

Key Contributors

Special Guests:

Raymond Weeks' family members

Sponsors:

Blue Star Salute Foundation/www.BlueStarSalute.org

Tom Long, President; Harry Sessamen, Secretary

Bruce Coody, Treasurer

National Veterans Day in Birmingham/www.NationalVeteransDay.org

Mark Ryan, President; David Burford, Vice President;

Cathy Culberson, Treasurer;

Patriotism in Action/www.PatriotismInAction.us

Nancy & Bob Barefield, Chairmen; David Dyson, Founder;

Bill O'Dell, Operations

Supporters and Service Providers:

Walt Gibbins, Director of The Depart of Public Works;

Sgt. TC Cleveland, BHM Police Dept;

Don Lupo, Jr., Mayor Randall Woodfin's Office

Weeks Monument:

Wreaths—Blue Star Salute Foundation, assisted by Tom Long
National Veterans Day in Birmingham, assisted by MG David Burford
Patriotism in Action, assisted by Bob Barefield

Color Guard/Flag Bearers:

American Village (reenactors led by Brendan Young)

Horse:

Kip, Sponsored by Carisa and George VanCourt

Horse Handler:

Ssg Jonathon Warren, 1-167 Infantry Battalion

Road Guard/Horse:

Birmingham Mounted Police Patrol,
Officers Kimball Karmondi and Warren Grayson

Operational and Logistical Support:

Mark Ryan and Bob Barefield

Media, Veterans Day, and City of Birmingham Communications:

Mark Ryan

Public Address System Power, Equipment:

"Bama" Bill McFerrin

Photography:

Chic Cecchini

Cover Art:

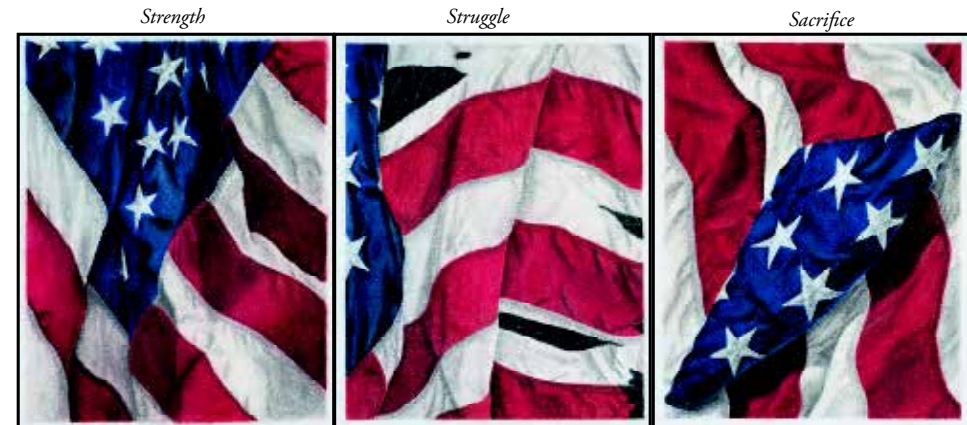
Lori Banes, *Daddy's Honor*

Program Invitation and Handout design:

David Dyson, Bob Barefield, Cherie Kosak

Program Printing:

Kosak Services, Inc.



Daddy's Honor
Courtesy of Lori Banes

November 10, 2019
Commemorating the

72nd Anniversary of America's First Veterans Day and Founder Raymond Weeks

Weeks Memorial
Linn Park
Birmingham, Alabama

SPONSORED BY:
PATRIOTISM IN ACTION, BLUE STAR SALUTE FOUNDATION, AND
NATIONAL VETERANS DAY IN BIRMINGHAM

Raymond Weeks was a Patriot in Action. In 1945, he saw a need for America and so in 1946 Weeks led a delegation from Birmingham to petition General Dwight Eisenhower to create a national holiday to honor veterans of all wars. Birmingham started the tradition of Veterans Day in 1947.



Seven years later, in 1954, President Eisenhower signed into law Veterans Day as a national holiday. Weeks directed America's first Veterans Day as well as annual celebrations for nearly four decades. Bill Voigt succeeded him as president until 2010. Mark Ryan is now serving as president.

Birmingham, Alabama is one of America's top cities known for Veterans Day and patriotic reunions.



President Ronald Reagan honored Raymond Weeks with the Presidential Citizens Medal at the White House in 1982, after 35 years of serving Veterans Day.



The monument to Raymond Weeks across from Boutwell Auditorium, dedicated 1989, with 60th Anniversary Commemorative Plaque added in 2007.



Patriotism in Action by Dr. David Dyson and COL Stretch Dunn USA (Retired) features the founding of America's Veterans Day in Alabama. Photos highlight President of the United States Ronald Reagan honoring Raymond Weeks at the White House for his servant leadership to America and Weeks petitioning General Eisenhower to establish Veterans Day. Also featured is the Weeks Memorial in Linn Park of Birmingham, which was donated by a "grateful nation," America's oldest Veterans Day parade, plus many other interesting and inspiring photos.

We ask that you encourage educators to include this local, state and national history and the meaning of Patriotism in Action in lesson plans. We also encourage leaders of Alabama to **brand Birmingham** as a top national destination for Veterans Day, Rights and Freedom.

Information:

COL Bob Barefield 205.305.9561, Dr. David Dyson, 205.422.6484, or Mark Ryan 205.942.5300

Schedule of Events

Time/Location:

Sunday (1600-1630) Weeks Memorial, Linn Park (across from Boutwell Auditorium)

Receiving:

MG David Burford, USA (Retired), VP, National Veterans Day–Birmingham; Tom Long, USAF Veteran, President, Blue Star Salute Foundation; Bill O'Dell, Operations Chair, Patriotism in Action; plus program participants

Patriotic Music:

(1530-1555)

Welcome and Purpose:

(1600) Dr. David Dyson, co-author, *Patriotism In Action*; National Veterans Day Historian

Posting of Colors:

American Village

Prayer:

Chaplain Duke Martin, US Navy Veteran

Thanks to Sponsors and Special Guests:

(see back page for more contributors) Dr. David Dyson

Wreath Dedications:

Mr. Jeff Sessions
National Veterans Award recipient
Mr. James W. "Bill" Oxford, National Commander, The American Legion
Mrs. Barbara Weeks Minor, daughter of Raymond Weeks

Taps:

Mr. Jim Quakenbush

Announcements and Closing:

Dr. David Dyson and Mark Ryan

Directing:

COL Bob Barefield, USA (Retired), and Mrs. Nancy Barefield, Chairs, Patriotism in Action

National Veterans Award Reception:

(1700) Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom (Banquet Invitees)

National Veterans Award Banquet:

(1800) Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom

We thank you for your participation in this 72nd Anniversary dedication.