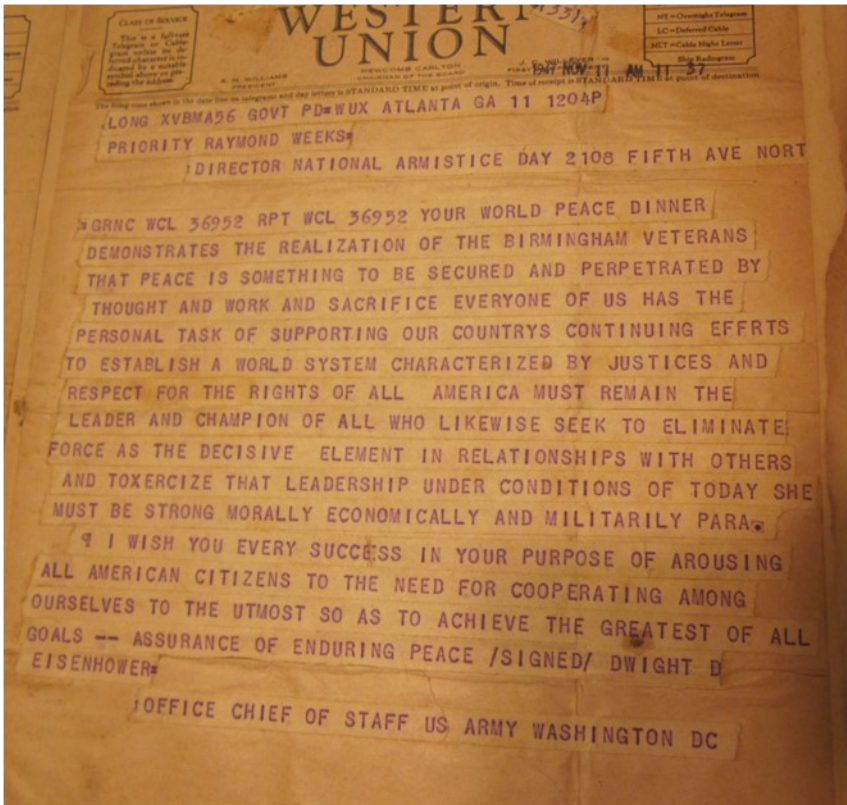


World Peace Luncheon

Telegram from General Eisenhower to Raymond Weeks and Birmingham, Alabama, November 11, 1947

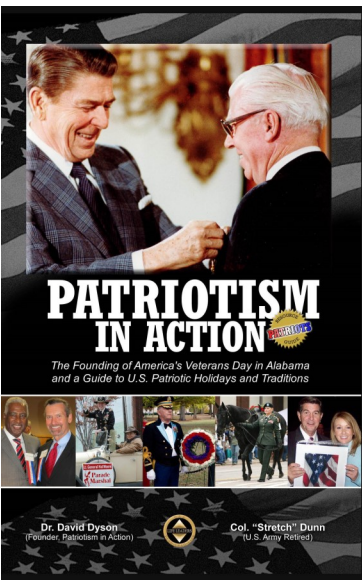


“Your World Peace Dinner demonstrates the realization of the Birmingham Veterans that peace is something to be secured and perpetuated by thought and work and sacrifice. Everyone of us has the personal task of supporting our country's continuing efforts to establish a world system characterized by justice and respect for the rights of all.

America must remain the leader and champion of all who likewise seek to eliminate force as the decisive element in relationships with others and to exercise that leadership. Under the conditions of today, she must be strong morally, economically, and militarily.

I wish you every success in your purpose of arousing all American citizens to the need for cooperating among ourselves to the utmost so as to achieve the greatest of all goals—assurance of enduring peace.”

GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
Washington, DC



Presidential Citizens Medal Honoree Raymond Weeks 1982

“This morning, we’re honoring an American patriot, Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama.”

“He was the driving force...to honor all American veterans.”

President Ronald Reagan
November 11, 1982
The White House
Nationally Televised Speech

Patriotism in Action tells how Veterans Day started in Birmingham and includes teaching points for 10 related character traits, including Patriotism, Freedom, Perseverance.

National Veterans Day Expanded Mission

1. Honor veterans of all wars.
2. Advance world peace.
3. Teach character traits* of veterans.

Character Education*

Veterans have long been examples for students in educational programs. Veterans Day supports educators and parents who teach history and character education related to the meaning of Veterans Day, Peace, and Rights. Alabama has 25 character traits legislated since 1995 to be taught for 10 minutes daily. The history of founding Veterans Day supports teaching at least five of Alabama’s character traits:

Patriotism, Courage, Perseverance, Loyalty, and Citizenship. We recommend adding ***Freedom, Peace, Honor, Trust, and Leadership.***

Alabama can lead on National Veterans Day events and education for America.

Teachers of millions of students in America can teach why and how the USA celebrates Veterans Day every November—connecting history to character traits and plans for life to inspire action on patriotism, freedom, courage, and perseverance as our best-selves.

