

## Key Contributors

### Special Guests:

Raymond Weeks' family members

### Sponsors:

**Blue Star Salute Foundation**/[www.BlueStarSalute.org](http://www.BlueStarSalute.org)

Tom Long, President; Harry Sessamen, Secretary

Bruce Coody, Treasurer

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Mark Ryan, President; David Burford, Vice President;

Cathy Culberson, Treasurer;

**Patriotism in Action**/[www.PatriotismInAction.us](http://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:

First Pennsylvania Regiment (reenactors led by Christopher Long)

### 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:

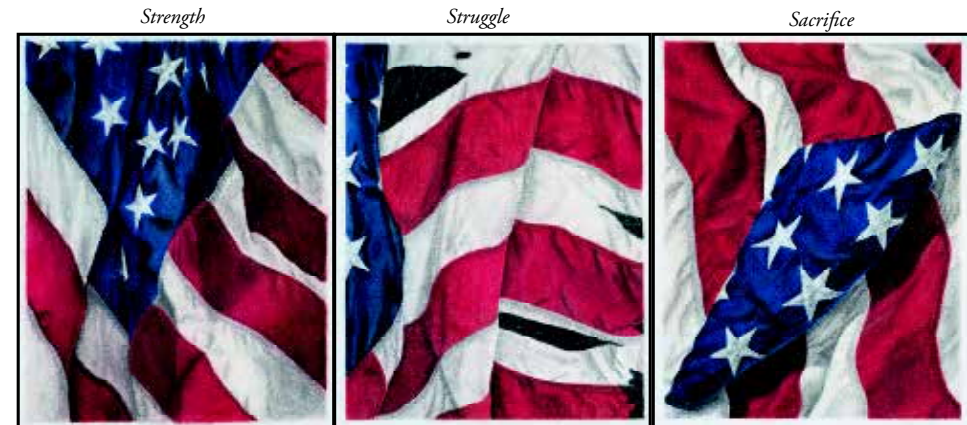
Lori Banes, *Daddy's Honor*

### 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

## *72<sup>nd</sup> 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.

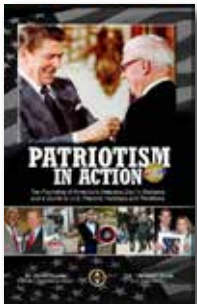
Birmingham, Alabama is one of America's top cities known for Veterans Day and patriotic reunions.



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:**

First Pennsylvania Regiment

**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 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary dedication.*