.

Raymond Weeks served his calling of a national Veterans Day for 40 years, from his envisioned concept in 1945 until his death in 1985. He is called the "Father of Veterans Day" primarily because of action he took during 1945-1954 leading to President Eisenhower signing Veterans Day into law as a federal holiday.

On November 11, 1945, Raymond Weeks, who had returned to Birmingham after his wartime service in the U.S. Navy, observed little more than a memorial service seemed to be organized in his



city on Armistice Day. He felt his state and nation needed to do more to remember and honor veterans.

The seed of a calling had been planted. Raymond Weeks had the vision to expand and enrich Armistice Day, which celebrated the ending of WW I, to honor veterans of all U.S. fought wars.

Weeks presented a draft program in 1946 titled "National Veterans Day 1947" to General Dwight Eisenhower.

Armistice Day

Armistice Day started unofficially when World War I ended—the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month of 1918. After four years of trench warfare and heavy casualties, the Allies and Germany signed an armistice. Armistice Day was officially recognized in 1926 when a congressional resolution stated:

The recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through goodwill and mutual understanding between nations....

President Calvin Coolidge called upon officials to display the flag on government buildings and invited Americans to observe Armistice Day in schools, churches....

In 1938 (twenty years after the first unofficial celebration) Congress declared Armistice Day a legal holiday to celebrate the end of what President Woodrow Wilson called “The war to end all wars.” Unfortunately, then came Hitler and ambush air attacks at Pearl Harbor bringing America into World War II, escalating the need for more military, more veterans.

National Day for All Veterans

After Weeks envisioned his concept in 1945, he planned and worked for a year to prepare and lead a delegation to join Senator John Sparkman of Alabama to petition General Dwight Eisenhower at the Pentagon for national support. On November 11, 1946, Weeks presented a draft program for the following year entitled, “National Veterans Day 1947.”

That was his vision, even though he used “National Armistice Day” officially until Congress changed the name legally—he persevered nine years from 1945 until 1954. Other members of the delegation to launch the campaign with Eisenhower included Clewis Trucks, Talbot Ellis, and Bill Mitcham. They boarded a National Guard plane with Colonel W. A. Robertson of the Air National Guard to Washington, DC.

Many Americans had the idea that Armistice Day honoring WW I veterans needed to expand to include all veterans. Yet, Weeks had a bigger vision for a national program. And, he invested extraordinary time and effort in his concept, which launched a national movement. President Reagan stated decades later, Weeks was the “driving force” for America’s Veterans Day.

Weeks provided the leadership of action while Eisenhower provided the leadership of advocacy and executive approval. Some people attempt to summarize the life work of Mr. Weeks as something like, “he is the guy who changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day.” History proves a description of greater service and impact is merited.

Weeks seems to have been a master with the media. Newspapers from Washington, DC, Birmingham, AL, and other cities covered the proceedings. They reported, Eisenhower cited he was scheduled to become president of Columbia University early in 1947 and “expressed regret” at not being able to attend in person the inaugural event in Birmingham. General Eisenhower committed publicly that he would assist finding “a top man” to serve as featured speaker. He did: General Omar Bradley.

The First National Veterans Day



On November 11, 1947, General Bradley served as keynote speaker for the main inaugural national event, the World Peace Banquet, held in Birmingham. Bradley was known for his distinguished military career that culminated in his command of the American armies, which “stormed” the Normandy beaches and drove 800 miles across France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and

Germany in a campaign that helped end the European war. Bradley was promoted to General of the Army (five-star), became chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and later Administrator of Veterans Affairs serving more than 18 million ex-servicemen and women.

Activities in Birmingham spanned two days and included a banquet, parade, Football Classic at Legion Field, ROTC drill team competitions and awards, raising of the colors, and a dance. Weeks arranged for the flags of the United Nations to be carried in the parade by native sons of member countries or Boy Scouts. Leaders from Alabama, the U.S. government, and the military were among guests to honor veterans, celebrate, and enhance commitment to world peace.

BIRMINGHAM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1947

Birmingham's Biggest Military Parade Is Stirring Peace Plea

Crowds Line City's Streets By Thousands
Spectacle Lasts For Three Hours

BY DAN COBB

Souls of patriots stirred deep beneath solemn countermarches today as Birmingham paraded symbols of the armed might which has ended two world conflicts.

The parade, with more than 5000 veterans, soldiers, Waco, Waco, Republic, and colors of all United Nations, and the participation of the gallant who died for their country and begged for peace.

Preparing the streets blocked the sidewalks, eager to see.

REMEMBER BATTLES

Old men and women half over their heads. They smiled faintly, as if recalling moments that were long ago. They were not to stay. They were to be buried in the ground. They were to be buried in the ground. They were to be buried in the ground. They were to be buried in the ground.

Young men in uniform and their families and families unconsciously marked time with the marching beat of the drum and the sound of the rifle. They carried their rifles. They carried their rifles. They carried their rifles.

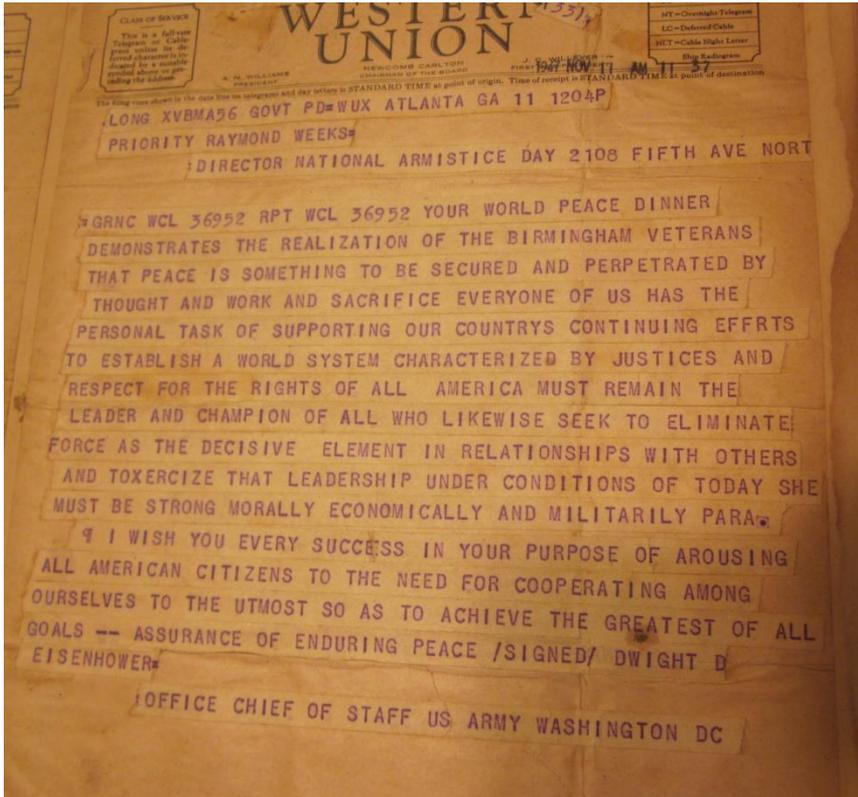


ALL UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTED IN PARADE—
Native-born sons of some of the 51 nations represented in U. N. and Boy Scouts carried the flags of the countries in Birmingham's gigantic Armistice Day parade today. The flags were furnished by the United Nations assembly which is now in session at Lake Success, N. Y.

In 1947, America still was rejoicing the end of World War II, a massive international conflict that took years and killed or injured millions of people. America responded to enter this war after surprise bombing raids at Pearl Harbor. The American government—supported by the will of the people—vowed to finish the fight to stop aggressors and protect our freedom. After years of sacrifice for victory, the American people craved peace.

Telegram from Eisenhower to Weeks

General Eisenhower sent a telegram to Raymond Weeks on November 11, 1947, stating his belief and desire that a core of the mission for Veterans Day include “world peace.”



Highlights of the telegram:

Your World Peace Dinner demonstrates...that peace is something to be secured and perpetuated by thought and work and sacrifice.... I wish you every success in your purpose of arousing all American citizens...to achieve the greatest of all goals... enduring peace.

Eisenhower recognized this was a “national” event, addressing Weeks as director of National Armistice Day (unofficially called National Veterans Day until legal in 1954).

Eisenhower Telegram Transcript

Western Union
November 11, 1947
Initiated 11:37 am; sent 12:04 pm
Priority

Raymond Weeks
Director National Armistice Day
2105 Fifth Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama

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.

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

The historic purpose of Veterans Day is to appreciate veterans and to advance education and action toward world peace.

By 1953, Eisenhower had been elected President of the United States. Weeks met with him again (this time at the White House) to renew commitment to make Veterans Day a national holiday. [Note of interest: Eisenhower ran for president opposing U.S. Senator Sparkman of Alabama, candidate for Vice President].

Seven years after Alabama organized a national celebration for veterans of all wars, President Eisenhower (home state Kansas) signed legislation proposed by Kansas Congressman Edward Rees to make Veterans Day a federal holiday in 1954.



...let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain.

-President Dwight Eisenhower

Alabama applauds leaders of Kansas and other cities and states who joined the movement and took action to make Veterans Day part of the fabric of America. After Birmingham hosted America's first National Veterans Day celebration in 1947, expanding the purpose and scope of Armistice Day, celebrations take place in communities across the U.S.A., including a major program in our nation's capital.



Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery

America's National Veteran Award



Also in 1954 (the year Veterans Day officially became a federal holiday), Weeks and Birmingham established the National Veteran Award for “presentation each year to a United States citizen who has distinguished himself as a veteran.” Also from a “History

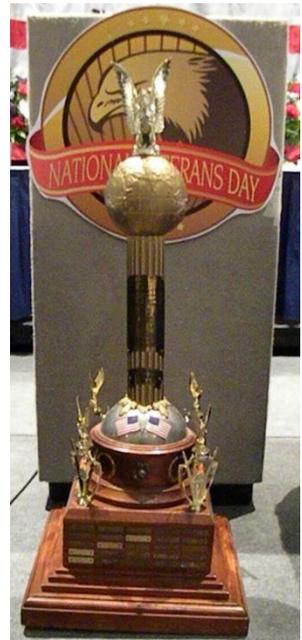
of National Veterans Day” compiled in 1981, “the award is presented in Birmingham on the evening before Veterans Day, at a banquet especially arranged to honor the recipient, which is a highlight of the celebration.” The World Peace Banquet shifted to a luncheon on Veterans Day prior to the parade in 1954 and since. Honorees receive an “eagle plaque” and their name is engraved on a permanent National Veteran Award trophy maintained on display in Birmingham.

The first National Veteran Award was presented to the Honorable Edwin H. Rees of Kansas in “recognition of his outstanding contribution sponsoring the bill that created Veterans Day for the nation.” Outstanding honorees have followed annually from across the United States.

A few of our personal favorites and those who may be especially well-known to our readers follow:

In 1970, General Omar Bradley, inaugural World Peace Banquet Speaker in 1947, returned as National Veteran Award honoree for his

“continuing contribution as General of the Army to the defense of his country and freedom throughout the world.”



In 1971, Birmingham honored for the nation Lt. General James Doolittle, “the man who led the famous bomber raid on Tokyo” to help end World War II. The U.S. also honored General Doolittle with the Medal of Honor.

In 1972, Brigadier General and film star James “Jimmy” Stewart was honored “for his continuous contribution in the field of motion pictures and television, and the entertainment of service men and women around the world.”

In 1973, the Award was presented to Brigadier General Charles Lindbergh “for his massive contribution in the field of conservation and development and particularly in the field of aviation since his ‘solo flight’ from New York to Paris in 1927.”

In 1976, Astronaut Neil Armstrong was honored “for his scientific feat of successfully landing on the moon.”

A few of the honorees likely known to you: Captain Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Admiral Hyman Rickover, General Alexander Haig, Senator Barry Goldwater, and Senator Howell Heflin.

In 2006, Patriotism in Action nominee Lt. General Hal Moore (USA Ret) was honored. LTG Moore has been profiled in books, documentaries, and the movie “We Were Soldiers” for his extraordinary leadership as a battle commander (Mel Gibson).

In 2010, General Charles Krulak (USMC Ret) was honored for service, including Commandant of the Marine Corps. Soon after, he became president of Birmingham-Southern College. He is an advocate for our concept of Birmingham as “Freedom City.”

In 2011, Colonel Bill Voigt (USAFR Ret) was honored for his 25 years of servant leadership as president of National Veterans Day. He stepped in as a leader after Raymond Weeks died in 1985 and soon was selected president. Bill’s loyal service perpetuated a foundation laid by Weeks for another generation.

In 2013, National Veterans Day honored The Tuskegee Airmen, in alignment with the “50 Years Forward” Commemoration--adding symbolism for Birmingham as “Freedom City.”

Raymond Weeks Honored at the White House



President Ronald Reagan introduces Raymond Weeks as the “driving force” in the establishment of National Veterans Day at a White House ceremony to present Weeks the Presidential Citizens Medal, November 11, 1982.

Excerpts from President Reagan’s Speech

The President: *Good morning, and welcome to the White House. This morning we’re honoring an American patriot, Raymond Weeks, of Birmingham, Alabama.*

For more than 50 years, Mr. Weeks has exemplified the finest traditions of American voluntarism by his unselfish service to his country. As director of the National Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham for the past 36 years, Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran himself, has devoted his life to serving others, his community, the American veteran, and his nation. He was the driving force behind the congressional action which in 1954 established this special holiday as a day to honor all American veterans.

It’s a pleasure for me to present Mr. Weeks the Presidential Citizens Medal, given to those who have made outstanding contributions to their country. And, Mr. Weeks, in honoring you, we honor the ideals that we hope to live up to. Your country is mighty grateful for what you’ve done.



Mrs. Weeks, I'm going to hand you the case, because I can't do this with one hand. [Laughter]

[The President pinned the medal on Mr. Weeks.]

Mr. Weeks: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you on behalf of the combined veterans associations. [applause]



The President: Ray, thank you so very much. Please sit down here.

It is fitting that we pay tribute to Mr. Weeks on this day when we remember the sacrifices of those who donned this country's uniform and did their part to protect our freedom and independence. Words alone cannot express our gratitude to the brave men and women who took on the task of protecting our country from foreign threats and aggression.

President Coolidge once said, "The Nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." Nothing is more important to the soul of America than remembering and honoring those who gave of themselves so that we might enjoy the fruits of peace and liberty. And that is the spirit of this special day and of this coming Saturday, when the Nation will dedicate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a tribute that is long overdue.

For too long, America closed its heart to those who served us with valor. It's time that Vietnam veterans take their rightful place in our history along with other American heroes who put their lives on the line for their country. Certainly, mistakes were made. But the reality of Vietnam today—massive prisoner camps for torture and political

indoctrination, hundreds of thousands of boat people sacrificing everything and risking a painful death to flee Communist oppression—all this suggests that the cause for which our Vietnam veterans fought was an honorable one.

This Saturday, America will put behind us the ingratitude and injustice of the past. We'll move forward in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, who in 1865 said: "Let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

And although we'll be putting the divisiveness of Vietnam behind us, we will not forget those who are still unaccounted for. Today I renew my pledge to the families of those listed as missing in action that this nation will work unceasingly until a full accounting is made. It's our sacred duty, and we will never forget them.

Along with Raymond Weeks, I may be one of the few people in this room who remembers when Veterans Day was called Armistice Day, commemorating the armistice that ended the First World War on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918. And I might add, I not only remember when it was called that day, I guess we may be the only ones that were on the streets in the wild celebration of the first and actual Armistice Day when it was signed.

Armistice Day honored those who gave their lives in "the war to end all wars"—a day of hope that they had not given their lives in vain. But within a few years, and in spite of an impressive effort on the part of the Western democracies to limit arms and to outlaw war, aggressors rearmed and war came again. Ironically, Armistice Day was made a legal holiday in the United States in 1938, just 1 year before a second and more terrible conflagration swept across Europe.

Winston Churchill labeled it the "unnecessary war," because he said there never was a war more easy to stop. And no man had more right to say that than Winston Churchill. He had fought the illusions that led to war, pleaded with his countrymen to recognize and arm against this

expanding totalitarian war machine, pleaded with his countrymen to be strong and to have courage—not because he wanted war, but because this was the only way to preserve peace. Yet, for all this, Churchill was castigated as a warmonger.

Even after war broke out in Asia and in Europe, our own country was slow to take the steps necessary to defend itself. Warning us of the impending crisis, a young Harvard student, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, wrote a book titled “Why England Slept.” His thoughtful study holds as true now, 42 years later, as when it was first published. After describing how a dictatorship with a controlled press and the power to silence political opposition can carry on a vigorous arms program, he noted, “In contrast, in a democracy, the cry of warmonger would discourage any politician who advocates a vigorous arms policy. This leaves armaments with few supporters. Among the reasons for England’s failure to rearm in time,” Kennedy wrote, “probably the most important was a firm and widely held conviction that armaments were one of the primary causes of war.” Well, the Western democracies didn’t wake up till it was too late. It took Pearl Harbor to shake Americans from their complacency.

Today, in this era of much more dangerous weapons, it is even more important to remember that vigilance, not complacency, is the key to peace. This administration is committed to rebuilding our national defenses, which were permitted to erode during the last decade. We’re now in the initial phases of that rebuilding, and we must continue to press forward in the years to come if we’re to maintain a credible deterrent.

But let the world understand: Our purpose is not belligerency, but respect; not conflict, but deterrence; and not war, but peace. None of the wars that I have mentioned, or others before them, ever came about because this country was too strong. We shall never flag in our pursuit of a more peaceful world.*

Our goal is peace—peace that’s achieved through a stable balance of forces, a mutual reduction of weapons, and a better understanding between the Soviet Union, the United States, and all nations.

Now, I've said for many years there are fundamental differences between the Soviet system and our own system here in the United States. But I believe our peoples, for all our differences, share a desire and a dedication to peace. On this day, dedicated to American veterans, we honor the brave men and women who have by their service preserved our liberty. Our parades are a celebration of freedom. Our banner is Old Glory, and we hold her high and proud. This is the legacy of the brave men and women that we honor today.

So let us go forth from here, having learned the lessons of history, confident in the strength of our system, and anxious to pursue every avenue toward peace. And on this Veterans Day, we will remember and be firm in our commitment to peace, and those who died in defense of our freedom will not have died in vain.

And, again, we thank the man who has made Armistice Day into this Veterans Day—Raymond Weeks. And thank you all for being here.

**flag in this context means to not grow tired, weak, or less enthusiastic.*

The President spoke in the State Dining Room at the White House on November 11, 1982. The ceremony was labeled "full press coverage" and was attended by representatives of veteran organizations and administration officials. The excerpts come from his written speech and the filmed presentation provided by the Weeks Family.



Briefing for President Reagan by Elizabeth Dole



[The White House staff does significant research and fact checking before making recommendations to the President of the United States. Elizabeth Dole wrote a brief for President Reagan synthesizing nomination papers and research.

Mrs. Dole served as U.S. Senator and in the administrations of President Ronald Reagan and President George H. W. Bush. She is married to Former U.S. Senator Bob Dole, National Veteran Award honoree 2014.]

[To President Reagan] Presentation of the Presidential Citizens Medal to the "Father of Veterans Day," Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama...and to make remarks on Veterans Day.

Following World War II, Mr. Raymond Weeks headed a small delegation to Washington, DC to meet with Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, then Army Chief of Staff. Gen. Eisenhower endorsed the idea of adopting the name "Veterans Day" for the traditional November 11 "Armistice Day."

On November 11, 1947, due to Mr. Weeks' efforts, Birmingham, Alabama held the nation's first Veterans Day. Seven years later, in 1954, the first national Veterans Day was held, pursuant to an Act of Congress.

For 35 years, since 1947, Mr. Weeks has organized the Birmingham Veterans Day, which has been a model for similar celebrations all over the country. Mr. Weeks has received dozens of awards and commendations from all branches of the military services and from veterans and civic groups.

Lt. Colonel Glenn Nivens (USA Ret), long-time National Veterans Day volunteer with Raymond Weeks, prepared the nomination for the White House. Glenn recalls National Veteran Award honoree and film star Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., supported the nomination with a phone call to his former acting colleague, "Ronnie."

TV Interview of Weeks on White House Lawn



Television Interview by NBC TV
Channel 13 Birmingham Reporter
"Kevin" Transcription
November 11, 1982

Reporter: *How does it feel to be here at the White House honored on what's your day?*

Raymond Weeks: *Well, of course, it's a great thrill to me. I have had the pleasure of being here before with General Eisenhower when he was president, but I have my wife up here and my two daughters; they are really excited about this.*

Reporter: *The award you were given today by the President is very rarely given out. How does it feel?*

Raymond Weeks: *Well, of course, I accepted this award on behalf of the combined veterans organizations, the citizens of Birmingham and Alabama, and that's the way it should be. They really did a job for all of us in helping us do this for 36 years.*

Reporter: *Originally, how did the idea come about to have the one Veterans Day?*

Raymond Weeks: *Well, when I came out of the service ..., I had the pleasure of meeting General Eisenhower [in 1946] to discuss a concept of Veterans Day, and it started from there. The General was very excited. When he became President, I saw him again in '53, and then is when we started the change of getting back or starting transferring the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, and he was very agreeable to it, very enthusiastic, wanted it done, and we got it done.*

Reporter: *And through Veterans Day you've done a real service to all the veterans. Thank you.*

Raymond Weeks: *Thank you very much, Kevin; very much.*

Reporter: *Really appreciate it; so long; be on the early news back home.*

Governor Bentley's Proclamation



Gov. Robert Bentley signed a proclamation stating his support for history and character education, national branding, and tourism connected to Veterans Day.

L to R: members and supporters of the project team 2012

COL Bill Voigt (USAFR Retired), Past President, National Veterans Day

LTC Bob Horton (USA Retired), Public Affairs Officer, Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

Mrs. Nancy Barefield, Co-chair, Patriotism in Action

LTC Glenn Nivens (USA Retired), Secretary, Blue Star Salute Foundation

COL Bob Barefield (USA Retired), Chair, Patriotism in Action, and Chair, Support Committee, Alabama National Cemetery

Dr. David Dyson, Founder, Patriotism in Action; Co-author, *Patriotism in Action*; Director, America's Veterans Day Founding in Alabama Project, Life Leaders

COL Stretch Dunn (USA Retired), Co-author, *Patriotism in Action*; Co-founder, Patriotism in Action

RADM Clyde Marsh (USN Retired), Commissioner, Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

COL Dick Erickson (USAF Retired), Military Officers Association of America National Board Member

Dr. Susan Gubert, physician and Gulf War veteran

Mr. Mark Ryan, President, National Veterans Day

MAJ Jeff Brown (USA Retired), Founder, Tuscaloosa Character Council

Mr. Lee Sentell, Director, Alabama Travel and Tourism



Governor Robert Bentley hosting Patriotism in Action leaders Stretch Dunn, Bob and Nancy Barefield, and David Dyson as well as guests Bill Voigt, Bob Horton, and Mark Ryan (descriptions on the previous page). Thanks to Jamie Martins, photographer to Governor Bentley, for providing this photo.

Gov. Bentley hosted our executive committee members and guests for a briefing during which he received a copy of our book, *Patriotism In Action*, a summary of *America's Veterans Day Founding in Alabama History, Character Education, and National Branding Project*, and a DVD of President Reagan honoring Raymond Weeks with the Presidential Citizenship Medal as the "driving force" establishing America's Veterans Day. Dr. Bentley listened to ideas from the group for benefits of the project for Alabama students, veterans, and tourism agencies.



Governor Bentley reviews *Patriotism In Action*, which tells the history of America's Veterans Day Founding in Alabama by Raymond Weeks, supported by President Dwight Eisenhower and honored by President Ronald Reagan.

Governor Bentley's Proclamation



WHEREAS, in 1945, Mr. Raymond Weeks of Alabama, having returned from WWII military service, became inspired that America should have a National Veterans Day to honor ALL veterans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Weeks was a patriot who took action petitioning General Dwight Eisenhower at the Pentagon in 1946, gaining support for a national celebration for all veterans to be hosted in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Weeks directed in Birmingham a national veterans celebration in 1947 supported by the U.S. Department of Defense and the United Nations with two days of events attended by thousands of military personnel and civilians, including students, celebrating the service of veterans and promotion of world peace; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Weeks and Alabamians persevered to establish a model for Veterans Day observances and reaffirmed in 1953 with newly elected President Eisenhower that the United States establish an official federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, President Eisenhower signed the first national Veterans Day proclamation in 1954 "in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation"; and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan honored Raymond Weeks of Alabama at The White House in 1982 with the Presidential Citizens Medal as the "driving force" for America's Veterans Day and "the man who made Armistice Day into this Veterans Day"; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Weeks' founding of National Veterans Day exemplifies at least five of Alabama's mandated educational character values through his patriotism to start a national holiday recognizing the sacrifices of our veterans, courage to launch a national initiative, perseverance for nine years from concept to law, loyalty to his calling for 40 years until his death in 1985, and citizenship demonstrated for his and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Departments of Veterans Affairs, Education, and Tourism are working with Patriotism in Action to write, teach, and distribute enriched histories, character education lesson plans, and promotional messages so more Americans know this history with event planners and tourists increasingly choosing Alabama as a patriotic destination; now,

THEREFORE, I, Governor Robert Bentley, do hereby proclaim 2012 as

***The 30th Anniversary of President Ronald Reagan honoring
Alabama's Raymond Weeks***

*with the Presidential Citizens Medal as the "driving force" establishing
Veterans Day and "the man who made Armistice Day into this
Veterans Day" and the*

***65th Anniversary of Alabama leading America's first national
celebration honoring ALL veterans.***

I encourage all citizens of Alabama to celebrate America's Veterans Day to honor veterans, perpetuate world peace, and inspire patriotism, courage, perseverance, loyalty, and citizenship, thus making Alabamians and Alabama closer to our best selves.

Given Under My Hand

and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor
at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery
on the 22nd day of May 2012.

Governor Robert Bentley

Raymond Weeks in The Congressional Record Senator Howell Heflin 1982

Raymond Weeks and Alabama have been recognized in multiple editions of *The Congressional Record* over the years for leading Veterans Day. This volume in 1982 is particularly significant due to following President Reagan honoring Weeks at the White House in the last few years of Mr. Weeks' service and life.

December 3: Senator Howell Heflin of Alabama addressed the United States Senate.



Senator Heflin: *Mr. President, a few weeks ago, on November 11, National Veterans Day, President Reagan awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal to an Alabamian, Raymond Weeks. I would like to share with my colleagues in the Senate a few details of Raymond's story.*

Raymond Weeks has been active in business and civic life in Alabama for more than 50 years. Prior to entering military service in World War II, he assisted in the organization of several successful war bond campaigns, was active in the USO, and was a director on the state rationing board and the manpower board.

After serving in the military from May 1943 to November 1945, Raymond became active in veterans affairs, and has gone on to serve on many national committees of the various veterans organizations.

In 1947, Weeks went about organizing a celebration in Birmingham to pay tribute to the veterans of all the wars in which the United States has been involved. The day he chose for the celebration was November 11, which was then officially known as Armistice Day. Raymond called the Birmingham ceremonies Veterans Day.

Over the years, the ceremonies in Birmingham, still directed by Raymond Weeks, became a model for other cities and states, which started their own Veterans Day observances. Finally, in 1954, Congress changed the name of Armistice Day to National Veterans Day.

It has become an official national holiday, a fitting tribute to all of America's veterans—those who return home as well as those who died fighting for our country.

For his efforts in establishing this holiday Raymond Weeks has become known as the "father of national Veterans Day."

Besides his activities in veterans organizations, including a year as State Commander of the American Legion, Raymond has been active in numerous civic and community projects. He has served as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee, and as a delegate to three Democratic National Conventions.

He has received Alabama's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal, for his accomplishments, and also received the Army's Outstanding Distinguished Civilian Service Medal.

On November 11, Raymond Weeks became only the seventh person to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal, which is awarded American citizens for exemplary service for their country or for their fellow citizens. The award is made at the discretion of the President.

Raymond Weeks is certainly deserving of this tribute, and all of us from Alabama extend him our thanks and congratulations.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that articles from The Birmingham News and the Birmingham Post-Herald be printed in the Record. There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the record.

Raymond Weeks in The Congressional Record Congressman Spencer Bachus 2012

When visiting or speaking to organizations and asking people to estimate what percentage of people know Veterans Day started in Alabama, most estimate between 1% and 10%. Because Alabama essentially has been unaware, it is not surprising—given the vacuum—other cities and states have claimed they started Veterans Day. Some claim they had the idea in 1953 [seven years after Weeks petitioned Eisenhower] and that led to the legislation in 1954. It's not their fault, it's ours—for not being bolder at branding Birmingham and Alabama as a historical site and travel destination, especially for Veterans Day groups and students. We are improving.

At the first meeting at which I spoke about our project to brand Alabama as the founding state of Veterans Day, hosted by Commissioner Clyde Marsh and Bob Horton of Alabama Veterans Affairs, I was asked, "How do you know for sure we started Veterans Day?" I learned later, Congress passed a resolution less than 10 years ago proclaiming another state started Veterans Day, without mention of Alabama. It became clear we needed to help Congress set the record straight with contributions of Alabama and others in our history.

We wrote letters and made phone calls, following up with briefings and proposals, to three members of Congress. Congressman Spencer Bachus and his staff answered the call. They considered our research and writing and included most of our offerings with theirs published in the *Congressional Record*.

Excerpts from the Congressional Record

In 1945, the concept of a National Veterans Day became fixed in his mind. In 1946, he personally took a petition and a proposed program, "National Veterans Day 1947," urging the creation of a national holiday to honor all veterans to General Dwight Eisenhower, who was then the Army Chief of Staff. In 1954,

then-President Eisenhower signed legislation formally establishing November 11 as Veterans Day.

In presenting the Presidential Citizens Medal to Raymond Weeks on Veterans Day 1982, President Reagan said, Mr. Weeks has exemplified the finest traditions of American volunteerism by his unselfish service to his country.... He was the driving force behind the congressional action which in 1954 established this special holiday as a day to honor all America's veterans.

On November 11, 2012, Birmingham, Alabama will mark its 65th consecutive year of serving as a national model for the commemoration of Veterans Day. Birmingham's Veterans Day ceremonies are the oldest and largest in our country.



Congressman Bachus presented a framed copy of his message to leaders of National Veterans Day. Receiving were: Bill Voigt, past president of National Veterans Day; Mark Ryan, VP of National Veterans Day, Jim Holt, President (behind Bachus). Also supporting (L to R): Mel Shinholster of the Blue Star Salute Foundation; Bob and Nancy Barefield as well as David Dyson of Patriotism in Action; Bob Horton of Alabama Veterans Affairs and Montgomery Veterans Day.

Resolution of the U.S. Senate Affirming Alabama and Raymond Weeks as Founder of Veterans Day



Senator Jeff Sessions Senate Resolution 2012

ARM12D30

S.L.C.

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Raymond Weeks and the celebration of Veterans Day.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Raymond Weeks and the celebration 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, Alabama, 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 1947;

Whereas the very first Veterans Day celebration was held in Birmingham, Alabama, by the National Veterans Day organization in 1947;

Within days of the 65th anniversary of the first national celebration to honor veterans and world peace in 1947, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution in support of the founding individual, city, and state. The Congress made it official: Birmingham, Alabama is home of the first and longest running Veterans Day in America, started by Raymond Weeks. At left are the thumbnail photo of the Resolution and the opening statements.

Senator Sessions called personally to tell us the good news. His staff also sent a press release to the media. We appreciate the efforts of Senators Sessions and Shelby, as well as Congressmen Bachus and Sewell, and their dedicated staff members who responded positively to our call for action to correct and strengthen education of the history of founding Veterans Day.



Senate Declares Birmingham As First Home Of Veterans Day

November, 2012

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephen Miller, 202.224.4124

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, issued the following statement today after the Senate passed S.RES. 591, a measure he introduced to clarify Birmingham’s integral role in the creation of Veterans Day.

“I was proud to work with my colleagues to pass this resolution, which clarifies that Birmingham has held the first and longest running celebration of Veterans Day. This resolution firmly establishes the role of Birmingham native Raymond Weeks, who is noted as the ‘Father of Veterans Day,’ and honors the sacrifices and pays tribute to the men and women in the Armed Forces who are risking life and limb at home and overseas for the United States. Alabama has an incredible tradition of military service and continues to make irreplaceable contributions to our nation’s defense. I am honored and humbled to represent so many brave and selfless patriots. They are a source of pride to us all and an example of character unmatched in the world.”

Poster to Educate



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 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 designed for veteran organizations, schools, and patriots to display to support history and character education.
Graphics assistance provided by Cherie Kosak.

Alabama Department of Education



Dr. Tommy Bice (center), Superintendent of the Alabama Department of Education, received and endorsed our poster intended for schools, veteran organization meeting halls, and other public and private locations. Left of Dr. Bice: MAJ Jeff Brown (Ret), Alabama Board of Veterans Affairs member and Tuscaloosa Character Council leader. Right of Dr. Bice: Dr. David Dyson, founder of Life Leaders and director of *America's Veterans Day Founding in Alabama History, Character Education, and National Branding Project*). Photo by Charles Creel on staff "casual day."

Dr. Bice helped launch our project in December 2011 because of his intent to use our research and writing to create a lesson plan for Alabama teachers to educate students about founding Veterans Day in Alabama. The poster supports the history—connected to character traits to inform and inspire our students.

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs



Commissioner Clyde Marsh and Dolores "Dee" Hardin, Vice-Chairwoman, Alabama Board of Veterans Affairs; receive a poster from David Dyson during a meeting of the Board of Directors. Raymond Weeks served on the Board.



Commissioner of Alabama Veterans Affairs Clyde Marsh (Rear Admiral Ret) receives *Patriotism In Action* from Dr. David Dyson prior to hosting our first briefing in Montgomery, organized by LTC Bob Horton (Ret), Public Information Officer.

Billboard to Educate



We designed this billboard so more citizens will know America's Veterans Day started in Alabama. Birmingham also started and continues to sponsor the National Veteran Award, an annual tradition for America.



Lamar Outdoor displayed this billboard to educate travelers. Jeff Handley, sales manager in Birmingham, holds the job Raymond Weeks served for much of his career, when the predecessor company was Alabama Outdoor Advertising. Thanks to the Lamar team for improving graphics in our design and helping us tell the story.

T-Shirt to Educate



Weeks Family. Center: Barbara Weeks Minor.
Supportive/not pictured: Brenda Weeks Parker.

Children, grandchildren, and great-grand children of Raymond and Jennie Weeks gathered for a family vacation photo, all wearing t-shirts supporting Alabama and Weeks as founder of America's Veterans Day.





Major Mike Barefield, XO (Executive Officer) for the 4th Brigade Combat Team, Afghanistan, wears our *Patriotism in Action* shirt sent to him by COL (Ret) Bob and Nancy Barefield, his parents and co-chairs of Patriotism in Action. Mike has returned to the U.S. and has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel Barefield.



Bob Barefield (back left wearing our t-shirt) assisted the final Honor Flight from Birmingham, AL along with Patriotism in Action members Rachel Clinkscale (Gold Star Wives) and Glenn Nivens (Blue Star Salute Foundation), who also served as guardians for WW II veterans honored through the Honor Flight to the WW II Memorial in Washington, DC.

Corporate Citizen Honors Raymond Weeks



Welch Hornsby honors Raymond Weeks on their “Uncompromising Commitment” web site, which features inspiring stories of individuals who have

lived their lives with uncompromising commitment. They write, the people they honor worked harder, imposed self-discipline, and had the fortitude to reach their goals. A man of uncompromising commitment to his calling, Raymond Weeks became the “driving force” that led to the milestone observance of National Veterans Day in Birmingham.

“Uncompromising Commitment is a core part of our values and brand that we share with our clients and colleagues,” states John Hornsby, co-founder and chairman of Welch Hornsby, an investment advisor serving clients in 11 states with offices in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Charlotte. “We chose to feature Raymond Weeks’ story on our site because Mr. Weeks demonstrated courage and perseverance, two character traits taught to our students. He provided extraordinary selfless service to his country through volunteerism, and he was deeply passionate about honoring those who serve our nation. He’s a great example to us all,” says Mr. Hornsby.

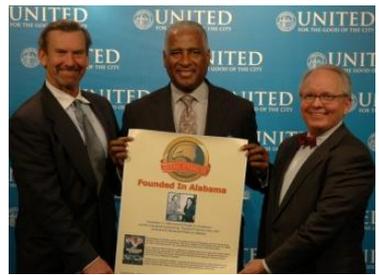
His was an investment in a life of uncompromising commitment.

To read the Raymond Weeks’ story told by Welch Hornsby, we invite you to visit: www.UncompromisingCommitment.org.

We appreciate the core values of Welch Hornsby and suggest their branding strategy as an example for smart organizations--create synergy between your charitable support and advancing your core business.

Companies that “stand for something” —stating their vision and values—perform better long-term than those who only focus on “sales and service.” Organizations with a mission and brand attract more inspired people wanting to serve—and be served as clients—more often than those focused only on financial return.

John Hornsby expanded their vision—and ours—suggesting that Birmingham is unique for national contributions to Veterans Day, Civil Rights, and the shared value of “Freedom.” At right in the photo, John accompanied David in January 2013 to present Mayor Bell with a poster for City Hall and to propose branding Birmingham for “Freedom.”



Dyson Mayor Bell Hornsby

The history and character education lessons behind the founding of Veterans Day and leadership in the Civil Rights Movement apply to good citizenship that can be taught to our students as well as professionals. Character education has become part of the goals and lesson plans for Alabama and most other states in America. It’s good leadership to teach, support, and live aligned with desired character traits—and it’s good for business. Forward thinking leaders will increasingly encourage writing and internalizing callings and core values in constitutions.

We hope more cities, chambers of commerce, civic clubs, and businesses will join the movement to brand Alabama a national resource and destination for History and Character Education and events advancing Veterans Day, Civil Rights, and values like Freedom and Patriotism in Action. This will demonstrate leadership, public-private partnership, and good business policy.

Raymond Weeks

1908-1985

Raymond Weeks was in a sense an ordinary man—without high military rank or special position—who did extraordinary things through *patriotism*, *courage*, and *perseverance*—core values selected to teach in Alabama schools. He successfully proposed to a future president of the United States a national movement and was honored at the White House by another president 36 years later. His story teaches our young students, and reminds us adults, we can serve and succeed through “uncompromising commitment” to our callings.

When Raymond was born, his family lived in Phenix City, Alabama, and moved to Birmingham when a child. He received education at Bush School, Ensley High School, and Birmingham-Southern College. His wife was Jennie (Honey) Dee Robinson. She died soon after the White House ceremony in 1982. Their daughters are Barbara Weeks Minor and Brenda Weeks Parker.

Weeks served in WW II in the U.S. Navy, honorably discharged November 9, 1945. He returned home to Birmingham.

Professional and Civic Service Highlights

- ◆ Founder and director of National Veterans Day
- ◆ Sales manager with Alabama Outdoor (Lamar Outdoor)
- ◆ Alabama House of Representatives
- ◆ State Board of Alabama Veterans Affairs
- ◆ State Commander of The American Legion
- ◆ State Chairman of the Alabama Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve
- ◆ State Chairman of Armed Forces Day
- ◆ President of the John C. Pershing Chapter of the Association of the United States Army
- ◆ President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Board of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Kelly Ingram Post, and numerous other veterans and civic organizations.

Awards and Achievements



1946

<=Veterans Day
Concept endorsed
by GEN Eisenhower

Honored by U.S.
President Reagan=>



1982

Distinguished Service Medal from the Governor of Alabama

U.S. Department of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service to his Country from the U.S. Secretary of Defense

U.S. Army Outstanding Distinguished Civilian Service Medal

American Legion Commendation Award

Congressional Medal of Honor Society resolution for unselfish service to the Society

Freedoms Foundation National George Washington Honor Medal for Distinguished Achievement

National Community Service Award, Veterans of Foreign Wars

National Americanism Award, Forty et Eight Honor Society

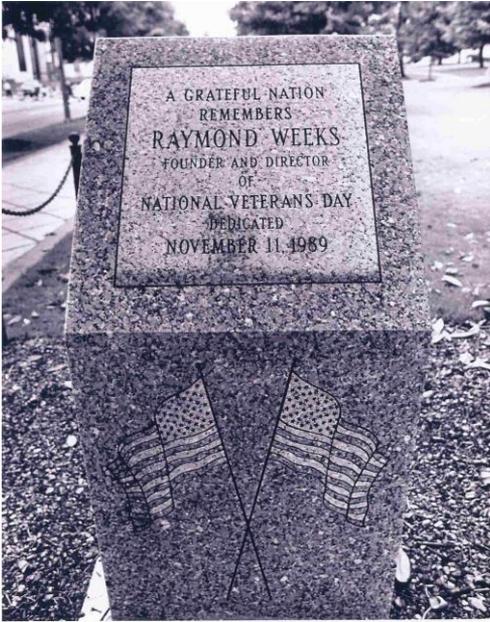
Faith and Patriotism Society of America Award

Commendations from all branches of U.S. military services

Three college scholarships established in his honor: Birmingham-Southern College, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Samford University

A granite memorial “from a grateful nation” rests in Birmingham’s Linn Park, across from historic Veterans Day home, Boutwell Auditorium, on the corner near City Hall.

Raymond Weeks Memorial



Raymond Weeks is honored through this monument located in the northwest corner of Linn Park, near Birmingham City Hall, and across the street from Boutwell Auditorium, historic home of Veterans Day events.

The engraved message:

A GRATEFUL NATION
REMEMBERS
RAYMOND WEEKS
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR
OF
NATIONAL VETERANS DAY
DEDICATED
NOVEMBER 11, 1989



This plaque added to the Weeks Memorial commemorates 60 years (1947-2007).

Patriotism in Action Tribute at Weeks Memorial

Since 2006, thanks to an invitation from Bill Voigt, the main Veterans Day activities start at the memorial monument to the founder of Veterans Day, presented by Patriotism in Action. On the eve of Veterans Day, just prior to the National Veteran Award reception and banquet, patriots gather at Birmingham's Linn Park for a brief though meaningful 25 minutes to celebrate the power of patriotism in action by an individual that grew to include thousands of volunteer leaders and supporters in Birmingham, throughout Alabama, and across the United States.

Raymond Weeks Walk of Honor

Patriotism In Action and National Veterans Day partnered to sponsor the *Raymond Weeks Walk of Honor* from the historic Tutwiler Hotel across Linn Park to Weeks Memorial in 2006.



The white cavalry horse proceeded as part of the *Walk of Honor* symbolizing warriors called to protect our country. The black mare stood at the monument, symbolizing those who support our warriors from home. The mother and son handlers are U.S. Army officers.



Lt. General Hal Moore (Retired), National Veteran of the Year 2006 and Patriotism in Action nominee, led the procession through Linn Park. He was preceded by flag bearers and followed by the white cavalry horse, invited dignitaries, and citizens who had read of the planned walk through media announcements. The Walk of Honor ended at the Weeks Memorial where the ceremony to honor Raymond Weeks and *patriotism in action* commenced.



Lt. General Hal Moore served as featured speaker at the Memorial.

Dr. David Dyson served as moderator and spoke briefly about Weeks and the meaning of *patriotism in action*.

Col. Bob Barefield (Retired) and Col. Stretch Dunn (Retired) presented *Patriotism in Action* books to the Weeks daughters.



Lt. General Moore presented flowers in front of the Weeks Memorial, along with Mr. Weeks' daughters (Brenda Weeks Parker in red dress; Barbara Weeks Minor at right), grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends. Jim Lawrence is next to Gen. Moore. Nancy Barefield assisted General Moore with his presentation of flowers at the monument.

Rituals of honor often spark creativity and desire for others to emulate the valiant efforts of those honored. We hope our portrayals of Raymond Weeks and others, as well as highlighting our *Veterans Day Founding History and Character Education Project*, inspire you to take action.

Whether your calling is starting a major life work, preparing as your *best-self*, or choosing a simple idea you can do from the *21-Point Call to Action for a Patriot*, we encourage your beginning and perseverance.

An act of *life leadership* is to write core values in a personal constitution that helps you internalize desired character traits. An act of *best-self leadership* with others is to identify shared values of the team or organization and state, model, teach, and reward desired plans, actions, and results.

Character Education

Some still debate,

“Can we teach values?”

Of course we can — and should!

“The character that takes command in moments of crucial choices has already been determined. It has been determined by a thousand other choices made earlier in seemingly unimportant moments. It has been determined by all those “little” choices of years past—by all those times when the voice of conscience was at war with the voice of temptation—whispering that ‘it doesn’t really matter.’

It has been determined by all the day-to-day decisions made when life seemed easy and crises seemed far away—the decisions that, piece by piece, bit by bit, developed habits of discipline or of laziness; habits of self-sacrifice or self-indulgence; habits of duty and honor and integrity—or dishonor and shame.”

-Ronald Reagan-
Former President of the United States

School Values Illuminated by Veterans Day Founding

Character education is growing in America. Most states have identified core values or character traits to teach in school. Increasing numbers of universities have honor codes. Many companies have added codes of honor or ethics. Students preparing for college or career should know of honor and values, learned through family, school, and community organizations.

The Alabama Legislature voted to adopt 25 character traits to teach in our schools, along with citing the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The State of Alabama Character Education Program “focuses on development of character traits to complement goals” of the Alabama Course of Study. The Education Statute calls for “a comprehensive character education program for all grades to consist of not less than 10 minutes instruction per day focusing upon the students’ development of [these] character traits.” The Alabama Department of Education adopted these traits. We list them, placing first and bolding the five traits on the list supported best by the history of founding Veterans Day:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Patriotism | 14. Compassion |
| 2. Courage | 15. Tolerance |
| 3. Perseverance | 16. Diligence |
| 4. Loyalty | 17. Generosity |
| 5. Citizenship | 18. Punctuality |
| 6. Honesty | 19. Cleanliness |
| 7. Fairness | 20. Cheerfulness |
| 8. Respect for others | 21. School pride |
| 9. Kindness | 22. Respect for the
environment |
| 10. Cooperation | 23. Patience |
| 11. Self-Respect | 24. Creativity |
| 12. Self-Control | 25. Sportsmanship |
| 13. Courtesy | |

Life Leaders proposes adding:

Freedom, Peace, Honor, Trust, Leadership

The history of founding Veterans Day can help teachers and students with at least five of the 25 character traits. And, at least two more traits related to this history, *Peace* and *Leadership*, should be added as powerful teaching points.

Patriotism – Courage – Perseverance – Loyalty - Citizenship
Peace - Leadership

Peace merits addition to character education, especially in Alabama. The founding of Veterans Day is based on the purpose to “perpetuate peace” as well as to honor veterans. Because Alabama led the way to start Veterans Day—supported by General Eisenhower, including his telegram about peace and hoping Birmingham’s efforts would spread across America, we should teach the meaning of *Peace* as an example and resource for the country. Teachers and professors are increasingly teaching and writing on “bullying” that happens on the playground, after school, and in social media. The connections of decision-making such as when to “turn a cheek,” when to seek help, and when to fight apply for youth as they do for leaders seeking peaceful actions between countries. *Peace* needs to be restored as a priority in our Veterans Day celebrations and educational efforts. Veterans Day should be more than a holiday—it should also be a shining opportunity for education and example from our veterans to our students.

Leadership should be added because when extraordinary action is taken, rarely does success come without *leadership*. This Veterans Day founding history demonstrates several forms of leadership important to the mission—combining the perseverance of Weeks with the power of Eisenhower. For youth, the focus should be on *personal leadership* prior to leadership of others, including learning and planning for character development. *Best-Self Leadership* is often overlooked in traditional civilian leadership training though should be the foundation. When teaching patriotism/citizenship/leadership, where else should we start? We also recommend and offer teaching points for *Freedom, Honor, and Trust*.

Values Debate

Some still debate about whether values can be taught. I have been asked, “Do you think we can teach values?”

Answer: *of course we can*. And, we should teach them—at home, at school, at work. We should list them in writing and write a vision statement for each so we and others know what success looks like. That is the core of a personal constitution. Why? For the same reasons the U.S. has a constitution: to identify, inform, internalize, and implement our highest values.

Values that make the lesson plans will get debated though we should create a list anyway. We can teach what values mean and let parents and student adopt the ones they “value” most. Start with common ground and add to the core. Parents can emphasize those chosen by schools they believe most important to their children and add. Students will learn a core from home and school, and some will get support for those and more from athletic team coaches and club leaders.

Plans for Life Boost Character

In the future, good schools will help students write plans for life. Good literature on development and achievement already recommends plans—citing concepts like constitutions, mission statements, goals, time priorities, and action. Few educational organizations seem to teach these best practices, though more will. Attitude, attendance, and achievement will improve.

Parents and teachers who help students write plans that include their mission, values, and goals will leave a greater legacy. For example, a student who writes the value, “courage,” and writes a sentence or more (vision statement) describing his or her best-self *living courage* will prove more likely to internalize and act on that value.

Parents and teachers who read the plan of a student, even if that plan is only the length of a school paper, will understand the mindset and needs of the student better and faster and will

be able to mentor more meaningfully. I have seen this work with great impact—especially in cases where students need to identify and reconcile internal conflicts often caused by life questions and misunderstood teachings from adults. This leads to greater peace of mind and motivation.

My research shows, many students and professionals assess themselves with a “C” level of *courage* and *confidence*. The number one correlation between level of *courage* and *confidence* is sense of *calling* (whether they have purpose and plans). Addressing values more effectively earlier can enrich results like attendance, attitude, achievement—and graduation rates.

The next level of preparing students will include schools adding lesson plans connected to courses and grades for a *plan for school and life* component. A written plan of even the length of an average school paper will help a student increase focus and state intent with parents, counselors, and teachers. This plan and writing assignment can start in elementary school and continue through high school, proving to be one of the most valuable assignments with impact beyond graduation.

Instead of a student discarding the paper when the grade is assigned, this paper/plan continues to improve from course to course, year to year, and guides the student in career and college choices. Students, parents, and counselors will prove more effective identifying and acting on values, academic plans, and actions for the *Seven Areas of Life*, including college and/or career options. The best universities will add instruction and requirements building on plans to enrich the collegiate experience and have graduates better prepared and valuable.

Systems to Mirror Values Needed

Teachers in Alabama invest time daily to instill values into students. The 25 values intended to develop traits have been signed into law to move from *recommendation* to *requirement*.

Visionary leaders who are effective over time are more likely to put systems in place to *reward people for doing what is important*, increasing chances of forming habits. Teachers, administrators, and others who fulfill this requirement exhibit *best-self leadership*. Expect more in this generation.

The traits valued list “Courage” and “Perseverance,” consistent with the first and seventh *Life Leadership* best practices we recommend. “Courage” is part of *Lead Your Life* because both development and achievement start with decision, which requires *calling and courage* to try new things and grow to new levels. “Perseverance” is part of *Renew and Improve*, which includes renewing our *minds, bodies, spirits, service, and stewardship* to want—and be able—to persist.

The values listed: *Patriotism, Courage, Perseverance, Loyalty, Citizenship, Freedom, Peace, Honor, Trust, and Leadership* are interconnected. We will value and act on those traits more if we identify and develop our *callings, sense of stewardship, and desire* to serve people and ideals bigger than ourselves.

Patriotism is more than waving the flag and feeling *loyalty* for country—it requires action related to good *citizenship* and often *courage*, not only fighting back against attackers but also taking risks to serve at a higher level. *Confidence* to expand our “comfort zones” comes from *commitment* to expand our *capacities*, plus *courage* fueled by discovering our *callings*.

The following pages include short summary teaching points based on the history of founding Veterans Day through the lens of the five character traits in Alabama most closely associated. We also address five additional core character traits recommended for learning and teaching.

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

Patriotism

The core of the definition of *patriotism* means “love of country.” The founder of Veterans Day was *patriotic* to feel there should be a holiday to remember and honor veterans of all American fought wars. Our research indicates, many veterans and civilians had a similar idea after WW II.

Raymond Weeks was willing “to do something about it.” He took massive and sustained action to transform his idea into a concept that was enacted. He became a *Patriot in Action*.

Patriotism and *Citizenship* share the same meaning. A good citizen is patriotic, develops and uses himself and his resources wisely, and serves his country. A *true patriot* does more than “feel” patriotic—he or she plans and acts to identify and act on *callings* that fulfill *personal leadership* leading to good citizenship.

Courage

Weeks served in the U.S. Military (Navy) during World War II, like millions of other Americans. Enlisting to risk your life for a noble cause takes courage.

Identifying, planning, and taking action on a calling also takes courage—especially when success requires a year of planning and convincing a general to support a movement to start a National Veterans Day. Some people talk themselves out of acting on ideas because of fear of hardship or failure. Many parents and teachers wish they could instill more courage into children—and themselves.

Weeks was in a sense an ordinary man because he did not come from privilege or power through military rank or social position. His *personal leadership* made him extraordinary. He could have justified not taking action on his calling by focusing on barriers—time and money as well as influence needed to succeed. Yet, he planned and worked for a year before he traveled to Washington, DC, to persuade General Dwight

Eisenhower to support his dream. He also gained support from the United Nations and led a first-ever two-day national event in Birmingham, Alabama with the eyes of America on the city.

Perseverance

From concept to national law, Weeks persevered nine years—1945 until 1954. He launched the concept with General Eisenhower, then went to work directing annual Veterans Day events in Birmingham while continuing national efforts.

He worked toward his vision under the official name, National Armistice Day (unofficially National Veterans Day), until America made the change of name legal. Weeks petitioned Eisenhower again, this time at the White House after General of the Army Eisenhower took office as President of the United States. Seven years after he directed his first national event to honor veterans and perpetuate world peace, he was able to call Birmingham events, National Veterans Day.

Loyalty

Mr. Weeks served his calling and country until he could no more—40 years from concept in 1945 until death in 1985. He served as director of National Veterans Day until the end of his life—giving the last full measure. He was married to one woman, Jennie, until her death, which came only months after she accompanied him and their daughters, Barbara and Brenda, to the White House to be honored by President Reagan.

Another example of loyalty is Colonel Bill Voigt (USAFR Ret), who became president of National Veterans Day after Raymond Weeks died. Bill served 25 years until a heart attack hastened his retirement. He said of stepping down, "I didn't get tired of it; I just got tired." Bill's loyalty fueled his perseverance to serve as long as he felt he should—until Mark Ryan, a civilian, offered to take over the reins of service to lead National Veterans Day.

Citizenship

U.S. President Ronald Reagan invited Raymond Weeks to the White House on Veterans Day in 1982 to present to him the Presidential Citizens Medal on national television.



Excerpts from President Reagan's Speech

"...This morning we're honoring an American patriot, Raymond Weeks, of Birmingham, Alabama. For more than 50 years, Mr. Weeks has exemplified the finest traditions of American voluntarism by his unselfish service to his country. As director of the National Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham for the past 36 years, Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran himself, has devoted his life to serving others, his community, the American veteran, and his nation. He was the driving force behind the congressional action which in 1954 established this special holiday as a day to honor all American veterans.

It's a pleasure for me to present Mr. Weeks the Presidential Citizens Medal, given to those who have made outstanding contributions to their country. And, Mr. Weeks, in honoring you, we honor the ideals that we hope to live up to. Your country is mighty grateful for what you've done."

President Reagan understood the principle, *reward what you value and want repeated*. Through this award presented in front of the nation via television, he encouraged millions of people to fulfill good citizenship.

Mr. Weeks inspired President Reagan and many others of his day. If you pass on the history and meaning of founding Veterans Day to others, you can help us inspire this and future generations to identify and fulfill their callings.

Freedom

What is Freedom? That was the title of a paper I wrote for an assignment in junior high school. My teacher entered me into a citizenship speech competition, and that led to some of my life work over 40 years later. While I was a young teen learning about “freedom” from teachers and books, co-author Colonel Dunn, 10 years older, was *fighting for freedom* in Vietnam.

Our paths came together in 1993. Our first book, inspired by the September 11, 2001 attacks on America, is *Professionalism Under Stress*. We recommend best practices for professionals and leaders who serve “under stress” in military and civilian life. *Freedom* requires preparation for times of war and peace.

Freedom is defined as, “The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without restraint.” Another definition is, “Absence of subjection to foreign domination or despotic government.”

John Hornsby recognized that Birmingham has contributed uniquely to America’s freedoms. Founding Veterans Day supports the contribution of veterans for *freedom of life and liberty*. Birmingham as a major historical city for the civil rights movement, as well as Montgomery and Selma, supports *freedom of civil and human rights*. Because of these freedoms earned and protected, students and adult citizens are *free to flourish*.

Birmingham founded its Civil Rights Institute to advance civil and human rights education internationally. In 2013, the City commemorated “50 Years Forward” to build on freedoms achieved. Mayor Bell and his team presented “Freedom School,” which offered history and character education that applies to Civil Rights as well as Veterans Day, and we served with honor.

“Freedom of the City” is a centuries-old term that meant a person or group had earned *trust* for *free* access and passage in the castle or land. Modern-day leaders present a “Key to the City.” Earning trust adds freedom and empowerment.

Peace

“I am not an Athenian, or a Greek, but a citizen of the world.”

~Socrates~

Our views on *Peace* are affected by how we see ourselves—a citizen of the world wanting what’s best for the greater good or one only looking out for his own territory.

When General Eisenhower wrote to Raymond Weeks about establishing Veterans Day emphasizing “world peace,” he expressed a sense of mission. Imagine how he felt after commanding troops in a massive world conflict in which millions of people died—and then the country felt “peace!”

We need to remember the purposes of Veterans Day include *honoring veterans and achieving peace*. No one wants peace more than the warrior. We can add education to develop good citizens who take action to achieve and perpetuate peace.

Peace is about more than conflicts between countries and ideologies. It is about relationships on school grounds, at work, and in families as well. Peace begins within each of us.

If you are a student reading this, you might wonder how ideas about grownups deciding whether to go to war applies to you. The principles that influence decisions of world leaders on how to handle conflicts are based on the same ones that relate to you if in conflict in the classroom, on the sports field or playground, or in social settings—even social media.

Teachers and professors are increasingly teaching and writing on “bullying.” The connections of decision-making such as *when to turn a cheek, when to seek help, and when to fight* apply for youth as for leaders seeking peaceful actions between countries.

Hitler was a bully. He believed he could force his will on others and did so in very inhumane ways before the U.S. and other world powers had to choose to fight to stop him from killing.

Young people who anger easily and fight quickly often carry those characteristics forward to adulthood. The results include more legal battles, divorces, and military atrocities. Sometimes, it is easy to merely adopt the "turn the other cheek" philosophy, and that will defuse many conflicts. However, sometimes, it takes great discernment to know when to seek peace at any cost and to know when to fight—usually a *harder right* decision. Veterans and educators can work together to teach how.

We believe Veterans Day has a potential third purpose. Veterans can assist to teach character education, including self-control and decision-making about courage and resolving conflict.

President Reagan believed the greatest need for peace is to be strong to discourage those who would take advantage of weakness. Whether in national strength or in *personal leadership*, the goal is to be our *best-selves*—anticipating the best and also prepared just in case the worst challenges us.

Peace begins as a state of mind envisioning the world. If we view ourselves only as Americans, we will be the equivalent of somebody who honored only his or her school and disliked others. We gain perspective when our lives expand to include friends from those formerly competitive schools and teams who are now with us in our university, profession, or community.

A true patriot is a citizen of the world considering the *greater good* in the betterment of one's life and nation. We are not an aggressor nation building an empire around the world. Most of us know we need to do a better job with what we have as we help others who need us. We are Americans. We are citizens of the world. We are *patriots who take action* doing our best as individuals and serving to make our families, teams, organizations, communities, and country the best we can be as part of a worldwide community.

Honor

MAJ Jeff Brown (Ret), veteran of the Army and Marines, teaches in character education talks: “courage” will take you to the battle, though “honor” will keep you there. He internalized in combat (Vietnam) that one must “honor the leader who told you what to do and honor your comrades that you would never disgrace by leaving the battlefield before the battle is over, no matter what the circumstances are. That is why those who sacrificed in battle deserve our respect because they have demonstrated the character quality of honor.”

Honor is at the root of the phrase, “the harder right,” a term learned from Colonel Dunn, a graduate of West Point, when we were writing our books. “Duty-Honor-Country” is the imbedded motto of the United States Military Academy and representative of the commitment of all our military academies.

Trust

Colonel Dunn believes “Trust” is the most important value on the list because, “without it, none of the others work well.” With trust, in self and with others, great accomplishments, relationships, and joy are possible—without it, expect decreased harmony, creativity, and fulfillment along with increased stress, conflict, and losses.

Trust is a firm reliance on the integrity, ability, and character of another person *even when they are under stress*. Trust is a “state of readiness for unguarded interaction.” Stretch says, “When you trust someone, you are genuine and spontaneous with them. You can be yourself without feeling a need to be guarded.” But, extending trust is not like “turning a switch from Off to On.”

Seminars on trust and empowerment taught in recent decades often failed because they suggested trusting others more without providing a process for deciding when to trust and how to communicate expectations. Trusting is based on a person’s willingness to risk trusting others and a belief the other person

can do what is needed (is competent) and is a person of character (has your interests at heart as well as his).

Professionalism Under Stress (Dunn/Dyson) includes a model for earning and delegating empowerment through trust.

Leadership

This story of Veterans Day illustrates different forms of leadership. In this history, three types were needed.

Raymond Weeks was an *entrepreneurial leader*—a visionary and catalyst for action, good at getting things started. He led through inspiration, time, and energy. He developed his influence over time because he persevered long enough for his vision to take root. Weeks worked in strategy as well as details of planning, communicating, and implementing.

President Eisenhower contributed *leadership of power* to work with Congress. After his first work with Weeks in 1946, Eisenhower was promoted to General of the Army (5 star) and served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. When he was elected president, he was the one with power to sign legislation making Veterans Day a legal federal holiday. His investment in preparation, action, and leadership over the years put him in position to approve the recommendations of Mr. Weeks.

Colonel Bill Voigt provided *leadership needed for continuity*. After the vision is cast and traditions established, the second generation of leadership often determines if the purpose of the founding will continue. After Raymond Weeks died, Bill Voigt kept the annual programs going, often with 1,000 guests at the banquet and luncheon, plus more at the parade.

Each leader provided what was needed at the time. Each demonstrated “uncompromising commitment” to a deeply felt calling to honor veterans for their service to the nation as well as standing for peace. Each served most of their lives fulfilling:

patriotism, courage, perseverance, loyalty, citizenship, freedom, peace, honor, trust, leadership.

Call to Action and Progress Report

Patriotism In Action

to support history, character education, and national branding of America's Veterans Day founding in Alabama

With inspiration from Raymond Weeks, General Eisenhower, President Reagan, Bill Voigt, and other patriots, *Patriotism in Action* committed to launch this project to educate and restore the legacy of a man, a city, a state. We served to fulfill these priority results and/or to help others succeed at their roles:

1. Book (*Patriotism In Action*) that tells the history of founding Veterans Day in Alabama, to support lesson planners, teachers, students, and historians.
2. Lesson Plan for K-12 to teach Veterans Day was founded in Alabama so every student will know this national history, as well as lessons for character traits.
3. Governor's Proclamation that Alabama is the founding state of Veterans Day and that national branding is a priority for education, veteran affairs, and tourism.
4. Congressional Record to provide national affirmation for Alabama as the historical founder of Veterans Day.
5. U.S. Senate Resolution giving official historical recognition to Weeks, Birmingham, and Alabama for starting National Veterans Day.
6. President Reagan speech honoring Weeks as the "driving force" online and available to teachers, students, historians.
7. Poster for veterans and educational organizations to display.
8. Billboard to support education and branding.
9. T-shirt to support education and branding by Weeks Family and advocates of this history.
10. Veterans Day Exhibit at The American Village (in the new Veterans Shrine projected for completion November 2013).

11. Briefings for state leaders in education, veterans affairs, and tourism, as well as the Governor, plus nationally, members of Congress and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
12. Briefings and requests of leaders of cities, chambers, visitors bureaus, tourism, and media to unite to *Brand Birmingham* and Alabama as a top destination for Veterans Day education and events.
13. Presentations and speeches to inform groups, such as the Blue Star Salute Foundation, Military Officers of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Boy Scouts.
14. Veterans Day Founding Historical Collection combining artifacts donated by the Weeks Family, National Veterans Day, and Patriotism in Action.
15. National Veterans Day with programs and publications:
 - ◆ *Personal Leadership for Patriots*
 - ◆ *Patriotism in Action Tribute at the Raymond Weeks Memorial*
 - ◆ *Patriotism in Action* book for National Veteran of the Year
 - ◆ Presentation and Display at Veterans Day Banquet
 - ◆ National Veteran Award Banquet program insert
 - ◆ World Peace Luncheon program page
 - ◆ Workshops for the project and Veterans Day teams
 - ◆ Services as the “education arm”
 - ◆ Television interviews
 - ◆ Newsletters stating progress and plans.

We hope we emulated Raymond Weeks’ *patriotism in action* with *courage* and *perseverance* serving our students, veterans, and other patriots as well as our state and nation.

www.PatriotismInAction.us

Call to Action for a Patriot

21-Point Salute

21 actions to adopt or adapt to fit your plan for patriotism.

Remembrance

1. Honor holidays as intended, even if only investing a brief amount of time, whether to celebrate, to remember, to learn.
2. Identify a plan for you, your family, team or organization for how you can make patriotic holidays meaningful.
3. On patriotic holidays, pause in prayer and remembrance for those who paid the price of their lives in defense of our country. A recent tradition encourages a moment of silence or ritual at 3 p.m. local time.
4. When you recite the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and country, emotionally “stand tall” and feel the words to internalize meaning and encourage others to have respect.
5. Display the Flag of the United States from your home and place of work to keep one of the country’s strongest motivating symbols in sight and mind.
6. Include in your prayers remembrance of and appreciation for those fellow citizens who serve sacrificially.
7. When you hear the music of “Taps,” remember people you have lost and others who have lost loved ones.
8. Display a remembrance in your home or office that evokes positive meaning for you: statue of the American bald eagle, books or recordings, photo of a family member or friend in patriotic service, memento such as a medal or citation, photo of a memorial, framed messages or quotes that inspire you to remembrance and action, or others meaningful to you.
9. Give an expression of appreciation to a veteran or the family—say “thank you for your service,” send a note, or give a book for lasting remembrance.
10. Read a story or watch a movie about military preparation and service that helps you understand—and remember.
11. Interview a service man or woman about preparation and sacrificial service for a program or paper.

Service

12. When our country is called into conflict, identify what you can do to fulfill your part.
13. Write your plan for life to include patriotic ideas from this book or your own thoughts for “Duty-Honor-Country” and *professionalism when no one is watching*, or other ideals to internalize and act upon as your best-self.
14. Consider and write how you can develop your competence and character to serve with distinction in your home, profession, and community to fulfill your callings and expand your contributions.
15. As you make tax payments for government services, remember, part of your obligation supports the systems and people who defend our country.
16. Include in your charitable contributions of time and money one or more that support patriotism, personal and professional development, including character.
17. Sponsor or attend a seminar about lessons and actions recommended for military and civilian life.
18. Organize a program, moment of silence, or other ways to include others to internalize the meaning of patriotism and professionalism and to encourage action.
19. If we are at war or in other challenging times, honor holidays as intended and be extra productive with at least some of the extra free time provided by your government or company. Think beyond “business as usual” and transcend thoughts of some who treat traditional holidays merely as “days off.” Give extra effort as a volunteer, professional, or contribute based on your callings for doing your part when our country needs help.
20. Write to public and private leaders to praise good behavior, suggest ideas, and/or offer to help.
21. Vote for leaders of principle more than personality, those who value peace as well as our nation’s preparation for defense.

**The word “holiday”
is derived from “holy day.”**

Patriotic Holidays

Meaning of Holidays

We offer insights and ideas regarding key traditions celebrated in the United States. We hope more people will celebrate holidays closer to the intent behind their creation.

A “holiday” is a day set apart for religious observance or for the commemoration of some extraordinary event or distinguished person, or for some other public occasion. Holidays typically are characterized by partial or total cessation of work and normal business activities and are generally accompanied by public and private ceremonies, including feasting (or fasting), parades and carnivals, or displays of flags and speechmaking.

The word *holiday* is derived from “holy day.” In ancient times, holidays were predominantly religious in character and linked to natural events such as the annual course of the sun or the phases of the moon. Subsequently, secular holidays commemorating historical occasions or distinguished persons outnumbered holy days, although many ancient religious rituals and customs have been carried over into modern times and incorporated into both secular and religious observations.

In modern times, the most significant holidays are of religious observance and include abstention from normal work routines, often taking place on Sunday for Christians, Saturday for Jews, and Friday for Muslims. In the U.S., Sunday is not only a religious holiday but also is the only common-law holiday.

National holidays are days set aside by official government proclamation. Congress and the President designate legal holidays for the District of Columbia and the federal territories. Independence Day and other holidays are observed on a national scale as a result of action by the states. A number of states also commemorate important events in their history.

Ethics of Observance

We understand many people become accustomed to habits and benefits, preferring not to change. At the risk of stating an opinion unpopular to some, we believe more people and organizations need to admit that patriotic holidays often are not observed as intended but rather treated only as vacation days for recreation or leisure. Results include an excessive loss in national productivity as well as opportunities for personal enrichment.

We advocate honoring holidays as intended, even if at a minimal level, to contribute to the individual and national psyche through understanding and renewal of commitment. When we are at war, and our economy and military need extra support, the “business as usual” habit of taking patriotic holidays as mere vacation deserves reconsideration. In extraordinary times, we advocate extraordinary action. We encourage you, your family, and organizations with which you are affiliated to identify how you should honor holidays, choosing to increase remembrance, inspiration, and service—especially when times are tough.



The Big Three Patriotic Holidays are Independence Day, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day.

Independence Day is a celebration of America becoming an independent nation, an opportunity to remember the courage and sacrifice needed to birth a country.

Veterans Day is a celebration to appreciate and honor veterans who defend our nation and consider how we can achieve peace. A wise society also will learn lessons from veterans applicable to students and others in civilian life, as in character education.

Memorial Day is a time to remember those no longer with us and appreciate sacrifice given by them and their loved ones.



National Veterans Day

Alabama organized the first national observance for veterans of all U.S. wars in 1947. The national movement expanded and Veterans Day became a federal holiday when Kansas sponsored legislation signed by native son President Eisenhower in 1954. We share highlights about events to tell more of the story that teachers, historians, and event planners can use.

Colonel Bill Voigt (USAFR Retired) followed Raymond Weeks and served as president for 25 years until 2010. Bill was honored as National Veteran of the Year in 2011 and died the next year.



Mark Ryan (in photo at podium) took the reins as president in 2011 because, as a civilian, he wanted to honor veterans. Mark leads a team of volunteers with support from National Guard and Reserve units, the City and County, plus corporations and foundations. Media supports

with news and televising the Parade.

Veterans, family members, and civilians who value freedom and patriotism gather for celebration and to honor veterans. Photo: LTC Glenn Nivens (Retired) presents *Patriotism in Action* to a VIP guest he wants to know the story of how Veterans Day started.



Veterans Day Events

Traditional events on the eve of Veterans Day:

- ◆ Tribute to the Founder of Veterans Day
- ◆ National Veteran Award Reception and Banquet

Events on Veterans Day

- ◆ JROTC and Color Guard Competitions
- ◆ Memorial Service
- ◆ World Peace Luncheon
- ◆ Parade



Parade in downtown Birmingham



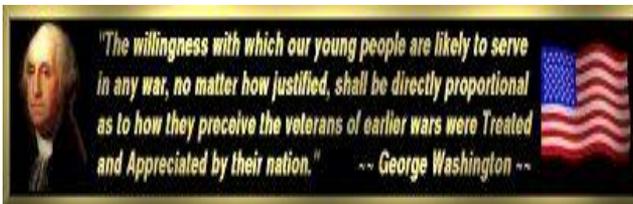
1947 Parade with "Uncle Sam"

Patriotism in Action program events added in recent years:

- ◆ *Patriotism in Action* book and seminar
- ◆ *Personal Leadership for Patriots* seminar
- ◆ *Patriotism in Action Tribute at the Weeks Monument*
- ◆ *Professionalism Under Stress* book and seminar

Past program events:

- ◆ *Patriot Golf Classic*
- ◆ *A Noble Warrior's Gift* church program



National Veteran Award Banquet And World Peace Luncheon



On the eve of Veterans Day, veterans and guests gather to honor the National Veteran of the Year, a tradition since 1954. The next day new guests and some of the same group gather for the World Peace Luncheon.

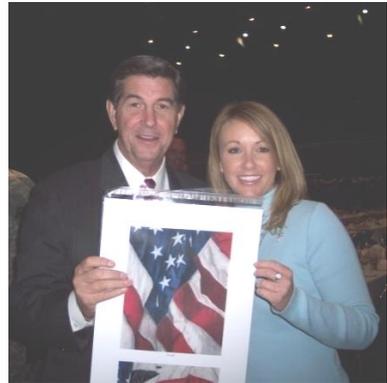
Those at the head table line up and proceed from the Distinguished Guests Reception to the banquet hall. With Veterans Day leaders presiding from a multi-tiered head table backed by dozens of flags, the “Key to the City” from the Mayor of Birmingham and the books *Patriotism in Action* and *Professionalism Under Stress* are presented to the honoree and speaker for the World Peace Luncheon. A rich program of music, messages, and memories inspire—balancing tradition and innovation.

The Birmingham festivities serve as core events for reunion and patriotic travel groups. The Convention Bureau offers support to event planners to make visits to the metropolitan area meaningful with patriotic and educational programs as well as many social, entertainment, and sports options.



Daughters of Veterans Day Founder Raymond Weeks, Barbara Weeks Minor and Brenda Weeks Parker, with David Dyson at the Distinguished Guests Reception prior to the National Veteran Award Banquet.

Former Governor of Alabama Bob Riley and Lori Banes, artist for *Daddy's Honor*, at the World Peace Luncheon.



Dianne Shaw sings "The National Anthem" for an inspired audience of over 1,000. Formerly of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dianne recruited veterans groups to visit the Birmingham Area.

National Veteran Award

The National Veteran Award is an American tradition started and hosted in Birmingham, Alabama since 1954.



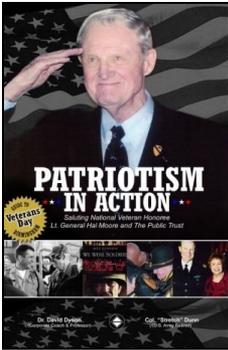
This is the latest design for the award given to each honoree, updated in 2011. The Award for the Veteran of the Year and the Permanent Trophy are displayed at the reception for the honoree and other distinguished guests.



L to R: David Carder, Retired President, Vulcan Land Company;
Col. Leo Thorsness (Ret), U.S. Medal of Honor Hero
receiving his National Veteran Award in 2005;
Col. Bill Voigt (USAFR Ret), then-president of National Veterans Day.

National Veteran Award Honoree 2006

(Nominated by Patriotism in Action)



Lt. General Hal Moore (Retired)

Cover photo of *Patriotism in Action* 2006: LTG Moore giving a final salute to his alma mater, West Point.

Smaller photos feature Mel Gibson and Hal Moore during filming of the movie, “We Were Soldiers,” the movie DVD cover, Moore at “The Wall,” and with his wife, Julie, at the movie premiere.

Lt. General Hal Moore is featured here because he is representative of outstanding honorees. Our relationship with Hal Moore started when Stretch, Joan, and David viewed the movie, “We Were Soldiers,” in which Mel Gibson portrayed Lt. Colonel Hal Moore as he prepared and led troops into the first major battle for the United States in Vietnam (1965). We wrote about General Moore in the *Gunfighting Leadership Lessons* of our companion book, *Professionalism Under Stress*, which offers best practices and guidance for leading in high stress roles.



LTG Hal Moore (Ret) reviews *Professionalism Under Stress*, Auburn.

We had begun work on this book when we met LTG Moore through Mayor Bill Ham at the Auburn Memorial Day Celebration that honored Hal Moore, supported by Governor Riley. Listening to his introduction with details of a distinguished military career, I marveled at the sense of calling and courage one must have to volunteer to jump out of airplanes to test “experimental parachutes!” And, seeing a smiling Mrs. Moore and family, I admired the patriotism she must have exemplified as matriarch of her family, especially when her husband served for extended time in distant lands.

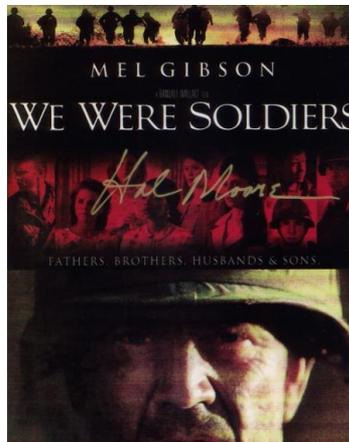
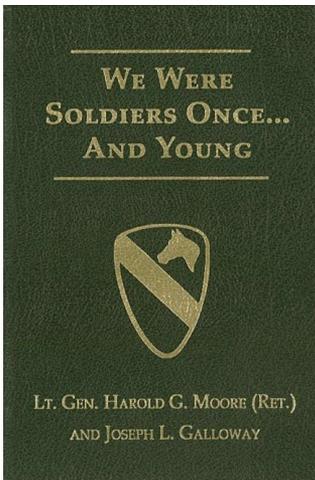
We nominated General Moore for National Veteran of the Year, and the Committee selected him. He is another Patriot in Action who served his country through valor in the military and beyond offering character education to youth and leadership training to adults.

“We will leave no man behind.”



Lt. Colonel Hal Moore speaking to troops and others at Ft. Benning, Georgia. For over a year, LTC Moore prepared the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, for the first major battle of the American War in Vietnam. In 1965, Moore led his under-strength battalion of 450 troopers against over 2,000 North Vietnamese Regulars—and won.

Based on that battle, LTG Hal Moore co-authored with journalist Joseph Galloway the #1 *New York Times* best-seller, *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*. The major motion picture, “*We Were Soldiers*,” starring Mel Gibson as Hal Moore, has been seen by millions in theatres and on national television.



The book and movie depict the harsh realities of war and the power of *noble warrior* leadership as exemplified by LTC Moore and his senior non-commissioned officer Command Sgt. Major Basil Plumley, played by Sam Elliott.



Mel Gibson and Sam Elliott as Hal Moore and Basil Plumley.



Actor Mel Gibson and Hal Moore on the movie set of "We Were Soldiers."

General Moore returned to Vietnam seven times to meet and walk battlefields with commanders who opposed him. Major American news programs such as "60 Minutes" have broadcast positive stories about LTG Moore, his leadership, and caring for his troops.

After 32 years, LTG Moore retired from the Army. His proudest achievement is that in numerous battles and two wars he never lost a soldier as a Prisoner of War (P.O.W.) or Missing in Action (M.I.A.). He kept his promise, "We will leave no man behind."

A long-time warrior for ethical leadership, LTG Moore has been an active national speaker on leadership principles and values. He and Joe Galloway have published their follow up book, *We Are Soldiers Still*. Hal Moore lives in Auburn, Alabama.



LTG Hal Moore salutes cadets at West Point 60 years after his graduation. He wears the pin of the 1st Cavalry Division and Distinguished Service Cross.



The patch of the 1st Cavalry Division worn on his lapel.

Lt. General Moore visited the second love of his life, West Point (the United States Military Academy), 60 years after he was a cadet. A graduate in 1945, LTG Moore spoke about “leadership” to the cadets in 2005. At the end of his talk, he saluted those who would soon join “the long gray line.”



Hal and Julie Moore
“We Were Soldiers” movie premiere.

Julie Moore

Julie Moore, Hal’s wife of 55 years, was a strong mother and matriarch of their family, especially when her soldier had to serve in distant lands. Hal and Julie have five children. Julie passed away in April 2004.



In the National Veterans Day Parade in Birmingham 2006, a rare though richly deserved expression of honor began for the spouses of warriors. A caparisoned (riderless) horse with side saddle, flowers, and sash honored Julie Moore and all spouses of military personnel. Raven (2002-2009), an American Quarter Horse owned by Ginger Ryals of the Ohio TopHands, was escorted by Army National Guard Lt. Colonel Joy Craft of Mobile. Five horses mounted by women with a family link to our military followed the riderless horse and carried flags of the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Air Force.

National Veterans Day Parade

November 11



Veteran of the Year and Parade Marshal 2006 Lt. General Hal Moore (USA ret).



The Ohio Top Hands Equestrian Team riding for the first time in the National Veterans Day Parade in Birmingham.

Parents and children line Birmingham streets to enjoy the parade.

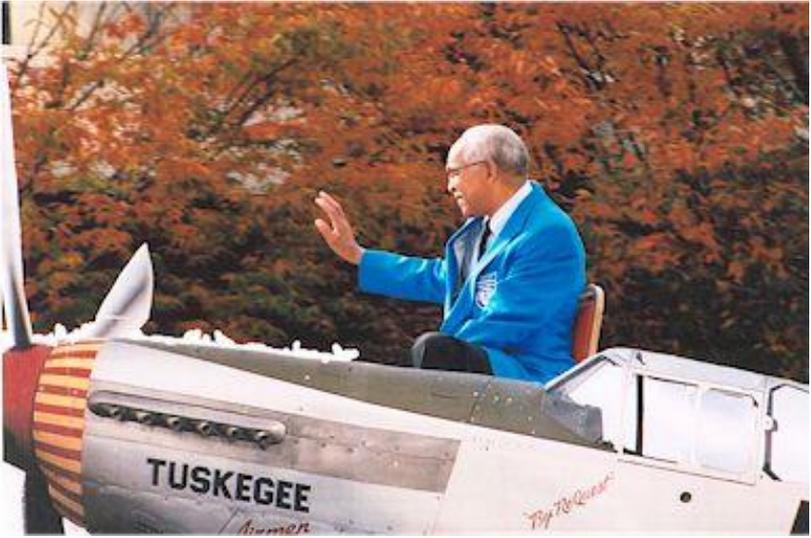




Parade Marshal 2005 Mrs. C. Horton (June) Emory.



June Horton is happy to see her photo as 2005 Parade Marshal in her 2006 edition of *Patriotism in Action* (with David prior to the parade).



Tuskegee Airmen Float.



WW II, U.S. Cavalry, Andrew Tsimoides
(he rode a horse in the parade until age 90).







Marion Military Institute cadets.



School Color Guard.



Birmingham Fire and Rescue.



National Guard.





TV news anchor Jim Dunaway interviews a veteran walking in the parade.

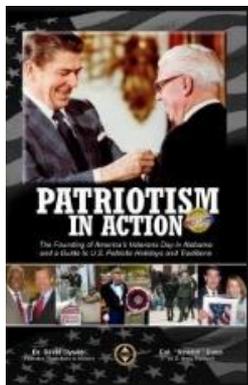


The traveling Vietnam Memorial takes this replica of “The Wall” in Washington, DC to citizens throughout America.



Personal Leadership for Patriots

Seminar



Public service presentation and forum based on *Patriotism In Action* by

Dr. David Dyson and
COL Stretch Dunn (USA Ret)

Presented by the Patriotism in Action
Program of Life Leaders

COL (Ret) Bob and Nancy Barefield, chair

www.PatriotismInAction.us

Agenda Sample

- ◆ Social
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Pledge of Allegiance
- ◆ Patriotism in Action Meaning
- ◆ Speaker
- ◆ Call to Action
- ◆ Announcements

Optional contents offered periodically

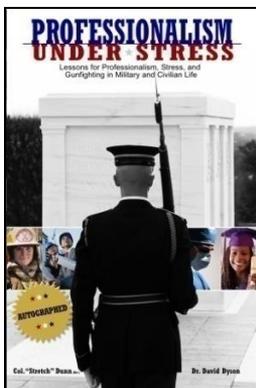
- ◆ Presentation of Colors
- ◆ Duty-Honor-Country speech by Gen. Douglas MacArthur
- ◆ Alabama Medal of Honor Heroes names read



David Dyson speaks about *Patriotism in Action* and Veterans Day Founding in Alabama on a radio program hosted by former State Senator Hank Erwin.

Professionalism Under Stress

Seminar



Based on the book, *Professionalism Under Stress: 7 Lessons for Professionalism, Stress, and Gunfighting in Military and Civilian Life*, by COL Stretch Dunn (USA Ret) and Dr. David Dyson.

Presented by Patriotism in Action and Best-Self Leadership Programs of Life Leaders

www.ProfessionalismUnderStress.com

Military and many civilian organizations offer excellent, time-tested lessons. Combining some of the best of both can make each body of knowledge stronger together than apart. We offer compressed best practices you can use.

Agenda Sample

- ◆ 7 Lessons for True Professionals
- ◆ Personal Leadership and Empowerment Model
- ◆ 7 Lessons for Stress
- ◆ The Leadership Model of the United States Army:
23 dimensions of “Be, Know, and Do”
- ◆ 7 Lessons for Gunfighting Professionals
- ◆ 7 Lessons for Gunfighting Leaders



Col. Stretch Dunn (USA Ret) teaches lessons of *personal leadership and professionalism* at Life Leaders.

Veterans Day Event Resources

National Veterans Day Information and Tickets

www.NationalVeteransDay.org

Meeting Space and Lodging

Birmingham Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

www.BirminghamAl.org

Alabama Veterans Affairs

www.va.state.al.us

Alabama Tourism

www.alabama.travel

Alabama Education

www.alsde.edu

Books, Posters, and Presentations

www.PatriotismInAction.us

Memorial Day

Memorial Day

The United States of America honors the nation's armed services



personnel killed protecting our homeland on the last Monday of May. The original name of Memorial Day, Decoration Day, was established on the order of General John Alexander Logan for the purpose of decorating graves of the American Civil War dead. The first official observance was on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

There is evidence that women's groups in the South decorated graves before the end of the Civil War. A hymn published in 1867, "Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping" by Nella L. Sweet carried the dedication "To The Ladies of the South who are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead" (Duke University's Historic American Sheet Music, 1850-1920). Decoration Day was observed until 1971, when most states changed to a federal schedule of Memorial Day observance.



*...gather around their sacred remains
and garland the passionless mounds
above them with choicest flowers of
springtime....let us in this solemn
presence renew our pledges to aid and
assist those whom they have left among
us as sacred charges upon the Nation's
gratitude—the soldier's and sailor's
widow and orphan.*

-General John Logan-



Ceremonial procession at the Alabama National Cemetery (ALNC).
Photo taken during Wreaths Across America, another time of decoration.



Decorated graves at the ALNC.



American Village.

Ideas for observance:

- ◆ National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time
- ◆ Decorate graves of veterans with flowers and/or flags
- ◆ Display the U.S. Flag
- ◆ Watch a movie about sacrifice
- ◆ Visit a memorial and/or ceremony
- ◆ Listen to “Taps”
- ◆ Remember deceased or missing loved ones in prayer





A school rifle drill team member bows during a Memorial Day ceremony in Tuscumbia, Alabama (Associated Press photo).



This military service ceremony at Auburn University included a special "9/11" memorial tribute, 2003.



Col. Stretch Dunn (USA Retired), Lt. General Hal Moore (USA Retired), Mayor of Auburn Bill Ham, and Dr. David Dyson prior to the Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast 2003, Auburn Conference Center, at which LTG Moore received the Distinguished Veteran Award.



Soldiers guard and pay their respects on Memorial Day and every other day at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC.



Patriot Guard Riders attend funerals of active military, veterans, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel (invited by families).



Alabama National Cemetery Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony.



Col. Bob Barefield (U.S. Army Retired), Chairman, Patriotism in Action, and Chairman, Support Committee for Alabama National Cemetery, presides over the first Memorial Day ceremony at the new cemetery.



Vietnam Veteran.



LTC Glenn Nivens
USA Infantry (Ret),
Patriotism in Action and
Blue Star Salute Foundation.



Stretch Dunn sings at Memorial Day at the Alabama National Cemetery.



Marynell Winslow, President of the Alabama Department of American Gold Star Mothers at the Alabama National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony. Ryan, son of George and Marynell, died in action serving with the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq.

"Sacrifice,"
art by Alabama artist Lori Banes
called "Daddy's Honor"
(in memory of her dad).





Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for civilian as well as military families – remembering those we miss, our ancestors, and even those we have not met. Just as we recommend civilians and veterans include in Memorial Day plans remembrance of

those who have contributed in defense of our country, we encourage the ritual of remembrance of those who have contributed to our families.

Added meaning can come from a remembrance, such as a moment of silence or a prayer, for those “lost” from our midst. Some individuals and families “remember” privately, while others have established annual rituals that include family reunions to not only remember and honor relationships of our past but also enjoy and nurture relationships of the present.



The Patriotism in Action wreath displayed on Memorial Day at the Alabama National Cemetery and The American Village, as well as the Raymond Weeks Monument on the eve of Veterans Day.

**Patriots in Action Serve
and Leave a Legacy
for Those Who Follow**

Remembrances and Roots of Honor

A special tribute of honor and remembrance
through a military honor funeral
at Arlington National Cemetery

Remembrance for One, Honor for All

Participation at the funeral for Lieutenant General Dunn, Stretch's dad, deepened my sense of appreciation for service given by men and women in the military. That experience, my first funeral at Arlington National Cemetery, along with co-authoring our books, deepened my understanding of the deep roots and teachings we have tried to impart.

I hope a brief recollection from this civilian capturing a few of the many images and messages copied onto my mind and camera during the full military honors funeral will move your soul as the experience did for me. And, I hope the research about a few traditions will provide interesting reading as well as contribute to your growing in dedication to true patriotism and professionalism. Stretch has served well in that unique balance of co-author, son of General Dunn, and soldier — helping me with information and insight to try to “get it right” for you, his family, the military, and others we seek to serve.

Full Military Honors Funeral at Arlington Cemetery

The chapel service was beautiful with simple elegance to honor a man and family whose lives have focused on service. Music and messages from ministers, children and grandchildren filled the hall and our hearts. We write in our books about professionals *doing the right thing well under stress*. Stretch demonstrated that strength at the funeral when he sang in memory of his father. Perhaps only those who have delivered the eulogy, spoken, or sung at the funeral of a loved one will relate to the emotional challenge that can involve. Stretch has a rich bass singing voice, trained during his days as student director of the West Point Glee Club while a cadet at the United States Military Academy, Class of 1966.

“The Old Guard”

Professionalism Even When No One is Watching

A platoon of soldiers from the Third Infantry Regiment, commonly known as “The Old Guard,” escorted the flag-draped casket transported by caisson (horse drawn wagon) to the chapel at Fort Myer. The respect and preparation resulting in disciplined precision demonstrated professionalism, which was interesting and inspiring. During the chapel service, the soldiers stood outside, silent, in formation (at parade rest)—true professionals even when we were not watching.



Soldiers in “The Old Guard” (3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment) stand facing the Caisson, Casket, and Chapel during the funeral service for General Dunn, Fort Myer, at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, 2003.

“The Old Guard,” the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the United States Army, is responsible for rendering honors to visiting heads of state and foreign dignitaries at The White House, Pentagon, and elsewhere in the Washington, DC area.



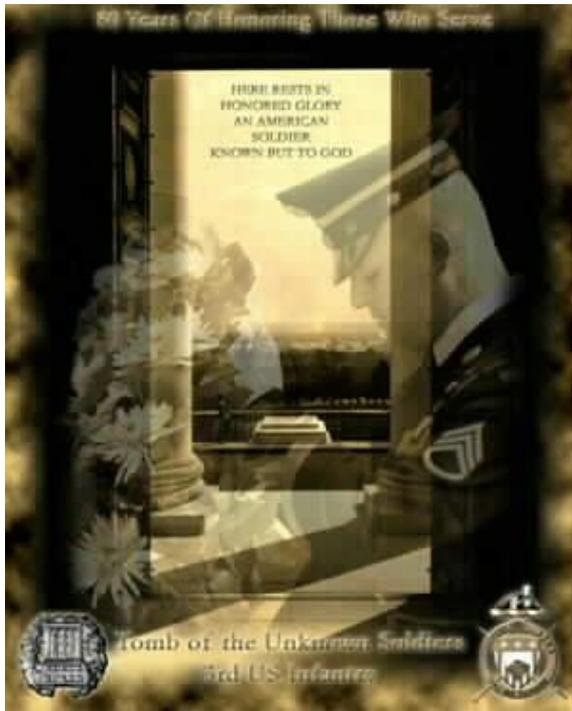
The Old Guard Drill Team.

Charge of Honor

As the Army Ceremonial Unit, “The Old Guard” also has responsibility for sentry duty at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Tomb enshrines remains of soldiers whose identities are unknown from WW I, WW II, and Korean wars, symbolic of all unaccounted for American combat dead. Many have marveled at the precision of the changing of the guard each hour, which an observer wrote, “has to be seen to be believed,” referring to the measured steps and mechanical silent shoulder changes with rifles. They take 21 steps, then hesitate 21 seconds, signifying honor as in the 21-gun salute. Sentries guard the Tomb 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, marching in rain, sleet, hail, bitter cold, any weather. And, yes, they continue during the night—even when no one is watching.

Sentries commit two years to guard the tomb. They pledge to not drink alcohol, swear, or cause disgrace on or off duty for the rest of their lives.

The Sentinels' Creed



Courtesy of the U.S. Army.

My dedication to this sacred duty is total and wholehearted.

In the responsibility bestowed on me never will I falter.

And with dignity and perseverance my standard will remain perfection.

Through the years of diligence and praise and the discomfort of the elements, I will walk my tour in humble reverence to the best of my ability.

It is he who commands the respect I protect.

His bravery that made us so proud.

Surrounded by well meaning crowds by day, alone in the thoughtful peace of night, this soldier will in honored glory rest under my eternal vigilance.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Honoring the Spirit of All

In 1921, Congress approved burial of an unidentified American soldier from World War I in the plaza of the new Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery, atop a hill overlooking Washington, DC. President Warren G. Harding officiated at the interment ceremonies. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is also known as the Tomb of the Unknowns.

“Here Rests In Honored Glory
An American Soldier Known But To God”



Sentinel guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns, 1948, as done since 1930.



Sentinel from “The Old Guard” on sentry duty at the Tomb circa 2003.

Imagine how many people feel about doing this type of work—marching repeatedly the same path and maneuvering self and a rifle the same way protecting remains of people they do not know. Consider the attitudes of persons with whom you may have worked and comments you have likely heard about work considered “routine.” You likely have observed behavior providing less than their best or doing the minimum required.

Remember the story about the stone masons asked what they were doing. One answered, “laying stones.” Another sighed, “making a living.” The third replied, “I am building a cathedral.” These soldiers view sentry duty as a “charge of honor.” *Professionalism even when no one is watching* is a core value of *patriotism in action*.



“Super Storm Sandy” attacked the area October 2012 causing deaths and heavy damages. Many evacuated. The Guard held their post.

After an earlier storm, Sergeant 1st Class Frederick Geary, responded, it was “duty as usual. This isn’t about the soldiers, it’s about what they are guarding.... The tomb stands for something a lot bigger than each of us. The guards understand that, and they are devoted to what they do.” Col. Chuck Taylor, former Commander of “The Old Guard,” adds, “The real story is why we put guards there in the first place, because guarding it is our sacred trust to those who paid the ultimate price, the last full measure.”

These soldiers go to work with the meaning of their mission internalized. They do their job with excellence because of the tradition of service that has continued over 80 years. They do it with fellow soldiers in mind who are risking their lives for us.

Serving nobly wherever we are should be a call to inspired action throughout the land. Military or civilian, decide what you can do to help the effort and do it with commitment.



The Memorial Bridge leading from Washington, DC to Virginia is lined with a joint-service cordon as the motor court escorts the remains of the Vietnam War Unknown to Arlington National Cemetery for interment in the Tomb of the Unknowns, 1984.

An Army caisson carried the Vietnam Unknown from the U.S. Capitol Building to the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day in 1984. Many Vietnam veterans joined President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan on this historic pilgrimage. Such remembrances help with honoring as well as healing for a grieving family, a surviving soldier, a nation. In 1998, DNA testing resulted in identification and disinterment of the Vietnam unknown, an Air Force officer.



Disinterment ceremony for the Vietnam unknown, 1998,
after his remains were identified.



Sentry saluting at the Tomb of the Unknowns.
On the foreground are several red flowers,
one by each of the tombs.

This Warrior Will Not Ride Again

Military tradition allows a caparisoned (riderless) horse to follow the casket of any Army or Marine Corps commissioned officer in the rank of Colonel or above. This includes the President as Commander-in-Chief and Secretary of Defense.



The Cap Walker (soldier) and Sergeant York (horse) prepare to follow the caisson from the Fort Myer Chapel to the grave site at Arlington Cemetery.

The strong and beautiful horse carries an empty cavalry saddle and boots placed reversed in the stirrups, which signify this warrior will never ride again. The saddle blanket displaying three stars signifies the rank of Lt. General (three-star general). The soldier and horse walk with discipline and precision, focused forward, heads held high and steady.

This horse is Sergeant York, named in honor of WW I hero and Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Alvin York of Tennessee,

played by Gary Cooper in the movie, "Sergeant York." The horse that served in President Kennedy's funeral was Black Jack, named for General "Black Jack" Pershing.

The Caissons Keeps Rolling Along

Once outside the chapel, a military procession prepares for the march to the gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery, which adjoins Fort Myer. The platoon of soldiers at right face the entrance to Arlington Cemetery. The caisson at left foreground carries the flag-draped casket, followed by the family, personal color bearer, cap walker and riderless horse.



The riderless horse lines up behind the caisson and personal color bearer in front of Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer.

The silence in front of the Old Post Chapel is broken only by rhythmic clip-clop sounds from seven stately horses. Astride four horses, soldiers sit ramrod straight.

The Procession

Each horse and rider—head erect, body taunt and controlled—contributes to the solemn expression of honor. Six horses pull the flag-draped casket on a black artillery caisson. The caissons were built in 1918 (World War I) and used for cannons, ammunition, and supplies. Although all six horses that pull a caisson are saddled, only those on the left have mounted riders. This is tradition from horse-drawn artillery days when one horse of each team was mounted while the other horse carried provisions. The Caisson Platoon performs this time-honored tradition.



The Procession to the gravesite,
just inside the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery

The procession for Lt. General Dunn includes chaplains, band, and two platoons of soldiers, Honor Guard, caisson, honorary pallbearers, personal color bearer, riderless horse, family and guests. Buses and cars transporting mourners followed.

The sky overcast, the air cold, rain drizzles on us as we walk to the gravesite, though no one seems to care about the weather. The conditions seem right for this setting in which somber remorse for a loss balanced with celebration of a legacy left with love and honor. Inspiration fills the air as does music from the military band helping to lead us to the warrior's final resting place.

Soldiers set the pace at 120 steps per minute. Hack Sain, friend, client, Life Leaders trustee, and WW II veteran, was at the time of the funeral over 80 years old. Without expressing words, he looked but once at the bus provided for "elderly" mourners and the chance to ride, choosing to make the mile-long trek next to me by foot in the cold. I sensed determination in him to persevere to take this final walk in honor of a fellow soldier.



Soldiers led us to the gravesite, approximately 1 mile from the Chapel.

A Final Salute



Arriving at the grave site, soldiers carry the casket from the caisson toward the gravesite.

With soldiers saluting, band (upper right) playing softly, clergy and honorary pallbearers (lower right) with hands over their hearts, the soldiers carry the casket from the caisson toward the final resting place. The bugler (left of the band) waits until time to play “Taps.”

“Taps”

The bugler played “Taps.” This music, which has been played since the Civil War, has become part of the fabric of our country’s farewell to deceased members of the military profession. We provide the words and story of the melody in the Patriotic Songs.



The bugler at Arlington National Cemetery played "Taps."
On the hill beyond the grave markers, an artillery battery from Fort Myer fired cannon blasts for the 15-gun salute for a Lieutenant General.

On the hill beyond the grave markers is Fort Myer where an artillery battery fired a salute of 15 cannon blasts. The 3rd Infantry Salute Guns Platoon, the only unit of its kind in the Army, performed the 15-gun salute as part of the honor for a three-star general. Soldiers from Fort Myer fired rounds from 3-inch anti-tank guns of World War II vintage with blank shells, each ignited with 1.5 pounds of gunpowder.

Symbolism is strong. A lone soldier stands vigil at the foreground of cemetery plots and beneath a perch of cannons, powerful guns positioned to protect. One soldier, alone, does his part. Many have gone before, many will follow, and many stand in the wings.



Soldiers stand in the wings between the bugler and the grave site during “Taps,” the 15-gun cannon salute, and the 21-gun rifle volleys.

21-Gun Salute

The 21-gun salute of the U.S. comes from cannons or rifles. The most common 21-gun salute comes from seven riflemen firing three rounds at a funeral. Cannon blasts number based on rank of a person, with 21 honoring dignitaries such as presidents of the United States or visiting foreign heads of state.

The 21-gun salute, like many American military traditions, appears to be a custom inherited from Great Britain. In early times, it was customary for a ship entering a friendly port to discharge its broadside canons to demonstrate they were unloaded; eventually it became a British practice to fire a seven-gun salute. The forts ashore would fire three shots for each shot fired afloat, resulting in 21 gun rounds shot. The use of numbers “seven” and “three” in early gun salutes probably was connected to religious significance surrounding these numbers in many cultures. Gun salutes continue to be fired in odd numbers, likely because of ancient superstitions that

uneven numbers are lucky. As early as 1685, the firing of an even number of guns in salute was taken as indicating that a ship's captain, master, or master gunner had died on a voyage. The interval of five seconds in firing of gun salutes helps provide auditory effect.

The U.S. presidential salute has not always been with 21 blasts. In 1812 and 1821, it was the same as the number of states, 18 and 24, respectively. After 1841, the President received a salute of 21 rounds and the Vice President 17, which later changed to a salute of 19 guns. Today, a 21-gun salute on arrival and departure is rendered to the President of the United States, to an ex-President, and to a President-elect. The National Anthem or "Hail to the Chief" is played for the President, and the National Anthem is played for others. A salute of 21 guns on arrival and departure also is rendered to the sovereign or chief of state of a foreign country or a member of a reigning royal family. In these ceremonies, the National Anthem of his or her country is played. At many ceremonies, 21 rounds are fired from rifles instead of cannons.



Following the 15-gun cannon salute for LTG Dunn, a rifle team of seven soldiers fired three volleys each in perfect unison for a total salute of 21 shots.

The Final Resting Place



During the graveside service, “The Old Guard” and “Pershing’s Own,” the U.S. Army Band, stood at attention except when performing their duties. They carried the casket, fired rounds, played “Taps,” and helped people along the way.

The personal color bearer with the three-star flag stands at attention facing the grave site with honor platoons in the background.

The great-grandchildren placed American flags on the casket at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Carroll Hilton Dunn, Sr. lay in peace between members of his social and professional families. His family

placed flags of his country upon his casket while a soldier held with honor a flag displaying three stars signifying his highest level of military service. Platoons of troops and comrades from military service, along with civilians from church, corporate, and community life paid their respects.



After family and guests left, a soldier remained to guard the casket until this soldier was laid to rest. When Letha, his wife of 63 years, passed away, she was buried with him and

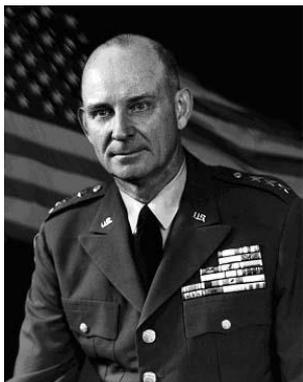
her name etched on the other side of the tombstone.

Personal Remembrance

In memory of a soldier-general, Stretch's dad

Lt. General Carroll H. Dunn, Sr. (USA Ret)

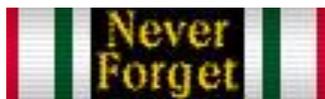
1916-2003



My father rose from humble beginnings in rural Arkansas and through hard work and determination lived two illustrious careers—36 years in the Army and almost 30 years in the private sector. His life exemplified the definition of a masterpiece, personifying leadership and professional competence. When as a child he was badly burned and bedridden for months, he had the perseverance to regain a normal life. When wounded in battle in France, he refused to have his leg amputated and willed himself to recover with his leg intact. His disciplined approach to life simplified confusion. As challenges multiplied, he kept clarity by setting priorities and finding meaning through contributing to the nation's welfare. He led by action, not position, using the art of persuasion through assessment of a situation, its components, and alternatives, then providing a logical, well-supported solution for the greater good. He believed titles were not the source of a leader's power, but rather one's ability to influence to meet exceptional standards, and thereby gain the respect of others. Competency and humility were a winning combination. He was a dedicated layman, deacon, and leader in his church—a committed Christian soldier through his actions. He was the steadfast partner of my mother for 63 years. He was everything a son and daughter could want.

*With love and appreciation,
Stretch*

Fallen Comrades Table



A tradition frequently practiced at formal military dinners is to place a small round table in a place of honor near the head table that symbolizes the members of the profession of arms missing from our midst. Some traditions set a table of six representing those missing from the five branches of service as well as civilians. It is round to symbolize everlasting concern for them. Remembrances include prisoners of war (POW) and missing in action (MIA). To veterans, they are all “brothers.”



Meaning of the Table

The meaning of the table can be printed in a program and/or read as a toast:

*The table, set for one, is small...*symbolizing the frailty of prisoners alone against their oppressors. Remember.

*The tablecloth is white...*symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to our country's call to arms. Remember.

*The single rose in a vase...*symbolizes the families and loved ones who keep the faith awaiting their return. Remember.

*The red ribbon...*tied predominately on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing. Remember.

*The slice of lemon...*is on the bread plate to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land. Remember.

*There is salt upon the plate...*symbolic of the families' tears as they wait. Remember.

The Bible (when used) represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country founded as "One Nation Under God." Remember.

*The glass is inverted...*they cannot toast with us tonight. Remember.

*The chair...*the chair is empty, they are not here. Remember.

Whether or not those attending these dinners served with them, they are still comrades, "brothers in arms" who are not forgotten.... Remember.

Civilian dinners can use a similar tradition. At our Life Leaders banquet, we include an empty chair with a simple place setting as a remembrance of co-founder Johnny Johnson and others who cannot be with us—we toast to *The Empty Chair*.

A Patriot's Farewell

General Douglas MacArthur

We include a brief profile of one of America's best-known patriots and excerpts from his famous farewell speech to the Corps of Cadets at West Point to:

- ◆ Demonstrate how spoken words can inspire people when they come from a trusted patriotic professional.
- ◆ Share words that became part of what he believed should be every soldier's creed: *Duty-Honor-Country*.
- ◆ Provide an example of a message many keep for remembrance—framed for a wall or in a book or recording.



General Douglas MacArthur was one of the few soldiers in American history to serve with the rank General of the Army (5-star general). This son of a Civil War hero became a brilliant, courageous, and controversial figure during his 84-year life.

A Division Commander in World War I, Superintendent of West Point from 1919-1922, and Supreme Allied Commander of the Southwest Pacific Theatre in WW II, MacArthur accepted Japan's surrender on the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945. After leading the reconstruction of post-war Japan, he became Supreme Commander of United Nations Forces during the Korean Conflict.



General MacArthur landing at Inchon, Korea, 1950.

His inspirational oratory remains a remarkable expression of ideals that should govern the soldier's service. On May 12, 1962 General Douglas MacArthur delivered his last major address at the United States Military Academy. His acceptance of the Sylvanus Thayer Award for service to the nation came completely without notes. Yet, his words and delivery became famous, recorded in print and audio. Clearly, he had internalized the beliefs and values behind his message.

MacArthur began by saying that the award was not primarily to honor him, but to symbolize a great moral code—"the code of conduct and chivalry of those who guard this beloved land.... It is an expression of the ethics of the American soldier." The speech had a rarely matched eloquence that resonated with lasting impact on all who were there. Hopefully, you will have positive events in your life that become as riveted in your memory—able to be called upon for inspiration when needed.

“Duty-Honor-Country”

General MacArthur’s Farewell to the Corps of Cadets

[West Point, 1962. Excerpts from General Douglas MacArthur’s speech have been included for you, the reader, and the Patriotism in Action Program supporting Veterans Day.]

Duty-Honor-Country. Those hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be....They build your basic character, they mold you for your future roles...they make you strong enough to know when you are weak, and brave enough to face yourself when you are afraid...to master yourself before you seek to master others, the meekness of true strength.

In twenty campaigns, on a hundred battlefields, around a thousand campfires, I have witnessed the enduring fortitude...and that invincible determination which have carved his [the soldier’s] statue in the hearts of his people. From one end of the world to the other he has drained deep the chalice of courage.

And through all this welter of change and development your mission remains fixed, determined, inviolable—it is to win our wars. Everything else in your professional career is but a corollary to this vital dedication. Yours is the profession of arms—the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory; that if you lose the nation will be destroyed; that the very obsession of your public service must be Duty-Honor-Country.

Others will debate the controversial issues...which divide men’s minds; but serene, calm, aloof, you stand as the nation’s war guardian, as its lifeguard from the raging tides of international conflict, as its gladiator in the arena of battle. For a century and a half you have defended, guarded, and protected its hallowed traditions of liberty and freedom, of right and justice.

You are the leaven which binds together the entire fabric of our national system of defense.... This does not mean you are warmongers. On the contrary, the soldier above all other people prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. But always in our ears ring the ominous words of Plato... "Only the dead have seen the end of war."

The shadows are lengthening for me. The twilight is here. I listen vainly...for the bewitching melody of faint bugles blowing reveille...of far drums beating the roll call. In my dreams I hear the crash of guns, the rattle of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield.

But in the evening of my memory...always there echoes and reechoes, Duty, Honor, Country. Today marks my final roll call with you. I bid you farewell.

-General Douglas MacArthur-
General of the Army

[Stretch was visiting West Point at the time of this historic speech and attests to the power of its words and delivery. You may find the complete text via Internet search for "Douglas MacArthur+Thayer Award." You can get a glimpse into that speech and more about the man in the movie, "MacArthur," starring Gregory Peck.]

**"Old soldiers never die.
They just fade away."**

-General Douglas MacArthur-
(in a speech to the United States Congress, 1951)

“The timeless lesson of liberty is that freedom is not free. We must learn and remind ourselves of the history and meaning of Independence Day because those lessons provide a core of our memory and make us mindful of the requirements of good citizenship.”

-Tom Walker-
Founder, The American Village

Independence Day

Independence Day

The United States celebrates annually the Declaration of Independence as a free nation on July 4, 1776. We recognize that day as the official time American Democracy was born.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee proposed a resolution to the Continental Congress stating “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.” Four days later, Congress appointed a committee to draft a declaration embodying the intent of the resolution. The committee, consisting of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston, pressed on Jefferson the task of writing their report.

On June 28, the committee submitted to Congress “A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress Assembled.” The Congress passed Lee’s original resolution, thus deciding in favor of independence, but took days to debate and amend the committee’s draft declaration before approving the declaration on July 4. “The Unanimous Declaration of the 13 United States of America” (the Continental Congress officially did not call it the Declaration of Independence) was printed on parchment, and on August 2 every member present signed it, the remaining members signing later.



[America’s Democracy] ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward for ever more.

- John Adams-

(written July 2, 1776, to his wife, Abigail)
Adams became America’s Second President

Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness), it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government.

-Thomas Jefferson-
(from the Declaration of Independence)

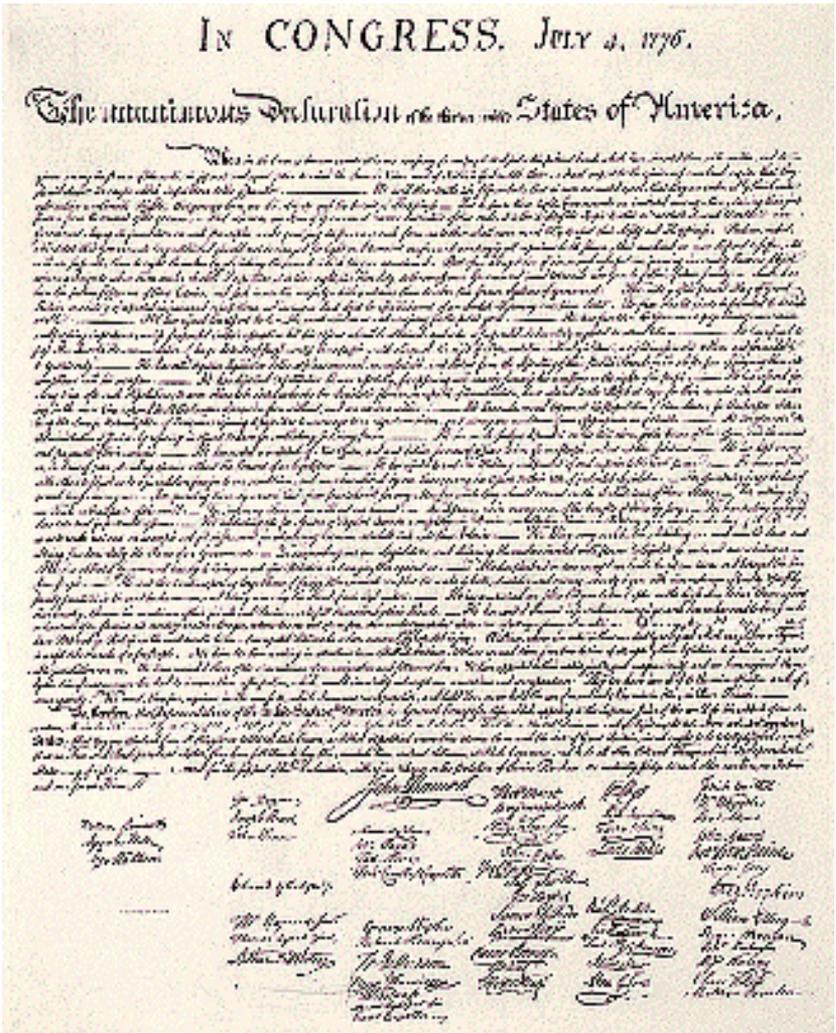


Photo of The Unanimous Declaration of 13 States of America, commonly called the Declaration of Independence.

The text follows.

The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America (also called The Declaration of Independence)

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislature.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation.

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us.

For protecting them, by mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states.

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world.

For imposing taxes on us without our consent.

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury.

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses.

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule in these colonies.

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments.

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the

most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare, is undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war,

conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

Massachusetts: John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery

Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott

New York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris

New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark

Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross

Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean

Maryland: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton

North Carolina: William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn

South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton

Source: The Pennsylvania Packet, July 8, 1776.



Washington Hall at The American Village.



The American Village offers educational programs and events focused on history and citizenship to help people learn and remember the meaning of Independence Day and more of the sacrifices necessary to start and build the United States of America. Thousands of citizens and families attend on Independence Day in Montevallo, Alabama.

“You’ve got to stand for something
or you’ll fall for anything.”
-Song by Aaron Tippin-

Monuments and Memorials

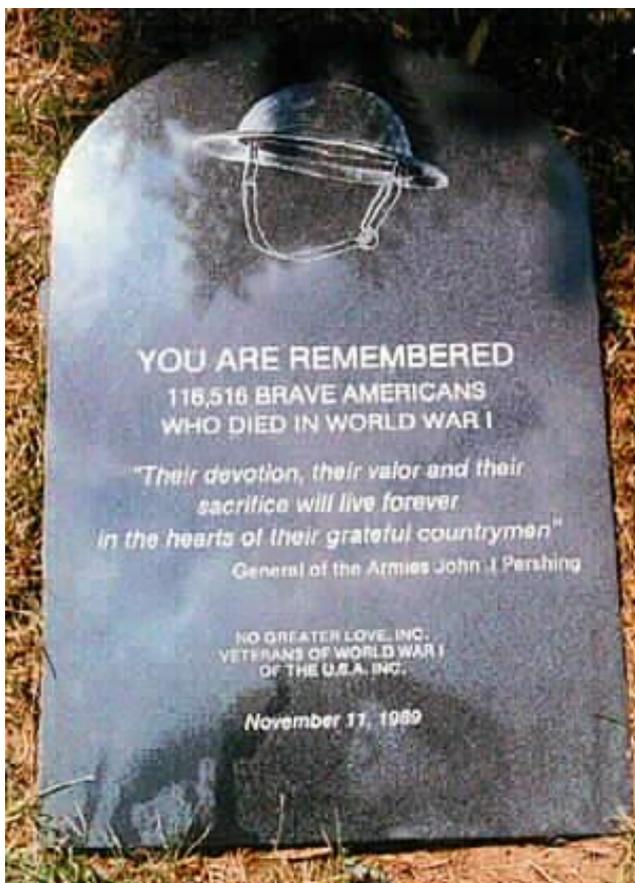
Washington Monument



The U.S. Flag at half-mast at the Washington Monument.

The Washington Monument—one of the first monuments built in this country—honors the first president of the United States of America, General George Washington. The monument is located in Washington, DC. On the aluminum cap, atop the monument 555 feet high facing skyward are displayed two words, “*Laus Deo,*” meaning “Praise be to God!”

World War I Memorial



This memorial is located in Arlington National Cemetery, near the graves of General of the Army John J. "Black Jack" Pershing (1860-1948) and many of his men.

This memorial remembers 116,516 Americans who died during World War I (1914-1918) for "their devotion, their valor, and their sacrifice."

WW I ended on November 11, 1918, and this memorial was dedicated on November 11, 1959.

My grandfather, Sergeant Major George E. Dyson, fought for America in the trenches of France in WW I. He became better known when the *Chicago American* newspaper published a front page story with his photo citing him as a "seer" for his written predictions, among them the day the war would end. The newspaper article is a framed memento in my home—given to me by my dad, Eb Dyson, who enlisted to serve in the Army when he came of age near the end of WW II.

World War II Memorial



The World War II Memorial
with the Washington Monument in the background.

The World War II Memorial opened April 29, 2004, dedicated on May 29, and honors 16 million service members in the Armed Forces of the United States during WW II. They include more than 400,000 who died and all who supported the war effort from home.

The memorial stands as an important symbol of American national unity. It is a timeless reminder of moral strength and awesome power that can flow when free people are at once united and bonded together in a common and just cause. Younger and future generations should appreciate what the World War II generation accomplished protecting freedom and democracy at home and securing it for other deserving nations.

Iwo Jima Memorial



Iwo Jima Memorial with the Washington Monument in the background.
Photo and superimposed text by Brady Parks.

One of America's most famous memorials is the Iwo Jima Memorial, which celebrates the uncommon valor of Marines, and a Navy Corpsman, who raised the flag of the United States at the top of Mt. Suribachi after a long battle on Iwo Jima Island in the Pacific Ocean during World War II. The Iwo Jima Memorial was dedicated on February 23, 1995, the 50th anniversary of the historic flag raising.

Korean Memorial



One of the 19 statues in the Korean Veterans Memorial.

From 1950-1953, the United States joined with United Nations forces in Korea to take a stand against a threat to democratic nations worldwide. The million and a half veterans returned to their families, homes, jobs, and a country reluctant to memorialize the campaign. The passage of time brought new perspective to that war and its aftermath and led to construction of a Korean Veterans Memorial, which was dedicated in July 1995.



The Korean Veterans Memorial consists of 19 larger-than-life U.S. ground troopers equipped for battle moving toward an American flag. Etched into the granite wall adjacent to the figures are photographs of hundreds of faces taken from military archives. The effect is meaningful and haunting, especially on a moonlit evening.

Vietnam Memorial

Since the Vietnam Memorial was dedicated in 1982 to honor the memory of 58,220 men and women lost in that conflict, we have seen the understandably emotional expressions of veterans returning to see names and connect with the memories of their lost comrades. I hope my eyes and camera captured for you at least some of the inspiring beauty and meaning of the scene I saw at “The Wall.”



The Vietnam Memorial known as “The Wall” lists engraved names of those who died in Vietnam and stands in alignment with the Washington Monument.

A former young officer in the command of General George Patton in World War II, Hack Sain was with me and also appreciated the meaning of this memorial honoring military from the war of a later generation. Some people walked in the rain to see this monument while some stood still, soaked, seemingly concentrating on a name for an extended period of time. No one spoke above a whisper. Reverence prevailed.



Stretch visits
 “The Wall” and
 the inscription of
 his friend and
 classmate,
 Tommy Hayes.

Statues of
 soldiers from
 across the mall
 (shown below)
 have been
 superimposed on
 the photo by
 Brady Parks.

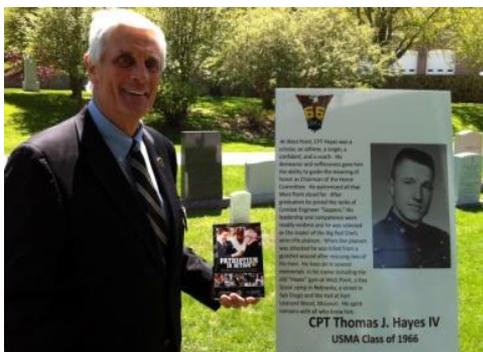


Statue across from
 The Vietnam Memorial:
 “The Three Soldiers” aka
 “We Three – Our Brothers,
 Our Sons, Our Friends.”



Vietnam Women’s Memorial
 depicts three uniformed women
 serving as nurses caring for a soldier,
 dedicated Veterans Day 1993.

Tribute to Tommy Hayes



Stretch returns to his alma mater, the U. S. Military Academy, annually to speak at the “Inspiration to Serve” Program prior to cadets making their five-year commitment to serve as officers.

He tells cadets of 1966 classmate Tommy Hayes:



Tommy was brilliant. He finished 9th in our class at West Point, and could have placed even higher if he had not spent so much time coaching others. Tommy was an example of a true professional and patriot, selfless to his classmates and country as he lived his legacy.

Tom Hayes was killed in action in 1968 in Vietnam when the platoon he was leading was attacked. He died of a gunshot wound after rescuing two of his men. Tommy has been a major inspiration to Academy classmates responsible for creation of “The Wall.” He is remembered by Old “Hayes” Gym at West Point, the Hall at Fort Leonard Wood, a Boy Scout camp in Nebraska, and a street in San Diego.



Veterans often sketch the names of lost comrades and loved ones onto paper as a “healing memento.” Stretch and Joan have this imprint of Tommy’s name in their home, along with a picture of “The Wall.”

Alabama Veterans Memorial



Alabama Veterans Memorial Park
near Liberty Park along I-459 in the Birmingham Area.

Erected amid the Alabama woodlands near Liberty Park in the Greater Birmingham Area, this memorial is more than a park. This memorial provides a message for all Alabamians recognizing the price of freedom and peace.

The Regiment of Columns offer descriptions of the Medal of Honor recipients since 1900.

The Grand Memorial in the rear contains the names of Alabamians lost in combat since 1900.

The walkway to the memorial outlines historical events.

Nearby step stones permit personalized remembrances leading to the flag of the United States of America.

The Memorial is led by the Alabama Veterans Memorial Foundation board, a president, and an executive director.



Roy Williams speaks about the loss of his brother in the “9/11” terrorist attack on the Pentagon at a program presented by the Alabama Veterans Memorial Foundation on September 11, 2004. Roy wrote *911, God Help Us* in dedication to Army Major Dwayne Williams.



Civil Air Patrol Cadet Color Guard contributes to a remembrance of those lost in the “9/11” attacks.

Parents and children can enjoy and learn together.



“This flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thoughts and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours.”

-Woodrow Wilson-
Former president of the United States



The Flag of the United States

Display of the Flag

The Federal Flag Code prescribes the proper way to display and show respect for the United States Flag. A few guidelines taken from Public Law 94-344:

- ◆ The flag represents a living country; a lapel flag pin being a replica should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- ◆ When flown at half-staff, the flag should first be hoisted to the peak then lowered to half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before lowering it for the day.
- ◆ No other flag should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the [USA]. When displaying the flag at a podium with the speaker facing an audience, “right” refers to placement to the right of the speaker (as he faces the audience). Naval chaplains at sea may fly the church pennant above the flag during church services for personnel of the Navy.
- ◆ On a vehicle, attach the flag to the antenna or clamp the flagstaff to the right fender.
- ◆ From a building, hang the flag on the staff, with the stars away from the building.
- ◆ In a window, hang the flag vertically with the stars to the left of anyone looking at it from the outside.
- ◆ Against a wall, when displayed either horizontally or vertically, the stars should be uppermost and to the observer’s left.
- ◆ In a procession with other flags, the Stars and Stripes should be carried to the marchers’ right in a line of flags or to the front and center of a line of other flags.





U.S. Flag at the 7th Ranch (named for the 7th Cavalry), Garryowen, Montana, adjacent to the battlefield often called “Custer’s Last Stand,” taken from David’s camera as he rode his horse, *American Patriot*, up the hill to the flag.

Chip and Sandy Watts, retired educators, display their flag proudly for campers and passersby. Chip takes military leaders and visitors on learning tours of the battleground.

The American flag at the Alabama Veterans Memorial Park stands above the trees, visible from I-459 and Liberty Park.



Flag Day is observed on June 14 in the United States.

Pledge of Allegiance To the United States of America

Pledge

*I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic
for which it stands,
one Nation under God,
indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.*

Francis Bellamy, a minister, wrote the original “Pledge of Allegiance” in 1892 and it was first published in a leading family magazine called *The Youth’s Companion*. In 1923 and 1924 the National Flag Conference changed the Pledge’s words, “my Flag,” to “the Flag of the United States of America.” The words, “under God” were added by Congress on June 14, 1954, thus making the Pledge a public oath and a prayer.



Pledging Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America should be rendered by facing the flag and standing at attention with the right hand over the heart (unless physically unable). When not in uniform, a man should remove his headdress with his right hand and hold it at the left shoulder with his hand over his heart. Persons in uniform should face the flag and render the military salute. Veterans can salute when in civilian clothing.

All pledge together.



Former President of the United States George W. Bush and school children pledge to the Flag of the USA.

Historical Highlights of the U.S. Flag

1776, May: Betsy Ross reports sewing the first American flag.

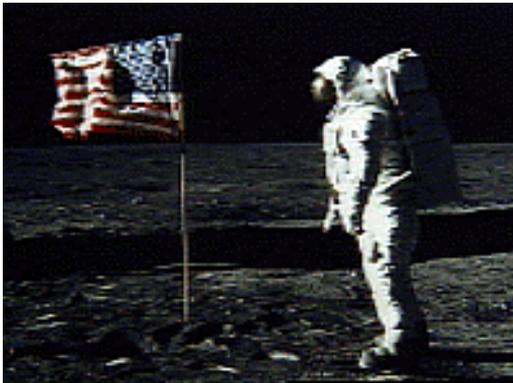
1777, June 14: Continental Congress resolves that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation. Stars represent Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.

1818: Act provides for one star for each state to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following admission of each new state.

1912: President Taft establishes proportions of the flag and provides for arrangement of the stars.

1959: President Eisenhower orders arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each...later changed to nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven columns staggered vertically.

1960: Flag with 50 stars, after adding Hawaii as a state.



1969: Astronaut Neil Armstrong said, "One small step for man; one giant leap for mankind" as he took the first step on the moon. He then emplaced the American Flag.

Meaning in Folding of the Flag

Flag folding ceremonies vary for groups who use one. We share part of a ceremony meaning from the Birmingham Veterans Day web site and a picture of “The Old Guard” rehearsing for a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.



We present seven of the twelve folds:

The first fold is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks, who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country and to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature; for, as American citizens trusting in God, it is in Him we turn in times of peace as well in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, “Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it still is our country; right or wrong.”

The sixth fold reminds us of the six battle-weary fighters who vigilantly struggled to the top of Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima during World War II. Once, there, they proudly raised the flag.

The seventh fold is for where our hearts lie...we pledge allegiance to the flag....

Folds eight through twelve address motherhood, fatherhood, and religious beliefs. When the flag is completely folded, the 12th fold, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, “In God We Trust.”

“To fallen soldiers let us sing...”

Lyrics from music in the movie

“We Were Soldiers”

Sung by the West Point Glee Club

Patriotic Songs

National Anthem of The United States

“The Star Spangled Banner”

*Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

*On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

*And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wiped out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

*Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner forever shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key peered through clearing smoke of a battle to see an enormous flag flying proudly after a 25-hour British bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry. Key was inspired to write a poem, which later was set to music. Even before "The Star-Spangled Banner" became our national anthem in 1931, the song helped transform the American flag into a national symbol of patriotism and identity.



Conduct

During playing of the National Anthem when the flag is displayed, all present except those in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. A man not in uniform should remove his headdress with his right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the right hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should render the military salute at the first note of the anthem and retain this position until the last note. Veterans can salute even in civilian clothes.

America, The Beautiful

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain.*

*America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern impassion'd stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness.*

*America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.*

*O beautiful for heroes prov'd
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life.
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And ev'ry grain divine.*

*O Beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years.
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears.
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.*

Lyrics by Katherine Lee Bates (1859-1929)
Music composed by Samuel A. Ward (1848-1903)

God Bless America

*While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free,
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.*

*God Bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam
God bless America,
My home sweet home.*

Irving Berlin
(1888-1989)

America

(My Country 'Tis of Thee)

*My country, 'tis of Thee,
Sweet Land of Liberty
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let Freedom ring.*

*My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills,
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.*

*Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet Freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.*

*Our fathers' God to Thee,
Author of Liberty,
To thee we sing,
Long may our land be bright
With Freedom's holy light,
Protect us by thy might
Great God, our King.*

*Our glorious Land to-day,
'Neath Education's sway,
Soars upward still.*

*Its hills of learning fair,
Whose bounties all may share,
Behold them everywhere
On vale and hill!*

*Thy safeguard, Liberty,
The school shall ever be,
Our Nation's pride!
No tyrant hand shall smite,
While with encircling might
All here are taught the Right
With Truth allied.*

*Beneath Heaven's gracious will
The stars of progress still
Our course do sway;
In unity sublime
To broader heights we climb,
Triumphant over Time,
God speeds our way!*

*Grand birthright of our sires,
Our altars and our fires
Keep we still pure!
Our starry flag unfurled,
The hope of all the world,
In peace and light imperaled,
God hold secure!*

*Samuel F. Smith
(1808-1895)*

Proud To Be An American

*If tomorrow all the things were gone,
I'd worked for all my life.
And I had to start again,
with just my children and my wife.*

*I'd thank my lucky stars,
to be livin' here today.
'Cause the flag still stands for freedom,
and they can't take that away.*

*And I'm proud to be an American,
where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died,
who gave that right to me.*

*And I gladly stand up,
next to you and defend her still today.
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land,
God bless the USA.*

*From the lakes of Minnesota,
to the hills of Tennessee.
Across the plains of Texas,
From sea to shining sea.*

*From Detroit down to Houston,
and New York to L.A.
Well there's pride in every American heart,
and its time we stand and say.*

*That I'm proud to be an American,
where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died,
who gave that right to me.*

*And I gladly stand up,
next to you and defend her still today.
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land,
God bless the USA.*

*And I'm proud to be an American,
where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died,
who gave that right to me.*

*And I gladly stand up,
next to you and defend her still today.
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land,
God bless the USA.*

Lee Greenwood
(composer and artist, 1985)

“Taps” — The Lyrics

*Day is done. Gone the sun.
From the lake, from the hill, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest: God is nigh.*

*Thanks and praise, For our days.
'Neath the sun, 'Neath the stars, 'Neath the sky.
As we go, this we know: God is nigh.*

A second version

*Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar drawing nigh—falls the night.*

*Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*

*Then good night, peaceful night,
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright,
God is near, do not fear—friend, good night.*

“Taps” – The Story

“Taps,” the melody that has touched countless service men and women, was created by General Daniel Butterfield of the Federal Army of the Potomac during the Civil War in July 1862. The General whistled the tune and asked Brigade Bugler Private Oliver W. Norton to play the music for him instead of the regulation music called “Extinguish Lights.” The music known as “Taps” debuted that night at Harrison’s Landing, Virginia.

The brigade loved the music and adopted it as their new bugle call. Other brigades began playing General Butterfield’s song. After the war, the Army confirmed by orders “Taps” as the official bugle call.

“Taps” is played by the military at memorial services, during the lowering of the flag, and to signal the end of a military day. Whenever a soldier is buried with military honors in the United States, the ceremony concludes by firing three volleys of musketry over the grave and sounding of the trumpet or bugle.

Many versions about the origin and lyrics of “Taps” have been published. We cited mainly from the web sites of Arlington National Cemetery and The United States Army, plus *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara.



Additional Resources and Information

7 Best Practices for True Professionals



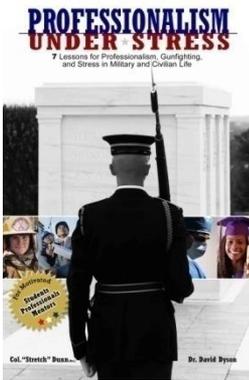
From the companion book, *Professionalism Under Stress*, these seven actions provide a strategy for your professional life—to use and teach—as you “be, know, and do” as your best-self:

1. **Prepare character and competence to develop disciplined habits and instincts to do the right things well, even under stress, thus earning trust in self and from others.** Identify areas of improvement and change as priorities in plans and invest in learning and development to expand capacities. True leaders develop personal leadership and serve others first, then lead where they can to fulfill their callings and do the most good.
2. **Earn empowerment rather than wait for it.** Admit that you are more responsible for your performance and growth than is your supervisor. Accept that your responsibilities, results, and rewards come from you, first, and partners second. Identify desired results, improvements, and actions in your professional plan. Anticipate what your supervisory leader needs to trust you have earned empowerment. Help your “manager” serve more like a mentor by presenting your plan with stated intent and seeking coaching, putting callings and stewardship before ego. Proactively seek to develop higher levels of trust in your competence and character for the seven levels of empowerment: (1) Tell, (2) Teach, (3) Direct, (4) Coach, (5) Support, (6) Delegate, (7) Empower.
3. **Practice “no excuses” accountability.** Own it! Focus on solutions and results as well as efforts, taking responsibility for the mission and your part. Mitigating circumstances often affect an outcome, but one person is ultimately accountable.
4. **Develop ethical fitness and decision-making from the start.** Loss of trust in character is harder to restore than

well-intentioned mistakes or under-developed competencies. People are more willing to forgive failure through valiant effort than intentional violations of trust. Have personal and organizational training to reinforce how to make tough ethical decisions and choose *the harder right*. Stay aware that *good intent* does not always equal *good impact* and perception and truth do not always match.

5. **Decide to think with positive expectancy and make the best of situations.** People face many disappointments and paradoxes in professional and other areas of life, especially when the stakes get high and stressful. Learn to make peace with them, persist, and “bounce high” when you fall.
6. **Fulfill your calling and live a legacy to find meaning.** Money is like oxygen; you need it, but it does not give meaning to life. Design your life to be a masterpiece. Write and internalize your mission, vision, and legacy.
7. **Be a champion for your calling, your profession, people you serve, and your organization.** Choose to develop an “A” level attitude with commitment and courage toward seeking mastery in your competence. Work on your plan for life until getting to an “A” level of believing you have discerned your callings and written your choices. Identify and describe your desired legacy, then persist with commitment to fulfill it. Demonstrate character to keep promises and do the right things, even under stress. Develop confidence as you take action rather than waiting for confidence before you take action. Grow in your sense of connection to projects and the people working on them, matching on mission and values more than on personality. Develop from the inside-out genuine charisma based on character and competence that attracts people who want to work with you on common goals. Serve as a champion for people and organizations of good intent, helping them identify and fulfill their callings, gifts, and talents toward stewardship and with distinction.

Professionalism Lessons Illuminated



Several lessons found in *Professionalism Under Stress: 7 Lessons for Professionalism, Stress, and Gunfighting in Military and Civilian Life* are illuminated throughout this companion book.

For more on the book:

www.ProfessionalismUnderStress.com

Professionalism: *True professionals prepare character and competence to develop disciplined habits and instincts to do the right things well, even under stress, thus earning trust in self and from others.* Soldiers from the “The Old Guard” offer sterling examples of *true professionals* who prepare for duty and do it with excellence even when no one is watching.

Professionalism: *Fulfill your callings and live a legacy to find meaning.* Seek and identify God’s callings on your life. Prepare. Serve with honor and earn the trust of those who matter most. By doing so, we *live a legacy* regardless of when our watch is over. Every job can be noble when we serve the greater good. Consider “The Old Guard” doing its job, even when others do not understand the commitment to maintain tradition. Consider how you can serve as your best-self, especially at times of intense challenge, prepared in anticipation of the call.

Gunfighting Leadership: *Make gunfighting a last resort. When conflict is a necessity, make it part of our nation's fiber.* The military wins battles but support of the population wins wars. The nation’s fiber includes the fabric of combat power and support through National Guard and Reserve units, plus contributions of many dedicated citizens in private and public service sectors.

Gunfighting Leadership: *Prepare yourself and your unit for suffering, disfigurement, and death.* As a military professional, unexpected death can come more readily than in civilian life. Memorials, patriotic holidays, and other remembrances serve as sources of preparation as well as healing when death to a service member occurs.

Gunfighting Leadership: *Persevere. Resolve to succeed—leadership provides the glue that keeps the fabric and psyche of organizations and nations steadfast until victory is achieved.* Battles usually take hours or days, but war tends to play out in agonizing slowness. War fighting requires infinite patience and persistence. War typically requires more time, sacrifice, and cost than most civilians expect. The “fog of war” and media distortion of facts make the leader’s challenge more daunting. Our nation’s best leaders strengthen our national psyche to stay the course until the security of our loved ones and nation are assured. Meaningful memorials, remembrances, and other traditions, as well as calls to action, contribute to the mindset of combat as well as civilian professionals.

Gunfighting Leadership: *Keep the memory of loss and sacrifice alive: memorials and remembrances matter.* Meaningful celebration of patriotic holidays, respect for the flag, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, plus other rituals and traditions help our people stay focused, committed, and aligned with their military brethren in the fight for survival, safety and security. Examples of remembering are offered to help our citizens remember the sacrifice that has been needed for freedom and maintain perseverance needed for victory (in this case, the war against terrorists). Through photos and descriptions, you visit memorials for veterans of all wars in a small town like Auburn, Alabama, as well as our national cemetery at Arlington. You will see a WW I memorial and the WW II, Iwo Jima, Korean Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, and Alabama Veterans Memorials—representative of all memorials.

Oath of Citizenship in the U.S.

The oath that must be taken by all immigrants who wish to become United States citizens:

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

Oath to Serve in the Armed Forces

At the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces, each individual swears (or affirms) the following oath:

I, (name), do so solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States [if National Guard, add and the Governor of (state),] and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

Oath to Serve as an Officer

An individual, except the President, elected or appointed to an office of honor or profit in the civil service or uniformed services, shall take the following oath:

“I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

Meaning of The Officers’ Commission

For those called to leadership of others, there is no greater demonstration of the trust of the Republic than in its expression and bestowal of an officer’s commission.

As an officer in the armed forces of the United States, you are a citizen-soldier, a warrior in the profession of arms, a member of a skilled profession, an unwavering defender of the Constitution, and a servant of the nation. A leader of character, you accept unmitigated personal responsibility and accountability to duty, for your actions and those of your subordinates. You lead your service and defend the nation in seamless union with officers of all services. In so doing, you willingly take your place in an ancient and honorable calling, obligated equally to those who have gone before you, those you walk among, and those who will follow.

Source: “Introduction,” *The Armed Forces Officer* (2007), provided by the William E. Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY.

Soldiers' Creed

I am an American soldier.

I am a warrior and a member of a team.

*I serve the people of the United States
and live the Army values.*

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

*I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and
proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.*

I always maintain my arms, my equipment, and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

*I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of
United States of America in close combat.*

I am the guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American soldier.

Source: United States Army

Soldiers' Prayer

*O Mighty God you made the land,
And shaped the earth by your command.
Be with your soldiers far away,
Hold us within your arms we pray.
Please give us strength and courage too,
We shall give the ways to you.*

*The rockets, shells, and bombs may fall,
Soldiers and families on you call.
When fears and doubt invade our breast,
Calm then our hearts and give us rest.
O hear us when we pray to you,
And keep us faithful, brave, and true.*

*O Lord and Father of mankind,
May faith and hope and peace we find.
May gloom and war and terror too,
Turn hearts in trust and faith to you.
O hear us when we pray,
That we may come to peace your way.*

Clyde Northrup, 1991

Sing to the tune of *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*
by John D. Dykes (1823-1876)

The American's Creed

Adopted by Congress - 1918

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I, therefore, believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

-William Tyler Page-
Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives (1917)

America Must Stay Good

To Stay Great

*I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her
commodious harbors and her ample rivers,
and it was not there;
in the fertile fields and boundless prairies,
and it was not there;
in her rich mines and her vast world commerce,
and it was not there.*

*Not until I went into the churches of America
and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness
did I understand the secret of her genius and power.
America is great because America is good—and if America ever
ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.*

-Alexis de Tocqueville-

French philosopher and author on democracy (1805-1859)

Armed Forces of the United States



Army

Founding: June 14, 1775

www.army.mil

United States Military Academy: West Point, NY

Mission

To fight and win our Nation's wars providing prompt, sustained land dominance across the full range of military operations and spectrum of conflict in support of combatant commanders.

The Army consists of the active component, National Guard, Reserve, and Department of the Army civilians.



Navy

Founding: October 13, 1775

www.navy.mil

U.S. Naval Academy: Annapolis, Maryland

Mission

To maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.

The Continental Navy was founded in 1775 and later designated the U.S. Navy: The Navy Department; operating forces, including the Marines; the reserve components, and, in time of war, the Coast Guard (in peace part of Homeland Security).



Marines

Founding: November 10, 1775

www.usmc.mil

U.S. Naval Academy; Annapolis, Maryland

Mission

To seize or defend advanced naval bases and to conduct such land operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign, provide detachments and organizations for service in armed vessels of the Navy, to develop, with the other Armed Forces, the tactics, techniques, and equipment employed by landing forces in amphibious operations, and be able to expand from peacetime components to meet the needs of war.

Marines are trained, organized, and equipped for offensive amphibious employment and as a "force in readiness."



Coast Guard

Founding: August 4, 1790

www.uscg.mil

U.S. Coast Guard Academy: New London, CT

Mission

To protect the public, environment, and U.S. economic interests in the nation's ports and waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region to support national security.

In 1790, Congress authorized 10 vessels to enforce tariff laws and prevent smuggling. It received its present name in 1915. In peacetime, it operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Air Force

Founding: August 1, 1907 as Army Signal Corps; 1947 as Air Force

www.af.mil

U.S. Air Force Academy: Colorado Springs, CO

Mission

To defend the United States and protect its interests through air and space power.

In 1907, the Army established an Aeronautics Division "to take charge of all matters pertaining to...air machines..." Military aviation was made a combatant arm of the Army in 1920. The National Security Act of 1947 created the United States Air Force.



1775

Merchant Marines

Founding: June 12, 1775

www.usmm.org

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: Kings Point, NY

Mission

To deliver needed military supplies to our armed forces and allies.

Vessels owned by U.S. companies comprise the fleet. The Merchant Marine Act of 1936 called on them to act as a naval and military auxiliary in times of war or national emergency.

U.S. Military Ranks

This table shows military ranks in the four largest U.S. services. On the previous pages, you may see summary information on all six of our military services—in order of official recognition.

Army	Air Force	Navy	Marines
Private	Airman Basic	Seaman/ Recruit	Private
Private 2 nd Class	Airman	Seaman Apprentice	Private First Class
Private 1 st Class	Airman First Class	Seaman	Lance Corporal
Specialist			
Corporal	Senior Airman or Sergeant	Petty Officer Third Class	Corporal
Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Petty Officer Second Class	Sergeant
Staff Sergeant	Technical Sergeant	Petty Officer First Class	Staff Sergeant
Sergeant First Class	Master Sergeant	Chief Petty Officer	Gunnery Sergeant
Master Sergeant	Senior Master Sergeant	Senior Chief Petty Officer	Master Sergeant
First Sergeant	First Sergeant		First Sergeant
Sergeant Major	Chief Master Sergeant	Master Chief Petty Officer	Master Gunnery Sergeant
Command Sergeant Major	Command Chief		Sergeant Major
Sergeant Major of the Army	Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force	Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy	Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

Army	Air Force	Navy	Marines
Warrant Officer One			Warrant Officer One
Chief Warrant Officer Two		Chief Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer Two
Chief Warrant Officer Three		Chief Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer Three
Chief Warrant Officer Four		Chief Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer Four
Master Warrant Officer Five			Warrant Officer Five
Second Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant	Ensign	Second Lieutenant
First Lieutenant	First Lieutenant	Lieutenant Junior Grade	First Lieutenant
Captain	Captain	Lieutenant	Captain
Major	Major	Lieutenant Commander	Major
Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Commander	Lieutenant Colonel
Colonel	Colonel	Captain	Colonel
Brigadier General	Brigadier General	Rear Admiral	Brigadier General
Major General	Major General		Major General
Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral	Lieutenant General
General	General	Admiral	General
General of the Army		Admiral of the Fleet	

Alabama Medal of Honor Heroes



The *Medal of Honor* is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force, which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, typically presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress.

Name/Home Town	War/Year/Place	Rank/Service/Unit
Richard Taylor/ Madison County	Civil War/1864/ Cedar Creek, VA	Private/Army/Company E. 18 th Indiana Infantry
Edward J. Houghton/ Mobile	Civil War/1864/ NC	Ordinary Seaman/Navy/ U.S.S. ChioPee
Richard P. Hobson/ Greensboro	Spanish- American War/ 1898/Cuba	Lieutenant/Navy/ U.S.S. Merrimac
Gordon Johnston/ Birmingham	Philippines/ 1906/ Jolo, P.I.	1 st Lt./Army/Signal Corps
Osmond K. Ingram/ Pratt City	WW I/1917/ Atlantic Ocean	Gunner Mate 1 st Class/Navy/ DD-43 U.S.S. Cassin
Sidney E. Manning/ Flomaton	WW I/1918/ France	Corporal/Army/Co. G, 167 Infantry, 42 nd (Rainbow) Div.
Charles W. Davis/ Gordo	WW II/1943/ Guadalcanal	Captain/Army/25 th Infantry Division
Howard W. Gilmore/ Selma	WW II/1943/ Pacific	Commander/Navy/SS-215, U.S.S. Growler
William R. Lawley, Jr./Leeds	WW II/1944/ Europe	1 st Lieutenant/Army/8 th Air Force
George Watson/ Birmingham	WW II/1944/ New Guinea	Private/Army/2 nd Bn., 29 th Quartermaster Regiment
David McCampbell/ Bessemer	WW II/1944/ Philippines	Commander/Navy/Aviation Air Group Fifteen USS Essex
John D. New/ Mobile	WW II/1944/ Peleliu	PFC/Marines/2 nd Battalion, 7 th Marines, 1 st Marine Div.
Cecil H. Bolton/ Huntsville	WW II/1944/ Holland	1 st Lt./Army/413 Infantry Regiment, 104 th Inf. Div.
Jake W. Lindsey Sr./ Isney	WW II/1944/ Germany	Tech. Sgt./Army/ 16 th Infantry Regt., 1 st Inf. Div.

Charles L. Thomas/ Birmingham	WW II/1944/ France	1 st Lt./Army/Co. C., 614 th Tank Destroyer Bn., 103 ID
Paul L. Bolden/ Hobbes Island	WW II/1944/ Belgium	Staff Sergeant/Army/ Co. I, 120 th Infantry, 30 th Inf. Div.
Ross F. Gray/ Marvel Valley	WW II/1945/ Iwo Jima	Sgt/Marines/Co. A, 1 st Bn. 25 th Marines, 4 th Marine Div.
Wilson D. Watson/ Tuscumbia	WW II/1945/ Iwo Jima	Private/Marines/2 nd Bn. 9 th Marines, 3 rd Marine Div.
Jack Treadwell/ Ashland	WW II/1945/ Germany	1 st Lieutenant/Army/180 th Infantry Regt., 45 th Inf. Div.
Henry E. Erwin/ Adamsville/Leeds	WW II/1945/ Japan	Staff Sgt./Army/52 nd Bomb Squadron, 29 th BG 20 th AF
Harold E. Wilson/ Birmingham	Korean/1951/ Korea	Tech Sgt./ Marines/Co. G, 3 rd Bn., 1 st Marines, 1 st Mar. Div.
Alford L. McLaughlin/Leeds	Korean/1952/ Korea	PFC/Marines/Company I, 3 rd Bn., 5 th Marines, 1 st Mar. Div.
Ola L. Mize/ Albertville	Korean/1953/ Korea	Sergeant/Army/Co. K, 15 th Infantry, 3 rd Inf. Div.
Matthew Leonard/ Eutaw	Vietnam/1967/ South Vietnam	Sergeant/Army/Company B, 1 st Bn. 16 th Infantry
Don L. Michael/ Florence	Vietnam/1967/ South Vietnam	Specialist Four/Army/Co. C, 4 th Bn. 503 rd Infantry, 173 rd Airborne Brigade
James M. Sprayberry/ Montgomery	Vietnam/1968/ South Vietnam	1 st Lt./Army/Company D, 5 th Bn. 7 th Cavalry, 1 st Cavalry Div. (Airmobile)
William W. Seay/ Brewton	Vietnam/1968/ South Vietnam	Sergeant/Army/62d Transportation Co., 7 th Transportation Bn., 48 th TG
Robert L. Howard/ Opelika	Vietnam/1968/ South Vietnam	SFC/Army/5 th Special Forces Group (AB), 1 st Special Forces
Rodney J. Evans/ Montgomery	Vietnam/1969/ South Vietnam	Sergeant/Army/Co. D, 1 st Bn., 12 th Cav., 1 st Cav. Div.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society maintains the official Roll of Honor, crediting the state where the recipient entered military service (enlisted). Our table adapts research in the *Men of Men: Medal of Honor Recipients with Ties to Alabama*, Marga Griffin-Jones and John O'Malley, www.menofmenbook.com. Of 29 recipients, 25 were born in Alabama and four enlisted here. We listed the home town of enlistment or the adopted home town.

Glossary

Ability: the quality of being able to do something, especially the physical, mental, emotional, professional, financial, or legal power to accomplish something; a natural or acquired skill or talent.

Accountability: called to account; answerable.

Action: doing something, moving, affecting, influencing; deed, behavior, accomplishment, and performance.

Active Component: name of the portion of the military that makes up the full-time officers and enlisted personnel.

Affirmation: asserting as true; positive declaration; confirmation. Statements in a personal vision that describe and reinforce ideas representing the life one wishes to live.

Air Force: primary air and space component of U.S. military forces.

Army: largest land component of the U.S. military forces.

Arrugah: Navy motivational call. See “Hooah” for Army and Marine motivational call.

Battalion: 500-1000 personnel led by a Lieutenant Colonel.

Belief: an acceptance of something as true; an opinion, expectation, judgment; creed.

Best-self: planning and leading your life as a good steward fulfilling your callings, gifts, and talents. [authors]

Cadet: person in training to become an officer in the armed forces.

Cadre: military faculty.

Caisson: horse drawn carrier formerly used to carry ammunition; in military funerals, used to carry the casket of fallen service members.

Calling: what we discern as our highest purposes; divine summons; vocation; profession; trade; occupation.

Caparisoned horse: riderless horse used in full military funerals, including for the President of the United States.

Cap Walker: soldier from “The Old Guard” responsible for the riderless horse.

Champion: has attributes of a winner; an ardent defender or supporter of a cause or another person.

Character: moral or ethical strength; keeping promises; doing what you say you will; displaying an attitude of commitment, courage, and confidence even after initial inspiration has waned. Life Leaders Institute uses character as essentially synonymous with attitude, an expanded view from traditional thinking.

Choices: responses to our callings; what we decide are our priorities; decisions we make.

Coast Guard: the largest maritime service of the U.S.

Colonel: military rank preceding ranks of general or admiral. [The abbreviation is COL even though we use Col.]

Commander-in-Chief: an officer exercising supreme military or naval authority; an officer in command of all armed forces in a theatre of operations; as the president is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the United States.

Commissioned Officer: charged by law to lead enlisted personnel; they command, establish policy, manage resources, deal with units of varied sizes and concentrate on unit effectiveness and readiness.

Commitment: the act of pledging or engaging oneself.

Company: 150-250 personnel led by a captain.

Courage: the attitude or response of facing and dealing with anything recognized as dangerous, difficult, or painful, instead of withdrawing from it; spirit; desire; bravery; boldness; resolution; heroism, gallantry.

Creed: a statement of belief[s], principles, or opinions.

Creed (Organizational): a statement of beliefs, principles, philosophies, affirmations, or desired behaviors that steer the decisions and actions of the group.

Creed (Personal): a collection of favorite statements of beliefs, principles, and affirmations that help define how a person desires to live; when read regularly, these statements condition the mind to seek fulfillment.

Division: 10,000-20,000 personnel led by a major general.

Emotion: strong feeling; excitement with psychic and physical manifestations.

Empathy: projection of one's own personality into the personality of another in order to understand him better; intellectual identification of oneself with another.

Empower: to give power or authority to; to give ability to; to enable.

Encourage: to inspire with courage, spirit, or strength of mind.

Enlisted Personnel: anyone in the armed forces who is not a commissioned or warrant officer.

Ethos: fundamental values, habits, customs peculiar to a specific people, as in the soldiers' "warrior ethos."

Excellence: possessing good qualities in an unusual degree; highly laudable, meritorious, or virtuous in persons, or valuable and esteemed in things.

Faith: unquestioning belief; trust; confidence; conviction.

First-responders: members of emergency communications centers (ECCs); emergency medical services (EMS); fire and rescue; hazardous materials team (HazMat); law enforcement agencies; bomb squads; SWAT; hospitals; public health; risk management; security; emergency and disaster management; transportation and public works; gas, water and electric companies, the American Red Cross, and other agencies and professionals who respond to attacks and other emergencies.

Freedom: able to choose action freely; liberty; independence.

General, one-star: Brigadier General.

General, two-star: Major General.

General, three-star: Lieutenant General.

General, four-star: General.

General, five-star: General of the Army.

Glory: great honor and admiration won by doing something important; splendor; satisfaction.

Homeland Defense: enhancing the preparedness, protection, and response capabilities of local, state, and federal agencies.

Honor: esteem due or paid to worth; a sense of what is right, just, and true; gesture of respect or distinction; earned achievement; code of integrity.

Hooah: Army and Marine jargon that has evolved to have several meanings, but generally it is an all purpose expression for being “gung-ho” and being held to a standard; a motivational call. [actor Al Pacino rode the expression to an Oscar in the movie, “Scent of a Woman.”]

Inspiration: inspiring influence; stimulus to creative thought or action; a prompting of something written or said; in theology, a divine influence resulting in writing or action.

Inspire: to “breathe life” into another; to fill with emotion.

Leadership: Fulfilling our callings and choices as our best-selves; serving, helping, and leading others to live as their best-selves with character, competence, and wisdom to understand and perseverance to fulfill the greater good. [Life Leaders Institute]

Legacy: something handed down; a gift, a tradition.

Lesson: an experience, example, or observation that imparts beneficial knowledge or wisdom and leads to action.

Liberty: freedom from control.

Love: a strong affection for or attachment or devotion to a person or persons; a strong liking for or interest in something.

Marines: U.S. military service for amphibious operations and prepared to conduct such land operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign.

Meaning: has significance; having purpose; understood by acts or language.

Memorial: something, such as a monument or holiday, intended to celebrate or honor the memory of a person or an event.

Merchant Marines: U.S. maritime service making sure that troops and supplies are delivered by sea.

Military: members of the armed forces.

Mission: the special task or purpose for which a person is destined in life; calling; in the military, purpose of an operation.

Morale: mental condition regarding courage, zeal, confidence, discipline, enthusiasm, and endurance.

Motivate: to furnish with a motive; to give impetus to; to impel.

National Guard: that part of the militia consisting of the trained forces of the individual states supported in part by the federal government; it becomes a component of the U.S. Armed Forces when called into active federal service.

Navy: U.S. military organization for sea warfare and defense, including vessels, personnel, and shore establishments.

Noble: showing high moral qualities or ideals.

Noncommissioned Officer (NCO): senior enlisted person charged with the care and training of enlisted personnel under their charge, ensuring that their personnel are prepared to function as an effective unit.

Officer: a person appointed to a position of authority in the armed forces, especially one holding a warrant or commission.

Officership: practice of being a commissioned leader swearing an oath of loyalty and service to the constitution.

Passion: compelling emotion; intense emotional drive or excitement.

Patriot: devoted to the welfare of one's country.

Patriot/True Patriot/Patriot in Action: a patriot who transcends the emotion of flag and country and is also dedicated to preparation and action as a true professional in times of war and peace.

Patriotism: love and loyal support of one's country.

Peace: living in harmony; undisturbed state of mind; absence of mental conflict; serenity.

Platoon: unit of 25-50 personnel led by a lieutenant.

Preface: a preliminary statement introducing a book that explains its scope, intention, or background by the author.

Professionalism: professional status, methods, character, or standards.

Professional: engaged in a specified occupation for pay or as a means of livelihood; having much experience and great skill in a specified role; to work, learn, and train to serve while earning a living and enjoying a career; the general public seems to add the label “professional” to someone who has chosen a profession and has experience; we advocate a higher-level expectation for the “true professional.”

Professional/True Professional: a person who seeks mastery and *earned empowerment through trust in character and competence*, preparing and persisting to develop fitness and habits to do “the harder right” well, instinctively—*even under stress*. [authors]

Professional/Master Professional: a professional who knows and does the right things instinctively, with excellence. Like an Olympic athlete, the master professional develops fitness, capabilities, and instincts through preparation and practice over time until excellence comes naturally. [authors]

Rank: in the U.S. military, the comparative station or position from lowest (Private, Airman Basic, or Seaman/Recruit...) to highest (General of the Army or Fleet Admiral). [See table of U.S. Military Ranks.]

Remembrance: something serving to celebrate or honor the memory of a person or event; a memorial; a greeting or token expressive of affection.

Ritual: a higher level habit with added meaning performed regularly so as to reinforce a desired end, as in a family tradition or desired habits to fulfill a resolution; a set form or system as in ceremonies.

ROTC: Reserve Officer Training Corps in colleges and universities.

Root: a primary source; an origin; an essential part or element; the basic core. The condition of being settled and of belonging to a particular place or society.

Roots: state of having or establishing an indigenous relationship with or a personal affinity for a particular culture, society, or environment.

SEAL: acronym for Sea, Air, And Land; the Navy's combination of frogman/paratrooper/commando.

Sentry/Sentinel: one who keeps guard, such as those who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Significance: transcending success to seek higher level values like stewardship and spirituality.

Soldier: one engaged in military service, specifically in an army.

Solace: Comfort in time of grief; alleviation of grief or anxiety; that which relieves distress; that which cheers or consoles; a source of relief.

Special Forces: special operations units assigned multifaceted missions, including counter-terrorism, direct action, strategic reconnaissance, psychological warfare, civil affairs, and training military and para-military in counter-insurgency operations.

Spiritual: spirit or soul, distinguished from the body; often thought of as the higher or better part of the mind; showing refinement of thought and feeling; sacred. Pray, study, worship, give and serve God to understand and fulfill your highest callings and gain higher level peace and fulfillment.

Stakeholder: one who has a share or an interest, as in owners, team members, suppliers, and family members.

Symbol: something that stands for or represents another thing, such as the U.S. flag representing the country and its values and beliefs.

The Wall: Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, DC.

Theatre: a place where events take place; scene of operations, as in the Pacific Theatre in World War II.

Trust: reliance on integrity, friendship, or another principle of another person or thing.

Venerate: to treat someone or something with deep respect, reverence or deference; to revere.

Veteran: a person who has served in the armed forces.

Victory: success in any contest or struggle involving the defeat of an opponent or the overcoming of obstacles; triumph.

Warrant Officer: a grouping of officers who hold rank by virtue of a warrant, frequently part of special purpose units and task-oriented operational elements.

Warrior Ethos: professional attributes and beliefs that characterize a noble soldier—refusal to accept failure, tight fabric of loyalty to other soldiers, leader accountability, will to win battles while living up to military values.

Will: strong purpose, intention, or determination (as “where there’s a will there’s a way”); energy or enthusiasm; power of self-direction; personal leadership, true professionalism, true patriotism.

Sources: *Webster’s New Twentieth Century Dictionary*, www.Dictionary.com, and *Dyson Dictionary of Positive Words to Plan and Lead Your Life*. When a word has multiple meanings, we use a definition applied to context used in this book.

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American Village

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Bob and Nancy Barefield

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Department of Defense

Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center

David Dyson

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Karie Mitchell

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Tonya Rodrigue

Ginger Ryals

Mark Ryan

Stretch Dunn

The Birmingham News

Ted Tucker

Bill Voigt

Raymond Weeks Family

Ron Williams

Other photos came from National Veterans Day Birmingham, Patriotism In Action, and the U.S. Military.

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-David-

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My mom for editorial suggestions as she did for her husband, my dad, for his books during their 63 years of marriage.



And in honor and memory of the men with whom I served in Vietnam, Delta Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, 1968.

-Stretch-

Life Leaders



Programs, Publications, Projects

1. Plan for School & Life
 - Plan for Life Seminars and Workshops
 - Speaking for Events
 - Plan for Life Pages
 - Training and Resources for Teachers, Students, Parents
2. Personal Leadership and Professional Development
 - *Personal Leadership* best practices and seminars
 - *Professionalism Under Stress* book and seminars
3. Patriotism in Action
 - *Patriotism in Action* book
 - *Personal Leadership for Patriots*
 - *Patriotism In Action Tribute to the Founder of Veterans Day*
 - *America's Veterans Day Founding in Education Project*
 - *Support of events state-wide*

Life Leaders Association

Freedom to Flourish / Freedom Lives / Freedom City

Veterans Making Comebacks

Action and Benefit

1. Join our e-list to receive announcements and invitations.
2. Join Life Leaders to develop your plan and yourself.
3. Join our sponsors to advance our mission.

Mission

To help people and organizations
PLAN and LEAD in LIFE
to flourish at our callings.

Core Contributions

Best-Self Leadership Training, Education, and Public Service

Core Values

Improvement – Inspiration - Integrity

Vision

1. People write *plans for life* for self, family, teams, and organizations to inspire and guide us to fulfill our callings, plus communicate to create shared vision with others.
2. Students and adult citizens learn and use *best-self leadership* practices to “be, know, and do” as our best-selves in the 7 *Areas of Life*.
3. We serve and impact city, state, then nation so leaders set goals and provide programs at school and work for educating the next generation with plans, best-self leadership, and values like *courage, perseverance, patriotism, freedom, trust, honor, and leadership*.

Beliefs

1. People can continually improve and empower themselves if encouraged, educated, and enlightened with principles and practices that help them lead significant lives as their *best-selves*.
2. Leaders must provide systems that reward individual planning, development, and action toward mission, values, and goals aimed so people focus more on doing the right habits automatically.
3. If we the people improve ourselves and systems that support common denominators of personal and organizational excellence, we can love and serve others more meaningfully, thus improving our world.

www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org

Dr. David Dyson

David attended schools in the Birmingham Area and earned the Bachelor's Degree in Business at Auburn University, Masters in Management at Birmingham-Southern College, and the Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. He completed the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University and the College Management Program at Carnegie-Mellon University.

After college at Auburn, he served the national staff of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity as an education and leadership consultant to students and alumni, then national director of chapter development. For Birmingham-Southern College, he served as associate vice president, director of alumni affairs, and adjunct professor. After doctoral studies at Vanderbilt, he started a private practice as coach, lecturer, and consultant, plus founded the Personal Leadership Association (expanded to Life Leaders).

Awards for service: *Alabama's 10 Outstanding Young Citizens, Outstanding Young Educator* and *Top 40 Under 40* in Birmingham; Auburn University's *10 Outstanding Senior Students; Outstanding Undergraduate Member* and *Outstanding Alumnus* of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at Auburn; honor graduate (4.0) in the BSC Masters in Management; #1 in the Region and #7 National First-year student businessman, plus *The Diamond Award* in The Varsity Company of Thomas Nelson Publishers (college student); *Johnny Johnson Loyalty Award*, Life Leaders trustees.

David is the son of Eb and Joan Dyson, brother to Pam Bryant (Steve) and Patty Thompson, "Uncle Dave" to Lea and Bradley, Noah and Laura, John and Lauren, Joshua, and Hannah; horseman for American Patriot and Indian Legend, plus other animals needing a home. Life mission: *To live a spiritual journey—faithfully, love and serve others—meaningfully, and do my best—joyously.* Professional mission: *To help people and organizations PLAN and LEAD in LIFE.*

Col. “Stretch” Dunn

C.H. “Stretch” Dunn, Jr. (USA Ret), 1943-2017, was a 1966 honor graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, a distinguished graduate of the Command and General Staff College, an Army War College Fellow, and a professional engineer.

Col. Dunn served in three infantry divisions, earned the Expert Infantryman Badge and four awards for bravery, including the Silver Star in Vietnam. He co-invented the Dunn-Kempf war game used to teach a generation of small unit leaders war fighting techniques. Later, he headed a 1,000-soldier combat unit and a 3,000-person engineering and construction management organization with 40 field offices in the Southeast United States and in Latin America.

Following retirement after 26 years in America’s Army, Stretch served 11 years in corporate America with BE&K (now KBR), an international engineering and construction company based in Birmingham. After his second retirement, he served Life Leaders Institute as president to advise, write, and teach on leadership and ethics. His corporate and university seminars included *Professionalism Under Stress*, *Be the CEO of Your Life*, and *How to Make the Senior Leadership Leap*.

Stretch served on the board for his West Point class and several organizations in the Birmingham Area, including the Norton Board at Birmingham-Southern College and Life Leaders Institute. He was honored with the Johnny Johnson Loyalty Award for long-term volunteerism through Life Leaders as trustee, officer, and teacher. He enjoyed singing in the choir of Bluff Park United Methodist Church and at weddings and patriotic events.

Stretch lived in the Birmingham Area with his wife, Joan, and cat, Jasmine. He has two children, Steve and Cheryl, and five grandchildren. His personal mission: *To live a balanced life as an obedient servant leader.*



Great Seal of the United States of America

And this be our motto:

In God is our trust.

*And the star-spangled banner forever shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

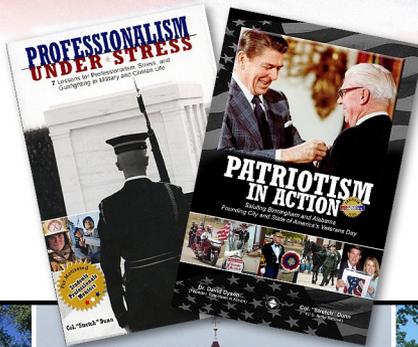
--"The Star Spangled Banner"--
The National Anthem of the United States



Stretch Dunn

David Dyson

Offer a guide for patriotic holidays, call to action ideas for how civilian and military professionals can enrich their contributions in peace and war, and moving examples of rituals and traditions that express appreciation for the service of fallen patriots.



Leave A Legacy