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440-570-1923

June 18, 2024

Mr. Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

and, Mr. Lloyd J. Austin III  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington D.C. 20301-1000

**Subject: Medal of Honor (MOH) Request on behalf of Private Phillip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Voluntary Infantry (Case No. DX221027)**

Dear Mr. President and Secretary of Defense Austin,

On June 18, 1862, the Confederacy executed Union soldiers Private Shadrach and Private Wilson for their part in the Andrews Raid along with five other comrades. On this date in 1862, the remaining fourteen Raiders penned a letter to President Jefferson Davis explaining their case and asking for mercy. The summer passed without a response and a second letter was written and sent August 17, 1863. President Davis not feeling the claim of mercy or humanity ignored the recommendation of his Secretary of War (G.W. Randolph) to respite and detain them as hostages for their own people in the hands of the enemy. Davis replied in a note: *"Inquire whether there is anything to justify a discrimination between these and the others who were executed for the same offense. J.D."*

After learning threat of further executions on October 14, 1862, eight of their party successfully escaped on October 16, with six members being recaptured. Hearing of their plight through the escapees, the six were repatriated by President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton on March 19, 1863. After learning details of the failed mission, they were the first to receive the Medal of Honor on March 25, 1863.

In 1866 Shadrach and Wilson were discovered buried at the site of execution, exhumed, and reburied with their Medal of Honor comrades in the Chattanooga National Cemetery. However, unlike their comrades, their headstones are not emblazoned with the Medal of Honor recognizing their valor.

As such, in March 2024, I sent electronically to your attention the attached five letters requesting that according to the intentions of Secretary of War Stanton, President Lincoln and the Pentagon now, that these men be recognized and bestowed with the Medal of Honor along with their comrades for their selfless, heroic action behind enemy lines during the Andrews Raid of April 12, 1862.

**A Medal of Honor Request – Compendium Document**, prepared in accordance with DoDM 1348.33-V1 for Preparation of Medal of Honor Recommendations dated February 18, 2016 along with other Addenda information may be found at: <http://www.shadrachandwilsonmoh.com/> or at the QR code provided below.

While recently commemorating the sacrifice made by these two men with friends and family descendants, several noted to me that but not for the perseverance and dedication of these men and the many like them, we would not be celebrating Juneteenth today.

Quoting Abraham Lincoln: *"With malice towards none... let us strive to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have born the battle, and for his widow and for his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves and with all nations."*

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald J. Shadrach,  
On behalf of the Shadrach and Wilson Families

Attachment: Transmittal - Five letters sent electronically dated: 9, 13, 18, 23, and 24 March 2024.

CC: Christine E. Wormuth, Secretary of Army  
General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
General Randy A. George, Army Chief of Staff  
Honorable Senator Sherrod Brown  
Honorable Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

EC: General Burwell B. Bell, U.S. Army (Ret)  
MG William B. Raines Jr., U.S. Army (Ret)  
Lt. Gen. Bob Wagner, U.S. Army (Ret)  
RADM Noah H. Long Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret)  
Keith Hardison, Executive Director of National MOH Heritage Center – Chattanooga  
Bradley Quinlin, Historian  
Michael J. Raymondi



## ATTACHMENT

**Transmittal of Five Letters sent electronically to the President of the United States Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
March 2024 and dated as follows:**

**9 March 2024**

**13 March 2024**

**18 March 2024**

**23 March 2024**

**24 March 2024**

**Re: Veterans Affairs**  
**Important - Time Sensitive**  
***Electronically sent March 9, 2024***

**Dear Mr. President,**

**Congratulations on an excellent and persuasive state of the union address.**

**I agree that not since President Lincoln and the Civil War have freedom and democracy been under attack as they are today. It was in that concurrence, hope that Civil War Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson would finally be awarded the Medal of Honor on this March 25<sup>th</sup>. It was on this day in 1863 repatriated members of their party were recognized with the very first Medals of Honor by Secretary of War Stanton and President Lincoln. Shadrach and Wilson, having been executed by the Confederates for their part in the raid, were never recognized.**

**Private Shadrach and Private Wilson having distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives, above and beyond the call of duty, were Presidentially authorized to receive the Medal of Honor under Public Law January 28, 2008 (H.R. 4986; sec 564 and 565).**

**We hold hope that although these men will not likely be awarded the Medal of Honor on March 25 due to time constraints, it is asked that you would please see fit to acknowledge on this date, that Private Shadrach and Private Wilson are to be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. March 25 is the most honorable day for these men to join their comrades in this distinction. This date was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush as Medal of Honor Day in 1990.**

**Thank you. We anxiously await your action.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Shadrach  
440-570-1923**

Re: Medal of Honor Consideration for Pvt. Shadrach and Pvt. Wilson

Important - Time Sensitive

Electronically sent 13Mar2024

cc: SecDef, V.P. & First Lady

Dear Mr. President:

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) documentation exists that Private Shadrach and Private Wilson have been recommended to both the Bush and Obama Administrations for the MOH. Additionally, we have received informal communications that your administration and your predecessor's administration have also been recommended by Senior Defense officials to award these soldiers the MOH. We certainly understand that your predecessor likely did not merit recognizing these men with this high distinction given they were captured behind enemy lines and executed.

Through five administrations and despite numerous reviews and recommendations by Senior Defense officials we have not received any explanation why these men, who sacrificed their lives for their comrades and for their country would continue to be denied not only this honor but any explanation as to why they should be denied this recognition.

Secretary of War Stanton said awarding the first MOHs on March 25, 1863, to soldiers of the Andrews Raid, "as all soldiers of the party become known, each shall receive this honor."

We believe the country is again at a crossroads in history where decisive actions need taken. We implore that action be taken to recognize these soldiers among their comrades with the MOH or an explanation be provided why they should continue to be denied this honor.

Please reference a letter to you (the President) on March 9 requesting a response through action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Shadrach

FOIA documentation at: [ShadrachandWilsonMOH.com](http://ShadrachandWilsonMOH.com)

Re: Medal of Honor Pvt Shadrach & Pvt Wilson

*Time Sensitive*

March 18, 2024

cc: Sec Def Austin & VP Harris

Dear Mr. President,

We became aware of the quest for the Medal of Honor (MOH) for Pvt Shadrach and Pvt Wilson in 2003. We waited patiently as these men were authorized to receive the MOH in 2008. We continued to wait and watch during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012.

We were hopeful to witness the historic event. We had no intent to be involved at the threshold of this honor. After time, we recognized the need to advocate for these men. To date, we note through Freedom of Information documentation and procedures of the Under Secretary of Defense Office in accordance with Acts of Heroism during the Civil War, that these men have met the following:

- Congressional review under Title 10 United States Code § 1130,
- Favorable review by the Army Decoration Board,
- Favorable review by the Commander, Army Human Resources Command,
- Review of salient documents by the Army Center for Military History,
- Review and support by the Senior Awards and Decoration Board,
- Review by the Army Judge Advocate General and DOD General Counsel for legal sufficiency,
- Review by the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs,
- Endorsement of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,
- Recommendation and endorsement of the Army Chief of Staff,
- Recommendation of the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary of Defense (Sec Def),
- Recommendation by the Sec Def to the President.

Therefore, the Sec Def would issue a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton stated it was appropriate. Do you concur with the above advisors and legislative branches in so honoring these soldiers?

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Shadrach

*Sent electronically March 23, 2024*

Dear President Biden,

March 24, 1863: Raiders Deposition before the Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt:

Upon hearing of their arrival, Secretary of War Stanton directed the Judge Advocate General of the Army, Joseph M. Holt to investigate the curious matter of the failed railroad raid in Georgia and prepare a comprehensive report. After an initial consultation, a justice of the peace swore in William Bensinger, Robert Buffum, Elihu Mason, Jacob Parrott, William Pittenger and William Reddick. A phonographer was present to take down their testimony. After being sworn in, each man gave a deposition summarizing the raid. Mason had again taken ill suffering from a recurring ailment and was unable to attend to give deposition.

Judge Holt was well impressed by the six soldiers and their story. His report reflected both his admiration and his conclusion that the failure of the mission had been unavoidable.

Judge Holt: The expedition thus failed from causes which reflected neither upon the genius by which it was planned, nor upon the intrepidity and discretion of those who had engaged in conducting it. But for the accident of meeting the extra trains, which could not have been anticipated, the movement would have been a complete success and the whole aspect of the war in the South and Southwest would have been at once changed.

Holt praised Jacob Parrott for his firm refusal to betray his country or his comrades despite the horrible flogging he endured. Parrott's subdued and modest manner while narrating his part of the expedition showed him to be wholly unconscious of having done anything more than perform his simple duty as a soldier.

Stanton: Such Spartan fortitude, and such fidelity to the trusts of friendship and to the inspirations of patriotism, deserve an enduring record in the archives of the Government, and I will find it, I am sure, in the hearts of a loyal people.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson,

Ron Shadrach

*Sent Electronically March 24, 2024*

Re: MOH Request - Pvt Shadrach and Pvt Wilson

Dear Mr. President,

March 25, 1863, the six repatriated Andrews Raiders reported to the War Dept. They were ushered through an anteroom past others, including two waiting generals. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton cordially greeted them shaking the hand of each man asking them to sit.

Stanton: I have been aware of your mission for some time but believed that all may have perished. In learning that some among your party survived, retaliation was threatened if any more men were hanged. You will find yourself great heroes when you get home!

Stanton awarded the six Andrews Raiders with the newly minted Medals of Honor, saying: Congress has by recent law ordered medals to be prepared on this model, and your party shall have the first.

Invited to meet with the President, they ascended to the 2nd floor of the White House bypassing the throng of callers. The President shook hands of each with an unaffected cordiality and good fellowship difficult describe, not missing the identity of a single man. He had heard their story in all its details. He talked with each, asking questions, and making shrewd comments on all that they had to say. He spoke with casual frankness about their adventures, the military situation, and the political winds of the day. Lincoln grasped the hand of each in both of his own hands as they departed telling each how thankful he was that their lives had been spared.

They had been gone a year with their lives in peril much of the time. They endured incarceration and deprivation in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Madison, Atlanta, and Richmond. They watched eight of their comrades marched away to be executed and eight others pull off a daring escape saving their lives. They pleaded with President Jefferson Davis to spare them and nine months later accepted the congratulations and thanks of President Abraham Lincoln becoming the first to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Respectfully,  
Ron Shadrach