This Timeline Highlights JWV's Service and Contributions:

"For over one hundred years JWV has proven that Jews were and still are an integral component in the defense and the maintenance of American security."

"For over one hundred years, JWV has vividly demonstrated the service of the Jew in the Armed Forces of the United States protecting America's democracy from the battles of the Revolutionary War to the fields of Bosnia and now to Afghanistan and Iraq."

"For over one hundred years, JWV has been and has made a priceless contribution and difference in America's growth as a Nation."

"For over one hundred years, JWV protected America's veterans-Jew and Non-Jew--in the preservation of their rights and in the full recognition and acknowledgement of their service."

"For over one hundred years, JWV has unqualifiedly served as the Patriotic Voice of America Jewry—a defense agency to America's Jews in fighting anti-semitism and bigotry whenever and wherever it may manifest itself."

Many of the excerpts for this timeline were taken from the following source: Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America: A Century of Patriotic Service to the American People, 1896-1996, Dr. Seymour S. Weisman, Senior Fellow, National Museum of American Jewish Military History.
The Early Years, 1896-1918

1896, First Meeting

At the roll call of its first meeting held on March 15 at the Lexington Opera House in New York City, 63 Jewish Civil War veterans were recorded as present as members of the Hebrew Union Veterans.

1897, First Memorial Service

On Memorial Day, May 30, the Hebrew Union Veterans sponsored its first memorial service for their departed brethren (a tradition to be followed for the next fifty years) at the B'nai Jeshrun Synagogue. The recently ordained, 24-year-old Rabbi Stephen S. Wise conducted the services. His ties to Jewish War Veterans continued throughout his career.

1900, Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain

Jews who served in the war with Spain organized the Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain. President Theodore Roosevelt, who had a Jewish contingent among his Rough Riders in the War with Spain, was named an honorary member.

1903, Stop the pogroms

Hebrew Union Veterans and Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain arranged for joint operations while retaining separate identities. They appealed to President Roosevelt for intervention with the Tsarist Russian government to stop the pogroms in Kishinev, where hundreds of innocent Jews were murdered.

1904, Jewish Patriotism

With the assistance of a prominent Citizen's Advisory Committee (which included August Belmont, Felix Warburg and Nathan Strauss, as well as other Jewish community leaders) the two Jewish war veterans organizations erected a monument exalting Jewish patriotism at Salem Field Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.
1912, National Guard

Both Jewish war veterans organizations combined officially and obtained corporate status under New York State law.

The combined organizations succeeded in securing passage of legislation removing restrictions against Jews serving in the New York State National Guard. (Prior to the legislation, Jews were denied opportunity to become commissioned officers in the National Guard).

1916, Flag Day

Honorary member Ben Altheimer was recognized as the individual most responsible in influencing President Woodrow Wilson to designate June 14 as Flag Day.

1917, Military Chaplains

Jewish War Veterans joined with several civic and religious Jewish agencies in the formation of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB). In January 1918, JWB was designated as the agency responsible for endorsing rabbis to serve as military chaplains and to provide staff at military recreation centers at home and abroad. Colonel Harry Cutler, who served in the National Guard, was elected as the first JWB chairman.

1918, Liberty Bonds

The Jewish War Veterans, as did other patriotic organizations, sold Liberty Bonds for financing the war effort.
Post World War I-World War II, 1919-1944

1919, Name Change

After admitting Jewish veterans of World War I, the name of the organization was changed to Hebrew Veterans of the Wars of the Republic.

On May 29, ten-thousand World War I Jewish veterans paraded in New York City to protest the pogroms against Jews in Poland, Rumania and Galicia.

1922, First National Convention

Hebrew Veterans of the Wars of the Republic convened its first national convention, which included representation of posts formed in Upper New York State, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois, California and Washington D.C. There were several Posts from Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx. At the convention, the delegates elected the first national commander and other national officers. They approved opening a national office on Park Row in Manhattan.

1924, Name Change

The organization changed its name to the Jewish War Veterans of the Wars of the Republic.

1925, The Jewish Veteran

JWV published the first issue of a national magazine, "The Jewish Veteran," which was mailed to all members. It has been published continuously ever since.

1926, Congressional Approval

JWV sought Congressional approval for legislation to give preferential consideration to families and immediate relatives of veterans for immigration to the United States.
1927, Star of David Markers

JWV was successful in securing passage of legislation requiring the American Battlefield Monument Commission to place Star of David Markers on the graves of Jewish soldiers buried in war cemeteries in France. Heretofore, the markers were Christian crosses. A decade later, JWV members were appointed to the commission.

1928, Ladies Auxiliary

JWV presented a charter to its National Auxiliary as a subsidiary organization. Posts were encouraged to establish local auxiliary units.

1929, New Name

The organization adopted the name which it has retained to date, namely Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America.

1932, Boy Scouts

JWV approved a national policy to motivate posts to sponsor Boy Scout troops in their community.

1933, boycott of German goods

JWV was the only Jewish organization that massed its colors to march in the inaugural parade for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. On March 23, Jewish War Veterans was the first organization to launch a boycott of German goods in the United States. More than 4,000 veterans marched on City Hall in New York where they were warmly welcomed by political leaders. The rally captured national and international media attention. In July, the JWV national commander went to Amsterdam to join in an international federation to promote the anti-Nazi boycott. Concurrently, JWV representatives met in Washington, D.C. with Congressional leaders to secure admission to the United States of German refugees fleeing Nazism.
1935, First International Conference

JWV representatives attended the first International Conference of Jewish War Veterans, hosted by French Jewish war veterans in Paris. JWV provided valuable assistance to the formation of the Catholic War Veterans. This close alliance has prevailed for sixty years.

1936, Oppose participation in Olympics

JWV leaders attended an International Conference of Jewish War Veterans in Vienna. In cooperation with the Seven Arts Feature Syndicate and affiliated Anglo-Jewish weeklies, JWV sponsored the selection of a collegiate, All-American, Jewish football team. First, second and third team honorees received awards from JWV.

Many of the veterans organizations (American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, etc.) joined Jewish War Veterans to oppose United States participation in the Olympic Games in Berlin.

While not prevailing in their opposition, the veterans organizations succeeded after the games were concluded to help elect new officers of the American Amateur Union, thereby ousting the slate that supported American participation in 1936.

1937, Open Doors for Refugees

JWV delegates met with British consulate officials in New York City to petition that Great Britain open the doors for German Jewish refugees to be admitted to Palestine.

1938, Jewish Refugees

JWV proposed the establishment of a federation of all Jewish organizations engaged in fighting anti-Semitism. No Jewish agency supported the proposal.

Many Jewish refugees who served as German soldiers in World War I visited JWV national headquarters in New York City for assistance in their resettlement. JWV assembled a volunteer staff fluent in German to handle this assignment.

1939, Jewish Homeland

JWV arranged for a Jewish War Veterans Day at the World's Fair in New York City.

JWV's National Executive Committee adopted a resolution supporting a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
The National Executive Committee opposed the British Royal Commission proposal to partition Palestine into three separate entities. The National Executive Committee also received a report on the organization's growth during the 1930s. Starting with 30 posts at the beginning of the decade, JWV expanded in ten years to 277 posts in 1939. In 1936, JWV formed a second subsidiary organization, the Sons of JWV, for teenagers. By 1939, more than 10,000 members were recruited. Many were given the opportunity to attend summer camps sponsored by JWV in 1938 and 1939. Approximately, one hundred posts provided instruments and uniforms for the Sons of JWV drum and bugle corps. Two members of the Sons of JWV became JWV national commanders after World War II.

1941, Ten Days After Pearl Harbor

Meeting ten days after Pearl Harbor, the National Executive Committee promulgated its "Emergency Program for Victory," which called for a comprehensive civilian program to support the war effort. To fulfill this commitment, JWV and its National Ladies Auxiliary proceeded during World War II to:

Sell war bonds exceeding $250 million.

Purchase seven fighter planes. The first plane was named "The Jewish War Veteran" and the second, "The Star of David".

Arrange for the Navy Department to commission several ships in honor of Jewish naval heroes. The first honoree was Uriah P. Levy of early American Navy fame.

1942, Federal Employment Practices Commission

JWV supported President Roosevelt's Executive Order establishing the Federal Employment Practices Commission (FEPC), which banned discrimination in hiring personnel relating to the war effort.

1943, Launching of the escort destroyer

JWV established an Expansion Fund to provide financing for the organization's growth after World War II. By war's end, there was $250,000 in the fund.

JWV sponsored the launching of the escort destroyer Uriah P. Levy.

1944, G.I. Bill of Rights

JWV joined with its allied veterans to support passage of the "G.I. Bill of Rights" legislation which provided for housing, education, job training and disability benefits for discharged veterans.
JWV was one among five national Jewish agencies invited to participate in the newly-formed National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), organized to coordinate programs dealing with anti-Semitism and community relations.

During WWII, The Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary worked with the Red Cross to organize blood banks and to prepare care packages for American soldiers.
Post World War II-Korean War, 1945-1953

1946, Enter Palestine

On July 15, four-thousand Jewish war veterans rallied in front of the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. to petition Great Britain to permit Jews from the displaced persons camps in Europe to enter Palestine.

JWV requested President Harry Truman to implement proposals in the Veterans Program Report submitted to him by a commission headed by Bernard M. Baruch which addressed the problems facing the discharged World War II veterans. JWV awarded Baruch its Gold medal of merit and honorary membership for his programs to assist discharged veterans.

JWV attended a meeting of the International Conference of Jewish War Veterans held in Paris. The deliberations gave primary attention to assisting Jews held in displaced persons camps and opening Palestine to Jewish immigration.

1948, Largest Parade

On January 1, the Jewish Welfare Board transferred to Jewish War Veterans, with the approval of the Veterans Administration (VA), responsibility to process claims for veterans and assist them in securing benefits due them and their families under governmental regulations. JWV's service officers were housed at fifteen VA regional offices throughout the country.

JWV Members in Los Angeles established the Ida S. Latz Foundation with the goal of providing services and programs for disabled veterans beyond that covered by VA resources. Innovative programs were administered by JWV service officers. As these programs proved meritorious, the VA incorporated them for all disabled veterans. Most notable was the Latz program to provide halfway housing for newly discharged hospitalized veterans to assist their reintegration to community living.

On April 4, Jewish War Veterans staged the largest parade in Jewish history. More than 250,000 veterans accompanied by 90 bands marched down Fifth Avenue in New York City to support the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine. Financial support to mount the parade came from Zionist organizations and philanthropic Jews. The allied veterans organizations cooperated fully in this public demonstration for a Jewish State.

After five Arab nations invaded the newly formed State of Israel in May, JWV alerted its units to collect uniforms to be shipped to Israel. More than one million garments were sent within 6 months.
JWV opened a legislative office in Washington D.C. (Under federal lobbying law, veterans organizations are permitted to engage in lobbying activities without jeopardizing their tax exempt status for charitable contributions).

1950, Displaced Persons Act

After JWV succeeded in convincing the allied veterans organizations to drop their opposition to the proposed legislation, Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act of 1950, which permitted Jewish refugees trapped in displaced persons camps in Europe to gain admission to the United States. President Truman invited JWV leaders to the White House for the ceremony when the law was signed.

With the onset of the Korean War, JWV posts and auxiliaries reinstated programs from World War II to provide assistance to new inductees for military service. JWV members who were recalled to duty received free membership while in service.

1951, NATO

Secretary of State Dean Acheson, recipient of JWV's Gold Medal of Merit, addressed one thousand guests at a Waldorf-Astoria dinner in New York City. In his talk, he stressed the importance of our nation's support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

1952, Baseball Blood Drive

At JWV's initiative, the Department of Defense, the American Red Cross and the commissioner of Baseball entered into a cooperative venture with the support of allied veterans organizations which succeeded in collecting more than 50,000 pints of blood for the troops in Korea. Blood donors received two free tickets to attend a baseball game for their favorite local team. Major and minor league baseball owners in 53 cities participated in this project. The American Red Cross cited JWV for promoting the program.

JWV was honored by the American Heritage Foundation for its efforts to support the "Get Out the Vote" campaign for the 1952 presidential election.

1953, McCarthy Era

JWV was invited to join as a charter member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.
JWV assisted Jewish veterans at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, who were discharged from their civil service employment as alleged security risks. Through JWV intervention, most of those falsely accused during this McCarthy reign of terror were ultimately rehired.
1954, Moved National Headquarters

JWV moved its national headquarters to a building it purchased in Washington, D.C. The building also housed the JWV National Memorial which sponsored a museum and archives to preserve military records and achievements of Jewish service personnel.

JWV served as one of the sponsoring organizations for the American Jewish Tercentenary celebration. To commemorate this event, JWV prepared a traveling exhibit on Jewish military participation since 1654 and published a revised edition of "Jews in American Wars."

1955, Association of Jewish Chaplains

JWV signed an agreement with the Association of Jewish Chaplains that provided for consultation and cooperation by both organizations on matters relating to religious activities in the military and veteran affairs.

1958, Battled Arab Boycott, Museum Chartered

The Congress of the United States voted a Congressional Charter for the JWV National Memorial, only the second Jewish sponsored institution to receive such recognition.

JWV cooperated with the Conference of Presidents in battling the Arab boycott of Israeli goods. A major target was the Brown and Williamson Co. When the company decided to discontinue its cooperation with the Arab boycott, its president issued a concession statement which read in part: "Presidents of major national Jewish organizations including the Jewish War Veterans have issued a statement about our export brands to Israel and have expressed their pleasure over this development." JWV also played a key role in later years in urging Coca Cola to make available its soft drinks in Israel and British Airways to resume flights to Israel.

JWV distributed pamphlets exposing the blatant falsehoods expounded by the extremist, right-wing John Birch Society, noting its paranoid anti-communist rantings, attacks on academic freedom and character assassination of decent, concerned, political leaders.
1962, International Conference

JWV leaders attended the first International Conference of Jewish War Veterans held in Israel. At the plenary sessions, the delegates formulated strategies for establishing more effective communication and action on issues affecting World Jewry.

1963, Soviet Jewry, Civil Rights March

JWV was represented at the Civil War centennial celebration at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

JWV was the only veterans organization to join with the Rev. Martin Luther King's civil rights march at the Washington Monument in our nation's capitol. JWV was responsible for convening a meeting of staff representatives of six national Jewish agencies to coordinate public relations activities in behalf of Soviet Jewry. From deliberations subsequent to this historic meeting came the formation of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

1964, Civil Rights

As a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, JWV assumed a pivotal role in helping break the Senate filibuster which subsequently led to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

1965, Nazi War Criminals

With the cooperation of other veterans organizations and support from the Conference of Presidents, JWV organized public demonstrations in front of the German Embassy in Washington D.C. and German consulates across the country to protest the failure of the West German government to extend the statute of limitations on its Nazi war criminals. JWV placed full-page ads in major newspapers to press its campaign. The impact of an aroused American public opinion prompted by widespread editorial support for JWV's protest forced the German government to reverse its policy and extend the statute of limitations.

JWV's national commander accompanied by the national commander of the Catholic War Veterans had an audience with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican. They urged that the Pope speak out on the plight of Soviet Jewry.
1966, G.I. Bill of Rights

JWV's national commander was denied a tourist visa to the Soviet Union.

JWV joined with other veterans groups to lobby successfully for passage of a "G.I. Bill of Rights" for Vietnam veterans.


1967, Six Day War

JWV and allied veterans organizations participated in a demonstration in Washington D.C. urging our government's support for Israel during the Six Day War.

JWV delegates attended a meeting in London of the International Conference of Jewish War Veterans where the conference leaders petitioned the United Nations to recognize Israel as a victim of Arab aggression in the Six Day War. Following the London meeting, a delegation from JWV and AJEX (Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen of Great Britain) went to Vienna to meet with the Chancellor of Austria and members of his cabinet. They discussed curriculum in Austrian schools relating to the teaching of the Nazi period, the presence of former Nazi officers in the Austrian civil service and Austria's hostile policy vis-a-vis Israel.

1968, Israeli Defense Forces

JWV convened a meeting of its Executive Committee in Israel in conjunction with a convocation attended by one thousand JWV members and spouses. During its deliberations, the Executive Committee approved plans to build a rest and recreation center in Beersheba for the Israeli Defense Forces serving in the Negev and Sinai.

1969, Investigate Allegations

JWV was the only veterans organization represented at the World Conference of Jewish Leaders held in Jerusalem at the invitation of Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

JWV requested the Department of Defense to investigate allegations that Jewish recruits were being persecuted by drill sergeants at Marine Corps training centers.
Post Vietnam War Era, 1970-1984

1970, Withdrawal from Vietnam

JWV was the first veterans organization to support withdrawal of United States forces from Vietnam.

JWV and American Legion officials in separate visits with President Nixon urged that the U.S. sell Phantom jet airplanes to Israel.

JWV units formed picket lines at locations where French President George Pompidou made appearances to protest France's refusal to deliver to Israel military planes for which French manufacturers had received full payment. JWV also opposed sale of French planes to Libya.

1971, 75th Anniversary

To celebrate its 75th Anniversary, JWV hosted the first International Conference of Jewish War Veterans held in the United States. JWV released a twenty-minute film, "Patriots for Peace," highlighting Jewish military experiences on American soil since 1654.

JWV sent a delegation to attend the World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in Brussels.

JWV supported the United States policy to establish diplomatic relations with mainland China and for allocating to it the UN Security Council seat.

1972, Housing Projects

JWV signed contracts to build the first of three housing projects for elderly veterans.

1973, Yom Kippur War

JWV proposed that the United States organize a Committee on Reconciliation to consider granting amnesty to those who refused to serve in the Vietnam War.

JWV sought support from allied veterans groups for the Jackson-Vanik legislation which denied most-favored nation tariff treatment to the Soviet Union and other nations which did not permit their citizens the opportunity to emigrate.
During the Yom Kippur War launched by a surprise attack on Israel by Egypt and Syria, JWV advocated that the United States airlift arms and supplies to Israel to meet critical logistical shortages. After the fighting ceased, JWV sent a delegation to Israel to provide assistance for Israeli disabled veterans.

1974, Protest the PLO and Anti-Semitism

JWV and allied veterans organizations lobbied successfully for passage of the Vietnam Veterans Adjustment Act of 1974 which imposed benefits available to Vietnam veterans to accommodate their adjustment to civilian life.

JWV units marched at the head of the Solidarity parade held in New York City in support of Soviet Jewry.

After General George S. Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made several anti-Semitic remarks at a speech delivered at Duke University, JWV called a press conference in Washington, D.C. seeking his dismissal by President Ford. The JWV attack on Brown received wide media attention followed by editorial support for Brown’s removal. President Ford said that Brown’s talk at Duke did not reflect the president’s views. Brown apologized for his indiscretions and was officially reprimanded by Ford.

JWV provided free office space and services for the legislative staff of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

JWV units joined in the Jewish community demonstration held at the United Nations in New York City to protest the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at the UN debate on the Middle East. JWV staff acted as liaison with the Police Department on security matters relating to the demonstration.

1975, Soviet Jewish War Veterans

JWV launched a campaign to assist Soviet Jewish war veterans in immigrating to Israel.

1976, Deportation and Rest and Recreation

JWV held dedication ceremonies to mark the opening of the JWV-sponsored rest and recreation center in Beersheba. JWV raised more than $500,000 for building the center.

JWV sponsored several programs to mark the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A JWV representative delivered the bicentennial address on Jewish military history at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

JWV called upon the Department of Justice to take appropriate legal action for the deportation of those individuals living in the United States who committed Nazi war crimes.
1977, Soviet Jewry

JWV cooperated with programs initiated by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry to adopt "refuseniks" (those Soviet Jews denied permission to emigrate.

JWV opposed unionization of U.S. military personnel.

JWV supported a constitutional amendment seeking equal rights for women.

JWV posts and auxiliaries contributed $275,000 to build a Jewish chapel at West Point.

JWV supported legislation outlawing participation by U.S. corporations in secondary and tertiary boycotts. The legislation also required corporations to report efforts by Arab nations for the corporation's compliance with the Arab boycott of Israel.

1978, Civil Rights and the Olympics

JWV supported an amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect Jews who observe the Sabbath from job discrimination by employers.

JWV announced its opposition to the U.S. participation in the 1980 Olympic Games to be held in Moscow.

1979, Camp David Accords

JWV congratulated President Carter for negotiating the Camp David Accords leading to the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

Fearing a counter-demonstration led by JWV members, the American Nazi Party in Skokie, Illinois called off a planned march and rally twenty minutes after its scheduled start.

JWV presented its Gold Medal of Merit to Bob Hope at a dinner attended by 900 guests in San Diego, California. Hope was honored for his USO shows to entertain troops since World War II.

1981, AWACS

JWV joined in the protest by Jewish community organizations against the sale of AWACS radar warning planes to Saudi Arabia.
1983, Forest in Israel

JWV presented a life membership to Lt. Col. Jack Jacobs, one of only two Jewish Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from the Vietnam War.

JWV fulfilled its pledge of $100,000 to build a JWV forest in Israel.

JWV sold its building on New Hampshire Avenue in Washington, D.C. and bought a new building, tripling the available space, on R Street.

JWV joined Project Yachad, adopting Soviet Union Jewish war veterans who were denied permission to emigrate from the USSR.

1984, Congressional Charters

JWV was awarded a Congressional Charter by the Congress of the United States. JWV is the only Jewish agency to have obtained two Congressional Charters for its operations. (The first charter was for the JWV National Memorial).

Vice President George Bush was the guest speaker at the dedication of JWV’s building on R Street. JWV supported legislation for the U.S. government to provide reparations to citizens and resident aliens of Japanese-American ancestry who were detained in internment camps during World War II.
1985, Nazi War Criminals

Both the Conference of Presidents and the NJCRAC called on JWV to take a leadership role in mobilizing public opinion opposing President Reagan's visit to the Bitburg Cemetery in West Germany where Nazi storm troopers were buried. JWV's national commander went to Bitburg to participate in an international demonstration opposing Reagan's Bitburg visitation. JWV's nationwide campaign sparked rallies in local communities castigating the infamy at Bitburg. These rallies evoked widespread media support for JWV's protest.

The Office of Special Investigation (OSI) of the Department of Justice filed charges for deportation against 50 Nazi war criminals who entered the United States illegally. Editorial comment praised JWV for instigating OSI's interest in ousting Nazi war criminals.

1986, 90th Anniversary

To celebrate its 90th anniversary, JWV released a video, "Guardians of Our Heritage," depicting JWV's contributions to Jewish communal life and its service to the American community.

JWV exposed participation of U.S. military personnel in Ku Klux Klan activities. The Department of Defense condemned such behavior and took action to punish those involved.

1987, March for Soviet Jewry

JWV organized a new subsidiary organization, Descendants of Jewish War Veterans, to enroll the children and grandchildren of JWV members in the organization.

A phalanx of JWV colors headed the "March for Soviet Jewry" with 250,000 in attendance at the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. The rally was sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

1988, Scouting

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting bestowed on JWV the prestigious Mortimer I. Schiff Award (named for the former president of the Boy Scouts of America). This was the first occasion that a Jewish organization was named recipient of the award for outstanding support for the boy scout movement.

After the U.S. Marine Corps refused JWV's request to remove a 65-foot cross at a base in Honolulu, JWV prevailed in its law suit in federal court to have the cross replaced with a 35-foot American flag flying above a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action banner.
1990, Reward Fund

JWV's offer from its Reward Fund for information as to the culprits who vandalized a Yeshiva high school in Silver Spring, Maryland resulted in leads provided by an informant for the arrest and conviction of three adolescent skinheads.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) opened its exhibit, "A Salute to Jewish Military Chaplains." The exhibit reviewed the history of the Jewish military chaplaincy from the Civil War through Operation Desert Storm.

The Department of Defense assured JWV officials that government policy prohibited discrimination against Jewish military personnel serving in Arab countries during Operation Desert Storm.

1991, The Gulf War

JWV advocated Congressional support for mobilization of U.S. forces for the Gulf War.

At the onset of the war, the Department of Defense approved JWV's request to establish a command post desk in the Pentagon manned by retired JWV field officers with prior military duty at the Pentagon. The desk served as a clearing center to address problems or respond to inquiries from Jewish military personnel.

At the suggestion of the Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, JWV rushed a special printing of pocket-sized Jewish bibles which was airlifted to Jewish personnel in the Gulf War.

The NMAJMH opened an exhibit on "Jewish Soldiers and Operation Desert Storm."

The USO praised JWV post members in Israel for assistance in operating the USO center in Haifa.
1992, Hurricane Andrew

A JWV task force assisted local volunteers to provide aid, comfort and financial assistance to victims of Hurricane Andrew in South Florida.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) opened its exhibit, "Candid Moments in Military History".

1993, New Exhibit at Museum

The NMAJMH opened its exhibit, "GI's Remember-Liberating the Concentration Camps," in a cooperative venture with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.

1994, JWV Opposes Museum Exhibit

JWV concluded successfully the campaign to burn the mortgage on its building in Washington D.C.

JWV in conjunction with other veterans groups opposed a proposed exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum relating to the end of the war with Japan in 1945. The veterans alleged that the exhibit was biased and did not reflect historical truth. The exhibit as planned was withdrawn.

1995, Memorial Chapel

JWV dedicated the memorial chapel at the NMAJMH in honor of Captain Joshua L. Goldberg (USN retired), the first Jewish military chaplain to have served his country in three wars-World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

1996, Centennial

JWV celebrated its Centennial in March with a week of festive activities in the nation's capital, which culminated with a gala dinner dance.

"Jewish War Veterans of the USA Celebrate One Hundred Years: 1896-1996" opened in the NMAJMH, with more than 400 people attending the opening reception. The exhibit highlighted the influential role JWV has played in shaping major historical events of the twentieth century.

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA hosted the Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as part of the Centennial Year National Convention in November 1996.
Highlights of Recent JWV History, 1997-2006

1997, Uriah P. Levy Exhibit


1998, International Assembly

JWV attended this assembly, held in Israel, of fellow Jewish veterans from around the globe. JWV USA had the largest contingency of any nation.

1999, Two New Exhibits

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) opened two exhibits. One of the exhibits, "Women in the Military: A Jewish Perspective", profiles Jewish female veterans of U.S. conflicts from the Civil War to the Gulf War, and through their stories, brings to the forefront the vital role women have played to contribute to America’s war efforts throughout our history.

The second exhibit that opened was "Rescue and Renewal: GIs and Displaced Persons". With the end of World War II, almost 8 million persons displaced by the war were in Germany and Austria. They included concentration camp survivors, former prisoners of war, forced laborers and ethnic Germans from Poland and Czechoslovakia. Most of the displaced persons were quickly repatriated or resettled, but for Jewish survivors this was generally not an option. Jewish survivors had no intention of returning to countries where they did not feel welcome and which had, in fact, become vast Jewish cemeteries. Immigration quotas and the British blockade of Palestine kept them in the DP camps longer than most; often three years or longer after World War II ended. This exhibit is divided into two sections. The first is on the rescue of survivors of history’s greatest crime against humanity. The other is on the role of Jewish GIs in helping DPs toward a new life.

2000, Websites

Websites of JWV and the Museum became available and members have been visiting them daily.
2001, The Hall of Heroes

The permanent exhibit, "The Hall of Heroes: American Jewish Recipients of the Medal of Honor" opened. This exhibit pays homage to the Jewish-American veterans who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is America’s highest award for military valor, presented to those who have performed an act of such conspicuous gallantry as to rise “above and beyond the call of duty.”

2002, Rally for Israel

On April 15, 2002 in Washington D.C., JWV participated in the largest US rally ever on behalf of Israel. Over 100,000 friends of Israel were present that day.

2003, New Exhibits

Opened two new exhibits, one was "Gold Star Mothers" and the other was "A Mother’s Grief". The exhibits were for the purpose of showing the pain and suffering experienced by the thousands of American mothers who have lost their sons (and daughters) to the horrors of war.

2004, New Exhibits

The NMAJMH opened “Reconnaissance and Recollection: Military and Civilian Photographs from World War II,” an exhibition of black and white photographs taken while Sy Weinstein served as an Army Air Forces Lieutenant during World War II. As an official military photographer in Italy, Weinstein supervised processing labs and provided in-flight training to gunner/camera operators. He piloted light reconnaissance aircraft through France, and into Germany.

The JWV copyrighted and published its 350th Year Commemoration of Jews in the Military and an accompanying Curriculum Guide.

2005, New Exhibits

In conjunction with the celebration of 350 years of Jewish life in America, the NMAJMH began planning for a new permanent exhibition dedicated to the entire history of Jewish service in the US armed forces.
2006, Religious Freedom and Pride Initiative

JWV filed suit against the government to remove a cross used as a veterans memorial from Federal land on Mt. Soledad near San Deigo, California.

JWV was a leader in the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Pride Initiative to urge veterans to wear their medals on patriotic holidays to bring veterans together in a symbolic demonstration of unity and patriotism.

2007, Prominent Honoree and Anniversary Plans

JWV presented its Medal of Merit to Senator Daniel Akaka (HI), the Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Plans were begun for a new museum exhibit and a celebratory dinner to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the March 1933 JWV March Against Nazi Germany in New York City.

2008, JWV Celebrated Exhibit Opening, Visited Housing for Homeless Veterans

JWV celebrated the opening of the exhibit commemorating the 75th anniversary of the JWV-sponsored march against Nazi Germany with a gala dinner at which Dr. Pamela Nadell, Director of the Jewish Studies Program at American University spoke.

JWV’s 113th Annual National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, featured a visit to Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard, a $2.5 million transitional housing facility for veterans who are homeless or have other needs, which is a project developed through the JWV Housing Commission.