

# America's National Veterans Day Founded in Birmingham, Alabama 1947

7 Points for our History, Character Education, and National Branding



[PatriotismInAction.us](http://PatriotismInAction.us) / [LifeLeaders.us](http://LifeLeaders.us) (Veterans Day Founding Education)

# Veterans Day Movement Started in AL

1. 1945: WWII ended. As November 11 approached, Raymond Weeks and many others thought the USA should honor veterans of all wars.
2. 1946: Raymond Weeks of Alabama took action, led a delegation to the Pentagon, and gained support from General Dwight Eisenhower for “National Veterans Day 1947.”
3. 1947: Birmingham hosted the first Veterans Day with Gen. Omar Bradley speaking at the World Peace Dinner, followed by a Memorial Service and Parade.
4. 1954: Birmingham started the annual National Veteran Award.
5. 1982: President Ronald Reagan honored “Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama” as the “driving force” for Veterans Day.
6. 2005: Tribute to the Founder of Veterans Day added by Patriotism in Action at the Weeks Monument placed in Linn Park by “a grateful nation.”
7. 2012: U.S. Senate affirmed Weeks-Birmingham-Alabama for starting National Veterans Day in a resolution proposed by Patriotism in Action.

# Veterans Day Movement Started in AL

1945: WWII ended. Many thought Armistice Day (11-11-1918) should change to honor veterans of all wars. Most just thought and watched—few took action.

1946: Raymond Weeks led a team of patriots from Alabama to the Pentagon with Senator John Sparkman and gained support from General Dwight Eisenhower for  
“National Veterans Day 1947”  
to start in Birmingham.

**One of Alabama’s 25 character traits:  
“Patriotism.” Another: “Courage.”**

**Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama gained support from General Eisenhower Nov. 11, 1946.**



**The draft program Weeks presented November 11, 1946, read “National Veterans Day 1947”**

[PatriotismInAction.us](http://PatriotismInAction.us) / [LifeLeaders.us](http://LifeLeaders.us) (see Veterans Day Founding Education)

# Telegram from GEN Eisenhower 11-11-47

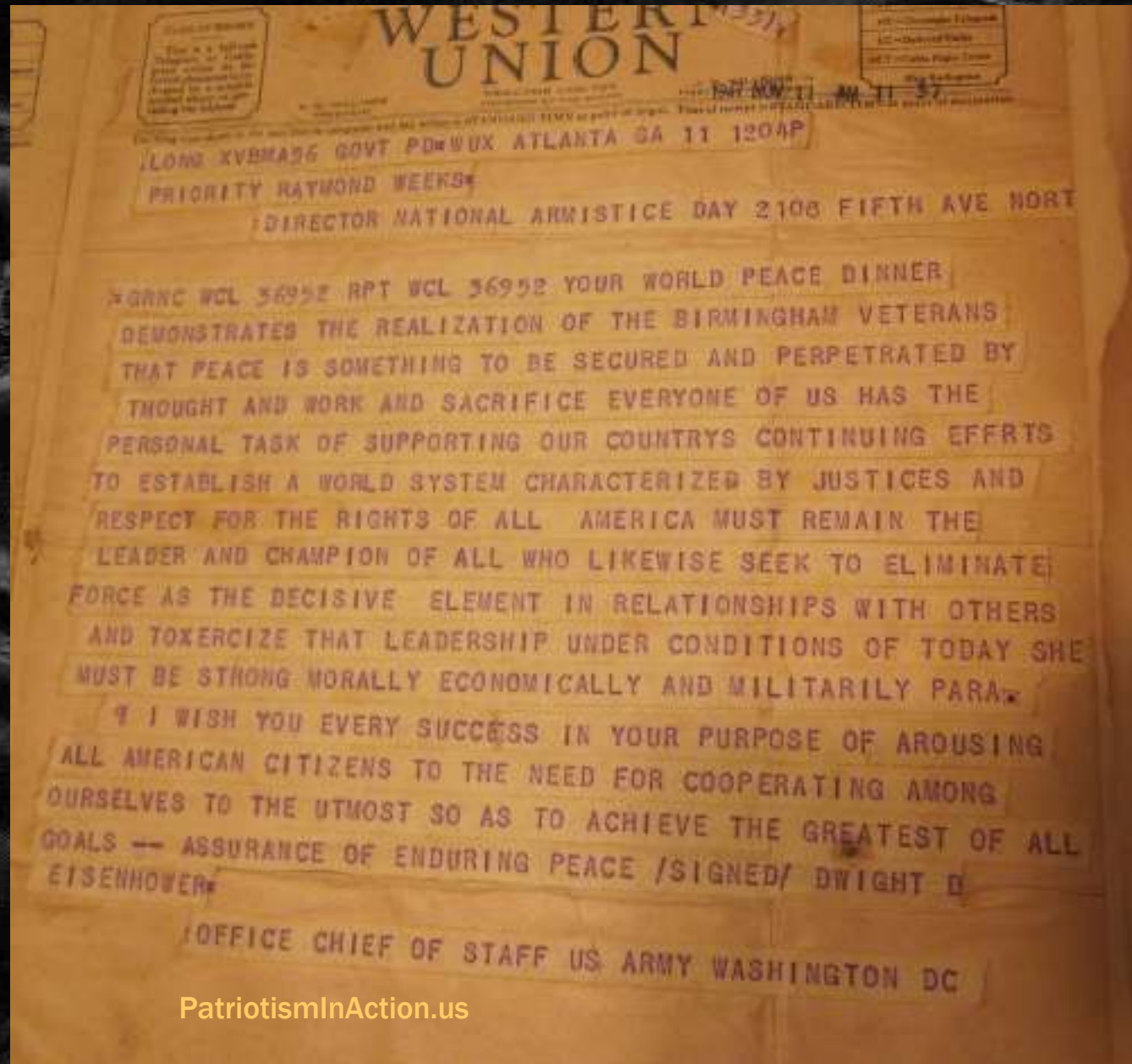
Highlights:

*Your World Peace  
Dinner demonstrates ...*

*peace is something to be  
secured and perpetuated  
by thought and work and  
sacrifice....*

*I wish you every success  
in your purpose of  
arousing all American  
citizens...to achieve the  
greatest of all goals...  
enduring peace.*

Dwight D. Eisenhower





1947: The first National Veterans Day parade in Birmingham.

Flags of the United Nations (UN) were carried by either native sons of those countries or Boy Scouts.

The event had national and international support as well as press.

1947: World Peace Dinner, Gen. Omar Bradley, speaker, arranged by Gen. Eisenhower.

# **Weeks Persevered 9 Years (1945-54) until Veterans Day was law**

Alabama character trait: “Perseverance”

President Eisenhower signed into law in 1954  
the Act proclaiming November 11 as  
**Veterans Day** (Public Law 83-380 signed June 1).

That year, National Veterans Day in Birmingham  
created the National Veteran Award and Banquet  
and moved the World Peace Dinner to a luncheon.

# President Reagan honored Raymond Weeks as the “Driving Force” for America’s Veterans Day in 1982



President Reagan speaks at the White House on national TV

*“We are here to honor an American patriot, Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama” ... the “driving force” establishing America’s Veterans Day.*

*Life Leaders bought the speech from the White House so veterans and teachers can use it:*

<http://lifeleaders.us/veterans-day-founding-education.php>



President Reagan pins the *Presidential Citizens Medal* on Raymond Weeks, November 11, 1982 (nominated by LTC Glenn Nivens, USA Ret, and briefing for Pres. Reagan by Elizabeth Dole). Raymond’s daughter, Barbara, wears the medal to visit schools.



The Presidential Citizens Medal



# Birmingham started and has hosted the National Veteran Award since '54



**In** 1941, the Tuskegee Army Airfield was created in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Veterans Day Act, and on Monday, May 31, 1954, the National Veterans Day was first observed and held in Birmingham.

This year we celebrate the courage and valor of the Tuskegee Airmen.

**BIRMINGHAM**  
MUSEUM LIVE

freedomlives.org

Magazine ad published for millions of readers telling:

*Birmingham is a national leader for Veterans Day, Human Rights, Freedom, and Patriotism.*

Sponsored by  
*FreedomLives.org*  
*FreedomCity.us*

2013 Honoree The Tuskegee Airmen of Alabama also featured by the Museum of Flight

# 2003—Official Legacy Lost

The U.S. Congress passed a resolution proposed by a representative from Kansas that Veterans Day was founded in Kansas (claimed they had the idea in 1953—7 years after Weeks and Alabama started).

Birmingham had “won the war” on events and “lost the war” on education of purpose and history--only an estimated 1% of Americans knew our nation’s Veterans Day started in Alabama because this history had not been taught in most schools.

*What can you do to make sure your veteran organization, local school, and tourism office knows and teaches this national history?*

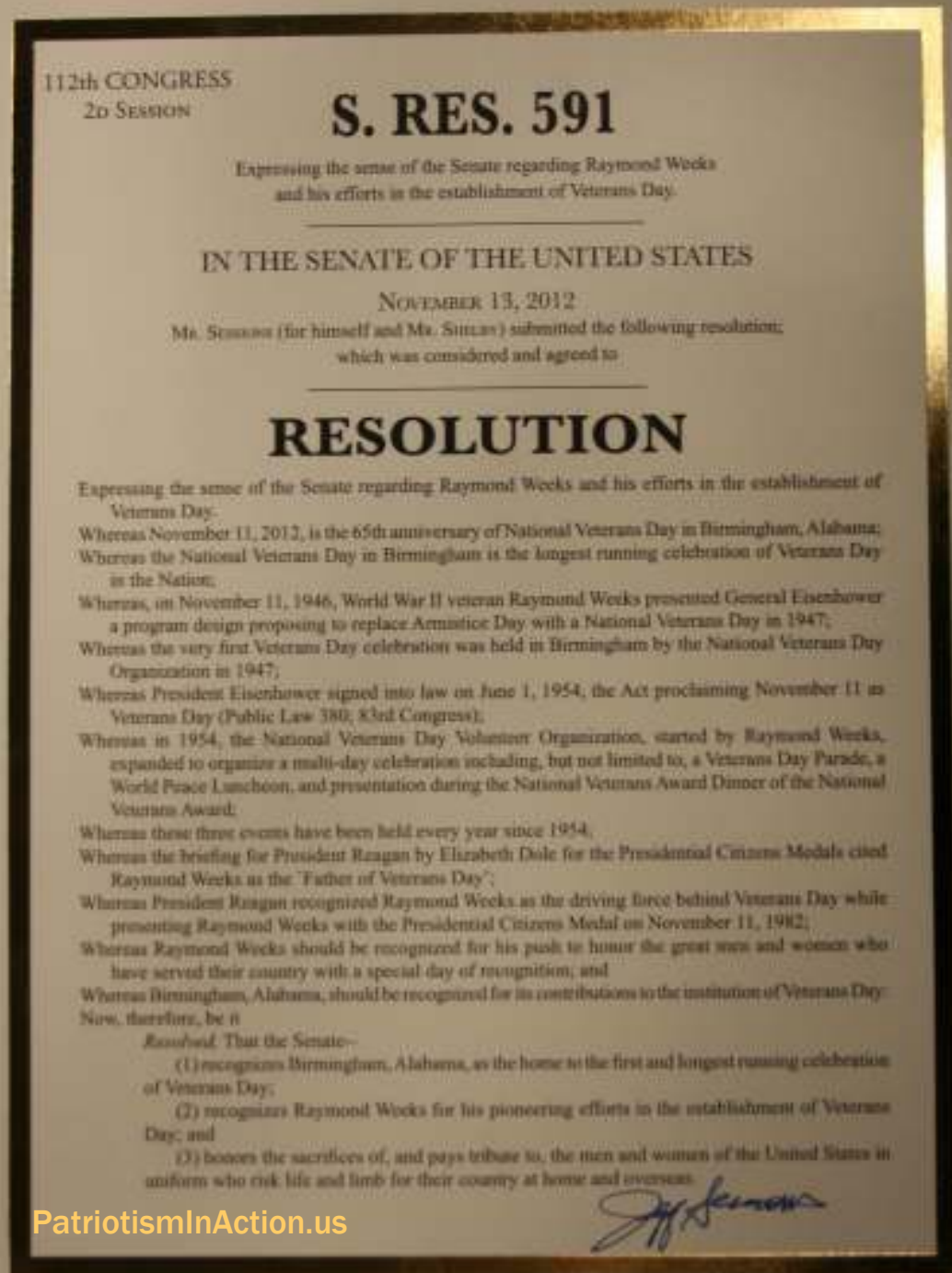
# November 13, 2012 Official US Legacy Restored for Weeks, Birmingham, Alabama.

U.S. Senate Resolution passed affirming Birmingham, Alabama, and Mr. Weeks as “driving force” of America’s National Veterans Day

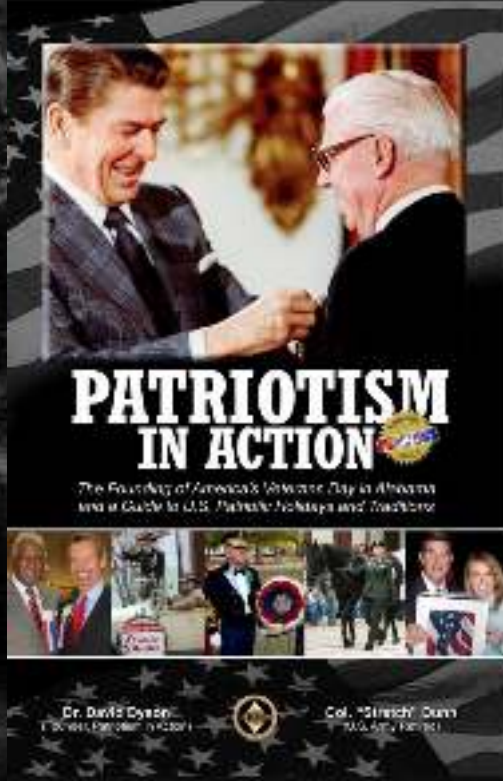
“...the first Veterans Day was held in Birmingham, Nov 10-11, 1947.”

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Senator Jeff Sessions helped us tell our story to the U.S. Senate, in cooperation with Kansas, who deserves credit for helping to advance the movement AL started. Eisenhower was a native of Kansas.



We must implement the resolution to sustain the legacy & brand Birmingham & AL as leader



We could succeed with posters and books in every veteran post/chapter, school, city hall, and tourism venue, plus teaching lesson plans annually.

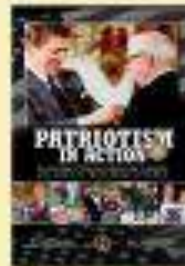
[PatriotismInAction.us](http://PatriotismInAction.us)



**Founded In Alabama**



November 11, 1946 General Dwight D. Eisenhower receives a program announcing *National Veterans Day 1947* presented by Raymond Weeks of Birmingham



*Patriotism in Action* book cover: President Ronald Reagan honored Raymond Weeks with the Presidential Citizens Medal at the White House in 1982 as the "driving force" for establishing America's Veterans Day.

U.S. history: Birmingham, Alabama hosted the first national celebration honoring all veterans in 1947 and started America's National Veterans Award in 1954, the year President Eisenhower signed Veterans Day into law as a federal holiday. The U.S. Senate led by Senators Sessions and Shelby passed a resolution in 2012 recognizing Birmingham as home to the first and longest running celebration of Veterans Day.

Alabama: a national leader organizing Veterans Day celebrations and educational events to honor veterans, celebrate freedom, foster peace, and teach character traits to build good citizenship for America!

*Patriotism - Courage - Perseverance - Loyalty - Citizenship  
Freedom - Peace - Honor - Trust - Leadership*

[PatriotismInAction.us](http://PatriotismInAction.us)  [NationalVeteransDay.org](http://NationalVeteransDay.org)

[LifeLeaders.us](http://LifeLeaders.us)

# Tribute to the Founder of Veterans Day

Since 2005



## Patriotism in Action Tribute

November 10, 4:30-5 p.m.

Weeks Memorial Monument,  
Linn Park, across from Boutwell

and see

## *The Eternal Flame of Freedom*

Linn Park in view of the monument



Followed by National Veteran Award  
Reception and Banquet

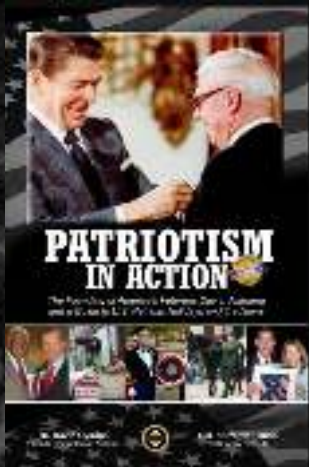
[PatriotismInAction.us](http://PatriotismInAction.us) / [FreedomCity.us](http://FreedomCity.us) / [NationalVeteransDay.org](http://NationalVeteransDay.org)

# ***Patriotism in Action & Professionalism Under Stress***

**since the “911” attacks on America**

*True Patriots love their country, though they do more than “wave the flag” — they take action to develop themselves and serve.*

*True Professionals prepare and take action to develop character and competence“ (in advance of the call) to do the right things well—even under stress.*





**If you want information and resources to teach how  
Veterans Day started in Alabama:**

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

**If you want to take action to support Veterans Day  
Founding Education in schools, veteran organizations,  
civic clubs...or to help citizens PLAN and LEAD in LIFE:**

**[David@LifeLeadersInstitute.org](mailto:David@LifeLeadersInstitute.org)**

**If you want to participate in Veterans Day:**

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