



America's Veterans Day Started In Alabama In 1947



November 11, 1946: General Dwight D. Eisenhower receives a program announcing *National Veterans Day 1947* to be presented in Birmingham and directed by Raymond Weeks



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

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

Alabama: a national leader organizing Veterans Day events and educational resources to honor veterans, celebrate freedom of liberty and rights, and teach character traits to build good citizenship.

Character traits and values to teach, learn, and use related to the national movement for Veterans Day

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



7 Facts to Proclaim during your Veterans Day Program

Host a Veterans Day program or private commemoration during November 1-11 or October-November meetings. Inform participants and display this next to the poster:

1. America's first Veterans Day was organized in Alabama in 1947 by Raymond Weeks, WW II veteran & former Alabama student.
2. Alabama led the national movement after gaining support in 1946 from General Eisenhower, who as U.S. president established the federal holiday in 1954.
3. The National Veteran Award was established in Birmingham in 1954.
4. President Reagan honored Mr. Weeks with the Presidential Citizens Medal on national television at the White House in 1982.
5. The United States Senate passed a resolution restoring the official historical roots of starting Veterans Day in Alabama in 2012.
6. The book Patriotism in Action features the history of Veterans Day born in Birmingham plus 10 character traits and values to inspire students.
7. The web page www.VeteransDayFoundingEducation.us provides free resources useful for teachers, students, parents, speakers, and journalists so you can take action to serve students and state advancing this historical distinction.

