

## Key Contributors

### Special Guests:

Raymond Weeks' family members

### Sponsors:

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

Carla Ellis McGann, President; Glenn Nivens, Secretary;

Rachel Clinkscale, Treasurer

**National Veterans Day in Birmingham**/[www.NationalVeteransDay.org](http://www.NationalVeteransDay.org)

Mark Ryan, President; David Burford, Vice President; Cathy

Culberson, Secretary-Treasurer

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

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

Stretch Dunn, co-founder; Bill O'Dell, Operations

### Supporters and Service Providers:

Al Hickman, BHM Public Works Dept;

Carolyn Smith, BHM Parks and Recreation Dept;

Sgt. John Callahan, BHM Police Dept; Mayor William Bell's Office

### Weeks Monument:

*Wreaths*—Blue Star Salute Foundation, assisted by Glenn Nivens

National Veterans Day in Birmingham, assisted by Mark Ryan

Patriotism in Action, assisted by Stretch Dunn

### Color Guard/Flag Bearers:

First Pennsylvania Regiment (reenactors led by Christopher Long);

Regimental Drummer, George Graham

### Horse:

Mr. Lucky's Fiery Lady, Sponsored by Lucky Acres

### Horse Handler:

2LT Stephan Vance

### Road Guard/Horses:

Birmingham Mounted Police Patrol—Officers Kimball Karmondi and

Maurice Cooley

### Operational and Logistical Support:

Mark Ryan and Bob Barefield

### Media, Veterans Day, and City of Birmingham Communications:

Mark Ryan

### Public Address System Power, Equipment:

William H. McFerrin

### Photography:

Marshall Goggins

### Cover Art:

Lori Banes, *Daddy's Honor*

### Program Invitation and Handout design:

David Dyson, Bob Barefield, Cherie Kosak

### Program Printing:

Kosak Services, Inc.

*Strength*



*Struggle*



*Sacrifice*



*Daddy's Honor*  
Courtesy of Lori Banes

**November 10, 2015**  
**Commemorating the**

# *68<sup>th</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:**

Tuesday (1630-1700) Weeks Memorial, Linn Park  
(across from Boutwell Auditorium)

**Receiving:**

MG David Burford, USA (Retired), VP, National Veterans Day–Birmingham;  
LTC Glenn Nivens, USA (Retired), Blue Star Salute Foundation;  
COL Stretch Dunn, USA (Retired), co-author, Patriotism In Action;  
Bill O'Dell, Operations Chair, Patriotism in Action;  
plus program participants

**Patriotic Music:**

(1600-1625)

**Welcome and Purpose:**

(1630) Dr. David Dyson, co-author, *Patriotism In Action*; Founder,  
Patriotism In Action

**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

**Call To Action:**

Birmingham Mayor William Bell

**Wreath Dedications:**

MSG (Ret) Ronald Rosser, National Veterans Award recipient  
Mr. John F. Gwizdaz, past National Commander-in-Chief VFW  
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:**

(1715) Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom Lobby (Banquet Invitees)

**National Veterans Award Banquet:**

(1830) Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom

*We thank you for your participation in this 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dedication.*