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Veterans Day 1982

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ROBERT P. NIMMO
Administrator of Veterans Affairs



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DONALD M. SKINDER

Maisselle -
If we can be of any
further help - please call -
Dick



DONALD M. SKINDER
DIRECTOR
CEREMONIES AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

(202) 389-5231

DEPARTMENT OF MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
810 VERMONT AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20420

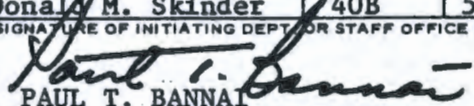


RICHARD N. BAIN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
CEREMONIES AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

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DEPARTMENT OF MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20420

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, 810 VERMONT AVE., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420
Area Code (202) 389-5386

SUMMARY SHEET				FROM (Dept. or staff office)		DATE			
SUBJECT Letter from the Administrator to the President				DMA		9/22/82			
				NAME OF CONTACT		SYMBOL		EXTENSION	
				Donald M. Skinder		40B		5231	
				SIGNATURE OF INITIATING DEPT. OR STAFF OFFICE HEAD					
 PAUL T. BANNAI									
CONCURRENCES									
Chief Memorial Affairs Director									
TO	SYMBOL	DATE OUT	SIGNATURE (Not required for correspondence)	TO	SYMBOL	DATE OUT	SIGNATURE (Not required for correspondence)		
1	40			5					
2				6					
3				7					
4				8					
PURPOSE - DISCUSSION - OPTIONS - RECOMMENDATIONS									
PURPOSE: Letter from the Administrator (in his capacity as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee) to the President, inviting him to be the principal speaker at the Veterans Day ceremonies in Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, November 11, 1982. DISCUSSION: Letter indicates that citizens across the land will pause to reflect on the contribution to this country by the veterans. It points out that the host organization at Arlington this year is the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. The Administrator states that the President's appearance would bring a special significance to the meaning of the observance.									
ACTION BY OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR									
00A		☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED		DATE		SIGNATURE			

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Veterans Day 1982



CHAIRMAN

ROBERT P. NIMMO

Administrator of Veterans Affairs

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EDWARD M. SKINDER

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On Thursday, November 11, 1982, fellow citizens across the land will once again pause to reflect on the great contribution made to this country by our veterans. This special observance each year serves not only as a tribute to those noble men and women who gave so much, it also inspires a patriotic enthusiasm in all who participate.

As Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee, and on behalf of this year's host organization, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, I have the special pleasure of inviting you to join us at Arlington National Cemetery to lead the Nation in thanking all those veterans who answered America's call to service.

We would be honored indeed if you will deliver the principal address in the Amphitheater following the traditional Presidential Wreath Laying before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 11 a.m.

Your continued efforts on behalf of our veterans and your tireless dedication to the cause of world peace bring a special significance to the meaning of this national observance.

We are hopeful that your busy schedule will permit you and your wife to attend.

Respectfully,

ROBERT P. NIMMO
Administrator

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, 810 VERMONT AVE., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420

Area Code (202) 399-5326

PRESIDENTIAL WREATH CEREMONY
11 NOVEMBER 1982, TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

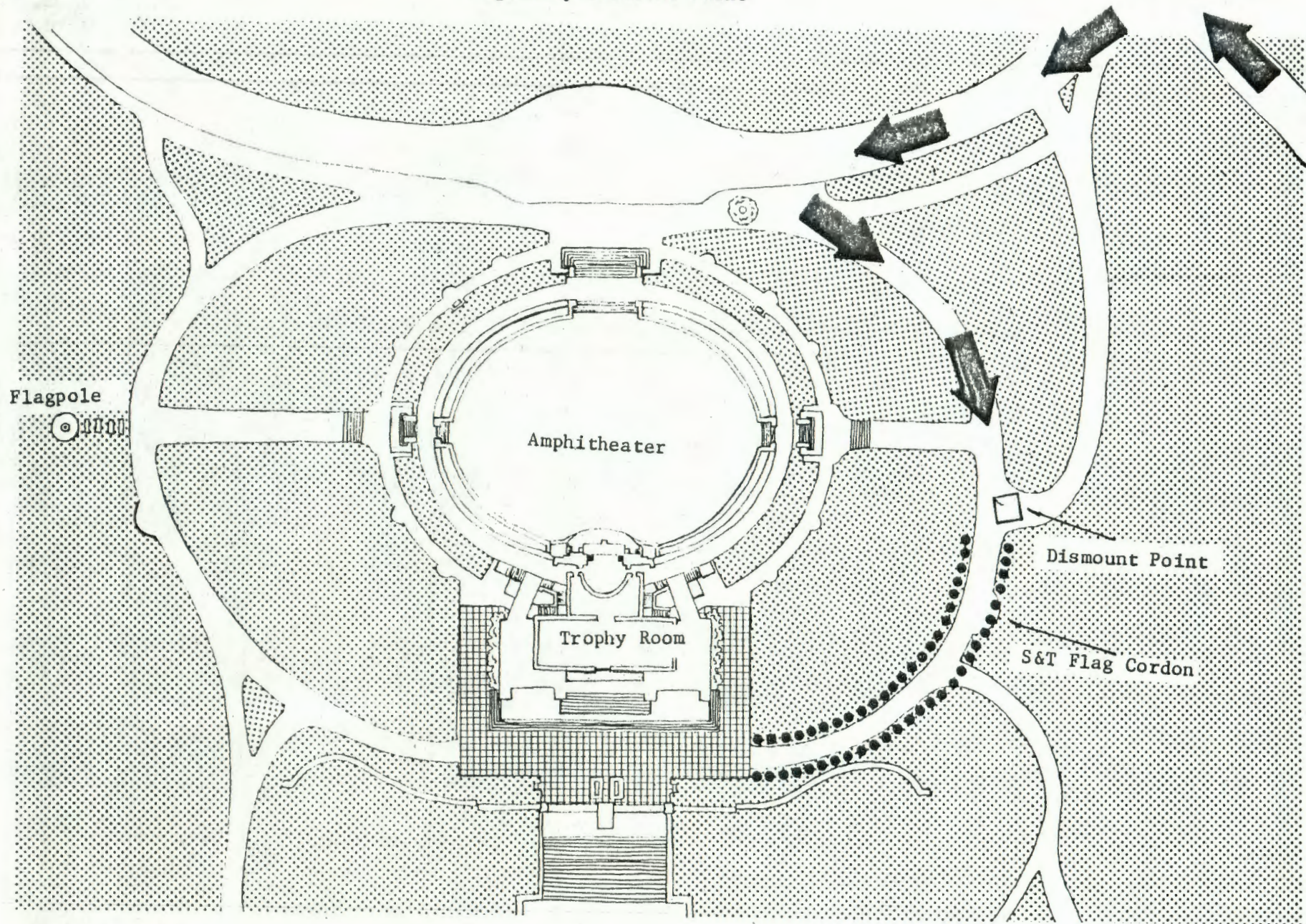
Sequence of Events

1. The host will arrive 10 minutes prior to scheduled time of ceremony.
2. The President and his party will arrive at Memorial Gate four (4) minutes prior to the ceremony time. They will be met by the escort officer, who will escort the party to the dismount point at the north entrance of the Amphitheater. A 21-gun salute will be fired while party is en route. The street cordon will salute by the ripple.
3. The joint honor guard and state and territorial flag cordon will be brought to ATTENTION two rounds from the end of the cannon salute.
4. The host will meet the President and brief him, if required. The MDW Ceremonies Officer will organize the party accompanying the President and host.
5. The host will escort the President and party through the cordon of state and territorial flags. As the party proceeds through the cordon, the state and territorials will remain at "The Carry."
6. The President, with the host and official party, will halt in front of the Tomb. When the entire party is in position, the honor guard and cordon will PRESENT ARMS and the band will play four (4) ruffles and flourishes and the National Anthem of the United States. At the conclusion of the National Anthem of the United States, the honor guard commander will bring the honor guard to ORDER ARMS. (The cordon will return to "The Carry.")
7. At this time, the wreath bearer and bugler move forward. The wreath bearer stops with the wreath in front of the President. When the President touches the wreath, the honor guard and cordon are given PRESENT ARMS. The President moves forward and places the wreath at the location indicated by the wreath bearer. The President then returns to his position beside the host. As soon as the President has returned to his position, he will face the Tomb and place his right hand over his heart, the drummer will sound four (4) muffled ruffles and the bugler will play "Taps."
8. At the conclusion of "Taps," the honor guard is given ORDER ARMS (cordon returns to "The Carry") and then all individuals not under arms will remove their headgear and assume an attitude of prayer for 30 seconds.

(The wreath bearer will indicate to all by removing his cap and replacing his cap with a heel click at the end of 30 seconds). At the conclusion of the 30 second period of silence, all will recover. The honor guard and cordon will be given PRESENT ARMS and the host will escort the President into the Trophy Room. When the President enters the Trophy Room, the joint honor guard commander will bring the honor guard to ORDER ARMS (cordon returns to "The Carry") and the troops will be dismissed.

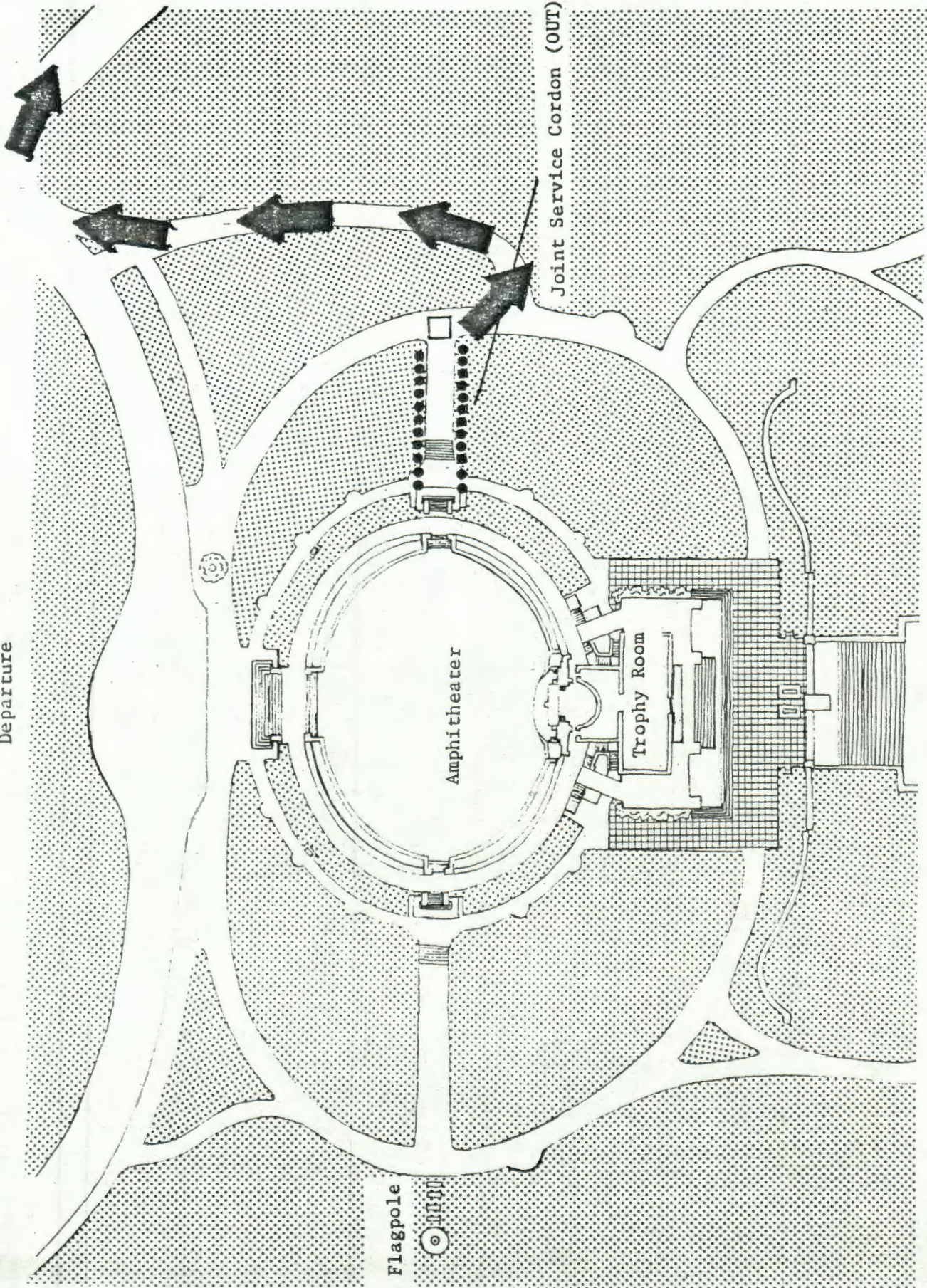
9. Following the memorial service in the Amphitheater, the host will escort the President out the north entrance of the Amphitheater and through the joint honor cordon to his automobile. The joint honor cordon commander will bring the cordon to PRESENT ARMS when the President approaches the cordon. When the President enters his vehicle, the cordon will be given ORDER ARMS. As the President's vehicle departs, a 21-gun salute will be fired while the motorcade is en route to Memorial Gate. The street cordon salutes by the ripple. After the last round of the 21-gun salute is fired, the troops will be dismissed.

Dignitary Dismount Point





Departure



PART I.—HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

THE MEDAL OF HONOR

The Medal of Honor is the highest military award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States of America. Conceived in the early 1860's and first presented in 1863, the medal has a colorful and inspiring history which has culminated in the standards applied today for awarding this respected honor.

In their provisions for judging whether a man is entitled to the Medal of Honor, each of the armed services has set up regulations which permit no margin of doubt or error. The deed of the person must be proved by incontestable evidence of at least two eyewitnesses; it must be so outstanding that it clearly distinguishes his gallantry beyond the call of duty from lesser forms of bravery; it must involve the risk of his life; and it must be the type of deed which, if he had not done it, would not subject him to any justified criticism.

A recommendation for the Army or Air Force Medal must be made within 2 years from the date of the deed upon which it depends. Award of the medal must be made within 3 years after the date of the deed. The recommendation for a Navy Medal of Honor must be made within 3 years and awarded within 5 years.

Apart from the great honor which it conveys, there are certain small privileges which accompany the Medal of Honor. Its recipients can, under certain conditions, obtain free air transportation on military aircraft within the continental United States on a "space available" basis. A veteran who has been awarded the medal for combat in any war is eligible for a special pension of \$200 per month, starting from the date he applies for the pension.

The Medal of Honor is presented to its recipients by a high official "in the name of the Congress of the United States." For this reason it is sometimes called the Congressional Medal of Honor.

As a general rule, the Medal of Honor may be awarded for a deed of personal bravery or self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty only while the person is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States in action against an enemy of the United States, or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. However, until passage of Public Law 88-77, the Navy could and did award Medals of Honor for bravery in the line of the naval profession. Such awards recognized bravery in saving life, and deeds of valor performed in submarine rescues, boiler explosions, turret fires, and other types of disaster unique to the naval profession.

Congress has often voted special medals for important victories and other contributions to the Nation, the first having been awarded to General Washington for his success at Boston in 1776. These are truly Congressional medals to honor individuals and events. By Congressional action, and signed by the President, the Medal of Honor was awarded to the following Unknown Soldiers: Britain and France, on March 4, 1921; United States—World War I, on August 24, 1921; Italy, on October 12, 1921; Belgium, on December 1, 1922; and Rumania, on June 6, 1923. On two occasions the Army Medal of Honor has been awarded by separate acts of Congress—the first being the act of December 1927 honoring Captain Charles A. Lindbergh; the second being the act of 21 March 1935 honoring Major General Adolphus W. Greely. In each case, the medal presented was the Army Medal of Honor in use at the time, not a special medal struck for the purpose expressed in each act of Congress. In addition, five members of the Navy—Machinist Floyd Bennett, Commander Richard E. Byrd, Jr., Boatswain's Mate George R. Cholister, Ensign Henry C. Drexler, and Lieutenant Richmond P. Hobson, each received the Navy Medal of Honor by acts of Congress. By Congressional approval the Medal of Honor was also awarded to the American Unknown Soldier of World War II, on March 9, 1948; and to the American Unknown Soldier of the Korean conflict on August 31, 1957. In peace or war, this medal is the highest decoration which can be given in any of the Armed Forces—Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard.

"IN THE NAME OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES"

The Medal of Honor was not the idea of any one American. Like most of the ideas which have flowered into institutions and practices in our Nation, it was the result of group thought and action and evolved in response to a need of the times.

In the winter of 1861-62, following the beginning of hostilities in the Civil War, there was much thought in Washington concerning the necessity for recognizing the deeds of the American soldiers, sailors, and marines who were distinguishing themselves in the fighting.

The American Nation, which had given little thought to its Armed Forces during times of peace, now found them to be the focal point of attention. The serviceman, unpublicized and isolated during the preceding years, many of which were spent guarding the national frontiers against Indian raids and the coastline against smugglers, now became a great looming figure in the fight to preserve the Union. Overnight, he ceased to be a man plying some remote and mysterious trade out on the plains of Kansas or North Dakota, or on some ship at sea. He was the boy next door, or indeed the son of the household, sent out to fight for a cause that, in a very real sense, lay close to home.

His contribution was not just in fighting, but in fighting gallantly, sometimes displaying a sheer heroism which, when looked upon by the Nation in whose name it was called forth, quite naturally caused that Nation to seek some means of rewarding him.

But the thought did not. Revolution, Americans realized, soldiers, sailors, and marines had been. They realized that the frontier, or the equally the bridge of his ship at "peace," had been doing the sailor, or marine of the Civil realized that in doing this well known and unrecognized her capable of being killed in a could have been during the war.

In looking back for a precedent, Americans could note the "Certificate of Merit" for soldiers in 1847. Originally, it was rather a certificate signed by the commanding officer and ribbon bar for wear on the uniform. It passed a provision that holders of the certificate should have extra pay. The service should have extra pay, but not honor the servicemen for their actions.

There also had been a meager "brevet" system of promotion. The rank of brevet in the cavalry or infantry could be given to a man for gallantry in action, but it was not a permanent rank, and the man would not be promoted on the basis of his brevet. But this system was abused, and by 1861 much of the cavalry and infantry was composed of men who had been promoted to brevet rank for gallantry in action, and who were not entitled to the rank of brevet.

The best precedent for precedent in our Nation's decorations—went back to burg, N.Y., George Washington decoration for "singular mer the award in 1783. The reco

The philosophy behind the honor is something which no about, those who sought to honor which he could wear

A similar philosophy and principle and the Congress of the Grimes, of Iowa, took the lead. He introduced a bill in both Houses of Congress and on December 21, 1861. It was passed by the men of the Navy and Marine Corps authorized by the American people.

Action on the Army me
February 17, 1862, Senat
troduced a Senate resolutio
honor" to enlisted men of
most distinguish themselves
dierlike qualities."

But the thought did not stop there. For the first time since the Revolution, Americans realized not only what important citizens its soldiers, sailors, and marines were, but how important they had always been. They realized that the far-off lonely trooper, walking his post on the frontier, or the equally lonely sailor or marine standing watch from the bridge of his ship at sea along the coast, during the years of "peace," had been doing the same essential work as that of the soldier, sailor, or marine of the Civil War—protecting the Nation. And they realized that in doing this work they had very often displayed a little-known and unrecognized heroism which, by its nature, rendered them capable of being killed in action in their posts of duty, just as they could have been during the winter of 1861-62.

In looking back for a precedent for honoring our servicemen, Americans could note the "Certificate of Merit," which had been authorized for soldiers in 1847. Originally this award did not provide a medal, but rather a certificate signed by the President. Later, in 1905, a medal and ribbon bar for wear on the uniform were authorized. Congress also passed a provision that holders of the certificate who were still in the service should have extra pay of \$2 per month. But money alone could not honor the servicemen for his deed.

There also had been a method of honoring officers by means of the "brevet" system of promotions, whereby an officer mentioned for gallantry in dispatches could be granted a "brevet rank" higher than that of his actual rank, and be entitled to wear the insignia which went with the brevet. But this system had fallen victim to a series of political abuses, and by 1861 much of its honor had grown meaningless.

The best precedent for honoring servicemen—and the only precedent in our Nation's history which had involved the award of decorations—went back to 1782. On August 7 of that year, in Newburg, N.Y., George Washington had created the Purple Heart as a decoration for "singular meritorious action." Three men had received the award in 1783. The records show no others.

The philosophy behind the Purple Heart had been that since his honor is something which no true soldier, sailor or marine likes to talk about, those who sought to honor him should give him a token of that honor which he could wear without words.

A similar philosophy and purpose characterized the American people and the Congress of the United States in 1861. Senator James W. Grimes, of Iowa, took the lead as chairman of the Senate Naval Committee. He introduced a bill to create a Navy medal. It was passed by both Houses of Congress and approved by President Abraham Lincoln on December 21, 1861. It established a Medal of Honor for enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps—the first decoration formally authorized by the American Government to be worn as a badge of honor.

Action on the Army medal was started 2 months later, when, on February 17, 1862, Senator Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, introduced a Senate resolution providing for presentation of "medals of honor" to enlisted men of the Army and Voluntary Forces who "shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldierlike qualities."

President Lincoln's approval made the resolution law on July 12, 1862. It was amended by an act approved on March 3, 1863, which extended its provision to include officers as well as enlisted men, and made the provisions retroactive to the beginning of the Civil War.

This legislation was to stand as the basis upon which the Army Medal of Honor could be awarded until July 9, 1918, when it was superseded by a completely revised statute.

As soon as the Navy Medal of Honor had been authorized, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles wrote to James Pollock, Director of the U.S. Mint at Philadelphia, asking for his assistance in obtaining a design for the medal. Pollock had submitted five designs to the Navy by the time the Army bill had been introduced in the Senate. When he heard that a similar medal was being considered for the Army, Pollock wrote to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, enclosing one of the designs prepared for the Navy, and pointing out that it would be appropriate for use by the Army as well. Two more designs were submitted to the Navy on May 6, 1862, and on May 9, the Navy approved one of them.

In bas-relief, on the star, the Union held a shield in her right hand against an attacker, who crouched to the left, holding forked-tongued serpents which struck at the shield. In the left hand of the Union was held the fasces, the ancient Roman symbol of unified authority, an ax bound in staves of wood—still a common symbol on many of our 10-cent pieces. The 34 stars which encircle these figures represent the number of States at the time the medal was designed. The reverse of the medal bore a blank for the name of the awardee and the date and place of his deed.

On November 17, 1862, the War Department contracted with the firm of William Wilson & Son, Philadelphia, where the Navy medals were being made, for 2,000 of the same type of medals for the Army. The only difference between the Army medal and that of the Navy was that the Army medal, instead of being attached to its ribbon by an anchor, was attached by means of the American Eagle symbol, standing on crossed cannon and cannon balls.

And now the Navy and the Army had a Medal of Honor. Heroic deeds would entitle their authors to the decoration. On March 25, 1863, the first Army medals were awarded "in the name of the Congress of the United States." A few days later, on April 3, 1863, the first Navy medals were awarded sailors and marines.

PROTECTING THE MEDAL

There were some sincere men who believed that the idea of a Medal of Honor would not prove popular with Americans. By the end of the Civil War, and in succeeding years, this view was definitely proved to be incorrect. If anything, the medal was too popular, and the glory which it conferred upon its recipients had the effect of inspiring the human emotion of envy in many breasts. A flood of imitations sprang up following the Civil War, and had the effect of causing Congress, eventually, to take steps to protect the dignity of the original medal.

The abuses and confusion of the Medal of Honor were so great that a man named John A. Montgomery, publisher of a magazine in New York, to the War Department repeatedly requested to publish a list of recipients.

"There are some who are in the habit of obtaining the Medal of Honor by charity," he wrote, "who obtain it by the influence of their Adjutant General Townser. It would be a good idea. He proposed that the Medal of Honor never applied for their medals, but that they should be given on their delivery. A list was sent to the War Department and published in The Soldier's Friend.

The number of abuses rose so high that the War Department, in 1890, following the Civil War, decided to award the Medal of Honor without any restriction, but to limit the number of an inordinate amount of medals to be awarded. The Medal of Honor was alleged to have been earned. The War Department, of review, not only of individual medals, but of the award to the Medal of Honor.

Public interest in the history of the Medal of Honor led to the publication of a book edited by Brigadier General John A. Montgomery, himself a medal recipient, were published in 1890, entitled "Uncle Sam's Medal of Honor: Five Hundred of '61" (1890) and "Sabre and Bayonet" (1897).

President Harry S. Truman ordered the Army to publish information on the Medal of Honor for its respective services. In July 1949, the War Department published information in a book entitled "The Medal of Honor: The States Army." In 1949, the Navy published "The Medal of Honor, the Navy." In compiling these books, the War Department took into both of these publications, and the Army took from each.

Interest in perpetuating the history of the Medal of Honor part of medal recipients then the War Department. The Medal of Honor Legion was organized in 1900, and made a national organization. The Grand Army of the Republic, incorporated by Act of Congress in 1898, as the Legion of Valor of the Medal of Honor, of the Legion of Valor are—

To promote true fellowship

To advance the best interests of the United States and to inspire by example and personal conduct

To extend all possible aid to the aged, the infirm, and children; and

To stimulate patriotism and to foster a national pride in the United States.

The abuses and confusion as to who earned and who did not earn the Medal of Honor were stated as early as 1869, when M. H. Beaumont, publisher of a magazine named *The Soldier's Friend*, wrote from New York to the War Department, indicating that he had been repeatedly requested to publish the names of all Medal of Honor recipients.

"There are some who are using medals for the purpose of soliciting charity," he wrote, "who obtained them surreptitiously."

Adjutant General Townsend agreed that the publication of a list would be a good idea. He pointed out that some of the awardees had never applied for their medals, and that publication might help lead to their delivery. A list was sent to Beaumont on September 29, 1869, and published in *The Soldier's Friend* shortly afterward.

The number of abuses rose—with increased applications by ex-soldiers, who, following the Civil War, began to present claims for the Medal of Honor without any sound documentation, and after passage of an inordinate amount of time from the dates upon which they alleged to have been earned. These events led to the creation of boards of review, not only of individual acts, but of the whole policy involved in the award to the Medal of Honor.

Public interest in the history of the medal was quickened. Four editions of a book edited by Brig. Gen. Theophilus F. Rodenbaugh, himself a medal recipient, were published in rapid succession. These were entitled "Uncle Sam's Medal of Honor Men" (1886), "The Bravest Five Hundred of '61" (1891), "Fighting for Honor" (1893), and "Sabre and Bayonet" (1897).

President Harry S. Truman, in 1946, ordered the Navy and the Army to publish information on the Medal of Honor recipients in their respective services. In July 1948, the United States Army published the information in a book entitled "The Medal of Honor of the United States Army." In 1949, the Navy published a book entitled "Medal of Honor, the Navy." In compiling this report, the committee is indebted to both of these publications and has used a great deal of material from each.

Interest in perpetuating the ideals of the medal was mounting on the part of medal recipients themselves. On April 23, 1890, the Medal of Honor Legion was organized at Washington as a local society. It was made a national organization during the grand encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in Boston, on August 14, 1890, and was incorporated by Act of Congress on August 4, 1955. Today it is known as the Legion of Valor of the United States of America. The objectives of the Legion of Valor are—

- To promote true fellowship among our members;

- To advance the best interests of members of the Armed Forces of the United States and to enhance their prestige and understanding by example and personal activity;

- To extend all possible relief to needy members, their widows, and children; and

- To stimulate patriotism in the minds of our youth and to engender a national pride and interest in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States, was chartered by the 85th Congress under a legislative act signed into law by President Eisenhower on August 14, 1958. The purposes of the society are—

"To form a bond of friendship and comradeship among all holders of the Medal of Honor.

"To protect, uphold, and preserve the dignity and honor of the medal at all times and on all occasions.

"To protect the name of the medal, and individual holders of the medal from exploitation.

"To provide appropriate aid to all persons to whom the medal has been awarded, their widows or their children.

"To serve our country in peace as we did in war.

"To inspire and stimulate our youth to become worthy citizens of our country.

"To foster and perpetuate Americanism.

"The Society will *not* participate in local or national politics, nor will the Society lend its support for the purpose of obtaining special legislative considerations."

On June 26, 1897, the Secretary of War, R. A. Alger, announced that paragraph 177 of the Army regulations was revised, at the direction of President William McKinley, and that new regulations would henceforth define the award of the Medal of Honor.

The resulting regulations gave the War Department an authoritative and comprehensive system for dealing with award of the medal. Later, an act of Congress, approved on April 24, 1904, made it mandatory that all claims for the medal should be accompanied by official documents describing the deed involved.

At about the same time, the design of the Army Medal of Honor was changed. Initially, the Army and Navy Medal of Honor were the same design, except that the Navy medal was attached to its ribbon by an anchor while the Army medal was attached to its ribbon by means of the American Eagle, standing on crossed cannon and cannon balls.

Late in 1903, Brig. Gen. Horace Porter had several designs prepared by Messrs. Arthur, Bertrand & Berenger, of Paris, and sent them to the Adjutant General, recommending that one of them should be approved by the Medal of Honor Legion, which, at that time, was headed by Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Sickles. Following approval of this organization, the Secretary of War approved the new design and a rosette, fixing his signature to the plan on January 28, 1904.

Just 2 weeks earlier, Representative Cordell Hull, of Tennessee, had introduced the act of 1904, providing for the changes in issuance of the medal. It was approved on April 23, 1904, and it authorized "three thousand medals of honor prepared * * * upon a new design."

It remained only to protect the new design from abuse. Early in 1904, a patent was applied for, and on November 22, 1904, Gen. G. L. Gillespie was awarded Patent Serial No. 197,369, covering the new Medal of Honor, specified as U.S. Patent Office Design No. 37,236. The final step for protection of the new design was taken on December 19, 1904, when General Gillespie transferred the Medal of Honor patent "to W. H. Taft and his successor or successors as Secretary of War of the United States of America."

The medal as officially trophated in gold. The chief star, has been retained, and ic Minerva, the highest sy rounding this central featu States of America" repre enameled in green, encircle of the prongs of the star ar prominence.

The medal is suspended white stars representing the to an eagle supported upon attached to two points of tl tive of the distinguished serv

The reverse of the medal may be engraved thereon. (words "The Congress To."

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The Medal of Honor, whi few people back in 1861, ha and energies of many Ameri examples of courage or of deserve the Medal of Hono recognition, and each degre as a step in the direction above and beyond the call o proved, by the award of the

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The legislation of 1904 g had yet achieved. Now thou tation of the medal as a me nified.

The medal as officially described is made of silver, heavily electroplated in gold. The chief feature of the old medal, the five-pointed star, has been retained, and in its center appears the head of the heroic Minerva, the highest symbol of wisdom and righteous war. Surrounding this central feature in circular form are the words "United States of America" representing nationality. An open laurel wreath, enameled in green, encircles the star, and the oak leaves at the bases of the prongs of the star are likewise enameled in green to give them prominence.

The medal is suspended by a blue silk ribbon, spangled with 13 white stars representing the original States, and this ribbon is attached to an eagle supported upon a horizontal bar. Upon the bar, which is attached to two points of the star, appears the word "Valor," indicative of the distinguished service represented by the medal.

The reverse of the medal is plain so that the name of the recipient may be engraved thereon. On the reverse of the bar are stamped the words "The Congress To."

The patent which had been taken out for protection of the design of the medal expired on November 21, 1918. When this situation was referred to the Judge Advocate General of the Army for an opinion, he stated that this method of protecting the design should be replaced by legislative action forbidding imitations on the part of Congress. A bill for this purpose was recommended by the War Department, passed Congress, and was approved by the President on February 24, 1923. Imitation of the design of the medal was now forbidden by law.

THE "PYRAMID OF HONOR"

The Medal of Honor, which had begun as an idea in the minds of a few people back in 1861, had become a reality occupying the attention and energies of many Americans by 1904. Not all of the extraordinary examples of courage or of service were of the type which would deserve the Medal of Honor. At the same time, all of them deserved recognition, and each degree of valor or service could be looked upon as a step in the direction of that extraordinary service of heroism above and beyond the call of duty which is rewarded, once it has been proved, by the award of the Medal of Honor.

The problem of recognition of these lesser deeds was solved by the creation of a system of decorations arranged in an ascending order, with the lowest awards being the most widely distributed—and the Medal of Honor as the final, supreme award, its distribution limited strictly to the handful of those meeting the most severe tests of heroism. Thus, between the medals most widely distributed—and the Medal of Honor, held by only a few, there came all the other awards of Americans in uniform—arranged as a "pyramid of honor," with the Medal of Honor being the highest point, at the very top.

The legislation of 1904 gave the medal the maximum protection it had yet achieved. Now thought began to turn to the matter of presentation of the medal as a means through which it could be further dignified.

There had been a few scattered instances in which the medal was presented by the President or other high official. The six survivors of the Mitchell Raid through Georgia were awarded the first Army Medals of Honor on March 25, 1863, by Secretary of War Stanton. After presentation of the medals in his office, Secretary Stanton then took the six to the White House for a visit with President Lincoln. A few days later, on April 3, 1863, the first Navy Medals of Honor were awarded to a number of sailors taking part in the attacks on Forts Jackson, Fisher, and St. Philip, on April 24, 1862.

When Ulysses S. Grant became President, he presented the medal in the White House on two separate occasions. While in some cases soldiers and sailors of the Civil War had been given their medals at military formations and mentioned in the orders of the day, there is only one occasion recorded in which this custom was continued after the Civil War.

In some cases, the medals had been sent to awardees by registered mail. And, unfortunately, in some cases these medals had been returned to the War and Navy Departments because the recipients who had earned them had been discharged and their whereabouts were unknown.

On December 9, 1904, Maj. William E. Birkhimer, who had been a brigadier general of volunteers during the Spanish-American War and who was himself a medal recipient, suggested to the Military Secretary in Washington that "every possible attention should be paid to formality and solemnity of circumstance" whenever the medal was given to its recipients. His suggestion was passed up through channels to the Chief of Staff, and after extensive exchanges of correspondence, President Theodore Roosevelt, on September 20, 1905, signed an Executive order directing that ceremonies of award "will always be made with formal and impressive ceremonial," and that the recipient "will, when practicable, be ordered to Washington, D. C., and the presentation will be made by the President, as Commander in Chief, or by such representative as the President may designate." If it should be impracticable for the awardee to come to Washington, the order provided, the Chief of Staff would prescribe the time and place of the ceremony in each case.

The first White House presentation of the medal under the terms of this order was made by President Roosevelt on January 10, 1906.

On April 27, 1916, Congress approved an act which provided for the creation of a "Medal of Honor Roll," upon which honorably discharged medal recipients who earned the medal in combat and who had attained the age of 65 years were to be recorded, with each enrolled person to receive a special pension of \$10 per month for life. The primary purpose of this act was to give medal recipients the same special recognition shown to holders of similar British and French decorations for valor. Limiting the award to the nominal sum of \$10 monthly emphasized that it was not given as a pension, but to provide a small amount for personal comforts in the advanced years of life, at a time when needs are generally not very acute, especially in cases in which the veteran is in receipt of pension benefits. The amount was not made larger both because it was contrary to the policy of Congress to recognize distinguished service by pensions, and because to combine

an award for conspicuous gallantry with the honor attached to the award.

The passage of this act marked a year effort by the Medal of Honor recipients which was formed one of its first documents, "statement to give the Medal of Honor to the heroes of the world which similar type of legislation had been following the organization of the meeting with success.

The successful bill was introduced by New York, who was general by Lincoln. He had fought six days, and had been complimented six times. He had led a Medal of Honor question on the

The Medal of Honor Roll, April 1916, provided that upon the Medal of Honor who was honorably discharged, resignation, or other discharge from the Roll and be eligible for a pension. The Act was amended 14 August 1916 to \$100 per month, decreasing the requirement of separation from 10 years to 10 years. On October 1964 to decrease the age of the awardee to 65. On 18 October 1978, to raise the pension to \$100 per month. In addition the application being made to the War or Navy—"and the provisions hereinafter contained," who has served in the military in any war, who has attained or been honorably discharged, and then laid down the conditions should have been earned by the awardee, distinguished by conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty.

The act specified that the Secretary of War was responsible to decide whether an applicant was eligible for the benefits of the act.

If the official award as originally provided for by the act was not automatically entitled the applicant to a pension. If, on the other hand, the applicant was entitled to a pension, further, "all official correspondence, requests, and other evidence in support of the application shall be considered by the War Department shall be considered by the War Department.

What was to be done if, after the War Department felt that an applicant was not eligible, on June 3, 1916, in section

an award for conspicuous gallantry with a pension would diminish the honor attached to the award of the medal.

The passage of this act marked the successful culmination of a 26-year effort by the Medal of Honor Legion—the organization of medal recipients which was formed back in 1890—to obtain, in the words of one of its first documents, “such legislation from Congress as will tend to give the Medal of Honor the same position among the military orders of the world which similar medals occupy.” Bills aimed at this type of legislation had been introduced into Congress recurrently following the organization of the Medal of Honor Legion—none of them meeting with success.

The successful bill was introduced by Representative Isaac R. Sherwood, of New York, who was a Civil War veteran, breveted brigadier general by Lincoln. He had fought in 43 battles, being under fire 123 days, and had been complimented in special orders for gallantry in action six times. He had led a full-dress congressional discussion of the Medal of Honor question on the floor of the House on July 6, 1914.

The Medal of Honor Roll, established by an Act of Congress, 27 April 1916, provided that upon attaining age 65 each recipient of the Medal of Honor who was honorably discharged from the service by muster-out, resignation, or otherwise, would have his name entered on the Roll and be eligible for a special pension of \$10 per month for life. The Act was amended 14 August 1961 to increase the amount of pension to \$100 per month, decrease the age to 50 and remove the requirement of separation from the service. It was further amended 13 October 1964 to decrease the age to 40, and on 31 October 1965 to delete the age of the awardee as a requirement and, most recently, on 18 October 1978, to raise the amount of the special pension to \$200 per month. In addition the act provided for enrollment “upon written application being made to the Secretary of the proper department”—War or Navy—“and subject to the conditions and requirements hereinafter contained,” of “the name of each surviving person who has served in the military or naval service of the United States in any war, who has attained or shall attain the age of 65 years * * *.” It then laid down the condition that the applicant’s Medal of Honor should have been earned by action involving actual conflict with an enemy, distinguished by conspicuous gallantry or intrepidity, at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty.

The act specified that the Secretary of War or of the Navy would be responsible to decide whether each applicant would be entitled to the benefits of the act.

If the official award as originally made appeared to the War Department to conform to the criteria established by the statute, this automatically entitled the applicant to the pension without further investigation. If, on the other hand, a doubt arose as to whether or not the applicant was entitled to entry on the roll, then, to quote the act further, “all official correspondence, orders, reports, recommendations, requests, and other evidence now on file in any public office or department shall be considered.”

What was to be done if, after the consideration of these documents, the War Department felt that the applicant was ineligible was defined on June 3, 1916, in section 122 of the Army reorganization bill. This

act provided for appointment by the Secretary of War of a board of five retired general officers for the purpose of "investigating and reporting upon past awards or issue of the so-called congressional medal of honor by or through the War Department; this with a view to ascertain what medals of honor, if any, have been awarded or issued for any cause other than distinguished conduct * * * involving actual conflict with an enemy * * *."

"And in any case," this act continued, "in which said board shall find and report that said medal was issued for any cause other than that hereinbefore specified, the name of the recipient of the medal so issued shall be stricken permanently from the official Medal of Honor list. It shall be a misdemeanor for him to wear or publicly display such medal, and, if he shall still be in the Army, he shall be required to return said medal to the War Department for cancellation."

By October 16, 1916, the Board created by this act had met, gathered all Medal of Honor records, prepared statistics, classified cases and organized evidence which might be needed in its deliberations. Between October 16, 1916, and January 17, 1917, all of the 2,625 Medals of Honor which had been awarded up to that time were considered by the Board, and on February 15, 1917, 910 names were stricken from the list.

Of these 910 names, 864 were involved in one group—a case in which the medal had been given to members of a single regiment. The regiment's (27th Maine Volunteer Infantry) enlistment was to have expired in June of 1863. As an inducement to keep the regiment on active duty during a critical period, President Lincoln authorized Medals of Honor for any of its members who volunteered for another tour of duty. The 309 men who volunteered for extended duty, in the face of more action and possible death, certainly were demonstrating "soldierlike" qualities, and as such were entitled to the Medal under one proviso of the original law. But their act in no way measured up to the 1916 standards. A clerical error compounded the abuse. Not only did the 309 volunteers receive the medal, but the balance of the regiment, which had gone home in spite of the President's offer, was awarded it also. In this group case as well as in the remaining 46 scattered cases, the Board felt that the medal had not been properly awarded for distinguished services, by the definition of the act of June 3, 1916. Among the 46 others who lost their medal was William F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill.

In its final report, the Board indicated that in the large majority of cases "the medals have been awarded for distinguished conduct in action, measuring that term by the highest standard, and there can be no question as to the propriety of the award."

In some cases, the Board reported, the rewards the men received were "greater than would now be given for the same acts," but in the absence of evidence to the contrary, "and because there has been no high judicial interpretation of the Medal of Honor laws" the Board found that there were "but few instances where the medal has not been awarded for distinguished services."

The 910 cases which did not pass the Board's investigation were turned over to the War Department, and against each of the names involved was stamped the inscription, "Stricken from the list February 15, 1917, Adverse Action Medal of Honor Board—A. G. 2411162."

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There have been no instances of cancellation of Medal of Honor awards within the naval service.

This Board had few legal definitions to guide it in its work. It had to work with a quantity of regulations and precedents in making its decisions, and this mass of information was uncoordinated and even, in some cases, conflicting. For example, the act of April 27, 1916, provided for a "Medal of Honor Roll" for those who met the definition of valor above and beyond the call of duty; whereas the original act creating the Medal on July 12, 1862, specified only gallantry in action and "other soldierlike qualities" as the basis for award.

In 1918, Congress decided to clear away any inconsistencies of the legislation which had grown around the Army medal and make a set of perfectly clear rules for its award. On July 9, 1918, an act was approved which stated as follows:

"* * * the provisions of existing law relating to the award of Medals of Honor * * * are amended so that the President is authorized to present, in the name of the Congress, a Medal of Honor only to each person who, while an officer or enlisted man of the Army, shall hereafter, in action involving actual conflict with an enemy, distinguish himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

At one stroke, by use of the word "hereafter," this legislation wiped out of existence the War Department's problem of acting on numerous ancient and complicated claims for medals originating as far back as the Civil War. At the same time, it clearly defined the type of deed which could earn a medal.

But these were not the only provisions of this 1918 act. It directed that enlisted men who were medal recipients should receive \$2 per month extra in their military pay. This matter of an extra \$2 per month was intertwined with the Certificate of Merit. The 1918 legislation abolished the Certificate of Merit and replaced it by a new medal—the Distinguished Service Medal—still retaining the extra pay feature.

The Distinguished Service Cross was brought into existence to more fully single out and honor combat gallantry. The committee on Military Affairs, which had prepared the bill, stated that, "It is believed that if a secondary medal * * * had been authorized in the past, the award of the * * * Medal of Honor would have been much more jealously guarded than it was for many years. And it is certain that the establishment of such a secondary medal now will go far toward removing the temptation to laxity with regard to future awards of the greater medal."

However, it would have been illogical to have a "secondary" medal which carried the old Certificate of Merit provision of \$2 extra pay per month, while the "greater medal"—the Medal of Honor—had no such provision attached to it. Therefore, the extra pay feature was added to the award of the Medal of Honor.

But possibly the most important and far-reaching effect of this 1918 legislation was the fact that for the first time in American history it was established by law that there were degrees of service to the country, each worthy of recognition, but only *one* of which could be accorded supreme recognition. In addition to the Distinguished Service

Cross, the 1918 act also created the Army Distinguished Service Medal and the Army Silver Star Citation, each of them lower in precedence. The Silver Star became a formal decoration, with its own distinctive ribbon, in 1932.

This legislation also made it clear that recommendations for such Army awards had to be made within 2 years after the act involved, and laid down the time limit of 3 years as that in which the medals involved could be issued, following the date of the act meriting their award. It provided that not more than one medal should be issued to any one person, but that for each succeeding act justifying the award a suitable bar or other device could be awarded by the President. The President was authorized to delegate award of all four medals with which this 1918 act was concerned—the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, and Silver Star—to commanding generals of armies or higher units in the field.

The act of July 9, 1918, was the genesis of what has been called the "Pyramid of Honor," a hierarchy of military decorations awarded for combat valor and meritorious service at the top of which is placed the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is restricted to the few who qualify by the most rigid definition of courage and valor in combat. Next in order of precedence is the Distinguished Service Cross, with less rigid restrictions, allowing more to qualify for this award for combat valor. Beneath the Distinguished Service Cross is the Distinguished Service Medal, which can be awarded for exceptionally meritorious service. The complete hierarchy consists at present of 12 awards for valor and/or service, ranging from the Medal of Honor at the top to the Purple Heart at the base of the "Pyramid of Honor."

A second Medal of Honor, commonly referred to as the (new) Medal of Honor, was approved by act of Congress of February 4, 1919, for award to any person in the naval service of the United States who while in action involving "actual conflict" with the enemy distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty and without detriment to the mission. The old Medal of Honor was retained for noncombat service.

The new Navy Medal of Honor was designed by Tiffany & Company of New York—hence the reference to it as the "Tiffany Cross"—and is a gold cross pattee, 35 millimeters across, on a wreath of oak and laurel leaves. The center of the cross bears the eagle design from the United States seal within an octagon bearing the inscription, "United States Navy, 1917-1918." A plain anchor appears on each arm of the cross. Except for the embossed words, "Awarded to," the reverse is plain. The medal is suspended from a ribbon consisting of a triple chevron of 13 white stars on a light blue field, the star at the point of the chevron being uppermost. At the crest of the ribbon is a bar which bears the single word "Valour." It is worn at the neck as a pendant, suspended from the band by means of its ribbon. The ribbon bar worn in lieu of either the original Medal of Honor or the second Medal of Honor is light blue and is embroidered with 5 white stars.

The act of Congress, approved February 4, 1919, which established the new Navy Medal of Honor, also provided for the adoption of a Navy Distinguished Service Medal, a Navy Cross and a gold star to be awarded in lieu of a second or additional award of any Navy decoration.

The new Navy Medal of Honor was approved August 7, 1942. The old Navy Medal of Honor, then noncombat service above and below the relative position of the Distinguished Service Cross and established the Silver Star, Navy and Marine Corps Medal and Distinguished Service Medal, abolished duplication of awards.

In order to insure fairness to all, instructions to various commanding officers of the United States Army Forces to submit recommendations for the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, and Silver Star were issued. Recommendations were to cover the cases of men not in regimental command as nearly as possible to the General Pershing also appointed to consider recommendations. Recommendations so screened were then passed on to the War Department.

From these procedures the possible awards which were used were specified. The major requirements established specified that each recommendation specify a specific action on a particular day, the place and details of the action involved. It was also specified that each recommendation be accompanied by sworn statements of eyewitnesses of the action for which the award was made.

Five days after the Armistice of November 11, 1918, that a careful review be made of the records for award of the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, and Silver Star. Headquarters of each division were to submit forms necessary to substantiate the award. It was ordered that these officers were to obtain necessary evidence for the award so that the Distinguished Service Cross case merited the Medal of Honor.

Up to November 23, 1918, no Medal of Honor had been received in the Pershing Division mentioned above. As of that date, the Personnel Division of The Adjutant General's Office, Lt. Col. J. A. Ulio continued to function within this new Division.

Medal of Honor recommendations and decorations were handled at the War Department, Mont, France, between November 1918 and the War Department. Medal of Honor awards were made.

General Pershing personally reviewed supporting documents.

Until June 30, 1921, the Adjutant General's Office functioned within the War Department. On that date, the Secretary of War transferred the Adjutant General's Office to the War Department.

The new Navy Medal of Honor was made obsolete by an act of Congress approved August 7, 1942. This act restored the dual status of the old Navy Medal of Honor, thereby authorizing its award for combat or noncombat service above and beyond the call of duty. It also reversed the relative position of the Distinguished Service Medal and Navy Cross and established the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Navy and Marine Corps Medal as Navy decorations. In addition, it also abolished duplication of awards.

In order to insure fairness to all, Gen. John J. Pershing issued instructions to various commanding officers of the American Expeditionary Forces to submit recommendations for award of the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, and Distinguished Service Medal. Recommendations were to come from regimental commanders, or, in the cases of men not in regiments, from the commanders corresponding as nearly as possible to the grade of regimental commander. General Pershing also appointed a board of officers at his headquarters to consider recommendations for the decorations. The recommendations so screened were then passed on to the Commander in Chief.

From these procedures there evolved the methods of examining possible awards which were used throughout World War II. Among the major requirements established at Headquarters, AEF, was one which specified that each recommendation for a Medal of Honor must cite a specific action on a particular day or in a particular engagement, giving the place and details of the action and the numbers of troops involved. It was also specified that each recommendation must be accompanied by sworn statements of two or more persons who were eyewitnesses of the action for which the medal was recommended.

Five days after the Armistice, General Pershing not only directed that a careful review be made of each case which had been submitted for award of the Distinguished Service Cross, but he also sent to headquarters of each division an officer thoroughly familiar with the forms necessary to substantiate awards of the Medal of Honor. He ordered that these officers were to be given every possible assistance in obtaining necessary evidence for Medal of Honor award in these cases, so that the Distinguished Service Cross would not be given when a case merited the Medal of Honor.

Up to November 23, 1918, 24 Medal of Honor recommendations had been received in the Personnel Bureau, AEF, and 4 approved, as mentioned above. As of that date, the Personnel Bureau became the Personnel Division of The Adjutant General's Office, U.S. Army, and Lt. Col. J. A. Ulio continued as chief of the Decorations Section within this new Division.

Medal of Honor recommendations and those pertaining to other decorations were handled at General Pershing's headquarters at Chaumont, France, between November 1918 and July 1919. They were submitted to the War Department, and during this period 78 Medal of Honor awards were made.

General Pershing personally reviewed each recommendation and the supporting documents.

Until June 30, 1921, the Badge and Medal Section in The Adjutant General's Office functioned within very limited areas of administration. On that date, the Secretary of War directed The Adjutant General to

take over all operating functions connected with the award of Army medals and decorations.

The last Medal of Honor which could be awarded under the legislation of 1918—which specified that the award could be made not more than 3 years from the date of the act which won it—was presented to the American Unknown Soldier on Armistice Day of 1921. The bill which allowed it to be awarded to an unidentified soldier was signed by the President on August 24, 1921.

The medal was pinned on the flag draping the coffin of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery by President Warren G. Harding, at services in the amphitheater of the cemetery. At the same time, the President pinned to the flag high awards of Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. All of these nations had authorized award of their highest decorations to the American Unknown Soldier, and the ceremony was attended by dignitaries of each of these countries.

During the post-World War I period special congressional action and Executive orders allowed the award of the Medal of Honor to Unknown Soldiers of nations which had been our allies in the conflict. On March 4, 1921, an act was approved awarding the medal to the Unknown British and French Soldiers, and on October 12, 1921, a similar act awarded it to the Italian Unknown Soldier.

Authorization to award the medal to the Belgian Unknown Soldier was given by Executive order of the President on December 1, 1922, and a similar authorization was given in the case of the Unknown Rumanian Soldier on June 6, 1923.

The Medal of Honor was also awarded to the Unknown American of World War II by act of Congress approved March 9, 1948, and to the Unknown American of the Korean conflict by act of Congress approved August 31, 1957.

In the winter of 1919-20, there was some discussion of changing the design of the Army medal once again, in order to beautify it, but the prevailing opinion was in favor of leaving it unchanged, and the design remained the same as it is today.

During the period of 1927-30, the Army War College, which has the mission of training selected officers for duty with the General Staff of the War Department and for high command, made studies of the principles and technical aspects of administration of Medal of Honor awards. Ten student officers had been assigned to make a study of the system of rewards in the Army as early as 1924. Three years later, in 1927, using the earlier study as a guide and source of material, a study of greater scope was finished at the War College.

A third study of the subject was made later.

When the time limitation on awards of the medal—contained in the 1918 legislation—expired for the second time, on April 7, 1923, many applications for War Department decorations which already had been filed with the Department during the first 4 postwar years still remained pending in the archives of The Adjutant General and the General Staff. On May 26, 1928, an extension was made part of an act of Congress in order to allow clearing up of these cases. It provided for consideration of recommendations pending at that date in the War and Navy Departments and the Marine Corps, with awards to be made in such cases as could be shown worthy.

On October 14, 1927, T established by the Secretary of recommendations for awards military forces and to those in any capacity. The Board was line of the Navy and a brigadier lieutenant commander of the The ranks and the number varied through the years, depending on the name of the Board was Decorations and Medals.

During World War II and the Navy delegated authority to theaters of operations to award Secretary of the Navy (Navy Medals). Such authority excluded Service Medal, all Marine Corps Medal, and unit

All of these procedures and legislation, may seem dry and not make for glamour. Records not lend themselves to heroic and bulletins, spelling out the statutes the material of an advertisement these legalistic safeguards that glorious tradition today. The them—from 1861 to the present, administration, review, were unglamorous hours which pinnacle which bears the Medal of Honor, the Nation was preminister a swift and accurate in action. Since World War the Vietnam era, these procedures provide the Nation with an spicuous valor.

Through legislation, preceded "Pyramid of Honor." The Medal has been intended all through its that pyramid.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

The following is the order of precedence of the United States, based on the date of the act, and the date each medal was established.

U.S. ARMY

1. Medal of Honor (1862)
2. Distinguished Service Cross (1918)
3. Defense Distinguished Service Medal (1948)
4. Distinguished Service Medal (1918)

On October 14, 1927, The Permanent Board of Awards was established by the Secretary of the Navy Curtis D. Wilbur to consider recommendations for awards of naval decorations to members of the military forces and to those attached to or serving with the Navy in any capacity. The Board was composed of two rear admirals of the line of the Navy and a brigadier general of the Marine Corps, with a lieutenant commander of the line of the Navy who served as recorder. The ranks and the number of members composing the Board have varied through the years, depending on conditions of world affairs, and the name of the Board was changed to Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals.

During World War II and the Korean conflict, the Secretary of the Navy delegated authority to certain designated commands in the theaters of operations to award decorations without reference to the Secretary of the Navy (Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals). Such authority excluded the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Medal, all awards to flag officers, the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, and unit awards.

All of these procedures and policies, based upon congressional legislation, may seem dry and uninteresting. Legal terminology does not make for glamour. Records of proceedings of a board of review do not lend themselves to heroics. And the precise wording of regulations and bulletins, spelling out the law with care and repetition hardly constitutes the material of an adventure story. But it is precisely *because* of these legalistic safeguards that the Medal of Honor is a symbol of such glorious tradition today. The hours which were spent—thousands of them—from 1861 to the present day in the work of legislation, definition, administration, review of applications and recommendations, were unglamorous hours which painfully built the firm base for the pinnacle which bears the Medal of Honor. As a result of this painstaking work, the Nation was prepared, when World War II struck, to administer a swift and accurate reward for many provable cases of valor in action. Since World War II, through both the Korean conflict and the Vietnam era, these procedures have stood intact to continue to provide the Nation with an efficient manner of rewarding such conspicuous valor.

Through legislation, precedent, and procedure, America has built its "Pyramid of Honor." The Medal of Honor now stands where it has been intended all through its history that it should stand—at the top of that pyramid.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE OF MILITARY DECORATIONS

The following is the order of precedence for military decorations of the United States, based on degrees of valor and meritorious achievement, and the date each medal was established:

U.S. ARMY AND U.S. AIR FORCE

1. Medal of Honor (1862)
2. Distinguished Service Cross (1918)/Air Force Cross (1960)
3. Defense Distinguished Service Medal (1970)
4. Distinguished Service Medal (1918)

5. Silver Star (1918)
6. Defense Superior Service Medal (1976)
7. Legion of Merit (1942)
8. Distinguished Flying Cross (1926)
9. Soldier's Medal (1926)/Airman's Medal (1960)
10. Bronze Star (1942)
11. Meritorious Service Medal (1969)
12. Air Medal (1942)
13. Joint Service Commendation Medal (1963)
14. Army Commendation Medal (formerly Commendation Ribbon) (1945)/Air Force Commendation Medal (1958)
15. Purple Heart (1782)

U.S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

1. Medal of Honor (1862)
2. Navy Cross (1919)
3. Defense Distinguished Service Medal (1970)
4. Distinguished Service Medal (1918)
5. Silver Star (1918)
6. Defense Superior Service Medal (1976)
7. Legion of Merit (1942)
8. Navy and Marine Corps Medal (1942)
9. Bronze Star (1942)
10. Meritorious Service Medal (1969)
11. Air Medal (1942)
12. Joint Service Commendation Medal (1967)
13. Navy Commendation Medal (formerly Navy Commendation Ribbon) (1944)
14. Purple Heart (1782)

MEDALS FOR CIVILIANS

1. Medal for Merit (1942)
2. Presidential Medal of Freedom (1963) (Supersedes Medal of Freedom)
3. Certain military medals may also be awarded to civilians under specified conditions.

PART II.—CITATIONS HONOR BY WAR, C

[Asterisk (



The first Medals of Honor awarded by the United States Government, the decoration went to 19 Union soldiers who were killed at the Battle of Fort Mifflin in April 1862. General Mitchell in April 1862. Disgraced Union General at Big Shanty, Ga., 20 miles from Atlanta and Chattanooga. By the Confederates, the party was killed on the track along the way, but after a few days, all of them were executed. On March 25, 1863, they were freed from a Confederate prison, and the Medals of Honor by Secretary of War to 13 other members of the raid.

EHD
Red

Diana
Char/Mar

Event File w/attachments

November 11
10:00
(15)

Morton w/attachments

(Pls submit THE WHITE HOUSE
briefing paper WASHINGTON
to Nancy by
10:00 a.m. - 11/10)

November 3, 1982

NOV 5 1982

Call Sam Piper
VA coordinator
Jack Wel 1s

APPROVED FOR

Date. 11/11/82

Time. 10:00

Length. 15 min

Date 11/5/82 WKS

STATE DINING ROOM

MEMORANDUM TO MICHAEL K. DEEVER

FROM: WILLIAM F. SITTMANN

SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal for Raymond Weeks

After reviewing the attached papers from Aram Bakshian, I believe it would be a good idea to make the presentation of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Raymond Weeks.

Shortly after World War II, Mr. Weeks was the driving force on having Veterans Day established as a National Holiday.

Perhaps we could have the ceremony in the Rose Garden with press coverage.

Mr. Weeks comes highly recommended for this medal from Secretary Weinberg, General Rosenblum, General Brown and other dignitaries.

APPROVE

✓

DISAPPROVE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1982

B. Sittum
Citr. Disc. cur

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL DEEVER

FROM: ARAM BAKSHIAN *AB*

SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal for Raymond Weeks

On the recommendation of Secretary Weinberger and others, I concur with the presentation of the Presidential Citizens Medal for Raymond Weeks. Once the event is scheduled and the speechwriting office is informed, we will prepare his citation and appropriate remarks.

*Heinbergson
wants presentation
made on
11-11-82
(Call name)
2/150*

REFERRAL

DATE: 16 AUG 82

MEMORANDUM FOR: ARAM BAKSHIAN

RM 100, OEOB

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: WEINBERGER, C

DATE: 10 AUG 82

KEYWORDS: DEFENSE

AWARDS

WEEKS, RAYMOND

CM

SUBJ: NOMINATION OF WEEKS FOR PRES CITIZENS MEDAL

REQUIRED ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS:

Cathy Millison
FOR MICHAEL O WHEELER

STAFF SECRETARY



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

82 11 27:58

10 AUG 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Nomination of Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential
Citizens Medal

It is a pleasure to forward the attached nomination of Mr. Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama, for the Presidential Citizens Medal.

The many activities of Mr. Weeks in support of our Armed Forces and our Nation's veterans, foremost among them his leading role in the establishment of Veterans Day as a national observance, clearly warrant special recognition.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank B. Rowland", is located in the lower right portion of the document. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nomination For The Presidential Citizens Medal

NOMINEE:

Mr. Raymond Weeks

Director of National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama

This nomination was first submitted in 1981 and approved by both the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Defense. We have been advised informally that it was not approved by the White House since it had been submitted too late to permit processing of the award by the proposed presentation date - 11 November 1981. The same nomination is forwarded at this time without a proposed award presentation date. It has been reviewed and the facts therein are still pertinent. Mr. Weeks is currently organizing the 36th Annual National Veterans Day in Birmingham.

AFKA-CG (2 October 1981) 2d Ind

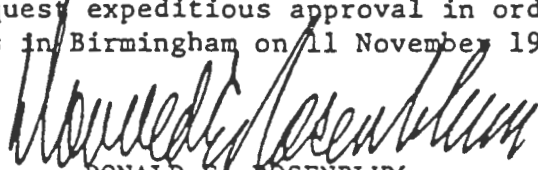
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal

HQ FIRST US ARMY, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755 22 October 1981

TO: HQDA (DAPE-CPL), Washington, D. C. 20310

Strongly recommend approval of the nomination of Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential Citizens Medal. Mr. Weeks is without equal in his contributions to the military service and the Nation. He is absolutely deserving of this award. Request expeditious approval in order that award may be presented to Mr. Weeks in Birmingham on 11 November 1981.

14 Incl
nc


DONALD E. ROSENBLUM
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

AFKA-RR-DCG (2 October 1981) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal

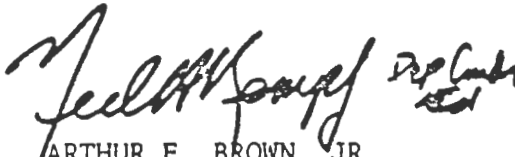
Headquarters, United States Army Readiness and Mobilization Region IV,
Fort Gillem, Forest Park, Georgia 30050 16 OCT 1981

THRU: Commander, First United States Army, ATTN: AFKA-CG, Fort Meade,
Maryland 20755

TO: HQDA (DAPE-CPL), Washington, DC 20310

It is indeed a pleasure to forward the nomination of Mr. Raymond Weeks for award of the Presidential Citizens Medal. His actions over the past 55 years have greatly benefitted his fellowman and served to establish organizations and traditions that will endure for generations to come, providing great benefit to our nation. Mr. Weeks is richly deserving of such high recognition.

14 Incl
nc

For 
ARTHUR E. BROWN, JR.
Major General, USA
Commanding



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 121ST UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
3620 8TH AVENUE SOUTH
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35222

AFKA-ACH-CG

2 October 1981

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal

Major General Arthur E. Brown, Jr.
Commander
US Army Readiness and Mobilization Region IV
Fort Gillem, GA 30050

1. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential Citizens Medal under the provisions of Para 10-2, AR 672-20. I have known Mr. Weeks for over 30 years, and feel that he has done more than any other to support the Armed Forces of this country and to recognize veterans who have served their country so faithfully. Mr. Weeks is involved in basically every activity in this area that supports the Armed Forces, and I would like to specifically cite three extremely significant activities that he has taken the lead in establishing and carrying through in a highly successful manner.

a. Mr. Weeks was the driving force that established soon after World War II the day to honor all veterans of all wars in which the United States has been engaged, and was instrumental in getting Armistice Day changed to Veterans Day by the Congress of the United States in 1954. Mr. Weeks has been Chairman of the Veterans Day Activities in Birmingham since its inception in 1947, and I feel that this observance of Veterans Day in Birmingham has created patriotism within this area that equals or exceeds any area in the United States. I am attaching as inclosure 1 a history of National Veterans Day which will provide additional details concerning Mr. Weeks' outstanding accomplishments in this area.

b. Upon initiation of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Mr. Weeks was one of the first individuals to become involved in this activity within the state of Alabama, and is now serving as the State Chairman. He has provided a very vital service to the Guard and Reserve by encouraging employers to sign agreements pledging support to the Guard/Reserve.

c. In 1973, Mr. Weeks developed a plan to recognize outstanding enlisted representatives from each major Active, Reserve and National Guard command of all services in Alabama. The plan was presented to the governor and was approved, and Mr. Weeks was designated as the Governor's Representative to implement the program. The governor presented the first awards to the

AFKA-ACH-CG

2 October 1981

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Presidential Citizens Medal

outstanding enlisted personnel during Armed Forces Week in 1974, which has been an ongoing activity since that date, and Mr. Weeks continues to serve as the Governor's Representative in dealing with the major commands throughout this area. This program has given significant recognition to the enlisted personnel, and has proven to be a very effective program within the state.

2. I am attaching several letters from military leaders who have knowledge of Mr. Weeks' contributions, and also the mayor of the City of Birmingham and the governor of the State of Alabama, attesting to the actions of Mr. Weeks. I feel that they speak for themselves and fully support this recommendation for the Presidential Citizens Medal which, upon approval, would be presented during National Veterans Day Activities in Birmingham, Alabama in November 1982.


STANFORD J. SKINNER
Major General, USAR
Commanding

14 Incl

1. Hist of Natl Vet Day
2. Ltr GEN Shoemaker 18 Sep 81
3. Ltr MG Berkman 20 Aug 81
4. Ltr MG Merrill 10 Sep 81
5. Ltr LTG Weber 28 Sep 81
6. Ltr MG Cobb 19 Aug 81
7. Ltr MG Mickle 12 Sep 81
8. Ltr BG Logan 1 Sep 81
9. Ltr MG Megarr 18 Aug 81
10. Ltr RADM Stewart 17 Aug 81
11. Ltr Gov James 18 Aug 81
12. Ltr Mayor Arrington 19 Aug 81
13. Bio Mr. Weeks
14. Proposed Citation

HISTORY OF NATIONAL VETERANS DAY

1 July 1981

Following the end of the Second World War, an energetic, patriotic citizen of Birmingham, Alabama, conceived the idea of establishing a day to honor the veterans of all wars in which the United States has been engaged, since, until that time, Armistice Day on November 11th recognized only the veterans of World War I. The man was Honorable Raymond Weeks, who is still the Director of the Birmingham National Veterans Day program.

Armed with a persuasive argument to support his plan, Mr Weeks headed a small delegation to Washington, D. C., to present that plan for a "National Veterans Day" to General Dwight D. Eisenhower, then Chief of Staff Army. With a favorable reception to the concept from General Eisenhower, plans were made to adopt the name of "Veterans Day" in the Birmingham celebration of Armistice Day on November 11, 1947, seven years before the Congress voted to change Armistice Day. During the seven year interim, the Birmingham Committee worked closely with members of Congress and governmental and military leaders to effect the change in name and in 1954, this effort culminated in the official recognition of Veterans Day on November 11th. With the interest and support of the "National Veterans Day" concept by highly placed government and military leaders, the program was destined for success from the very beginning. Birmingham, the birthplace of Veterans Day, has presented an outstanding program of commemoration for thirty-four consecutive years and has become the focal point of the annual observance in the United States.

The Birmingham program is a model upon which cities throughout the Nation regularly seek to plan and organize their local programs through the advice and counsel of the Birmingham National Veterans Day Committee, and this year, 1981, will mark the 35th Annual observance of Veterans Day in Birmingham.

On the first official observance of National Veterans Day in 1954, a National Veterans Award was established for presentation each year to a United States citizen who had distinguished himself as a veteran. The award is presented in Birmingham on the evening before Veterans Day, at a banquet especially arranged to honor the recipient, which is a highlight of the celebration.

The first National Veterans Award was presented to the Honorable Edwin H. Rees in recognition of his outstanding contribution by sponsoring the bill which created Veterans Day. Subsequent awards have been presented to Honorable Harvey V. Higley for outstanding service to veterans as Administrator of Veterans Affairs; General Mark Clark for humanitarian efforts in many fields to his country; General Lucius D. Clay for outstanding administrative and counseling services to his nation in times of emergency; in 1958, the award was presented jointly to the young Governors-elect of South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, who were the Honorable E. F. Hollings, Ernest Vandiver and John Patterson, for distinguished service to their states and nation; in 1959, for unselfish services to the needy in time of disaster, General Alfred M. Gruenther, as National President of the American Red Cross; in 1960, Honorable Sumner G. Whittier for distinguished service to veterans as Administrator of Veterans Affairs; in 1961, General James A. Van Fleet for extraordinary service to his country; in 1962, Honorable John S. Gleason, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, for outstanding administrative leadership in veterans affairs; General Matthew B. Ridgeway was honored in 1963 for his outstanding continuous service to his country in retirement; in 1964, General J. Lawton Collins was cited for humanitarian service to European refugees; in 1965, the award was presented to General David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Board, Radio Corporation of America, for his work in the field of

communications; in 1966, the award was presented to General Paul D. Adams (Retired), former Commander, United States Strike Command, who was honored for his outstanding service to his country; in 1967, the award was presented to Donald M. Kendall, Chief Executive Officer for Pepsi Company, Incorporated New York. Mr Kendall was cited for his fight in the protection of our free enterprise system; in 1968, the award was presented to General Lauris Norstad, former NATO Commander and at the present, Chief Executive Officer for Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation, Toledo, Ohio. General Norstad was cited for his continuing efforts to solidify Europe against the threat of communism; in 1969, the award was presented to Colonel Roscoe Turner, Indianapolis, Indiana, for his pioneering efforts in aviation; in 1970, the award was presented to General Omar N. Bradley for his continuing contribution as General of the Army to the defense of his country and freedom throughout the world, in 1971, the award was presented to the man who led the famous bomber raid on Tokyo in World War II, General James Doolittle, also a Medal of Honor holder; in 1972, the award was presented to Brigadier General James Stewart for his continuous contribution in the field of motion pictures and television, and the entertainment of service men and women around the world; in 1973, the award was presented to Brigadier General Charles A. Lindbergh for his massive contribution in the field of conservation and development and particularly in the field of aviation since his "solo" flight from New York to Paris in 1927. In 1974, the award was presented to Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for outstanding service to his country; in 1975, this distinguished award was presented to General Lewis B. Hershey (Retired), for sixty-two years of extraordinary service to his country; in 1976, Neil A. Armstrong was honored for his scientific feat of successfully landing on the moon; in 1977, General William C. Westmoreland was cited for his outstanding service to his country;

in 1978, Brigadier General Paul W. Tibbetts, Commander of the Enola Gay, was presented the award for having hastened the end of World War II; in 1979, the award was presented to Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, Former Chief of Naval Operations for his outstanding service to his country; and in 1980 General Louis H. Wilson was cited for his outstanding service as Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and as a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. The 1981 award will be presented on the evening of November 10th to Navy veteran of World War II, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., in recognition of his highly decorated heroic military service and continuing contribution in the field of motion pictures and entertainment of service members worldwide.

On the morning of National Veterans Day, there is a Memorial Service at 9:00 AM, which is held at the Church of the Advent, downtown. At 11:30 AM there is the World Peace Luncheon, at Boutwell Municipal Auditorium, which is followed by the National Veterans Day Parade at 2:00 PM. Rear Admiral Ross Henry Trower, Chief of Navy Chaplains will deliver the memorial address at the Memorial Services. Honorable John O. Marsh Jr., Secretary of the Army will be guest speaker for the World Peace Luncheon.

Sponsored by the combined veterans organization, National Veterans Day in Birmingham is a community effort financed each year by local business firms, most of which have supported the program since its beginning thirty five years ago. The Disabled American Veterans are the primary hosts for the 1981 program. The Department of Defense has cooperated with the Birmingham committee in providing active military support for the Veterans Day program and in coordinating the support of Reserve Components of the United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard. By an official act of

Congress, which was passed in 1967, Veterans Day was switched to Monday to coincide with those holidays which are set to fall on Mondays. However, by legislative action in 1971, at the request of the combined veterans organizations in Alabama and the wishes of then Governor George Wallace, the Birmingham program was reestablished to be on November 11th.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
FORT MCPHERSON, GEORGIA 30330

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFCG

18 September 1981

SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal

HQDA (DAPE-CPL)
WASH DC 20310

1. I am pleased to add my indorsement to the recommendation for the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham and Father of Veterans Day. The success of Veterans Day can be attributed, in no small measure, to the active support, enthusiasm, personal interest, dedication to excellence, and sound professional contributions of Mr. Weeks.
2. In addition to founding America's National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has made many other unique and essential contributions to our military efforts. These range from military service during World War II to being an active member of such organizations as Association of the United States Army, Navy League, Air Force Association of the United States, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the United Services Organization. Such involvement and support of our military is, indeed, deserving of recognition.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. M. Shoemaker", is positioned above the typed name.

R. M. SHOEMAKER
General, U. S. Army
Commanding



CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE
Room 3E390, The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

20 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPU)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I enthusiastically join in recommending that Mr. Raymond Weeks be recognized for his support to our Veterans, Armed Forces and national security by the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal. As "father" of the Birmingham Veterans Day and National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has made enduring contributions to our national awareness of the importance of service to country and national security. It is fitting and right that this deserving patriot and statesman be recognized by that award.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM R. BERKMAN
Major General, USA
Chief, Army Reserve



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
87TH USA MANEUVER AREA COMMAND
3851 VEONA DANIELS ROAD
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35244

AFKA-GCF-CG

10 September 1981

SUBJECT: Presidential Citizens Medal

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Branch
Hq DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

1. It is my pleasure to recommend the awarding of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Mr. Raymond Weeks. He is a most deserving citizen whose hobby of service to county, state and community sets the highest example for all to emulate.
2. Mr. Weeks is active in many local, state, and national civic activities. As the founder of National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has served continuously since 1947 in making this celebration a true honor for all American Veterans.
3. His tireless and selfless devotion to the improvement of the standard of life marks Mr. Raymond Weeks as a "Great American".

THOMAS L. MERRILL
Major General, USAR
Commanding



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

NCB-ZA

28 SEP 1981

Executive Secretary, Army Incentive Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I write this letter in support of the recommendation for the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal for Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama.

It has been my great honor and good fortune to have attended three National Veteran's Day in Birmingham. Each has been truly professional in every respect. It has been obvious that Mr. Raymond Weeks is the strength behind this outstanding event. He is certainly the Father of Veterans Day.

I must sincerely recommend that Mr. Raymond Weeks receive this signal honor.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "La Vern E. Weber".

LA VERN E. WEBER
Lieutenant General, USA
Chief, National Guard Bureau

ALABAMA
STATE MILITARY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

P. O. BOX 3711
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36193

AL-ARPAD

19 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I am delighted to recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks for award of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Raymond has done an outstanding job over all these many years in first getting established and subsequently perpetuating National Veterans Day. Raymond is a true patriot who has stood firmly for what he believes about this great country even in the late days of the Viet Nam era when serving your country and being a veteran of this conflict was not popular in some quarters.

Just as important to me and the Alabama National Guard has been his service as State Chairman of the National Committee for Guard/Reserve Employer Support Program. He has been of invaluable assistance in encouraging employers to sign agreements pledging to support the Guard/Reserve.

While Raymond served in the State Legislature, he was always willing to assist in sponsoring and supporting any legislation designed to assist the Armed Service in any way possible.

I know of no other citizen who has given more of himself to his community, State and Nation than Raymond nor who is more deserving of an award recognizing this service.

Sincerely,


HENRY H. COBB, JR.
Major General
The Adjutant General



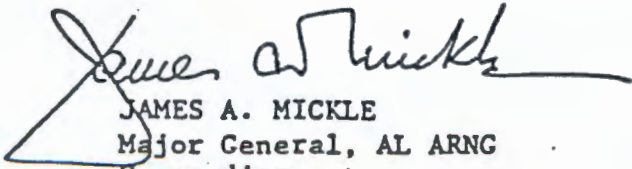
HEADQUARTERS 167th SUPPORT COMMAND (CORPS)
ALABAMA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
POST OFFICE BOX 10225
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35202

12 September 1981

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential Citizens Medal

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
ATTN: DAPE-CPL
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Under the provisions of paragraph 10-2, AR 672-20, I am pleased to recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks for the Presidential Citizens Medal.
2. Mr. Weeks is a selfless, energetic, patriot who for the past 35 years has devoted an enormous amount of effort to the enhancement of the military establishment in the United States. His total dedication and leadership in the development of the Annual National Veterans Day in Birmingham has been exceptionally effective in developing appropriate recognition of the Armed Services to the Civilian Community. The magnitude of his program is recognized throughout the United States as a model of displayed patriotism. Mr. Weeks enjoys the respect and admiration of both the military and civilian communities throughout the United States for his total personal commitment to the Armed Forces.
3. Mr. Raymond Weeks is the most deserving citizen for this appropriate recognition that I have known in my 37 years of service in the Armed Forces. I strongly recommend that every consideration be given to the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Mr. Weeks.


JAMES A. MICKLE
Major General, AL ARNG
Commanding



1 September 1981

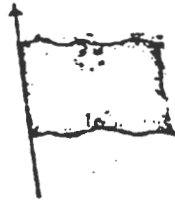
Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Hq, DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I understand Mr. Raymond Weeks has been nominated for the Presidential Citizens Medal. I wholeheartedly concur in this nomination. Mr. Weeks is known throughout the country as the father of Veterans Day. He was appointed Director, National Veterans Day in 1947; a position he still retains.

I have worked very closely with Mr. Weeks for many years and I am accutely aware of his superior performance and contributions to the National Veterans Program. Mr. Weeks' outstanding contributions should be recognized by the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Addison O. Logan
ADDISON O. LOGAN, Brig Gen, AL ANG
Commander, 117th Tac Recon Wing



COMMANDING GENERAL
4th MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF, USMCR
4400 DAUPHINE STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70146

18 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

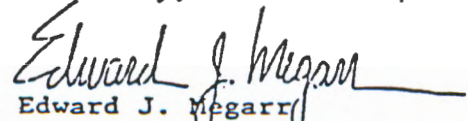
Dear Sir,

I want to recommend that Mr. Raymond Weeks be given serious consideration for the Presidential Citizens Medal. His work as Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama has produced an event worthy of the tribute this country owes all its veterans.

Mr. Week's life has been dedicated to the service of his community and country. He is certainly worthy of recognition for his continuing efforts in the Veterans' Day program as well as other areas of civic activity.

I wholeheartedly give my endorsement on behalf of Mr. Weeks for this distinguished award.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Megarr

Major General, U. S. Marine Corps



COMMANDER, EIGHTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

17 August 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters DA (DAPE-CPL)
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C. 20310

RE: Recommendation for presentation of Presidential
Citizens Medal to Raymond Weeks

Ref: Army Regulations 672-20, Para. 10-2

Dear Sir:

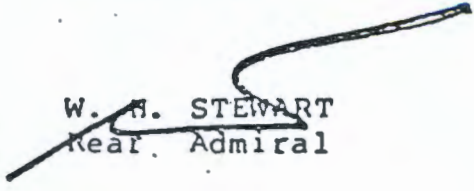
I understand that Raymond Weeks, Director of the National Veterans' Day in Birmingham, has been recommended for the Presidential Citizens Medal to be awarded to him this year during the Veterans' Day celebration in Birmingham, Alabama. It is my pleasure to heartily endorse that recommendation.

Since 1947 when National Veterans' Day was initiated, Mr. Weeks has been primarily responsible for the development and growth of this annual event. His program has become a world-wide model for Veterans' Day and other similar types of celebrations.

His devotion to veterans and veterans' affairs has contributed to an increased recognition of the service that veterans have performed for their country and to an increased pride among veterans for the service they have performed.

I concur in the recommendation that Raymond Weeks' nearly 56 years of public service makes him highly deserving of the award. I join in and highly recommend that the Presidential Citizens Medal be awarded to Raymond Weeks for his distinguished and devoted service to his country.

Sincerely,


W. H. STEWART
Rear Admiral



STATE OF ALABAMA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

MONTGOMERY 36130

FOR JAMES
GOVERNOR

August 18, 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
(DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

The citizenry of Alabama is justifiably proud of leading the Nation in the annual observance of National Veterans Day in Birmingham.

Thirty-five consecutive years of magnificent programs are due solely to the masterful leadership of The Honorable Raymond Weeks. On behalf of all Alabamians, I highly recommend approval of the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal in recognition of this outstanding service to America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F. H. James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "F. H." and the last name "James" clearly distinguishable.

FJ:dd



RICHARD ARRINGTON, JR.
MAYOR

City of Birmingham, Alabama

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 19, 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
(DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Sir:

Birmingham takes much pride in having such a superb citizen as Mr. Raymond Weeks. He applies himself wholeheartedly to any and all civic endeavors for the betterment of his home town, state and country. I sincerely encourage the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal for his more than fifty-five years of very distinguished service to his country.

Sincerely,

Richard Arrington, Jr.
Richard Arrington, Jr.
Mayor

RA/hk

RAYMOND WEEKS

Raymond Weeks was reared in Birmingham, Alabama and received his education from Bush School, Ensley High School, and Birmingham Southern College.

He has been active in the business, civic and cultural life in Alabama for the past 55 years. He has also been active in the field of health services in the state. He was a pioneer in the mental health program in organizing the State Mental Health Association. He served as a Director and officer for many years and he is recognized as an important contributing factor in the tremendous growth of mental health facilities in Alabama. In other health agencies he has served as Director in the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Social Hygiene Association of the US, The American Red Cross, The Community Chest, and The Polio Foundation. In 1934 he organized the first Infantile Paralysis fund campaign and served as its first Chairman of the "March of Dimes".

He was President of the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1940 and has served several terms as Director of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to entering military service in World War II, he assisted in organization of several successful War Bond Campaigns and was active in the USO, a Director on The State Rationing Board and the Manpower Board. He served during World War II from May 1943 to November 1945. After leaving the military service, he became active in Veterans affairs and has served on many national committees of the various veterans organizations. He served as State Commander of the American Legion in 1962-1963. He is credited with founding America's National Veterans Day, which honors American Veterans, living and dead, on November 11th annually in the United States.

He organized in the City of Birmingham in 1947, the first program honoring the veterans of all wars. November 11th was used and he called it Veterans Day even though the date was officially known as Armistice Day. In 1954, the Congress officially changed the name from Armistice Day to National Veterans Day.

He is a Democrat, and served twenty years as an elected member of the State Democratic Executive Committee. He was an elected State-at-Large delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1952 and as a District delegate in 1956 and 1960.

He is a Mason; Shriner, member of the Elks, Eagles, Aero Club, National Aeronautics Association, Civitan Club, Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce, Alabama Chamber of Commerce, Young Men's Business Club, Sales Executive Club, Traffic and Transportation Club, Social Hygiene Association of the US, Association of the United States Army, Navy League, Air Force Association of the United States, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, Birmingham Fraternal Order of Police, Monday Morning Quarterback Club, and the Touchdown Club of Washington. He is a past president of the General John C. Persons Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

He is a member of the Highlands Methodist Church, married to the former Jennie Dee Robinson, and has two daughters and seven grandchildren. He resides at 3420 Altamont Road in Birmingham.

He is a recipient of the Freedoms Foundations National George Washington Honor Medal for Distinguished Achievement of our American Way of Life, National Community Service Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion's Commendation Award, President's Citation from the Association of the US Army

for Distinguished Service, Honorary Membership in the US Junior Chamber of Commerce, and commendations from all branches of the Military Services. He is the recipient of the coveted 1965 Outstanding Civic Salesmanship Award from the City of Birmingham. On March 29, 1966, the United States Army presented him their highest award to civilians, The Outstanding Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. On July 16, 1966, The American Legion awarded him a life membership for Community Service to his Country. He has served as State Chairman of Armed Forces Day since its inception by Congress after World War II.

In the November 1966 General Election, he was elected a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, 14th District. In the legislature his permanent committee assignments were: Health; Business and Labor; Constitution and Elections; and, Local Legislation. He is listed in Who's Who in America in the South and Southeast, and Who's Who in American Politics.

On February 2, 1967, the Cyrene Commandery, Knights Templar, presented him with a Life Membership and in May, 1968, the Shrine presented him with a Life Membership in the Eye Foundation for charitable services. On March 18, 1969, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks presented him with a Life Membership. The primary objectives of the Elks in addition to charities is the promotion of Patriotism and Americanism. The Faith and Patriotism Society of America, on March 16, 1970 presented him with their highest award for championing the cherished values of our American Heritage of Constitutional Government, Responsible Individual Freedom and Faith in God.

On October 24, 1971 the Congressional Medal of Honor Society presented him a resolution for unselfish service to the Society. On November 4, 1976 he was presented the Department of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service

er, 1976 he was presented the National Americanism
Honor Society. On November 11, 1976 the combined
ded three scholarships in his honor, one each at
a Birmingham, Samford University and Birmingham
t, 1978, he was named State Chairman of the Alabama
ort for the Guard and Reserve.
e was presented Alabama's highest award, the
, for his outstanding praiseworthy accomplishments,
duty, and for the outstanding contributions he has
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America.

JEREMIAH A. DENTON, JR.
ALABAMA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

19 October 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQDA (DAPE-CPU)
Washington, D. C. 20310

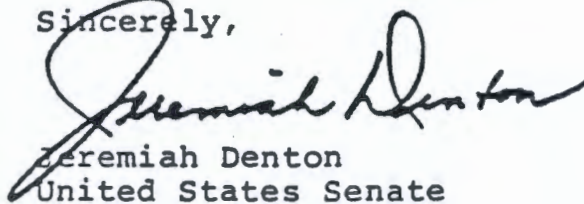
Dear Sir:

Please let me strongly recommend Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director, National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama, for the award of the Presidential Citizen's Medal. Mr. Weeks is an outstanding citizen who has been active in business, civic, and cultural life in Alabama for many years.

One of Mr. Week's achievements is especially noteworthy. He was the driving force that established Birmingham's National Veterans Day celebration. As a result of his leadership the celebration has grown to the largest Veterans Day celebration in America.

As a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I am very proud of the work Mr. Weeks has done in honoring our nation's veterans. Please give this outstanding citizen of Alabama your highest possible consideration for the award of the Presidential Citizen's Medal.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah Denton
United States Senate

JD:dd

21 OCT

RONNIE G. FLIPPO
5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

405 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CHAIRMAN:
SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE

COUNTIES:
COLBERT, JACKSON,
LAUDERDALE, LAWRENCE,
LIMESTONE, MADISON,
MORGAN

HOME TOWN:
FLORENCE, ALABAMA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 20, 1981

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
HQ DA (DAPE-CPU)
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Sir:

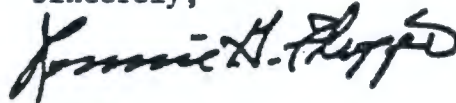
It is a pleasure for me to join with many other friends and colleagues in recommending that Mr. Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama be awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal for his outstanding work in behalf of veterans.

Mr. Weeks is well known by many veterans and other service organizations for his tireless work in serving the community and for recognizing the great service that the men and women who have served our country in the Armed Forces have given to this nation.

Mr. Weeks was one of the national leaders to advocate the observance of National Veterans Day and it is only appropriate that he now receive the recognition he so richly deserves.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to strongly endorse Mr. Weeks' nomination for the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Sincerely,



Ronnie G. Flippo

F:vw

BILL NICHOLS
3RD DISTRICT, ALABAMA

2417 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: (202) 223-3261

COUNTIES:

AUTAUGA	LEE
CALHOUN	LOWNDES
CHAMBERS	MACON
CLAY	RANDOLPH
CLEBURNE	RUSSELL
COOSA	TALLADEGA
ELMORE	TALLAPOOSA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 8, 1981

1 2 3
COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
FEDERAL BUILDING
ANNISTON, ALABAMA
PHONE: 236-363

FEDERAL BUILDING
OPELIKA, ALABAMA
PHONE: 743-622

115 EAST NORTH ST.
TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA
PHONE: 727-644

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
Attn: DAPE-CPL
Washington, D.C. 20310

Subject: Presidential Citizens Medal

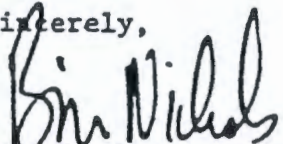
Dear Sir:

I am pleased to recommend Raymond Weeks, Director of the National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama for the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

In addition to founding America's National Veterans Day, Mr. Weeks has made many substantial contributions to our efforts on behalf of our veterans and veterans' affairs and our nation's awareness of the importance of service to Country and national security.

I sincerely recommend that Mr. Raymond Weeks receive this high honor.

Sincerely,


Bill Nichols, M.C.

BN:cm

TOM BEVILL
4TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA
MAJORITY WHIP AT LARGE

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN,

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:

302 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

AREA CODE 202, TELEPHONE: 225-4576

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 15, 1981

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DISTRICT OFFICES:

ROOMS 102-104

THE FEDERAL BUILDING
CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055
TELEPHONE: 734-6043

ROOM 107

THE FEDERAL BUILDING
GADSDEN, ALABAMA 35901
TELEPHONE: 548-0201

1804 4TH AVENUE

JASPER, ALABAMA 35501
TELEPHONE: 221-2310

Executive Secretary
Army Incentive Awards Board
Headquarters, Department of the Army
(DAPE-CPL)
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear Sir:

I have been notified that Mr. Raymond Weeks, Director of the National Veterans Day in Birmingham, has been recommended for the Presidential Citizens Medal. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I heartily endorse this recommendation.

Mr. Weeks is known throughout the country as the driving force in establishing a day to honor all veterans of all wars in which the United States has been engaged. Additionally, he has served as Chairman of the Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham since its inception in 1947. Activities in Birmingham, under his direction, have grown to serve as a model for similar celebrations across the nation.

Not only has Mr. Weeks been dedicated to veterans and veterans' affairs, but he has also been active in almost every possible civic and community endeavor. He is indeed a fine American.

I highly recommend that the Presidential Citizens Medal be awarded to Raymond Weeks for his distinguished and devoted service to his country.

Sincerely



Tom Bevill
Member of Congress

TB:pf