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

March 17, 2021

Re: The Andrews Raid and the Medal of Honor (MOH) for:
Private Philip G. Shadrach and Private George D. Wilson, 2nd Ohio Voluntary Infantry

Dear Mr. President,

On December 30, 2014, as you served as vice President, I wrote President Obama regarding the Medal of Honor (MOH) status for Private Shadrach and Private Wilson for their participation and sacrifice during the Andrews Raid of April 12, 1862. On January 28, 2008 legislation was passed authorizing these men for this high award. Others recognized in that 2008 legislation were awarded that honor in May 2012 by then President Obama.

In response to my December 2014 letter to President Obama, the matter was referred through the army chain of command process. Per the request of the Army Awards and Decorations Branch (ADB) at Ft. Knox on behalf of the President, additional detailed information for Private Shadrach and Private Wilson were discovered and provided to that branch. Eventually, the ADB, after a lengthy review, recommended Private Shadrach and Private Wilson for award approval to the Senior Army Awards and Decorations Branch (SADB) at the Pentagon. The SADB thoroughly vetted that recommendation over an equally lengthy period and ultimately forwarded an approval recommendation for Potus, to then Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Ash Carter, recommending that the President make the award.

However, a February 3, 2016 email memo states that SecDef Ash Carter returned the recommendation to the Army Human Resources Command (AHRC) without explanation. AHRC was intent to resubmit the approval but to date, these men and their families remain without explanation why Private Shadrach and Private Wilson have been denied the recognition those that survived the Andrews Raid earned, while these two, that gave their last full measure in the same cause to preserve the Union, were denied.

I respectfully remind you Mr. President, that President Lincoln, upon learning the story of these brave men on March 24, 1863, awarded the re-patriated survivors of the Andrews Raid 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 and under HR 4986, Subtitle F of Title V, entitled Decorations and Awards: President George W. Bush signed into law Sec. 561 which 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.

We believe that it is altogether appropriate today that when we have some leaders recklessly committed to dividing our union, that we show support and recognition to those that have been willing to preserve it at all cost. Please find the above referenced items and supporting documentation at the website for Private Shadrach and Private Wilson at: ShadrachandWilsonMOH.com. Importantly, please review the evidence provided in the Summary Addendum (April 2, 2019) to the MOH Compendium Request document (February 15, 2016) found in the above website.

Below are testimonial accounts from fellow Raiders that give insight into the nature of these two brave and selfless men during this daring mission known as the Andrews Raid or Great Locomotive Chase....

Pittenger: Twelve miles out from Jasper we journeyed directly to the banks of the Tennessee River with the intention of crossing in the morning. We were recommended for the night to a kind of rude country hotel, well known in the area as "Widow's Hall's." The entertainment here was excellent and as we believed the harder part of our travel to be over, we were in high spirits. Andrews and several others joined us, and for the first time we spent a social evening together, we had a chance to become in some degree acquainted.

The large guest-chamber with its great roaring fire, and two beds in the corners opposite, was exceedingly comfortable; and after a smoking hot supper, we gathered around the open fire and began to talk and tell stories. Andrews was, according to his want, rather silent and reflective, but appeared greatly to enjoy the conversation of others. Especially did he show that he appreciated the wit of Shadrach - - which seemed to pour forth in an unending stream - - remarking; "That man never opens his mouth but he says something." George Wilson, who had traveled so widely, dominated the conversation in all serious and political matters as much as Shadrach did in sport and humor.

Dorsey: We reached Widow's Hall's some miles east of Jasper about dusk and put up. There was by this time, I think eight of us at this one house.....and a merry crowd we were. After a bountiful supper, we were soon left mostly to ourselves around the log fire in the sitting room, and the jests we got off at each other's expense provoked at time roars of laughter, never to be forgotten by anyone present. Andrews seemed to enjoy the sport as much as any, though he had little to say. Buffum, Shadrach and Geo. Wilson, were chiefs in the sport, while the rest of us occasionally threw in a droll remark for the sake of variety. At a rather late hour we retired to sleep.

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I had always been disposed to talk in my sleep, and on this trip had no little concern lest I should in my dreams utter a word that would lead us to detection. We were under a constant mental strain, sleeping or awake. What if this stranger, Andrews himself, whom we were trusting to lead us, should prove to be a Rebel spy and betray us into the enemy's hands? All these thoughts naturally suggested themselves to our minds; and so with Andrews. Here we had more than twenty men, any one of whom might prove false and betray us. We were all in a boat that might at any time spring a leak, and by now, it was well out in mid-ocean in some deep and strange waters.

Mr. President, we respectfully ask that you correct this oversight and complete the path forward with the recognition of Private Shadrach and Private Wilson with the Medal of Honor.

Respectfully submitted in the confidence that you will take action to award this much deserved honor,

Ron Shadrach

Ronald J. Shadrach,
On behalf of the Shadrach Family