

## Key Contributors

### Special Guests:

Raymond Weeks family members

### Sponsors:

#### National Veterans Day in Birmingham

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

Mark Ryan, President; David Burford, Vice President;

Liz McGill, Treasurer; Jessica Culver, Secretary

#### *Patriotism in Action*

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

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

Bill O'Dell, Operations

### Color Guard/Flag Bearers:

1st Pennsylvania Regiment (reenactors led by Chris Long)

### Operational and Logistical Support:

Mark Ryan and Bob Barefield

### Media, Veterans Day, and

City of Birmingham Communications: Mark Ryan

### Photography:

Chic Cecchini

### Cover Art:

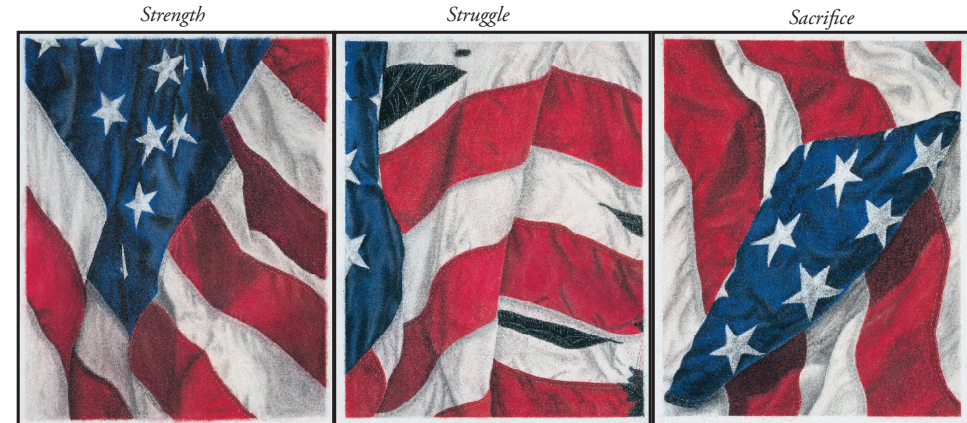
Lori Banes, *Daddy's Honor*

### 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, 2023  
Commemorating the

## *76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's First Veterans Day and Founder Raymond Weeks*

Sheraton Birmingham Foyer

SPONSORED BY:  
PATRIOTISM IN ACTION AND  
NATIONAL VETERANS DAY IN BIRMINGHAM

Raymond Weeks was a Patriot in Action. In 1945, he saw a need for America and 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.

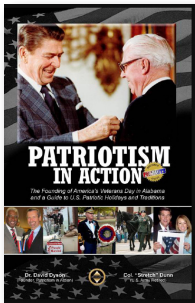
Birmingham, Alabama is one of America's top cities known for Veterans Day and patriotic reunions.



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 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

lesson plans. We also encourage leaders to **brand Birmingham and Alabama** as a top national destination for Veterans Day, Rights and Freedom.

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

**Information:**

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

## Schedule of Events

**Time/Location:**

Thursday (1630-1645) Sheraton Birmingham Foyer

**Receiving:**

MG David Burford, USA (Retired), VP, National Veterans Day–Birmingham; Nancy Barefield, Co-Chair, Patriotism in Action; plus program participants

**Welcome and Purpose:**

(1630) Dr. David Dyson, co-author, *Patriotism In Action*; National Veterans Day Historian

**Presentation of Colors:**

1st Pennsylvania Regiment

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Hailey Minor, great-granddaughter of Raymond Weeks

**Prayer:**

Chaplain Duke Martin, US Navy Veteran

**Thanks to Sponsors and Special Guests:**

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

**Wreath Dedication:**

Mrs. Barbara Weeks Minor, daughter of Raymond Weeks; escorted by Mr. Charles "Charlie" Aucoin, The American Legion National Vice Commander

**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 Foyer (Banquet Invitees)

**National Veterans Award Banquet:**

(1800) Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom

*We thank you for your participation in this 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dedication.*