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March 1, 2023

Christine E. Wormouth,  
Secretary of Army  
101 Army Pentagon,  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

and, MG Thomas R. Drew, Commanding Gen.  
U.S. Army Human Resources Command  
1600 Spearhead Division Ave. Dept. 103  
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

Re: Medal of Honor Request - Andrews Raiders Case No. **DX221027**  
Pvt. Phillip Gephart Shadrach, Company K, 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and  
Pvt. George Davenport Wilson, Company B, 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry

Dear Madam Secretary and Major General Drew,

I am writing to thank and acknowledge the response to my letter to President Biden and the DOD IG dated July 28, 2022 (enclosed). The response was received from U.S. Army SGM Herriot, HRC IG on behalf of the Human Resources Command Inspector General's office (Case Number DX221027). The message was provided via email in consultation with the senior leadership from the Soldier Programs & Services Division. The response indicated that the "The Medal of Honor recommendations for Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson are currently in review."

We understand and agree wholeheartedly with the needed scrutiny involved in MOH cases. The letter stated the following:

*"The MoH timeline from submission to approval by the President of the United States can take anywhere from months to years. The approval of the Medal of Honor requires incontestable proof of the nominee's actions. Because the standard is so high, extensive research is required and each recommendation undergoes intense scrutiny at all levels."*

Months to years appears understated or inaccurate for Case No. DX221027, as it has lingered by decades, scores of years, and even centuries. If I may summarize, please find below relevant research, incontestable proof and historical approval recommendations by the War Department and the Department of Defense already proffered to the President of the United States several times.

Beginning March 25, 1863, when the first MOH was awarded to six repatriated men of this raid:

- **March 25, 1863 - Secretary of War Edwin Stanton stated** during the awarding of the first MOH to the repatriated raiders 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>.”*
- **January 8, 1868 - 40<sup>th</sup> Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> Session – House of Representatives, Ex. Doc. No. 74.** A communication from Judge Advocate General, enclosing a letter from Robert Buffum, late of Twenty-first Ohio Volunteers, who volunteered to perform very hazardous service during the late war, and
- **May 19 - November 19, 1919 - 66<sup>th</sup> Congress 1<sup>st</sup> Session- Senate Documents Vol. 14. Publication.** This record documents the findings of the War Department, Medal of Honor Board (seated by the War Department June 10, 1916). Pursuant to General Order No. 136, Paragraph 14 the board was appointed and convened for purposes of considering the question of persons entitled to the Medal of Honor. Please see **Attachment A** for details of the **40<sup>th</sup>** and **66<sup>th</sup> Congress** findings.
- **May 31, 2006 - Action Memo** From: Secretary of the Army Francis L. Harvey  
For: Secretary of Defense (Donald Rumsfeld)  
Subject: Award of the Medal of Honor
  - *...I have reviewed the proposal for award of the Medal of Honor, as well as the recommendation from the Senior Army Decoration Board, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.*
  - *In coordination with the Chairman, Joints Chiefs of Staff recommend approval of the MOH for Private Philip G. Shadrach and George D. Wilson and forward the recommendation to the President of the United States for final action.*  
[Action Memo-Private Philip G. Shadrach](#)
- **January 28, 2008 - President George W. Bush signs HR 4986 into law. Title V, Subtitle F Decorations and Awards, Sec. 561.** authorizes and requests the President to award the Medal of Honor to Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson for acts of valor during the Civil War.
- **Circa January/February 2016 - Sec Arm Eric Fanning and/or Patrick Murphy** forwards a U. S. Army Human Resources Command recommendation (in coordination with the Senior Army Decoration Board) to Sec Def Ash Carter that recommended President Obama award the Medal of Honor to Shadrach and Wilson.

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<sup>1</sup> Stealing the General: The Great Locomotive Chase and the First Medal of Honor by Russel S. Bonds, Yardley: Westholme Publishing, LLC, 2007 (See page 320).

- **February 3, 2016 - Denial of Medal of Honor Without Explanation** – U.S. ARMY Human Resources Command (AHRC) email (redacted): Dated February 3, 2016. This email confirms that Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson are recommended as approval for the Medal of Honor to Secretary of Defense (Sec Def) Ash Carter who returns the request without explanation to U.S. Army HRC (Source: Frank White, FOIA Records Response dated January 19, 2018). [Email 02032016 CTR USARMY HRC.1.](#)

Lastly, please find the Medal of Honor Compendium Request Document, [MOH Request to DOD, February 15, 2016](#), submitted February 15, 2016, to the Department of Defense (General Mark A. Milley, U. S. Army Chief of Staff) on behalf of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson. It is updated with Addendum A dated April 2, 2019. The report was prepared in accordance with *DoDM 1348.33-V1, May 15, 2015* for Preparation of Medal of Honor Recommendations. A repository of information for Private Shadrach, Private Wilson and the Andrews Raid can be found at: <http://www.shadrachandwilsonmoh.com/>.

Through witness to the above proceedings and ongoing accounts, it is obvious that historically the Army, the War Department, the Awards and Decoration Branch, the Senior Army Decoration Board, the Army Human Resources Command, the Army Chief of Staff, various Sec Arm's, the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, among others<sup>2</sup> all appear to have long held a uniform consensus endorsing a recommendation to award the Medal of Honor to Private Shadrach and Private Wilson.

In reading between the lines of the Medal of Honor status that the recommendations “*are currently in review*”, what appears to be missing is the spirit and conviction the Raiders volunteer Expedition Party showed in participating in this dangerous mission. The time has come for the army to support these men in this quest as vigorously as the Raiders supported saving the Union more than 160 years ago. Who today would risk the security of their jobs, positions, let alone put their lives on the line to stand up on behalf of these soldiers and our country in this cause?

Lastly, should those that endured the worst and survived (for at least a short miserable period) be recognized and treated differently than those that perished at the hand of the enemy?

What remains is for U.S. Army HRC, Sec Arm and the Defense Department Chiefs to fervently, wholeheartedly support and endorse these men with the same courage, bravery, and

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<sup>2</sup> Personal communication with Retired Lt. Gen. Robert Wagner. Bob Wagner (Circa 2012) was asked whether he felt that the case in question should be judged against the merit of the award at the time or as defined today. Bob answered that question simply indicating the honor would be merited today. Bob is a graduate of West Point. His extensive career included command of Special Operations and Special Forces.

Christine E. Wormouth,  
Madam Secretary of the Army  
March 1, 2023  
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and, Major General Thomas R. Drew  
U. S. Army HRC

conviction that these men displayed in sacrificing their lives on behalf of the Union until such satisfaction is achieved.

The Shadrach family requests that the recommendation be resubmitted in a vigorous and urgent manner reflecting the urgency, resolve and courage these men displayed fighting and sacrificing to save our Union. Where would our Nation be today had Lincoln's Army continued to sit by reviewing its objective as today's army has done in this matter?

We thank the DOD IG for reviewing and responding to this case and kindly request that you confer with the DOD Senior Army Decoration Board and the Joint Chiefs of Staff so that President Biden may be briefed on such recommendation and have an opportunity to reach a conclusion on behalf of these men.

These soldiers should continue to receive your wholehearted endorsement for our Nation's highest and most prestigious military honor. The time for action is now.

Most respectfully submitted,

*Ron Shadrach*

Ronald J. Shadrach  
On behalf of the Shadrach Family

Enclosure - June 28, 2022 MOH Request Letter to President Biden & DOD IG...  
Attachment A – MOH Case No. DX221027 Andrews Raid Supplemental Information

Cc: Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense  
Gen. Mark A. Milley, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
James C. McConville, Army Chief of Staff  
Honorable Senator Sherrod Brown  
Honorable Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur  
Michael J. Raymondi

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Medal of Honor Request - Andrews Raiders Case No. DX221027**  
**Supplemental**

**40<sup>th</sup> Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> Session – House of Representatives, Ex. Doc. No. 74, January 8, 1868.**

- Third Medal of Honor recipient, Andrews Raider, Robert Buffum was perhaps one of the first soldiers now widely recognized to have suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) following his capture and imprisonment. In brief, the Secretary of War, U.S. Grant recounts Robert Buffum’s letter in this record.
- Buffum writes of General Mitchell calling for volunteers for a secret expedition party in April 1862 to penetrate the enemy’s country to cut communications while Gen. Mitchell advances on Huntsville and then Chattanooga.
- All 22 of the expedition party were captured and placed in a dungeon thirteen feet square, chained by the neck two and two. Buffum’s letter speaks of the long imprisonment, exposure, and cruelty with which they were subjected to while in the hands of the enemy, and that it had so impaired his health and mind that he was in no condition to earn a livelihood. With a wife and three small children dependent upon him for support, he had no home or means of caring for them.
- Buffum’s objective in making this statement was to solicit some immediate relief for his family. He states, “Congress has never legislated for our relief, and so the surviving of this expedition are suffering for means. We believe that our past suffering and hardships justly entitle us to the consideration of our country, but our families are in a suffering condition...”
- Buffum’s struggles led to his imprisonment and being eventually moved to the New York Asylum for the Criminally Insane in Auburn. On July 20, 1871, Medal of Honor recipient 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Robert Buffum cut his throat with a razor blade and was buried in an unmarked grave outside the institution.
- From the raiders deposition before Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt (Holt Report) posted in this record, we learn that the first Medal of Honor recipient, Raider Jacob Parrott, was lashed with rawhide over a hundred times while stripped and bent over a rock with pistols ready to blow him through if he didn’t submit. The confederate officer in charge wanted to know who the engineer of the train was and all about the expedition party. Parrott did not tell them anything.

- **66<sup>th</sup> Congress 1<sup>st</sup> Session- Senate Documents Vol. 14. Publication dated May 19 - November 19, 1919.** This record documents the findings of the War Department, Medal of Honor Board (seated by the War Department June 10, 1916). Pursuant to General Order No. 136, Paragraph 14 the board was appointed and convened for purposes of considering the question of persons entitled to the Medal of Honor.
  - The duty of the board was to ascertain what, if any Medals of Honor were issued for cause other than distinguished conduct. On page 111 the board expressed concern that the approved June 13, 1916, act of Congress should not *“deprive anyone of the distinguished honor associated with the award of the congressional medal of honor where it has been worthily bestowed for most extraordinary, hazardous, and dangerous service.”*
  - The board expressed that it *“felt bound to measure the act by standard established by authorities at the time of the award, rather than by that now observed, thus avoiding as far as practicable, retroactive judgement on the course of the War Department in a matter lawfully within its discretion, and so closely affecting the honor of so many patriotic citizens living and dead.”*

The board examined the records of 2,625 MOH cases. No question arose as to the propriety of the award for **Case No. 947. Big Shanty, or Mitchell Raiders, or Engine Stealers, 19 medals.** The record indicates the Raiders party were one of 24 men (including 2 civilians) who, by direction of Gen. Mitchell (Buell’s army) entered the enemies country. Twenty-two of the men arrived at the rendezvous, seized a locomotive and train, and dashed back cutting telegraph wire and burning bridges behind them. After running about 100 miles all were captured with eight of the men executed as spies. Among the executed were: Shadrack, Perry G., Company K and Wilson, George D., Company B, both from the Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry. It further states that Medals of Honor were issued to 14 who returned to their own line, and to the heirs or relatives of 4 of those who were executed.

**End Medal of Honor Request Supplemental  
Andrews Raiders Case No. DX221027**

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June 28, 2022

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

and, Mr. Sean O'Donnell, Acting Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Defense  
4800 Mark Center Drive,  
Alexandria, VA 22350-1500

Subject: **The Andrews Raid Medal of Honor (MOH) Request** and Investigation Request to the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DoDIG) on behalf of: Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Voluntary Infantry

Dear Mr. President and Mr. O'Donnell,

On March 17, 2021, we wrote to the President requesting recognition of Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Voluntary Infantry for this deserved high honor as authorized under the U.S. Defense and Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008 and signed into law by President George W. Bush (HR 4986. Title V, Subtitle F Decorations and Awards, Sec. 561).

Much has transpired since that time that no one could have predicted. The effort to destroy freedoms within and beyond our borders calls for the rightful recognition of these men who unflinchingly defended freedom for all Americans on April 12, 1862 and paid the ultimate price on behalf of our Nation on June 18, 1862.

With this letter we re-enter into evidence to your witness, the following timeline of events and testimony of records submitted in the honor due Private Shadrach and Private Wilson. This overview supports the foregoing recommendations of the Senior Awards and Decoration Branch (SADB), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Secretary of the Army (SecArm), among other advocates for the President to award the Medal of Honor.

### **Overview of Actions and Testimony**

April 7, 1862 - Private Shadrach and Private Wilson volunteered for the Andrews Raid.

April 12, 1862 - Operating in civilian clothes the Raiders capture the Confederate locomotive the General at Big Shanty and steam north to destroy rail line, bridges, and telegraph to isolate Chattanooga from Atlanta so that Brigadier General O. M. Mitchel

could take Chattanooga. Military historians believe that if successful, this bold event could have ended the war within a year. Over the next few days all the raiders were captured and placed in a Chattanooga jail.

June 7, 1862 - James J. Andrews, Union leader of the raid behind enemy lines is executed in Atlanta.

June 13, 1862 – Private Shadrach and Private Wilson (among several others) are tried and Court-martialed as a Union spies (*Bridge Burners and Engine Thieves*) at Knoxville, Tenn. under General Orders No. 54, HQ. Dept. of East Tenn., CSA and transported to Atlanta.

June 18, 1862 – Private Shadrach and Private Wilson are executed by hanging and buried at that place, at the corner of Fair Street (now Memorial Drive) and South Park Avenue, Atlanta, Ga.

October 16, 1862 – Under threat of further executions, eight of the remaining imprisoned Raiders break prison and return to their union lines getting word back to Washington that others were shot or recaptured.

March 23 - 27, 1863 – Six repatriated Raiders from Atlanta prison provide Deposition before Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt (Holt Report), National Archives record MM-64: [Deposition of the Andrews Raiders for Secretary of War Stanton – March 24, 1863](#) (also transcribed).

March 25, 1863 – Award of the First Medal of Honor through President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to the six Andrews Raiders repatriated from Confederate prison.

January 6, 1866 - Comments of Governor Charles Anderson, Ohio and Union Provost Marshall of Atlanta, L.L. Parker on the discovery of the bodies of seven of the Andrews Raiders buried in Atlanta, Cincinnati Newspaper article: [Record of Provost Marshall, Atlanta, December 18, 1865 and the Governor of Ohio January 6, 1866.](#)

April 25, 1866 – Private Shadrach and Private Wilson's remains are exhumed and removed post war to the Chattanooga National Cemetery, Tenn. Buried near the Ohio Memorial, Section H, Grave No. 11,181, and Grave No. 11,178, respectively.

December 18, 1867 – Response to Robert Buffum (Andrews Raider) letter to U.S. Grant, from Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt – “While the merit and self-sacrificing services which these soldiers volunteered to perform are fully conceded, and the strong claim which they have on justice and generous gratitude must be unhesitatingly recognized...” The statements include the reprinting of the Holt report in the Fortieth Congress, 2d Session, Executive Doc. No. 74.



1863 to 1883 - Over the next twenty years, as they became known, all but Private Shadrach and Private Wilson would receive this high honor.

April 8, 1885 – Letter from the War Department, Adjutant General’s Office to the Shadrach family .... “Prisoner of war documentation shows that Private Shadrach of Company K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Infantry, was present and engaged in taking the engine at Big Shanty, Georgia on April 12, 1862. He was captured by Confederates and tried by Court Martial as a spy and was hung in Atlanta June 18, 1862.”

May 31, 2006 - **Action Memo** From: Secretary of the Army Francis L. Harvey  
For: Secretary of Defense (Donald Rumsfeld)  
Subject: Award of the Medal of Honor

In coordination with the Chairman, Joints Chiefs of Staff recommend approval of the MOH for Private Philip G. Shadrach and George D. Wilson and forward the recommendation to the President of the United States for final action. [Action Memo- Private Philip G. Shadrach.](#)

March 29, 2007 – David L. Hobson, Congressman Ohio, introduces legislation to 110th Congress H.R. 1799 to waive the time limitation and posthumously award Private Shadrach and Private Wilson the Medal of Honor.

January 28, 2008 - President George W. Bush signs **HR 4986 into law. Title V, Subtitle F Decorations and Awards, Sec. 561.** authorizes and requests the President to award the Medal of Honor to Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson for acts of valor during the Civil War.

March 2008 to May 2012 - The Medal of Honor is awarded to the four others authorized for the MOH under HR 4986, Title V, Subtitle F Decorations and Awards.

March 2014 - President Obama awards the Medal of Honor to 24 Army veterans in recognition of their valor during major combat operations in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War that were overlooked due to discrimination.

November 26, 2014 - Letters to President Obama including those dated November 26, 2014, December 30, 2014, and January 19, 2015 requesting recognition of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson for the Medal of Honor as authorized under law.

January 6, 2015 – Department of the Army letter to me on behalf of President Barack Obama and consideration of the late Private Shadrach and Private Wilson for the MOH.

February 3, 2016 - **Denial of Medal of Honor Without Explanation** - USARMY Human Resources Command (AHRC) email (redacted): Dated February 3, 2016. This email

confirms that Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson are recommended as approval for the Medal of Honor to Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Ash Carter (Source: Frank White, FOIA Records Response dated January 19, 2018).

The February 3, 2016 email from CTR USArmy HRC to LTC USArmy HRC: SecArm forwarded the Shadrach and Wilson case to SecDef (Ash Carter) to forward to POTUS for final decision but SecDef sent back to us with no explanation. [Email 02032016 CTR USARMY HRC.1](#).

February 15, 2016 – Cover letter and Medal of Honor Compendium Request Document submitted to the Department of Defense (General Mark A. Milley, U. S. Army Chief of Staff) on behalf of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson, 305 pages. Prepared in accordance with *DoDM 1348.33-V1, May 15, 2015* for Preparation of MOH Recommendations: [MOH Request to DOD, February 15, 2016](#).

December 15, 2016 - Letter to Eric Fanning, Secretary of the Army - RE: Posthumous Award of the Medal of Honor to Private Wilson and Private Shadrach, 2nd Ohio Voluntary Infantry): [MOH Request Summary to SecArm and DOD](#).

January 4, 2017 - FOIA Response letter from DOA, Awards and Decoration Branch, LTC R. Arron Lummer letter on behalf of the Secretary of the Army. *“DOD policy prohibits premature disclosure of information of pending Medal of Honor award recommendations ... please know the award recommendations are currently being reviewed by senior Army leadership and the appropriate Government officials ... once a decision is rendered, the appropriate involved parties will be notified as expeditiously as possible.”*

April 2, 2019 – Submittal to the Secretary of the Army, Mr. Eric Fanning and the DOD; Medal of Honor Request - Addendum A - Summary and Additional Information to the Compendium Document. Re: Posthumous Award of the Medal of Honor to Private Wilson and Private Shadrach, 2nd Ohio Voluntary Infantry (9 pages): [Addendum A Details](#).

March 17, 2021 - Medal of Honor Request Letter to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on Behalf of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson 2nd Ohio

### **Summary Status and Request**

In summary, the petitioning parties on behalf of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson have not received notification of a decision in this Medal of Honor case to date. These men and their families remain without explanation as to why Private Shadrach and Private Wilson have long been overlooked and denied the recognition that their comrades received. These

two soldiers gave their last full measure to the same cause in preservation of the Union yet continue to be denied even a response.

In response to my December 2014 letter to President Obama, the matter was subsequently referred through the army chain of command. On behalf of the Presidents request, additional detailed information for Private Shadrach and Private Wilson were discovered and provided to the Army Awards and Decorations Branch (ADB) at Ft. Knox. After lengthy review, the ADB recommended Private Shadrach and Private Wilson for award approval to the Senior Army Awards and Decorations Branch (SADB). The MOH case previously vetted through the Pentagon SADB in 2006, was again thoroughly vetted by the SADB with an approval recommendation for Potus, to then Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Ash Carter.

However, the February 3, 2016 email memo referenced above states that SecDef Ash Carter returned the recommendation to the Army Human Resources Command (AHRC) without explanation. In a Department of the Army (DOA) letter to me from the Awards and Decoration Branch Chief, dated January 4, 2017, LTC R. Arron Lummer writes, *"Once a decision is rendered, the appropriate involved parties will be notified as expeditiously as possible."*

The parties, on behalf of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson, respectfully request that as this matter continues to be unresolved, that the DoDIG please independently investigate and provide an open report of the findings.

We remind, that President Lincoln, upon meeting these brave men on March 24, 1863 and learning their story, the re-patriated survivors of the Andrews Raid were presented the very first MOH on March 25, 1863. Afterward, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton proclaimed that as all men of the Andrews Raid became known, that they in turn each would receive the MOH. On January 28, 2008, per the 110th Congress, HR 4986, Subtitle F of Title V, entitled Decorations and Awards Sec. 561 was signed into law by President George W. Bush. This waived the time statute of limitation for the MOH and authorized and requested the President to make the award to Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson for acts of valor during the Civil War.

We believe that it is altogether appropriate today that when we have leaders recklessly committed to dividing our union, that we show support and recognition to soldiers willing to defend and preserve it at any cost. Please find the above referenced items and supporting documentation at the website for Private Shadrach and Private Wilson at: [ShadrachandWilsonMOH.com](http://ShadrachandWilsonMOH.com).

Mr. President, we respectfully ask that you correct this oversight with recognition of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson with the Medal of Honor. However, in as much as the course of action to date has failed to produce a reasonable response commensurate with the

Nation's highest honor, we simultaneously and respectfully request that the Mr. O'Donnell, Acting DoDIG investigate this matter and provide an open report of the findings to the interested parties.

Submitted in the confidence that action will soon be taken to award this much deserved honor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ron Shadrach*

Ronald J. Shadrach,  
On behalf of the Shadrach Family

CC: Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense  
Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Honorable Senator Sherrod Brown