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Julia Gaines Washington Times

He changed a holiday

President Reagan shakes hands with Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Ala., yesterday after presenting him with the Presidential Citizens Medal at the White House. Weeks, a past state American Legion commander, was instrumental in having the celebration of Armistice Day, Nov. 11, commemorating the end of World War I, changed to Veterans Day, a holiday honoring American veterans of all wars. He first changed the name in Birmingham in 1947 and seven years later Congress made the change nationwide.

(Parvin/BE)
November 9, 1982
11:00 a.m.

CITATION: PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENS MEDAL FOR RAYMOND WEEKS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1982

As the "father" of Veterans Day, Raymond Weeks has given the Nation a proud tradition that will last for generations to come -- the tradition of setting aside a day to honor those who served their country in the Armed Forces. It is fitting that we honor Raymond Weeks on this day. For more than 50 years, he has exemplified the ideals of American voluntarism through his lifelong service to veterans activities. All those who have worn our Nation's uniform return a crisp salute of respect and appreciation to Raymond Weeks.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 11, 1982

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE

The East Room

10:01 A.M. EST

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 volunteerism 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. Now -- Mr. Weeks --

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

MR. WEEKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you -- (applause).

THE PRESIDENT: Ray, thank you so very much. Please --

MR. WEEKS: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: -- sit down over 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 Viet Nam 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 Viet Nam 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 Viet Nam today, massive

MORE

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 eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year in 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 one 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

MORE

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 until 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 are now in the initial phases of that rebuilding, and we must continue to press forward in the years to come if we are 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.

Earlier today we received word of the death of Soviet President Brezhnev. And I want to read to you, if I might, the letter that I have sent this morning to Vasiliy Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium in Moscow. "Please accept my condolences on the death of President Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev. President Brezhnev was one of the world's most important figures for nearly two decades. May I ask you to convey our sympathies to the President's family.

"I would also like to convey through you to the Soviet government and people the strong desire of the United States to work toward an improved relationship with the Soviet Union. I look forward to conducting relations with the new leadership in the Soviet Union with the aim of expanding the areas where our nations can cooperate to mutual advantage."

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.

Now, 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. (Applause.)

END

10:12 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 2, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL DEEVER

FROM: ARAM BAKSHIAN 

SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal for Raymond Weeks

On the recommendation of Secretary Weinberger and others, I concur with the presentation of the Presidential Citizens Medal for Raymond Weeks. Once the event is scheduled and the speechwriting office is informed, we will prepare his citation and appropriate remarks.

REFERRAL

DATE: 16 AUG 82

MEMORANDUM FOR: ARAM BAKSHIAN

RM 100, OEOB

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: WEINBERGER, C

DATE: 10 AUG 82

KEYWORDS: DEFENSE

AWARDS

WEEKS, RAYMOND


CM

SUBJ: NOMINATION OF WEEKS FOR PRES CITIZENS MEDAL

REQUIRED ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS:


FOR MICHAEL O WHEELER

STAFF SECRETARY

5711



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

82 / 11 P2 58

10 AUG 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Nomination of Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential
Citizens Medal

It is a pleasure to forward the attached nomination of Mr. Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama, for the Presidential Citizens Medal.

The many activities of Mr. Weeks in support of our Armed Forces and our Nation's veterans, foremost among them his leading role in the establishment of Veterans Day as a national observance, clearly warrant special recognition.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Joseph W. Kitting", is located in the lower right portion of the document.



Nomination For The Presidential Citizens Medal

NOMINEE:

Mr. Raymond Weeks

Director of National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama

This nomination was first submitted in 1981 and approved by both the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Defense. We have been advised informally that it was not approved by the White House since it had been submitted too late to permit processing of the award by the proposed presentation date - 11 November 1981. The same nomination is forwarded at this time without a proposed award presentation date. It has been reviewed and the facts therein are still pertinent. Mr. Weeks is currently organizing the 36th Annual National Veterans Day in Birmingham.

AFKA-RR-DCG (2 October 1981) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal


Headquarters, United States Army Readiness and Mobilization Region IV,
Fort Gillem, Forest Park, Georgia 30050 16 OCT 1981

THRU: Commander, First United States Army, ATTN: AFKA-CG, Fort Meade,
Maryland 20755

TO: HQDA (DAPE-CPL), Washington, DC 20310

It is indeed a pleasure to forward the nomination of Mr. Raymond Weeks for award of the Presidential Citizens Medal. His actions over the past 55 years have greatly benefitted his fellowman and served to establish organizations and traditions that will endure for generations to come, providing great benefit to our nation. Mr. Weeks is richly deserving of such high recognition.

14 Incl
nc

For 
ARTHUR E. BROWN, JR.
Major General, USA
Commanding

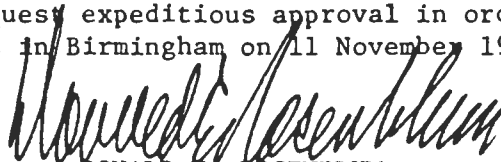
AFKA-CG (2 October 1981) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal

HQ FIRST US ARMY, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755 22 October 1981

TO: HQDA (DAPE-CPL), Washington, D. C. 20310

Strongly recommend approval of the nomination of Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential Citizens Medal. Mr. Weeks is without equal in his contributions to the military service and the Nation. He is absolutely deserving of this award. Request expeditious approval in order that award may be presented to Mr. Weeks in Birmingham on 11 November 1981.



DONALD E. ROSENBLUM

Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

14 Incl
nc



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 121ST UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
3620 8TH AVENUE SOUTH
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35222

AFKA-ACH-CG

2 October 1981

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal

Major General Arthur E. Brown, Jr.
Commander
US Army Readiness and Mobilization Region IV
Fort Gillem, GA 30050

1. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential Citizens Medal under the provisions of Para 10-2, AR 672-20. I have known Mr. Weeks for over 30 years, and feel that he has done more than any other to support the Armed Forces of this country and to recognize veterans who have served their country so faithfully. Mr. Weeks is involved in basically every activity in this area that supports the Armed Forces, and I would like to specifically cite three extremely significant activities that he has taken the lead in establishing and carrying through in a highly successful manner.

a. Mr. Weeks was the driving force that established soon after World War II the day to honor all veterans of all wars in which the United States has been engaged, and was instrumental in getting Armistice Day changed to Veterans Day by the Congress of the United States in 1954. Mr. Weeks has been Chairman of the Veterans Day Activities in Birmingham since its inception in 1947, and I feel that this observance of Veterans Day in Birmingham has created patriotism within this area that equals or exceeds any area in the United States. I am attaching as inclosure 1 a history of National Veterans Day which will provide additional details concerning Mr. Weeks' outstanding accomplishments in this area.

b. Upon initiation of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Mr. Weeks was one of the first individuals to become involved in this activity within the state of Alabama, and is now serving as the State Chairman. He has provided a very vital service to the Guard and Reserve by encouraging employers to sign agreements pledging support to the Guard/Reserve.


c. In 1973, Mr. Weeks developed a plan to recognize outstanding enlisted representatives from each major Active, Reserve and National Guard command of all services in Alabama. The plan was presented to the governor and was approved, and Mr. Weeks was designated as the Governor's Representative to implement the program. The governor presented the first awards to the

2 October 1981

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal

outstanding enlisted personnel during Armed Forces Week in 1974, which has been an ongoing activity since that date, and Mr. Weeks continues to serve as the Governor's Representative in dealing with the major commands throughout this area. This program has given significant recognition to the enlisted personnel, and has proven to be a very effective program within the state.

2. I am attaching several letters from military leaders who have knowledge of Mr. Weeks' contributions, and also the mayor of the City of Birmingham and the governor of the State of Alabama, attesting to the actions of Mr. Weeks. I feel that they speak for themselves and fully support this recommendation for the Presidential Citizens Medal which, upon approval, would be presented during National Veterans Day Activities in Birmingham, Alabama in November 1982.



STANFORD J. SKINNER
Major General, USAR
Commanding

14 Incl

1. Hist of Natl Vet Day
2. Ltr GEN Shoemaker 18 Sep 81
3. Ltr MG Berkman 20 Aug 81
4. Ltr MG Merrill 10 Sep 81
5. Ltr LTG Weber 28 Sep 81
6. Ltr MG Cobb 19 Aug 81
7. Ltr MG Mickle 12 Sep 81
8. Ltr BG Logan 1 Sep 81
9. Ltr MG Megarr 18 Aug 81
10. Ltr RADM Stewart 17 Aug 81
11. Ltr Gov James 18 Aug 81
12. Ltr Mayor Arrington 19 Aug 81
13. Bio Mr. Weeks
14. Proposed Citation

HISTORY OF NATIONAL VETERANS DAY

1 July 1981

Following the end of the Second World War, an energetic, patriotic citizen of Birmingham, Alabama, conceived the idea of establishing a day to honor the veterans of all wars in which the United States has been engaged, since, until that time, Armistice Day on November 11th recognized only the veterans of World War I. The man was Honorable Raymond Weeks, who is still the Director of the Birmingham National Veterans Day program.

Armed with a persuasive argument to support his plan, Mr Weeks headed a small delegation to Washington, D. C., to present that plan for a "National Veterans Day" to General Dwight D. Eisenhower, then Chief of Staff Army. With a favorable reception to the concept from General Eisenhower, plans were made to adopt the name of "Veterans Day" in the Birmingham celebration of Armistice Day on November 11, 1947, seven years before the Congress voted to change Armistice Day. During the seven year interim, the Birmingham Committee worked closely with members of Congress and governmental and military leaders to effect the change in name and in 1954, this effort culminated in the official recognition of Veterans Day on November 11th. With the interest and support of the "National Veterans Day" concept by highly placed government and military leaders, the program was destined for success from the very beginning. Birmingham, the birthplace of Veterans Day, has presented an outstanding program of commemoration for thirty-four consecutive years and has become the focal point of the annual observance in the United States.

The Birmingham program is a model upon which cities throughout the Nation regularly seek to plan and organize their local programs through the advice and counsel of the Birmingham National Veterans Day Committee, and this year, 1981, will mark the 35th Annual observance of Veterans Day in Birmingham.

On the first official observance of National Veterans Day in 1954, a National Veterans Award was established for presentation each year to a United States citizen who had distinguished himself as a veteran. 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 first National Veterans Award was presented to the Honorable Edwin H. Rees in recognition of his outstanding contribution by sponsoring the bill which created Veterans Day. Subsequent awards have been presented to Honorable Harvey V. Higley for outstanding service to veterans as Administrator of Veterans Affairs; General Mark Clark for humanitarian efforts in many fields to his country; General Lucius D. Clay for outstanding administrative and counseling services to his nation in times of emergency; in 1958, the award was presented jointly to the young Governors-elect of South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, who were the Honorable E. F. Hollings, Ernest Vandiver and John Patterson, for distinguished service to their states and nation; in 1959, for unselfish services to the needy in time of disaster, General Alfred M. Gruenther, as National President of the American Red Cross; in 1960, Honorable Sumner G. Whittier for distinguished service to veterans as Administrator of Veterans Affairs; in 1961, General James A. Van Fleet for extraordinary service to his country; in 1962, Honorable John S. Gleason, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, for outstanding administrative leadership in veterans affairs; General Matthew B. Ridgeway was honored in 1963 for his outstanding continuous service to his country in retirement; in 1964, General J. Lawton Collins was cited for humanitarian service to European refugees; in 1965, the award was presented to General David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Board, Radio Corporation of America, for his work in the field of

communications; in 1966, the award was presented to General Paul D. Adams (Retired), former Commander, United States Strike Command, who was honored for his outstanding service to his country; in 1967, the award was presented to Donald M. Kendall, Chief Executive Officer for Pepsi Company, Incorporated, New York. Mr Kendall was cited for his fight in the protection of our free enterprise system; in 1968, the award was presented to General Lauris Norstad, former NATO Commander and at the present, Chief Executive Officer for Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation, Toledo, Ohio. General Norstad was cited for his continuing efforts to solidify Europe against the threat of communism; in 1969, the award was presented to Colonel Roscoe Turner, Indianapolis, Indiana, for his pioneering efforts in aviation; in 1970, the award was presented to General Omar N. Bradley for his continuing contribution as General of the Army to the defense of his country and freedom throughout the world, in 1971, the award was presented to the man who led the famous bomber raid on Tokyo in World War II, General James Doolittle, also a Medal of Honor holder; in 1972, the award was presented to Brigadier General James Stewart 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 A. 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 1974, the award was presented to Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for outstanding service to his country; in 1975, this distinguished award was presented to General Lewis B. Hershey (Retired), for sixty-two years of extraordinary service to his country; in 1976, Neil A. Armstrong was honored for his scientific feat of successfully landing on the moon; in 1977, General William C. Westmoreland was cited for his outstanding service to his country;

in 1978, Brigadier General Paul W. Tibbetts, Commander of the Enola Gay, was presented the award for having hastened the end of World War II; in 1979, the award was presented to Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, Former Chief of Naval Operations for his outstanding service to his country; and in 1980, General Louis H. Wilson was cited for his outstanding service as Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and as a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. The 1981 award will be presented on the evening of November 10th to Navy veteran of World War II, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., in recognition of his highly decorated heroic military service and continuing contributions in the field of motion pictures and entertainment of service members worldwide.

On the morning of National Veterans Day, there is a Memorial Service at 9:00 AM, which is held at the Church of the Advent, downtown. At 11:30 AM there is the World Peace Luncheon, at Boutwell Municipal Auditorium, which is followed by the National Veterans Day Parade at 2:00 PM. Rear Admiral Ross Henry Trower, Chief of Navy Chaplains will deliver the memorial address at the Memorial Services. Honorable John O. Marsh Jr., Secretary of the Army will be guest speaker for the World Peace Luncheon.

Sponsored by the combined veterans organization, National Veterans Day in Birmingham is a community effort financed each year by local business firms, most of which have supported the program since its beginning thirty-five years ago. The Disabled American Veterans are the primary hosts for the 1981 program. The Department of Defense has cooperated with the Birmingham committee in providing active military support for the Veterans Day program and in coordinating the support of Reserve Components of the United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard. By an official act of

Congress, which was passed in 1967, Veterans Day was switched to Monday to coincide with those holidays which are set to fall on Mondays. However, by legislative action in 1971, at the request of the combined veterans organizations in Alabama and the wishes of then Governor George Wallace, the Birmingham program was reestablished to be on November 11th.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
FORT MCPHERSON, GEORGIA 30330

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFCG


18 September 1981

SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal

HQDA (DAPE-CPL)
WASH DC 20310

1. I am pleased to add my indorsement to the recommendation for the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham and Father of Veterans Day. The success of Veterans Day can be attributed, in no small measure, to the active support, enthusiasm, personal interest, dedication to excellence, and sound professional contributions of Mr. Weeks.

2. In addition to founding America's National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has made many other unique and essential contributions to our military efforts. These range from military service during World War II to being an active member of such organizations as Association of the United States Army, Navy League, Air Force Association of the United States, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the United Services Organization. Such involvement and support of our military is, indeed, deserving of recognition.


R. M. SHOEMAKER
General, U. S. Army
Commanding



CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE
Room 3E390, The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

20 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPU)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I enthusiastically join in recommending that Mr. Raymond Weeks be recognized for his support to our Veterans, Armed Forces and national security by the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal. As "father" of the Birmingham Veterans Day and National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has made enduring contributions to our national awareness of the importance of service to country and national security. It is fitting and right that this deserving patriot and statesman be recognized by that award.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM R. BERKMAN
Major General, USA
Chief, Army Reserve



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
87TH USA MANEUVER AREA COMMAND
3851 VEONA DANIELS ROAD
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35244


AFKA-GCF-CG

10 September 1981

SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Branch
Hq DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

1. It is my pleasure to recommend the awarding of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Mr. Raymond Weeks. He is a most deserving citizen whose hobby of service to county, state and community sets the highest example for all to emulate.
2. Mr. Weeks is active in many local, state, and national civic activities. As the founder of National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has served continuously since 1947 in making this celebration a true honor for all American Veterans.
3. His tireless and selfless devotion to the improvement of the standard of life marks Mr. Raymond Weeks as a "Great American".



THOMAS L. MERRILL
Major General, USAR
Commanding



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

NCB-ZA

28 SEP 1981

Executive Secretary, Army Incentive Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I write this letter in support of the recommendation for the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal for Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama.

It has been my great honor and good fortune to have attended three National Veteran's Day in Birmingham. Each has been truly professional in every respect. It has been obvious that Mr. Raymond Weeks is the strength behind this outstanding event. He is certainly the Father of Veterans Day.

I must sincerely recommend that Mr. Raymond Weeks receive this signal honor.

Sincerely,

LA VERN E. WEBER
Lieutenant General, USA
Chief, National Guard Bureau

ALABAMA
STATE MILITARY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
P. O. BOX 3711
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36193

AL-ARPAD

19 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I am delighted to recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks for award of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

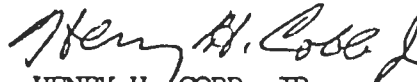
Raymond has done an outstanding job over all these many years in first getting established and subsequently perpetuating National Veterans Day. Raymond is a true patriot who has stood firmly for what he believes about this great country even in the late days of the Viet Nam era when serving your country and being a veteran of this conflict was not popular in some quarters.

Just as important to me and the Alabama National Guard has been his service as State Chairman of the National Committee for Guard/Reserve Employer Support Program. He has been of invaluable assistance in encouraging employers to sign agreements pledging to support the Guard/Reserve.

While Raymond served in the State Legislature, he was always willing to assist in sponsoring and supporting any legislation designed to assist the Armed Services in any way possible.

I know of no other citizen who has given more of himself to his community, State and Nation than Raymond nor who is more deserving of an award recognizing this service.

Sincerely,


HENRY H. COBB, JR.
Major General
The Adjutant General



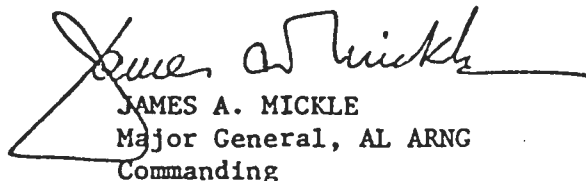
HEADQUARTERS 167th SUPPORT COMMAND (CORPS)
ALABAMA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
POST OFFICE BOX 10225
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35202

12 September 1981

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential Citizens Medal

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
ATTN: DAPE-CPL
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Under the provisions of paragraph 10-2, AR 672-20, I am pleased to recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential Citizens Medal.
2. Mr. Weeks is a selfless, energetic, patriot who for the past 35 years has devoted an enormous amount of effort to the enhancement of the military establishment in the United States. His total dedication and leadership in the development of the Annual National Veterans Day in Birmingham has been exceptionally effective in developing appropriate recognition of the Armed Services to the Civilian Community. The magnitude of his program is recognized throughout the United States as a model of displayed patriotism. Mr. Weeks enjoys the respect and admiration of both the military and civilian communities throughout the United States for his total personal commitment to the Armed Forces.
3. Mr. Raymond Weeks is the most deserving citizen for this appropriate recognition that I have known in my 37 years of service in the Armed Forces. I strongly recommend that every consideration be given to the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Mr. Weeks.


JAMES A. MICKLE
Major General, AL ARNG
Commanding



1 September 1981

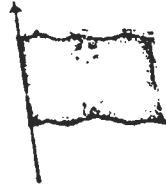
Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Hq, DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I understand Mr. Raymond Weeks has been nominated for the Presidential Citizens Medal. I wholeheartedly concur in this nomination. Mr. Weeks is known throughout the country as the father of Veterans Day. He was appointed Director, National Veterans Day in 1947; a position he still retains.

I have worked very closely with Mr. Weeks for many years and I am acutely aware of his superior performance and contributions to the National Veterans Program. Mr. Weeks' outstanding contributions should be recognized by the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Addison O. Logan
ADDISON O. LOGAN, Brig Gen, AL ANG
Commander, 117th Tac Recon Wing



COMMANDING GENERAL
4th MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF, USMCR
4400 DAUPHINE STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70146

18 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir,

I want to recommend that Mr. Raymond Weeks be given serious consideration for the Presidential Citizens Medal. His work as Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama has produced an event worthy of the tribute this country owes all its veterans.

Mr. Week's life has been dedicated to the service of his community and country. He is certainly worthy of recognition for his continuing efforts in the Veterans' Day program as well as other areas of civic activity.

I wholeheartedly give my endorsement on behalf of Mr. Weeks for this distinguished award.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Megarr
Major General, U. S. Marine Corps



COMMANDER, EIGHTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

17 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters DA (DAPE-CPL)
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C. 20310

RE: Recommendation for presentation of Presidential
Citizens Medal to Raymond Weeks

Ref: Army Regulations 672-20, Para. 10-2

Dear Sir:

I understand that Raymond Weeks, Director of the National Veterans' Day in Birmingham, has been recommended for the Presidential Citizens Medal to be awarded to him this year during the Veterans' Day celebration in Birmingham, Alabama. It is my pleasure to heartily endorse that recommendation.

Since 1947 when National Veterans' Day was initiated, Mr. Weeks has been primarily responsible for the development and growth of this annual event. His program has become a world-wide model for Veterans' Day and other similar types of celebrations.

His devotion to veterans and veterans' affairs has contributed to an increased recognition of the service that veterans have performed for their country and to an increased pride among veterans for the service they have performed.

I concur in the recommendation that Raymond Weeks' nearly 56 years of public service makes him highly deserving of the award. I join in and highly recommend that the Presidential Citizens Medal be awarded to Raymond Weeks for his distinguished and devoted service to his country.

Sincerely,


W. H. STEWART
Rear Admiral



STATE OF ALABAMA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

MONTGOMERY 36130

FOR JAMES
GOVERNOR

August 18, 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
(DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

The citizenry of Alabama is justifiably proud of leading the Nation in the annual observance of National Veterans Day in Birmingham.

Thirty-five consecutive years of magnificent programs are due solely to the masterful leadership of The Honorable Raymond Weeks. On behalf of all Alabamians, I highly recommend approval of the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal in recognition of this outstanding service to America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "For James", written in a cursive style.

FJ:dd



RICHARD ARRINGTON, JR.
MAYOR

City of Birmingham, Alabama

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 19, 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
(DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Sir:

Birmingham takes much pride in having such a superb citizen as Mr. Raymond Weeks. He applies himself wholeheartedly to any and all civic endeavors for the betterment of his home town, state and country. I sincerely encourage the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal for his more than fifty-five years of very distinguished service to his country.

Sincerely,

Richard Arrington, Jr.
Richard Arrington, Jr.
Mayor

RA/hk

RAYMOND WEEKS

Raymond Weeks was reared in Birmingham, Alabama and received his education from Bush School, Ensley High School, and Birmingham Southern College.

He has been active in the business, civic and cultural life in Alabama for the past 55 years. He has also been active in the field of health services in the state. He was a pioneer in the mental health program in organizing the State Mental Health Association. He served as a Director and officer for many years and he is recognized as an important contributing factor in the tremendous growth of mental health facilities in Alabama. In other health agencies he has served as Director in the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Social Hygiene Association of the US, The American Red Cross, The Community Chest, and The Polio Foundation. In 1934 he organized the first Infantile Paralysis fund campaign and served as its first Chairman of the "March of Dimes".

He was President of the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1940 and has served several terms as Director of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to entering military service in World War II, he assisted in organization of several successful War Bond Campaigns and was active in the USO, a Director on The State Rationing Board and the Manpower Board. He served during World War II from May 1943 to November 1945. After leaving the military service, he became active in Veterans affairs and has served on many national committees of the various veterans organizations. He served as State Commander of the American Legion in 1962-1963. He is credited with founding America's National Veterans Day, which honors American Veterans, living and dead, on November 11th annually in the United States.

He organized in the City of Birmingham in 1947, the first program honoring the veterans of all wars. November 11th was used and he called it Veterans Day even though the date was officially known as Armistice Day. In 1954, the Congress officially changed the name from Armistice Day to National Veterans Day.

He is a Democrat, and served twenty years as an elected member of the State Democratic Executive Committee. He was an elected State-at-Large delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1952 and as a District delegate in 1956 and 1960.

He is a Mason; Shriner, member of the Elks, Eagles, Aero Club, National Aeronautics Association, Civitan Club, Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce, Alabama Chamber of Commerce, Young Men's Business Club, Sales Executive Club, Traffic and Transportation Club, Social Hygiene Association of the US, Association of the United States Army, Navy League, Air Force Association of the United States, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, Birmingham Fraternal Order of Police, Monday Morning Quarterback Club, and the Touchdown Club of Washington. He is a past president of the General John C. Persons Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

He is a member of the Highlands Methodist Church, married to the former Jennie Dee Robinson, and has two daughters and seven grandchildren. He resides at 3420 Altamont Road in Birmingham.

He is a recipient of the Freedoms Foundations National George Washington Honor Medal for Distinguished Achievement of our American Way of Life, National Community Service Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion's Commendation Award, President's Citation from the Association of the US Army

for Distinguished Service, Honorary Membership in the US Junior Chamber of Commerce, and commendations from all branches of the Military Services. He is the recipient of the coveted 1965 Outstanding Civic Salesmanship Award from the City of Birmingham. On March 29, 1966, the United States Army presented him their highest award to civilians, The Outstanding Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. On July 16, 1966, The American Legion awarded him a life membership for Community Service to his Country. He has served as State Chairman of Armed Forces Day since its inception by Congress after World War II.

In the November 1966 General Election, he was elected a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, 14th District. In the legislature his permanent committee assignments were: Health; Business and Labor; Constitution and Elections; and, Local Legislation. He is listed in Who's Who in America in the South and Southeast, and Who's Who in American Politics.

On February 2, 1967, the Cyrene Commandery, Knights Templar, presented him with a Life Membership and in May, 1968, the Shrine presented him with a Life Membership in the Eye Foundation for charitable services. On March 18, 1969, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks presented him with a Life Membership. The primary objectives of the Elks in addition to charities is the promotion of Patriotism and Americanism. The Faith and Patriotism Society of America, on March 16, 1970 presented him with their highest award for championing the cherished values of our American Heritage of Constitutional Government, Responsible Individual Freedom and Faith in God.

On October 24, 1971 the Congressional Medal of Honor Society presented him a resolution for unselfish service to the Society. On November 4, 1976 he was presented the Department of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service

to his Country. In September, 1976 he was presented the National Americanism Award by the Forty et Eight Honor Society. On November 11, 1976 the combined veterans organizations founded three scholarships in his honor, one each at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Samford University and Birmingham Southern College. In August, 1978, he was named State Chairman of the Alabama Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

On January 11, 1979, he was presented Alabama's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal, for his outstanding praiseworthy accomplishments, over and above the call of duty, and for the outstanding contributions he has made to his State and Country.

CITATION: PRESIDENTIAL CITIZEN'S MEDAL

Mr. Weeks, a selfless, energetic statesman and patriot, has made enduring contributions to our national awareness of the importance of service to country and national security. As the "Father" of America's National Veterans Day, his dynamic leadership and tireless efforts have been responsible for raising the stature of the National Veterans Day of America. His dedicated and patriotic efforts have developed Veterans Day into a significant day on which the entire nation honors all Veterans of the United States of America. Mr. Weeks has further provided a unique and essential contribution to our military services by founding Alabama's Outstanding Enlisted Awards Program, presented annually by the Governor. His persistent efforts in establishing a successful Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program within his state is indicative of his devotion to his country. Mr. Weeks' dedicated service and outstanding achievements reflect great credit upon himself and the United States of America.

Enc1
#2

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

19 October 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQDA (DAPE-CPU)
Washington, D. C. 20310

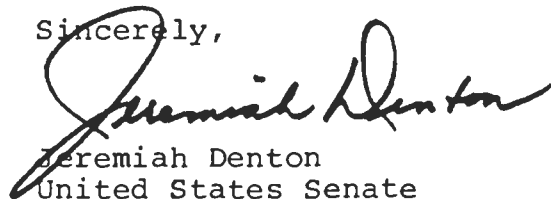
Dear Sir:

Please let me strongly recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama, for the award of the Presidential Citizen's Medal. Mr. Weeks is an outstanding citizen who has been active in business, civic, and cultural life in Alabama for many years.

One of Mr. Week's achievements is especially noteworthy. He was the driving force that established Birmingham's National Veterans Day celebration. As a result of his leadership the celebration has grown to the largest Veterans Day celebration in America.

As a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I am very proud of the work Mr. Weeks has done in honoring our nation's veterans. Please give this outstanding citizen of Alabama your highest possible consideration for the award of the Presidential Citizen's Medal.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah Denton
United States Senate

JD:dd

21 OCT 1981

RONNIE G. FLIPPO
5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

405 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE

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LAUDERDALE, LAWRENCE,
LIMESTONE, MADISON,
MORGAN

HOME TOWN:
FLORENCE, ALABAMA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 20, 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPU)
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Sir:

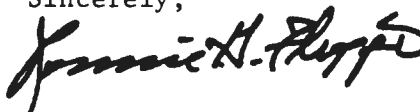
It is a pleasure for me to join with many other friends and colleagues in recommending that Mr. Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama be awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal for his outstanding work in behalf of veterans.

Mr. Weeks is well known by many veterans and other service organizations for his tireless work in serving the community and for recognizing the great service that the men and women who have served our country in the Armed Forces have given to this nation.

Mr. Weeks was one of the national leaders to advocate the observance of National Veterans Day and it is only appropriate that he now receive the recognition he so richly deserves.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to strongly endorse Mr. Weeks' nomination for the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Sincerely,



Ronnie G. Flippo

F:vw

BILL NICHOLS
3RD DISTRICT, ALABAMA

2417 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-3261

COUNTIES:
AUTAUGA LEE
CALHOUN LOWNDES
CHAMBERS MACON
CLAY RANDOLPH
CLEBURNE RUSSELL
COOSA TALLADEGA
ELMORE TALLAPOOSA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 9, 1981

1 2 0
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ARMED SERVICES

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ANNISTON, ALABAMA
PHONE: 236-5655

FEDERAL BUILDING
OPELIKA, ALABAMA
PHONE: 745-6222

115 EAST NORTH SIDE
TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA
PHONE: 727-6490

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
Attn: DAPE-CPL
Washington, D.C. 20310

Subject: Presidential Citizens Medal

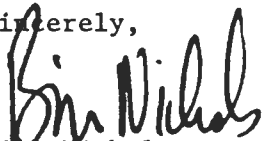
Dear Sir:

I am pleased to recommend Raymond Weeks, Director of the National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama for the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

In addition to founding America's National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has made many substantial contributions to our efforts on behalf of our veterans and veterans' affairs and our nation's awareness of the importance of service to Country and national security.

I sincerely recommend that Mr. Raymond Weeks receive this high honor.

Sincerely,


Bill Nichols, M.C.

BN:cm

TOM BEVILL
4TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA
MAJORITY WHIP AT LARGE

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN,
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
2302 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
AREA CODE 202, TELEPHONE: 225-4876

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 15, 1981

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CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055
TELEPHONE: 734-6043
ROOM 107
THE FEDERAL BUILDING
GADSDEN, ALABAMA 35901
TELEPHONE: 546-0201
1804 4TH AVENUE
JASPER, ALABAMA 35501
TELEPHONE: 221-2310

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
(DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I have been notified that Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director of the National Veterans Day in Birmingham, has been recommended for the Presidential Citizens Medal. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I heartily endorse this recommendation.

Mr. Weeks is known throughout the country as the driving force in establishing a day to honor all veterans of all wars in which the United States has been engaged. Additionally, he has served as Chairman of the Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham since its inception in 1947. Activities in Birmingham, under his direction, have grown to serve as a model for similar celebrations across the nation.

Not only has Mr. Weeks been dedicated to veterans and veterans' affairs, but he has also been active in almost every possible civic and community endeavor. He is indeed a fine American.

I highly recommend that the Presidential Citizens Medal be awarded to Raymond Weeks for his distinguished and devoted service to his country.

Sincerely



Tom Bevill
Member of Congress

TB:pf

3/17/82

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Raymond Weeks -

Letter to President dated
Nov. 6 - arrived at our
office - Nov. 11 -

Day they ^{wanted} ~~would~~ to
present it - Too late
to act -

Put on hold -

Has been dropped by
Army -

agf

November 23, 1981

Raymond
Weeks

Dear Howell:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of November 6 in which you strongly recommended that Mr. Raymond Weeks receive the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Please know that we very much appreciate your taking the time to underscore Mr. Weeks' many accomplishments and his dedication to business, civic, and cultural affairs. I will be pleased to forward your recommendation to the appropriate staff members within the White House for careful review.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Howell Heflin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: w/copy of inc to Aram Bakshiam - for further action

✓ cc: Powell Moore - FYI - sent

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MLF:CMF:KIR:ds--

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 6, 1981

047051

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

I am personally honored to recommend to you Mr. Raymond Weeks for your consideration to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal. Raymond is from my home State of Alabama where he has unselfishly dedicated himself to business, civic, and cultural affairs for the past 55 years.

Raymond's efforts are directly responsible for the tremendous growth experienced by the Mental Health Program in Alabama. He has dedicated much of his life to assisting those who are less fortunate in our society. He served as a Director in the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Social Hygiene Association of the United States, the American Red Cross, the Community Chest, and the Polio Foundation.

Raymond has also dedicated himself to the continued development of the business community in Alabama. He was President of the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1940 and has served several terms as Director of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. He was also a Mason, Shriner, a member of the Elks Club, a member of the Eagles Club, member of the Civitan Club, and the Traffic and Transportation Club. He also belongs to the Association of the United States Army, Navy League, the Air Force Association of the United States, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, and the Birmingham Fraternal Order of Police. He is also a past President of the General John C. Persons Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Raymond's dedication to military affairs is exemplary. He served during World War II from May, 1943 to November, 1945. After leaving the military service, he became active in veterans affairs and served on many national committees of various veterans organizations. He served as State Commander of the American Legion from 1962-63. He is credited with founding America's National Veterans Day, which honors American Veterans on November 11th annually in the United States.

The President
Page 2
November 6, 1981

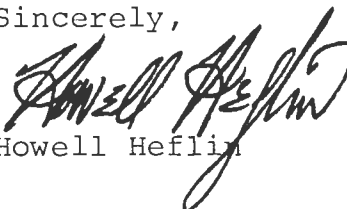
Raymond has received the Freedom Foundation National George Washington Honor Medal for distinguished achievement of an American way of life, National Community Services Awards from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion's Commendation Award, Presidents Citation from the Association of the U. S. Army for Distinguished Service, and commendations from all branches of the military service. On March 29, 1966, the United States Army presented him with their highest award to civilians, the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. And on July 16, 1966, the American Legion awarded him a life membership for community service to his country. Raymond has served as State Chairman of Armed Forces Day since its inception by Congress after World War II.

The Faith and Patriotism Society of America, on March 16, 1970 presented him with their highest award for championing the cherished values of our American Heritage of Constitutional Government, Responsible Individual Freedom and Faith in God. On October 24, 1971, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society presented him a resolution for unselfish service to this society. He has also received the Department of Defense's Medal for Outstanding Public Service. He has also had three scholarships named in his honor by the combined veterans organizations. In 1979, he was presented with Alabama's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal.

I personally give Raymond my highest recommendation to be a recipient of the distinguished Presidential Citizens Medal. No other person is more deserving of this award than Raymond Weeks. Your every consideration of Raymond for this honor will be personally appreciated.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Howell Heflin

HHI/msb

ID # 247051
4A043

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING

☐ H - INTERNAL

☒ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/11/10

Name of Correspondent: Howell Heflin

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) END (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Recommends Mr. Raymond Weeks for the President's
consideration to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA Fair</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>8/11/10</u>	<u>MF</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8/11/23</u>
<u>a. Babshian</u>		Referral Note:	<u>A</u>	<u>8/11/24</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet
to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

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Prime Subject Code: MA043 Secondary Subject Codes: _____ . _____ . _____
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PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C		Time: _____	P- _____
DSP		Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

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- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

Cram

☒ YOU WERE CALLED BY— ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

John Dressendorfer

OF (Organization)

Legislative Affairs

☒ PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. *7766* ☐ FTS
CODE/EXT.

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Re: Citizens Medal for
Raymond Weeks —
possibility of awarding it
on Wednesday.*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

11/9

TIME

2:30

63-109

☆ U.S. G.P.O. 1981-341-529/29

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

Our policy is not
to answer buck
slips - however
I thought I
would just bring
this to your
attention -

Melanie
legis. Affairs

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 9
....., 19

81

Respectfully referred to

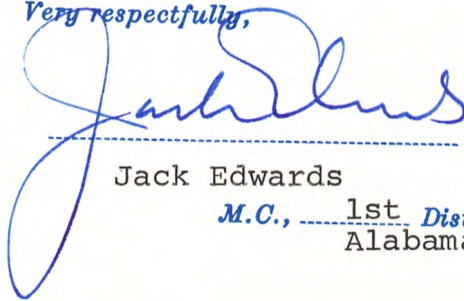
Mr. Max Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

RE: Attached letter from

Robert G. Nivens
Major, Infantry, USAR
DOD Regional Coordinator
National Veterans Day
Post Office Box 642
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

For your kind consideration.
Thank you.

Very respectfully,



Jack Edwards
M.C., 1st District.
Alabama

NOVEMBER 11, 1981

*Citizens Medal
for Weeks*

35th annual NATIONAL VETERANS DAY

in Birmingham

P.O. Box 642 • Birmingham, Alabama 35201



RAYMOND WEEKS, Director

JOHN T. GOLDEN, Associate Director

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS ASSN.
FORTY et EIGHT
WORLD WAR I ASSOCIATIONS
MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE
JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF AMERICA
AMVETS

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DAVID VANN
JOHN W. WOODS
DR. LESLIE S. WRIGHT

6 October 1981

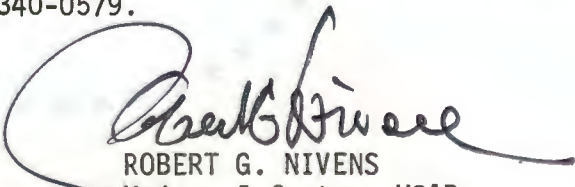
Honorable Jack Edwards
US House of Representatives
2369 Rayburn Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Sir,

The attached recommendation and indorsing letters for award of the Presidential Citizens Medal for Mr Raymond Weeks is being forwarded for your information and consideration.

Your indorsement to the recommendation would be very much appreciated and would strongly enhance approval by the Executive Secretary, Army Incentive Awards Board, HQ DA, and the approving authority in the White House.

Point of contact regarding this subject is Major Robert G. Nivens, 87th Maneuver Area Command, Birmingham (205) 987-8447; FTS 229-0580; Autovon 340-0579.


ROBERT G. NIVENS
Major, Infantry, USAR
DoD Regional Coordinator
National Veterans Day

Enclosure





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 121ST UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
3620 8TH AVENUE SOUTH
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35222

AFKA-ACH-CG

2 October 1981

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal

Major General Arthur E. Brown, Jr.
Commander
US Army Readiness and Mobilization Region IV
Fort Gillem, GA 30050

1. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential Citizens Medal under the provisions of Para 10-2, AR 672-20. I have known Mr. Weeks for over 30 years, and feel that he has done more than any other to support the Armed Forces of this country and to recognize veterans who have served their country so faithfully. Mr. Weeks is involved in basically every activity in this area that supports the Armed Forces, and I would like to specifically cite three extremely significant activities that he has taken the lead in establishing and carrying through in a highly successful manner.

a. Mr. Weeks was the driving force that established soon after World War II the day to honor all veterans of all wars in which the United States has been engaged, and was instrumental in getting Armistice Day changed to Veterans Day by the Congress of the United States in 1954. Mr. Weeks has been Chairman of the Veterans Day Activities in Birmingham since its inception in 1947, and I feel that this observance of Veterans Day in Birmingham has created patriotism within this area that equals or exceeds any area in the United States. I am attaching as inclosure 1 a history of National Veterans Day which will provide additional details concerning Mr. Weeks' outstanding accomplishments in this area.

b. Upon initiation of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Mr. Weeks was one of the first individuals to become involved in this activity within the state of Alabama, and is now serving as the State Chairman. He has provided a very vital service to the Guard and Reserve by encouraging employers to sign agreements pledging support to the Guard/Reserve.

c. In 1973, Mr. Weeks developed a plan to recognize outstanding enlisted representatives from each major Active, Reserve and National Guard command of all services in Alabama. The plan was presented to the governor and was approved, and Mr. Weeks was designated as the Governor's Representative to implement the program. The governor presented the first awards to the

2 October 1981

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal

outstanding enlisted personnel during Armed Forces Week in 1974, which has been an ongoing activity since that date, and Mr. Weeks continues to serve as the Governor's Representative in dealing with the major commands throughout this area. This program has given significant recognition to the enlisted personnel, and has proven to be a very effective program within the state.

2. I am attaching several letters from military leaders who have knowledge of Mr. Weeks' contributions, and also the mayor of the City of Birmingham and the governor of the State of Alabama, attesting to the actions of Mr. Weeks. I feel that they speak for themselves and fully support this recommendation for the Presidential Citizens Medal which, upon approval, would be presented during National Veterans Day Activities in Birmingham, Alabama in November 1982.



STANFORD J. SKINNER

Major General, USAR

Commanding

13 Incl

1. Hist of Natl Vet Day
2. Ltr GEN Shoemaker 18 Sep 81
3. Ltr MG Berkman 20 Aug 81
4. Ltr MG Merrill 10 Sep 81
5. Ltr LTG Weber 28 Sep 81
6. Ltr MG Cobb 19 Aug 81
7. Ltr MG Mickle 12 Sep 81
8. Ltr BG Logan 1 Sep 81
9. Ltr MG Megarr 18 Aug 81
10. Ltr RADM Stewart 17 Aug 81
11. Ltr Gov James 18 Aug 81
12. Ltr Mayor Arrington 19 Aug 81
13. Bio Mr. Weeks

HISTORY OF NATIONAL VETERANS DAY

1 July 1981

Following the end of the Second World War, an energetic, patriotic citizen of Birmingham, Alabama, conceived the idea of establishing a day to honor the veterans of all wars in which the United States has been engaged, since, until that time, Armistice Day on November 11th recognized only the veterans of World War I. The man was Honorable Raymond Weeks, who is still the Director of the Birmingham National Veterans Day program.

Armed with a persuasive argument to support his plan, Mr Weeks headed a small delegation to Washington, D. C., to present that plan for a "National Veterans Day" to General Dwight D. Eisenhower, then Chief of Staff Army. With a favorable reception to the concept from General Eisenhower, plans were made to adopt the name of "Veterans Day" in the Birmingham celebration of Armistice Day on November 11, 1947, seven years before the Congress voted to change Armistice Day. During the seven year interim, the Birmingham Committee worked closely with members of Congress and governmental and military leaders to effect the change in name and in 1954, this effort culminated in the official recognition of Veterans Day on November 11th. With the interest and support of the "National Veterans Day" concept by highly placed government and military leaders, the program was destined for success from the very beginning. Birmingham, the birthplace of Veterans Day, has presented an outstanding program of commemoration for thirty-four consecutive years and has become the focal point of the annual observance in the United States.

The Birmingham program is a model upon which cities throughout the Nation regularly seek to plan and organize their local programs through the advice and counsel of the Birmingham National Veterans Day Committee, and this year, 1981, will mark the 35th Annual observance of Veterans Day in Birmingham.

On the first official observance of National Veterans Day in 1954, a National Veterans Award was established for presentation each year to a United States citizen who had distinguished himself as a veteran. 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 first National Veterans Award was presented to the Honorable Edwin H. Rees in recognition of his outstanding contribution by sponsoring the bill which created Veterans Day. Subsequent awards have been presented to Honorable Harvey V. Higley for outstanding service to veterans as Administrator of Veterans Affairs; General Mark Clark for humanitarian efforts in many fields to his country; General Lucius D. Clay for outstanding administrative and counseling services to his nation in times of emergency; in 1958, the award was presented jointly to the young Governors-elect of South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, who were the Honorable E. F. Hollings, Ernest Vandiver and John Patterson, for distinguished service to their states and nation; in 1959, for unselfish services to the needy in time of disaster, General Alfred M. Gruenther, as National President of the American Red Cross; in 1960, Honorable Sumner G. Whittier for distinguished service to veterans as Administrator of Veterans Affairs; in 1961, General James A. Van Fleet for extraordinary service to his country; in 1962, Honorable John S. Gleason, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, for outstanding administrative leadership in veterans affairs; General Matthew B. Ridgeway was honored in 1963 for his outstanding continuous service to his country in retirement; in 1964, General J. Lawton Collins was cited for humanitarian service to European refugees; in 1965, the award was presented to General David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Board, Radio Corporation of America, for his work in the field of

communications; in 1966, the award was presented to General Paul D. Adams (Retired), former Commander, United States Strike Command, who was honored for his outstanding service to his country; in 1967, the award was presented to Donald M. Kendall, Chief Executive Officer for Pepsi Company, Incorporated, New York. Mr Kendall was cited for his fight in the protection of our free enterprise system; in 1968, the award was presented to General Lauris Norstad, former NATO Commander and at the present, Chief Executive Officer for Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation, Toledo, Ohio. General Norstad was cited for his continuing efforts to solidify Europe against the threat of communism; in 1969, the award was presented to Colonel Roscoe Turner, Indianapolis, Indiana, for his pioneering efforts in aviation; in 1970, the award was presented to General Omar N. Bradley for his continuing contribution as General of the Army to the defense of his country and freedom throughout the world, in 1971, the award was presented to the man who led the famous bomber raid on Tokyo in World War II, General James Doolittle, also a Medal of Honor holder; in 1972, the award was presented to Brigadier General James Stewart 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 A. 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 1974, the award was presented to Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for outstanding service to his country; in 1975, this distinguished award was presented to General Lewis B. Hershey (Retired), for sixty-two years of extraordinary service to his country; in 1976, Neil A. Armstrong was honored for his scientific feat of successfully landing on the moon; in 1977, General William C. Westmoreland was cited for his outstanding service to his country;

in 1978, Brigadier General Paul W. Tibbetts, Commander of the Enola Gay, was presented the award for having hastened the end of World War II; in 1979, the award was presented to Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, Former Chief of Naval Operations for his outstanding service to his country; and in 1980, General Louis H. Wilson was cited for his outstanding service as Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and as a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. The 1981 award will be presented on the evening of November 10th to Navy veteran of World War II, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., in recognition of his highly decorated heroic military service and continuing contributions in the field of motion pictures and entertainment of service members worldwide.

On the morning of National Veterans Day, there is a Memorial Service at 9:00 AM, which is held at the Church of the Advent, downtown. At 11:30 AM there is the World Peace Luncheon, at Boutwell Municipal Auditorium, which is followed by the National Veterans Day Parade at 2:00 PM. Rear Admiral Ross Henry Trower, Chief of Navy Chaplains will deliver the memorial address at the Memorial Services. Honorable John O. Marsh Jr., Secretary of the Army will be guest speaker for the World Peace Luncheon.

Sponsored by the combined veterans organization, National Veterans Day in Birmingham is a community effort financed each year by local business firms, most of which have supported the program since its beginning thirty-five years ago. The Disabled American Veterans are the primary hosts for the 1981 program. The Department of Defense has cooperated with the Birmingham committee in providing active military support for the Veterans Day program and in coordinating the support of Reserve Components of the United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard. By an official act of

Congress, which was passed in 1967, Veterans Day was switched to Monday to coincide with those holidays which are set to fall on Mondays. However, by legislative action in 1971, at the request of the combined veterans organizations in Alabama and the wishes of then Governor George Wallace, the Birmingham program was reestablished to be on November 11th.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
FORT MCPHERSON, GEORGIA 30330

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFCG

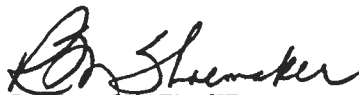
18 September 1981

SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal

HQDA (DAPE-CPL)
WASH DC 20310

1. I am pleased to add my indorsement to the recommendation for the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham and Father of Veterans Day. The success of Veterans Day can be attributed, in no small measure, to the active support, enthusiasm, personal interest, dedication to excellence, and sound professional contributions of Mr. Weeks.

2. In addition to founding America's National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has made many other unique and essential contributions to our military efforts. These range from military service during World War II to being an active member of such organizations as Association of the United States Army, Navy League, Air Force Association of the United States, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the United Services Organization. Such involvement and support of our military is, indeed, deserving of recognition.


R. M. SHOEMAKER
General, U. S. Army
Commanding



CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE
Room 3E390, The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

20 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPU)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I enthusiastically join in recommending that Mr. Raymond Weeks be recognized for his support to our Veterans, Armed Forces and national security by the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal. As "father" of the Birmingham Veterans Day and National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has made enduring contributions to our national awareness of the importance of service to country and national security. It is fitting and right that this deserving patriot and statesman be recognized by that award.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM R. BERKMAN
Major General, USA
Chief, Army Reserve



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
87TH USA MANEUVER AREA COMMAND
3851 VEONA DANIELS ROAD
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35244


AFKA-GCF-CG

10 September 1981

SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Branch
Hq DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

1. It is my pleasure to recommend the awarding of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Mr. Raymond Weeks. He is a most deserving citizen whose hobby of service to county, state and community sets the highest example for all to emulate.
2. Mr. Weeks is active in many local, state, and national civic activities. As the founder of National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has served continuously since 1947 in making this celebration a true honor for all American Veterans.
3. His tireless and selfless devotion to the improvement of the standard of life marks Mr. Raymond Weeks as a "Great American".



THOMAS L. MERRILL
Major General, USAR
Commanding



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

NGB-ZA

28 SEP 1981

Executive Secretary, Army Incentive Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I write this letter in support of the recommendation for the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal for Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama.

It has been my great honor and good fortune to have attended three National Veteran's Day in Birmingham. Each has been truly professional in every respect. It has been obvious that Mr. Raymond Weeks is the strength behind this outstanding event. He is certainly the Father of Veterans Day.

I must sincerely recommend that Mr. Raymond Weeks receive this signal honor.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "L. Weber", is written over the typed name and title.

LA VERN E. WEBER
Lieutenant General, USA
Chief, National Guard Bureau

ALABAMA
STATE MILITARY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
P. O. BOX 3711
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36193

AL-ARPAD

19 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I am delighted to recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks for award of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Raymond has done an outstanding job over all these many years in first getting established and subsequently perpetuating National Veterans Day. Raymond is a true patriot who has stood firmly for what he believes about this great country even in the late days of the Viet Nam era when serving your country and being a veteran of this conflict was not popular in some quarters.

Just as important to me and the Alabama National Guard has been his service as State Chairman of the National Committee for Guard/Reserve Employer Support Program. He has been of invaluable assistance in encouraging employers to sign agreements pledging to support the Guard/Reserve.

While Raymond served in the State Legislature, he was always willing to assist in sponsoring and supporting any legislation designed to assist the Armed Services in any way possible.

I know of no other citizen who has given more of himself to his community, State and Nation than Raymond nor who is more deserving of an award recognizing this service.

Sincerely,



HENRY H. COBB, JR.
Major General
The Adjutant General



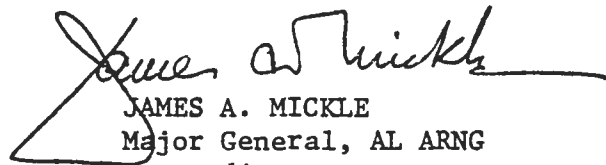
HEADQUARTERS 167th SUPPORT COMMAND (CORPS)
ALABAMA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
POST OFFICE BOX 10225
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35202

12 September 1981

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential Citizens Medal

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
ATTN: DAPE-CPL
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Under the provisions of paragraph 10-2, AR 672-20, I am pleased to recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential Citizens Medal.
2. Mr. Weeks is a selfless, energetic, patriot who for the past 35 years has devoted an enormous amount of effort to the enhancement of the military establishment in the United States. His total dedication and leadership in the development of the Annual National Veterans Day in Birmingham has been exceptionally effective in developing appropriate recognition of the Armed Services to the Civilian Community. The magnitude of his program is recognized throughout the United States as a model of displayed patriotism. Mr. Weeks enjoys the respect and admiration of both the military and civilian communities throughout the United States for his total personal commitment to the Armed Forces.
3. Mr. Raymond Weeks is the most deserving citizen for this appropriate recognition that I have known in my 37 years of service in the Armed Forces. I strongly recommend that every consideration be given to the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Mr. Weeks.


JAMES A. MICKLE
Major General, AL ARNG
Commanding



1 September 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Hq, DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I understand Mr. Raymond Weeks has been nominated for the Presidential Citizens Medal. I wholeheartedly concur in this nomination. Mr. Weeks is known throughout the country as the father of Veterans Day. He was appointed Director, National Veterans Day in 1947; a position he still retains.

I have worked very closely with Mr. Weeks for many years and I am accutely aware of his superior performance and contributions to the National Veterans Program. Mr. Weeks' outstanding contributions should be recognized by the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Addison O. Logan

ADDISON O. LOGAN, Brig Gen, AL ANG
Commander, 117th Tac Recon Wing



COMMANDING GENERAL
4th MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF, USMCR
4400 DAUPHINE STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70146

18 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir,

I want to recommend that Mr. Raymond Weeks be given serious consideration for the Presidential Citizens Medal. His work as Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama has produced an event worthy of the tribute this country owes all its veterans.

Mr. Week's life has been dedicated to the service of his community and country. He is certainly worthy of recognition for his continuing efforts in the Veterans' Day program as well as other areas of civic activity.

I wholeheartedly give my endorsement on behalf of Mr. Weeks for this distinguished award.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Megarr
Major General, U. S. Marine Corps



COMMANDER, EIGHTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

17 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters DA (DAPE-CPL)
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C. 20310

RE: Recommendation for presentation of Presidential
Citizens Medal to Raymond Weeks

Ref: Army Regulations 672-20, Para. 10-2

Dear Sir:

I understand that Raymond Weeks, Director of the National Veterans' Day in Birmingham, has been recommended for the Presidential Citizens Medal to be awarded to him this year during the Veterans' Day celebration in Birmingham, Alabama. It is my pleasure to heartily endorse that recommendation.

Since 1947 when National Veterans' Day was initiated, Mr. Weeks has been primarily responsible for the development and growth of this annual event. His program has become a world-wide model for Veterans' Day and other similar types of celebrations.

His devotion to veterans and veterans' affairs has contributed to an increased recognition of the service that veterans have performed for their country and to an increased pride among veterans for the service they have performed.

I concur in the recommendation that Raymond Weeks' nearly 56 years of public service makes him highly deserving of the award. I join in and highly recommend that the Presidential Citizens Medal be awarded to Raymond Weeks for his distinguished and devoted service to his country.

Sincerely,


W. H. STEWART
Rear Admiral



STATE OF ALABAMA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

MONTGOMERY 36130

FOR JAMES
GOVERNOR

August 18, 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
(DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

The citizenry of Alabama is justifiably proud of leading the Nation in the annual observance of National Veterans Day in Birmingham.

Thirty-five consecutive years of magnificent programs are due solely to the masterful leadership of The Honorable Raymond Weeks. On behalf of all Alabamians, I highly recommend approval of the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal in recognition of this outstanding service to America.

Sincerely,

FJ:dd



RICHARD ARRINGTON, JR.
MAYOR

City of Birmingham, Alabama

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 19, 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
(DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Sir:

Birmingham takes much pride in having such a superb citizen as Mr. Raymond Weeks. He applies himself wholeheartedly to any and all civic endeavors for the betterment of his home town, state and country. I sincerely encourage the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal for his more than fifty-five years of very distinguished service to his country.

Sincerely,

Richard Arrington, Jr.
Richard Arrington, Jr.
Mayor

RA/hk

RAYMOND WEEKS

Raymond Weeks was reared in Birmingham, Alabama and received his education from Bush School, Ensley High School, and Birmingham Southern College.

He has been active in the business, civic and cultural life in Alabama for the past 55 years. He has also been active in the field of health services in the state. He was a pioneer in the mental health program in organizing the State Mental Health Association. He served as a Director and officer for many years and he is recognized as an important contributing factor in the tremendous growth of mental health facilities in Alabama. In other health agencies he has served as Director in the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Social Hygiene Association of the US, The American Red Cross, The Community Chest, and The Polio Foundation. In 1934 he organized the first Infantile Paralysis fund campaign and served as its first Chairman of the "March of Dimes".

He was President of the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1940 and has served several terms as Director of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to entering military service in World War II, he assisted in organization of several successful War Bond Campaigns and was active in the USO, a Director on The State Rationing Board and the Manpower Board. He served during World War II from May 1943 to November 1945. After leaving the military service, he became active in Veterans affairs and has served on many national committees of the various veterans organizations. He served as State Commander of the American Legion in 1962-1963. He is credited with founding America's National Veterans Day, which honors American Veterans, living and dead, on November 11th annually in the United States.

He organized in the City of Birmingham in 1947, the first program honoring the veterans of all wars. November 11th was used and he called it Veterans Day even though the date was officially known as Armistice Day. In 1954, the Congress officially changed the name from Armistice Day to National Veterans Day.

He is a Democrat, and served twenty years as an elected member of the State Democratic Executive Committee. He was an elected State-at-Large delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1952 and as a District delegate in 1956 and 1960.

He is a Mason; Shriner, member of the Elks, Eagles, Aero Club, National Aeronautics Association, Civitan Club, Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce, Alabama Chamber of Commerce, Young Men's Business Club, Sales Executive Club, Traffic and Transportation Club, Social Hygiene Association of the US, Association of the United States Army, Navy League, Air Force Association of the United States, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, Birmingham Fraternal Order of Police, Monday Morning Quarterback Club, and the Touchdown Club of Washington. He is a past president of the General John C. Persons Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

He is a member of the Highlands Methodist Church, married to the former Jennie Dee Robinson, and has two daughters and seven grandchildren. He resides at 3420 Altamont Road in Birmingham.

He is a recipient of the Freedoms Foundations National George Washington Honor Medal for Distinguished Achievement of our American Way of Life, National Community Service Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion's Commendation Award, President's Citation from the Association of the US Army

for Distinguished Service, Honorary Membership in the US Junior Chamber of Commerce, and commendations from all branches of the Military Services. He is the recipient of the coveted 1965 Outstanding Civic Salesmanship Award from the City of Birmingham. On March 29, 1966, the United States Army presented him their highest award to civilians, The Outstanding Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. On July 16, 1966, The American Legion awarded him a life membership for Community Service to his Country. He has served as State Chairman of Armed Forces Day since its inception by Congress after World War II.

In the November 1966 General Election, he was elected a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, 14th District. In the legislature his permanent committee assignments were: Health; Business and Labor; Constitution and Elections; and, Local Legislation. He is listed in Who's Who in America in the South and Southeast, and Who's Who in American Politics.

On February 2, 1967, the Cyrene Commandery, Knights Templar, presented him with a Life Membership and in May, 1968, the Shrine presented him with a Life Membership in the Eye Foundation for charitable services. On March 18, 1969, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks presented him with a Life Membership. The primary objectives of the Elks in addition to charities is the promotion of Patriotism and Americanism. The Faith and Patriotism Society of America, on March 16, 1970 presented him with their highest award for championing the cherished values of our American Heritage of Constitutional Government, Responsible Individual Freedom and Faith in God.

On October 24, 1971 the Congressional Medal of Honor Society presented him a resolution for unselfish service to the Society. On November 4, 1976 he was presented the Department of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service

to his Country. In September, 1976 he was presented the National Americanism Award by the Forty et Eight Honor Society. On November 11, 1976 the combined veterans organizations founded three scholarships in his honor, one each at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Samford University and Birmingham Southern College. In August, 1978, he was named State Chairman of the Alabama Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

On January 11, 1979, he was presented Alabama's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal, for his outstanding praiseworthy accomplishments, over and above the call of duty, and for the outstanding contributions he has made to his State and Country.