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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, 2nd 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, 2nd 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, 2nd 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.

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

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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