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Eric Fanning  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

December 15, 2016

**RE: Posthumous Award of the Medal of Honor to Private Wilson and Private Shadrach, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

Dear Secretary Fanning,

Please find submitted for your endorsement and coordination a summary of a Medal of Honor (MOH) request package previously submitted to the U.S. Army and Department of Defense (DOD) in a document dated February 2016. This letter, summarizes that MOH request package that was submitted on electronic disk and in three ring binder form at that time.

These soldiers and the enclosed abbreviated material deserve your thorough review. Subsequent to your evaluation we are certain that you will find that these men should receive your wholehearted endorsement for our Nation's highest and most prestigious military honor.

These service men courageously risked their lives above and beyond the call of duty as volunteers in a military operation behind enemy lines. Presented beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that these men engaged in the Andrews' Raid and the taking of the Locomotive the General, at Big Shanty, Georgia. Disguised in civilian clothes they penetrated deep into enemy territory to steal an engine. Their mission: separate Chattanooga from Atlanta by destroying track, cutting telegraph lines and burning bridges. The plan was organized under the authority of Brigadier General O. M. Mitchel and was coordinated with his taking of Huntsville, Alabama. From Huntsville, Mitchel moved his forces by rail on what was the too be isolated, Chattanooga. If successful, some historians believe that this bold strike, taking control of the rail through Chattanooga at that time, could have ended the war within a year.

Private Shadrach and Private Wilson volunteered, participated fully in the undertaking, were captured, imprisoned, harshly treated, tried by court-martial for espionage, sentenced and executed in Atlanta on June 18, 1862 by the Confederates. Private Wilson's patriotism was unwavering to the end.

On March 25, 1863, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and President Abraham Lincoln would confer the very first Medals of Honor to those members of this party that were repatriated.

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These men became heroes through the character of those that had escaped and by those comrades of the party that paid the ultimate price for their country.

It is with great honor to our family to be able to speak on behalf of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson nearly 154 years later. It is time to fulfil the intent of Secretary of War Stanton and the 2008 H.R. 1585 legislation that authorized the Medal of Honor for Private Shadrach and Private Wilson.

### **Overview**

Congress has provided the U.S. Army with the authority under H.R. 1585 – 110<sup>th</sup> Congress: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008 to review and recommend whether or not Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson should receive the MOH for acts of valor as members of the Andrews' Raid during the Civil War, April 12, 1862.

The record is clear that both men have earned and deserve this award by their service and sacrifice on behalf of our nation. The first of their party received the honor from Secretary of War Stanton with recognition by President Abraham Lincoln on March 25, 1863. There are numerous official documents and historic records, a few of which are summarized here and verify the full participation of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson in the event known as the *Andrews' Raid*. No basis to deny these men this award has been discovered. It is in part, by virtue of the sacrifice that these men made, that the heroic nature of the Andrews Raid was elevated to a MOH status. Now is the time to remedy this historic oversight.

What follows is a brief compendium of key documents that establish not only the intent of the Lincoln Administration, but the more recent intent of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to remedy this matter in the 2008 NDAA. Many of the documents referenced here were submitted to the Army and DOD, under cover dated February 25, 2016, enclosing a compendium of supporting documentation titled "*Request for Shadrach and Wilson to be recognized among their comrades with the Medal of Honor*", Shadrach, Ron, 295 pages, unpublished.

The U. S. Army is requested to review and consider the information herein provided for Private Wilson and Private Shadrach and take action accordingly on behalf of these brave men and in support of all men and women in armed service to our nation.

This historical summary and the materials referenced herein clearly document the role played by these men and the honor that is due them:

- 1) MOH Authorizing legislation for Shadrach and Wilson,
- 2) Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General: Andrews' Raiders Court of Inquiry - Deposition:
  - a. Pittenger Deposition;
  - b. Parrot Deposition; and
  - c. Buffum Deposition,
- 3) Treasury and Department of Interior Correspondence with the Shadrach Family,
- 4) War Department and Adjutant General's Correspondence, and
- 5) 1919 correspondence to the U.S. Senate from the Secretary of War.

**MOH Authorizing Legislation**

In the case of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson legislation was required to waive the time limitation so that the President may award the MOH. This authorization was accomplished in the H.R. 1585 – 110<sup>th</sup> Congress: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008, whereby stated ***Subtitle F – Decorations and Awards:***

***SEC. 564. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO PRIVATE PHILIP G. SHADRACH FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS ONE OF ANDREWS' RAIDERS DURING THE CIVIL WAR.***

*(a) AUTHORIZATION. -- Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title posthumously to Private Philip G. Shadrach of Company K, 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).*

*(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED. -- The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Philip G. Shadrach as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War on April 12, 1862.*

***SEC. 565. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO PRIVATE GEORGE D. WILSON FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS ONE OF ANDREWS' RAIDERS DURING THE CIVIL WAR.***

*(a) AUTHORIZATION. -- The President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of title 10, United States Code, posthumously to Private George D. Wilson of Company B, 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).*

*(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED. -- The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of George D. Wilson as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War on April 12, 1862.*

On January 28, 2008 President George W. Bush enacted into law H.R. 4986 — 110<sup>th</sup> Congress: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 whereby stated ***Subtitle F – Decorations and Awards:***

*Sec. 564. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Private Philip G. Shadrach for acts of valor as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War.*

*Sec. 565. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Private George D. Wilson for acts of valor as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War.*

The 2008 NDAA makes clear the Congressional intent by requesting the President to award both men with the Medal of Honor for valor, and explicitly notes their involvement as members of the Andrews' Raiders.

**Andrews' Raiders Court of Inquiry – Deposition before the Judge Advocate General**

**Pittenger Deposition**

William Pittenger and five other members of the Andrews' Raiders were before Judge Advocate General J. M. Holt for deposition on March 24, 1863 on behalf of Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton. All six men were subsequently distinguished with the presentation of the first Medal of Honor on March 25, 1863 for their participation in the Andrews' Raid.

In the transcript of the Court of Inquiry deposition, Corporal Pittenger provides details of the raid and the names of the raiders that were executed as a result of their involvement. He specifically names both Private Wilson and Private Shadrach.

Question: Will you please give, if you can, the names of all your comrades who were executed with the companies and regiments to which they belonged?

Answer: There was George D. Wilson, Co. B 2d Ohio Infantry; Marion Ross, Co. A, 2d Ohio Infantry, the Sergeant Major of the regiment; Perry G. Shadrach, Co. K, 2d Ohio; Samuel Robertson, Co. G, 33d Ohio; Samuel Slavens, Co. D, 33d Ohio.

**Parrot Deposition**

Private Jacob Parrot was a fellow Raider and was deposed at the same time as Pittenger. Following Pittenger's account, Parrot is asked:

Question: You have heard the testimony of Mr. Pittenger. Will you state whether, as far as the matters to which he has deposed have come to your knowledge, they are true, according to your best information and belief?

Answer: Yes, sir; they are.

**Buffum Deposition**

Deposed with Pittenger was Robert Buffum, a private in Company H, Twenty First Ohio Regiment and a fellow Raider.

Buffum was captured with Wilson and gives this account, confirming Wilson's involvement in the raid and his execution for his involvement:

Question: Have you any knowledge of money being taken from members of your party?

Answer: We were captured in different parties. Money was taken from us by the officers—from some at the time we were taken, and from others when they were confined in prison. I was with Mr. Wilson, one of those who were executed, and Mr. Dorsey, one of those who escaped, and Mr. Bensinger, who is here. They took all our money away from us. Mr. Wilson and I had \$96 between us; I had \$52 myself.

Buffum also verifies the truth of Pittenger's account:

Question: Will you state whether, according to the best of your knowledge and belief, the statements which have been made are true?

Answer: Yes, sir; they are.

The original deposition is on file at the National Archives and can be found at:

**Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army)**  
**Record Group 153**  
**Court Martial Case Files, 1808-1893 (Entry 15-A)**  
**Court of Inquiry file no. MM-64**

A record of these depositions may also be found in the Congressional Record: 40<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session; Executive Document No. 74. A copy is included in the February 2016 Shadrach submittal.

After the depositions were completed, Secretary of War Stanton declared that, "Congress has by a recent law ordered medals to be prepared on this model, and your party shall have the first."<sup>1</sup> And, as members of the Andrews' Raiding party became identified, they in turn, were each awarded this honor. When Private James Smith became identified, Secretary Stanton instructed Brig. Gen. Edward Canby, Assistant General of the Army, on June 29, 1864 to place Private Smith on the same footing as the other men of his party, as regards compensation and medal. Private Smith was awarded the medal on July 6, 1864.<sup>2</sup> Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson were not previously identified for the honor until the 2008 NDAA.

Giving personal testimony to Private Wilson and Private Shadrach above are Medal of Honor Recipients: Corporal William Pittenger, Private Jacob Parrot and Private Robert Buffum.

#### **Treasury and Department of Interior – Pension Office Correspondence**

Private Shadrach's sister, Elizabeth Griffin, was in correspondence with the Treasury Department and the Department of Interior's Pension Office in an effort to collect her brothers back pay and commutation of rations. Money that would have been due him while serving in the Confederate prison and until his execution. She used the names Philip, Perry and P. G. Shadrach in several requests. The War Department responded to each with memos and letters that these names were not borne... and that, Prisoner of War Records furnish no information. For instance, a Treasury Department letter to Mrs. Griffin dated December 21, 1881 states:

The Adjutant General of the Army reports that *the name of Phillip G. Shadrack is not borne on the rolls of the Co. K, 2nd Ohio Infantry.*

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<sup>1</sup>Account of the First MOH - Bonds, Russell S. "Stealing the General: The Great Locomotive Chase and the First Medal of Honor." Westholme Publishing. 2007.

<sup>2</sup> The General & the Texas by S. Cohen and J. Bogle, Missoula: Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., Inc. 2002.

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At the request of the above Treasury Department letter for a description of her brother, Elisabeth Griffin subsequently located the man and woman that raised Phillip G. Shadrach. Her response letter dated July 24, 1882 records his foster parents providing said description but it is interesting to note that they also stated that, they “*could not tell which he called himself when he enlisted.*” The Shadrach siblings were orphaned at a young age and were raised separately by relatives and friends. Philip appears to have been raised by at least three different families. This provided opportunity for Private Shadrach to earn and try out several nicknames.

### **War Department - Adjutant General's Office Correspondence**<sup>3</sup>

A February 14, 1883 War Department record identifies him as Charles P. Shadrach of Co. K 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Volunteers. However, a May 25, 1883 Department of Interior, Pension Office letter to Mrs. Griffin denies her claim of pension stating that she was over sixteen years of age at the soldiers death .... and, not entitled to a “**pension**”.

Although Mrs. Griffin sent numerous letters clarifying she was not seeking his pension but merely the back pay that would have been due to him, she was denied. Mrs. Griffin's continued appeal, led to the Adjutant General's Office - War Department, recounting in an April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1885 correspondence to the Commission of Pensions for Charles P. Shadrach, a private of Company K 2 Regiment Ohio Infantry Volunteers:

*Prisoner of War records show him engaged in taking the Engine at Big Shanty, Ga. April 12, 1862, captured by Confederates and tried by Court Martial as a spy and was hung at Atlanta, Ga. June 1862. This information has been found since Feby 14 1883 and is furnished in lieu of negative report from said records to the Commissioner of Pension on that date.*

Even so, Mrs. Griffin was denied her claim of back pay and rations and no mention recorded that Private Shadrach was one of the Andrews' Party, a party recognized with the first MOH.

There has been confusion about Shadrach's name, with him referred to alternately as “Charles P. Shadrach” and “Perry G. Shadrach” in government documents'. As described in Russell S. Bond's account of the Raid, *Stealing the General: The Great Locomotive Chase and the First Medal of Honor*:

His real name was Philip Gephart Shadrach, though he hated the name, in part because his brother Oliver teased him relentlessly by calling him “Flip.” ... The young man signed on with Uncle Sam down at the local salt works, under the name Charles P. Shadrach, introducing himself to his new comrades as “Perry,” ... described the twenty-one-year-old Private—who would be listed alternately on company rolls as Perry G., Charles P., or Philip Gephart Shadrach (sometimes with an -h, and sometimes with a -k)—as “plump, solidly built, merry and reckless, with an inexhaustible store of good nature.” (*Stealing the General*, pg. 51).

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<sup>3</sup> National Archives – Perry Shadrach 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Voluntary Infantry Regiment, No.287.125. Stack Area: 16w4, Row 5, Compartment 10.

This was clarified by the Auditor of the War Department in Pension Office correspondence and a letter to Private Shadrach's sister, Elizabeth Griffin, dated July 25, 1901 stating:

*The names and address of all his brothers and sisters, also showing that said Perry G. Shadrach and Charles P. Shadrach Co K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Infantry were one and the same person.*

The case of the various names given Private Shadrach has been detailed here as it has been purported on some military websites and by some elected officials that Private Shadrach is ineligible for the Medal of Honor for having enlisted under an assumed name. It is understandable that the uninformed might create a rationale where none exists to explain a denial of just recognition.

#### **1919 Letter from the Secretary of War to the U. S. Senate<sup>4</sup>**

On July 23, 1919, Secretary of War Newton Baker transmitted a letter to the Senate related to "*the interpretation and execution of the provisions of section 5 and of section 122 of the National Defense Act, approved June 3, 1916.*" In part, this correspondence was meant to clarify the award of the Medal of Honor.

This correspondence makes clear that both Private Shadrach and Private Wilson were part of the 1862 Andrews' Raid. The basis, or *grounds* for the award was that each was recognized as "*one of 22 men*" without distinction:

*Case No. 947, Big Shanty, or Mitchel Raiders, or Engine Stealers, 19 medals*

*Items Nos. 932 to 950, both inclusive*

*Action: April, 1862*

*Date of issue: See Official List of Medals of Honor*

*Ground of award: "**One of 22 men** (including 2 civilians) **who, by direction of Gen. Mitchell (of Buell), penetrated nearly 200 miles south into the enemy's territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta**"*

*Circumstances: An expedition of 22 or 24 men, including its leader Mr. J.J. Andrews, a citizen of Kentucky, planned to reach a point on the Georgia State Railroad between Atlanta and Chattanooga, cutting the telegraph wires and burning the bridges behind them as they advanced until they reached their own lines. The evidence found seems to unite in showing that 22 of the party arrived at the rendezvous in Chattanooga and actually entered the enemy's country and took part in the subsequent operations of the expedition. Two were civilians and the remaining 20 were soldiers. They succeeded in capturing the train, but were caught after running about 100 miles and forced to abandon their cars and flee to the woods, and the whole 22 were captured. The records, so far as I have been able to discover, show that eight of these men were executed as spies, as given in the following list:*

*Andrews, J.J., citizen of Kentucky, leader.*

*Campbell, William, citizen of Kentucky.*

*Ross, Marion A., Company A, Second Ohio.*

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<sup>4</sup> Congressional Record, 66<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, Senate Document No. 58

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*Robertson, Samuel, Company G, Thirty-third Ohio.*

*Scott, John, Company K, Twenty-first Ohio.*

**Shadrack, Perry G., Company K, Second Ohio.**

*Slavens, Samuel, Thirty-third Ohio.*

**Wilson, George D., Company B, Second Ohio.**

The ground or basis of the award to each man rests on the fact that the entire mission rested individually on each man that volunteered. The declaration here, "One of 22 men" clarifies Secretary of War Edwin Stanton's statement on March 25, 1863 that this award was meant for each of the party. This document is further evidence that Private Shadrach and Private Wilson participated in the Raid and were executed as a result of the performance of their duty behind enemy lines. Though being explicitly named for their participation and sacrifice, this document also shows that both men were excluded from the Medal of Honor. If Private Shadrach and Private Wilson were *one of 22 men* as the ground for the award indicates, on what basis do they continue to be denied? Or, should one question the eligibility of the other men for this high honor?

Thus far, the only basis for their omission to MOH recognition has been that their names were never before personally brought forward for consideration. Continued omission is in error. The 2008 NDAA provides for this omission to now be corrected.

Lastly, please consider Private Wilson's last words in a speech from the gallows on June 18, 1862 and recounted in the March 24, 1863 Court of Inquiry Deposition before the Judge Advocate General, Joseph Holt:

*Though surrounded by a scowling crowd, impatient for his sacrifice, he did not hesitate, while standing under the gallows, to give them a brief address. He told them that, though they were all wrong, he had no hostile feelings toward the Southern people, believing that not they but their leaders were responsible for the Rebellion; that he was no spy, as charged, but a soldier regularly detailed for military duty; that he did not regret to die for his country, but only regretted the manner of his death; and he added, for their admonition, that they would yet see the time when the old Union would be restored, and when its flag would wave over them again.*

When Wilson had eloquently and boldly spoken his mind, the crazy platform on which they were standing was knocked down. He, like his comrades, calmly met the ignominious doom of a felon.

### **Conclusion**

These two soldiers of the Second Ohio Voluntary Infantry served with honor and dignity. War Department records make clear that both Private Shadrach and Private Wilson were participants in the Andrews' Raid of April, 1862 and were executed as a result of that participation. Their infiltration behind enemy lines is verified by first-hand accounts given in the official deposition to Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt from collective members of the Andrews' Raid. Men that were recipients of the first MOH. Initial confusion about Shadrach's name has been clarified by the War Department in correspondence to his family. The 2008 NDAA recognized the MOH omission and grants clear authority to the Army and



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DOD to review and recommend to the President that these long overdue awards be presented as authorized under this act.

The record presents incontestable proof that these soldiers distinguished themselves conspicuously with gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty. They should be placed on the same footing as other members of their party. Just as Secretary of War Stanton had instructed should be done, so should be done for Private Shadrach and Private Wilson. These men gave their last full measure in service to their country in preservation of the Union.

Most respectfully submitted,



Ron Shadrach

Cc: Ash Carter, Secretary of Defense  
General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Patrick J. Murphy, Undersecretary of the Army  
General Mark A. Milley, Army Chief of Staff  
Hon. Senator John McCain, Chairman Armed Services Committee  
Hon. Senator Sherrod Brown, Ohio  
Lt. Col. Wil Neubauer, Chief Awards and Decoration Branch  
David L. Hobson, Legislation sponsor