

The Jewish VETERAN

Volume 62 • No. 3 • Summer 2009



SECOND TOUR

PAGE 8

An Open Letter to Veterans

From Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki

“My name is Ric Shinseki, and I am a Veteran. For me, serving as Secretary of Veterans Affairs is a noble calling. It provides me the opportunity to give back to those who served with and for me during my 38 years in uniform and those on whose shoulders we all stood as we grew up in the profession of arms.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs has a solemn responsibility to all of you, today and in the future, as more Veterans join our ranks and enroll to secure the benefits and services they have earned. I am fully committed to fulfilling President Obama’s vision for transforming our department so that it will be well-positioned to perform this duty even better during the 21st Century. We welcome the assistance and advice of our Veterans Service Organizations, other government departments and agencies, Congress, and all VA stakeholders as we move forward, ethically and transparently, so that Veterans and citizens can understand our efforts.

“Creating that vision for transforming the VA into a 21st Century organization requires a comprehensive review of our department. We approach that review understanding that Veterans are central to everything VA does. We know that results count, that the department will be measured by what we do, not what we promise, and that our best days as an organization supporting Veterans are ahead of us. We will fulfill President Lincoln’s charge to care for “. . . him, who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan . . .” by redesigning and reengineering ourselves for the future.

“Transforming any institution is supremely challenging; I know this from my own experience in leading large, proud, complex, and high-performing organizations through change. But the best organizations must be prepared to meet the challenging times, evolving technology and, most importantly, evolving needs of clients. Historically, organizations that are unwilling or unable to change soon find themselves irrelevant.

You and your needs are not irrelevant.

“Veterans are our clients, and delivering the highest quality care and services in a timely, consistent and fair manner is a VA responsibility.

I take that responsibility seriously and have charged all of the department’s employees for their best efforts and support every day to meet our obligations to you. Our path forward is challenging, but the President and Congress support us. They have asked us to do this well—for you. Veterans are our sole reason for existence and our number one priority—bar none. I look forward to working together with all VA employees to transform our department into an organization that reflects the change and commitment our country expects and our Veterans deserve.

“Thank you, and God bless our military, our Veterans, and our Nation.”

Signed: Eric K. Shinseki

Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

All calls start at 8:00pm EDT or EST (unless otherwise noted)

June 24	Wed.	Membership
July 8	Wed.	National Convention
July 21	Tues.	Finance Board
August 20	Thurs.	Information Technology -time to be announced
August 20	Thurs.	Vietnam Veterans -time to be announced
August 21	Fri.	Outreach to the Next Generation (formally GWOT) -time to be announced
September 8	Tues.	Leadership
September 17	Thurs.	Rules and Meetings
October 6	Tues.	The Jewish Veteran, Taking Action, Public Relations
October 21	Wed.	National Museum of American Jewish Military History

**Your opinions
and ideas count!**

All JWV members are encouraged to join in and participate by dialing the toll-free number below:

**Dial 1-866-266-3378
and enter the
JWV Code Number
202 265 6280#**

**Enter the full number,
including the # sign**

The Jewish VETERAN



The Jewish Veteran is the Official Publication
of the Jewish War Veterans United States of America

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Photos and articles submitted to *The Jewish Veteran* shall be used at the discretion of the organization. The opinions expressed in signed articles and letters in this magazine are not necessarily those of JWV.

Advertising information and rates available from the Editorial Office. JWV assumes no responsibility for products and services advertised in this publication.

The Jewish Veteran is published 4 times a year—Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn—by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America at 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription price in the United States is \$5.00 per year, included in membership. Nonmember subscriptions: \$7.50. Single copies: \$2.50.

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ISSN-047-2018.

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We Were There

PNC David Hymes, Department of Illinois Quartermaster Martin Levit, and JWV members Bert Tovrog and Robert Nussbaum attended funeral services for SGT Robert Martin Weinger, who was killed in Afghanistan on March 15, 2009. He was presented posthumously with the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. The funeral was conducted by Chaplain Rabbi Ira Ehrenpreis from Fort Benning, GA.



SGT Robert Martin Weinger



National Commander Ira Novoselsky and National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth laid a JWV wreath at Arlington Cemetery on Memorial Day. Photo by Francie Rosenbleeth

Commander's Corner

A message from National Commander Ira Novoselsky

Hello Comrades,

The saga of my term as your National Commander continues. Since my last Commander's Corner, my trips have brought me around the country. In March, I was honored at a testimonial in Massachusetts. Then in April, I was invited to participate in a round table discussion with the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee at the Capitol in Washington. I then went to visit the Department of Florida. I was at a Veterans forum on Thursday; SOUTHCOM, Doral Vet Center, Miami VA, and Temple Emeth in Davies, FL, on Friday; Temple

ed my presence, and it was very enlightening for his Congregation at the Hampton Synagogue to hear more about JWV and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. He also has a Congregation in Manhattan at which he spoke after my visit to the Hamptons about my visit, and how pleased he was that I took the time to visit them.



One of the many highlights of my tour as your National Commander was to have breakfast with President Obama at the White House on Memorial Day morning and to meet Four-Star Generals Schwartz and Casey and General Shinseki, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. General Casey happens to come from Massachusetts. We then went to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, where I was joined by Herb and Francie Rosenbleeth. Honors all around!

In June, I will be attending the Annual convention of the Department of New York and then finish out in New Orleans. At this point I have no idea what will happen in between.

In all my speeches around the country, I let everyone know at the beginning where I came from: "I paked my ca in havad yad!" Even the Yankee and Mets fans knew. But seriously, in all my various speeches my voice was heard representing JWV, enforcing our Legacy with our National Museum, supporting Veterans, and supporting Israel.

Thanks to Department Leaders and professionals for making these arrangements: PNC Ainslie Ferdie, PNC David Magidson, DC Erwin Burtnick, DC Carl Singer, PDC Sid Lichter, National Chaplain, RADM (RET) Harold Robinson, and Rabbi Marc Shneier.

I do want to take this opportunity to announce again the Chaplain's Hill project at Arlington National Cemetery. As I stated in March at the NEC, this project will establish a marker for Jewish Military Chaplains Killed-in-Action. There presently are markers for other Faiths, and it is only appropriate that the Jewish Chaplains are also recognized. I will approach our Finance Board to waive the matching funds on this one-time project. We have received initial approval from



NC Novoselsky at White House Breakfast on Memorial Day.

Emmanuel in Miami Beach for Shabbat services, where I met an old friend, Rabbi Geller from Massachusetts; the Miami Mosaic Jewish Museum, Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach and dinner on Saturday; and the Dept. of Florida DEC in Plantation, FL on Sunday. Whew--I am tired already just thinking about it. But I do want to go back to South Beach-OY!

Then also in April I attended the Conference of Jewish Chaplains at Ft. Belvoir. I had plenty of protection there. Rabbis and Lay leaders from all over the country attended. I learned a lot from them, and they in turn learned more about JWV from me. Good connections everywhere.

In May, I attended the Department of New Jersey Legislative Breakfast, Ft. Meade in MD, and Annapolis for the Jewish Baccalaureate Service for the presentation of Kiddish cups to the graduating Midshipmen; and a visit to the Hamptons and Arlington National Cemetery, both on Memorial Day weekend.

The Hamptons was a last minute request, and I am glad it happened. Rabbi Marc Schneier request-

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News From Capitol Hill

By Col Herb Rosenbleeth
U.S. Army(Ret)
Nat'l Executive Director



VA 2010 Budget

Following the stirring testimony of NC Ira Novoselsky before a joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs and JWV's highly effective Capitol Hill Action Day, the President released a VA budget request of \$112.8 billion, the largest percentage increase (15 percent) requested by a President in over 30 years.

The budget request calls for medical care funding of \$47 billion, which will permit a gradual expansion of healthcare eligibility and provide access for more than 500,000 previously ineligible veterans in the next few years. The budget requested would expand inpatient residential and outpatient mental health programs, improve access to care in rural areas, and expand long term care services.

VA claims processing would receive increased funding to improve the timeliness of compensation and pension claims and sufficient funding to meet the increased education claims workload resulting from the new GI bill. The greatly expanded GI bill will take effect on August 1st of this year.



On JWV's Capitol Hill Action Day, National Executive Committee members PNC Larry Schulman, Dr. Morton Stein, DC Gerald Alperstein, and PDC Jason Kaatz, met with New York Congressman Christopher Lee to discuss veterans' issues.

Vastly improved information technology for the VA is also provided for in the new budget request. Funding is included for a reliable and accessible IT infrastructure, a high-performing workforce, modernized information systems, development of an electronic health record, and a paperless claims processing system.



NC Ira Novoselsky told the Veterans' Affairs Committee what veterans need most!

These gains have been made possible by the terrific work done by our JWV leadership, by our National Executive Committee, and by our hard working and effective members.

JWV strongly supports mandatory funding for veterans health care. JWV's goal is funding reform for the VA health care system that will insure sufficient, timely, and predictable funding. The VA budget has been late for 19 of the past 22 years, forcing it to operate month-by-month under a continuing resolution.

As a result, VA hospitals are often forced to delay hiring necessary staff and purchasing needed equipment. The inability to properly plan leads to inefficiencies and waste.

JWV will continue to press for mandatory funding for VA health care. Our Leadership, our National Executive Committee members, and JWV departments and posts throughout the country will continue to demand VA funding that provides access to quality care for every veteran!

Thank You for Grave Marker

Dear JWV:

When I went to visit the grave site of my mom and dad recently, I noticed the plaque that you have placed on my father's grave. I was not aware that your organization even existed and was pleased to see that you had put this marker on his grave.

He was a veteran of WWII and did serve his Country. The fact that your organization exists and found his grave and placed a marker recognizing his Service was a pleasant surprise.

Enclosed please find my check along with a big **THANK YOU**. I trust the enclosed will help you to continue the recognition of Jewish Veterans.

Thanks.

Bob Weinshenker

Two American Heroes

Dear Editor:

My attendance at the NEC in March enabled me to learn very special highlight of two Jewish American war heroes: Haym Salomon and Sid Singer.

Historical records revealed that throughout our Revolutionary War, much of the desperately needed funds for George Washington's Army came from Haym Salomon, and the diary of Robert Morris, our first Treasurer of the fledgling Revolutionary United States, showed at least 75 entries: "I sent for Haym Salomon."

The USA's debt to Haym Salomon has been recognized by a few statues, and in 1975 the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in his honor. To be sure, however, that he does not become just a postscript in our country's history, we voted to submit a motion to the Resolutions Committee for JWV to ask Congress to mandate a National Holiday to honor this Jewish American Revolutionary War hero.

When I attended the Housing Committee meeting, I soon realized that the main speaker, Sid Singer of Post 718 in PA, was a true hero! His report covered 30 years of his war to supply housing for the homeless veteran and for the elderly. Sounding apologetic, he announced his retirement as President of the Board of the East Boros JWV Housing Corp.

Facing insurmountable challenges, including negotiating with HUD, his Post under his guidance, opened an 8-story apartment building in 1980, supplying 101 units for low income seniors. The mortgage will be paid off in eleven (11) years and then sold with the proceeds going to our museum (NMAJMH).

In 1992, the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center asked Sid if his Post could supply housing for homeless veterans.

These veterans had been in the 6-month VA Rehab program for alcoholics and drug addicts. If no homes were found for them, they would be back on the streets.

After months of searching, a two (2) acre plot in a very run-down area with 29 condemned town houses with tax liens of over \$240,000 was found. The city's asking price was \$60,000—Sid got it for the symbolic price of \$1.00.

Now 2 to 5 veterans live in each of 21 houses. Their modest rent includes heat, light, a free phone and TV. Each house has fire alarms and sprinklers. In the center of the complex is a new 2-story million dollar Vets Training Center, with meeting rooms, computer rooms, a day room and kitchen. All are ADA compliant. Although some of these veterans do fall back on their old ways, 50% call this their home for the full 2-year term.

Sid Singer, keenly aware of the frailty of life, closed his last housing report, (referring to the 1980 building) [and] said, "Now, at close to 85-years old, I have stepped down. Eleven more years makes it highly improbable that I will be around to burn the mortgage."

These highlights of my attendance at the March NEC prompted me to send this letter. If approved by the Resolutions Committee, let us strive for Congress to amend the fading into oblivion of Haym Salomon, and let's not wait to memorialize Sid Singer. Instead I fervently and vigorously suggest the NMAJMH produce a permanent display honoring Sid Singer's legacy to the homeless American Veteran!

Sincerely,

PDC Ed Elbaum
Perlman-Matlin Post 800

[Editor's Note: For a poem about Haym Salomon, please see back cover.]

Educational Grant Winners

Dear JWV:

Thank you for the honor of receiving the Jewish War Veterans of the USA's National Education Grant. I am very grateful, and thank you for your consideration and generosity.

My first year at Harvard is almost over, and I am very sad to be leaving. Throughout the year I have involved myself with various Jewish activities on campus. I just completed my first year of an intensive Hebrew-language class, and will be volunteering for Harvard Hillel's Welcoming Freshman Week in September. I plan to travel to Israel next Winter Break to participate in the Netivot Israel Leadership

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Editor's Corner

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



Remember when you were in school, and at the end of a marking period or a semester you received a report card or a grade report. Well the government also gets a report card--this way we can plot their progress or lack thereof. A report card has been issued for the Department of Homeland Security by the House Committee on Homeland Security. The report card focused on the progress made by the Bush Administration with regard to the 9/11 Commission Report, which mentioned several areas that needed strengthening. Some of these areas were also highlighted when JWV testified before the committee in 2008.

Now for some background information: On September 11th, this Nation suffered the most devastating attack since Pearl Harbor. The attacks that killed 3,000 people were the work of 19 hijackers affiliated with the terrorist group al Qaeda. Congress passed a bill to form the 9/11 Commission soon thereafter. The Commission was to develop recommendations for corrective measures that should be taken to prevent another attack.

On July 22, 2004, almost three years after the attack, the 9/11 Commission issued its final report and included over 41 recommendations. Since then, many recommendations have not been enacted. Many obvious steps that we Americans assumed to have been completed have not been. As a result, Congress then passed H.R. 1, the "Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendation Act of 2007." This comprehensive homeland security legislation included provisions to strengthen this nation's security against terrorism by requiring screening of all

cargo placed on passenger aircraft; securing mass transit, rail and bus systems; and scanning of U.S. bound maritime cargo, etc.

This report card focuses on the Government's performance with respect to key statutory requirements in the following areas: 1) aviation security, 2) rail and public transportation security, 3) port security, 4) border security, 5) information sharing, 6) emergency response and biosurveillance, 7) private sector preparedness, and 8) national security.

The table below sets forth the status of key provisions as stated in the 9/11 Report and restated in an extensive oversight report called, "**How's the Bush Administration doing on fulfilling the requirements of the Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007.**"

As you can see, the government has not delivered on myriad critical homeland and national security mandates set forth in the "Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendation Act of 2007." America should be alarmed that there has not been more progress on implementing these key provisions. This table should indicate that we must contact Congress members to put pressure on the current Administration to redouble its efforts to make progress as identified in this table and in the oversight report.

Provision of 9/11 Commission	Status Update
Aviation Security: Advanced PassengerPlan Prescreening System	Transmitted but little progress on the program
Aviation Security: Screening of Air Cargo Passenger Aircraft	Missed opportunities
Aviation Security: General Aviation Security	Failure to take action
Rail & Public Transportation Security: National Strategy for Public Transportation Security and Security Assessments and Plans	Incomplete, putting public transportation at risk
Port Security: Maritime Cargo Security	No progress
Border Security: Modernizing the Visa Waiver Program	Initial steps taken but significant implementation challenges remain
Information Sharing: Department of Homeland Security, State, Local, and Regional Fusion Center Program	Failure to take action
Emergency Response: Credentialing and Typing	No progress
Biosurveillance: National Biosurveillance Integration Center	Initial steps taken but little progress
Private Sector Preparedness	Limited progress
National Security: Interdicting Weapons of Mass Destruction	Failure to take action
National Security: United States Policy toward Detainees	Progress is slow and uncertain

SECOND TOUR

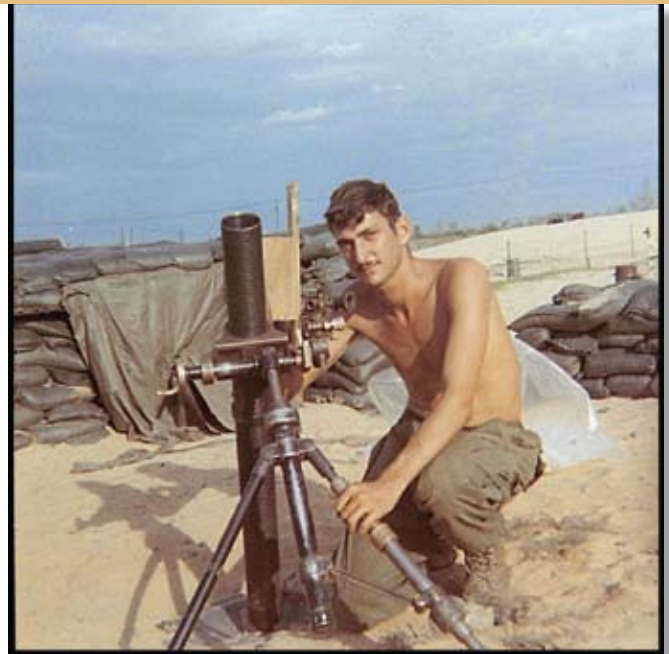
A veteran returns to Vietnam

By PDC Andy Lavigne

I landed in Da Nang for my second tour aboard Vietnam Airlines with my wife and my memories. The first time, almost 41 years ago, I was on a Military Air Command plane with other Marines and my fears. The missions were very different. This time I was going to bring closure to my memories.

After months of research to find where I had been, I had only the name of a village and a few photographs. Marie had rented a car with a driver who could speak English, and we headed north through Da Nang, over Nam-O Bridge, through Kim Lien, past the Esso Plant headed for the Phu Bai area between Hai Van Pass and Hue looking for Sao and Mai, a couple whose house our squad essentially took over. They cooked for us, and we paid them either in C-rations or Military Scrip. Sao was a former South Vietnamese paratrooper who fought with the French in the 1950's and was wounded in the leg. Mai was pregnant with yet another child. We were there only a few weeks, but they were very gracious to us at the risk of their own lives. It had also been my first experience in a combat situation.

The winding road around the mountains along the coastline of the South China Sea provided a beautiful panorama of the country's eastern shoreline. As we approached the peak of Hai Van Pass, the clouds got so thick that seeing the road was very difficult. At the top, on cue, the tourist trap appeared, and, as we pulled over to take a break, we were accosted by vendors. We decided on a hot coffee, though Marie could not resist the pregnant woman with two children and bought some stuff. The owner of the stand, a chain smoking young man named Trang, spoke remarkably good English. Marie told Trang why we were here. He knew little of Phu Bai but was very familiar with Nam-O Bridge and the neighboring village of Kim Lien where he and most of the other vendors lived. He remembered what the Esso Plant looked like before all the additional storage tanks were added as well as the train station just before the entrance to the train tunnel inside the Esso Plant. The encampment that I had stayed in was now a Vietnamese Military base and off limits to civilians, especially a former U.S. Marine. His grandfather was in the South Vietnamese Army and told him stories of the past. Maybe it was for that reason Trang took a lik-



ing to us.

At that point I brought out pictures I had taken in 1968 of three small children from the town of Kim Lien. As word got out that we had old pictures, all the vendors converged on us grabbing for the pictures without any regard for the tour buses pulling into the lookout area. Nobody recognized the children in the pictures. After gathering the pictures back we talked about another family from a Catholic village which I thought was Le My, a village near Hill 60 that was friendly to Americans. Our driver had no idea where Le My was.

Trang knew that a vendor at the Pass was familiar with the village of Le My and brought him over. Boa was a generation older than Trang and did not speak English. I showed him pictures of "Mama-san Lynn" and her daughter "Suzie," the names they had told us to call them, and their house. Suzie was about 10 years old in 1968 and a fearless and most precocious young girl. She would wrap us Marines around her finger like we were her big brothers. Her mother, Mama-san Lynn, was the utmost statement of elegance and class. They came to the entrance of our encampment at Hill 60 along with the other vendors that sold Coca Cola's, candles, candy and other necessities. Mama-san Lynn did our laundry. In today, back tomorrow--50 cents a garment. After we gathered up our pictures, Trang and Boa kindly offered to lead us to Le My.

All the way to Phu Bai and Hue all I could think about was what would I say to Mama-san Lynn. I knew we would find her. We went through Phu Bai, and I recognized the remains of an old French Fort which might have been the place where Charlie Pitman

during an attack on our perimeter raised a rifle to our South Vietnamese protectors who were attempting to flee, and told them he would shoot them if they ran. They returned to their positions and protected us from the attacking North Vietnamese Army while we fired mortar rounds from our gun pit inside the fort.

We continued on to the Imperial City of Hue, a beautiful city that housed the old Emperors and Buddhist high priests. It was a city taken over by the NVA during the Tet Offensive that cost many lives to retake.

We were anxious to get back to the Pass so we left Hue without entering the old walled Imperial City. As we passed through Phu Bai again, we stopped at several places I thought might be Sao and Mai's home, but no one had ever heard of them. We stopped at the remains of the French Fort and were able to confirm that what was now a marketplace surrounding the steeple used to be an old French Fort like those seen in old black and white French Foreign Legion films. What was now a village used to be rice paddies. The bridge we protected was now in the process of being replaced.

We drove on to Hai Van Pass which was still in a cloud. Trang and Boa were waiting for us. Neither of them truly thought we would find anybody from 1968. Trang said that Le My was about 15 kilometers on small roads from there. The two of them took off, each on their own motor bike with Marie, the driver, and I following in our car through villages and outdoor markets on paved and unpaved roads meant for no more than two motor bikes to pass. We finally got to Le My and at a marketplace stopped an older woman to tell our story. As our story was being told, our pictures of Mama-san Lynn and Suzie were disappearing into the villagers' hands. We were able to keep track of them by the giggles and laughter as they went from group to group until someone said they thought they recognized Mama-san Lynn. Yes she lives in the village and it could be her, 41 years ago. Trang mentioned she was Catholic and lived near a church, and the smiles stopped. There are no Catholics living in this village we were told. Several of them said there was a Catholic village about 5 kilometers away.

When Trang mentioned Hill 60 where I had been

based for two months, an old lady said she knew of the hill which was behind her house about a half a kilometer away. We had to walk as the car would not fit on the pathway so car and driver stayed, but some villagers followed. She talked through Trang and told us the hill was being leveled for expansion of

the village, and you could see where the hill was being cut into for each new abode. While the area looked familiar, I could not be sure. I asked the old woman to point to the road that led to the entrance of the encampment and to where the Catholic village was. She was dead on. She even pointed out where the helicopters landed. She also pointed to where they found five American bodies several years ago.

It was getting late, and we moved on after thanking her for her

help.

This time we drove further out into the countryside past rice paddies and small villages until we turned right into a village surrounded by trees, and there it was--a Catholic Church. At the entrance to the village we found a woman who did not recognize anyone in the pictures but knew of a woman in another, poorer Catholic village about 2 kilometers away who might. By this time everyone was having doubts, but I wanted to keep going.

Sure enough, the woman we are looking for had no idea about who was in the pictures, but she knew another old woman in the village who was a vendor at the hill during the war. Someone ran to get her from across the dirt road. A minute later this almost toothless old woman with the biggest smile came running down the hill showing amazing nimbleness. Behind her another dozen or so villagers came to the scene. After passing around the pictures, we heard, "Yes, she knew this woman. They had been best friends. Where is she? She died several years ago. So what happened to Suzie? Oh, she lives down the street with her husband."

We put the old toothless friend of Mama-san Lynn (of blessed memory) in the back seat of the car, surrounded by several dozen villagers with the numbers increasing as the story spread and followed Trang and Boa.

When we reached the pathway to Suzie's home, we were led by the toothless, smiling, chattering dear



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old friend of Mama-san Lynn (may she rest forever in peace) up this slowly inclining, meandering path through tall trees and past the two room cement houses with the front rooms open to the elements. Our toothless friend stopped in front of one of these homes and told us that this was Suzie's husband's house, but that she was not home, and someone had gone to get her. We met her husband, a gentleman of about 50 years, who came out to greet us. He looked as stunned and confused as I felt. He started shouting instructions, and several young men and women ran to the back room just as a motor bike with two women pulled up. The one in back looked like Suzie would look 41 years later. Trang took charge as this woman approached and told her who I was, and why we were there. This obviously embarrassed woman had no recollection of me. Before disappointment could set in, Trang asked her if the American soldiers had a name for her during the war. She shyly nodded yes, "Suzie."

My 59-year-old body desperately held back the emotion of the 41-year-old memory that was wrenching my soul. I saved that eruption for more private moments. Marie was less successful as tears streamed from her heart. Marie and I were speechless, and thankfully Trang took charge. He brought Suzie over to us and showed her the pictures we had of her as a little girl and her mother as a beautiful young woman. She looked up at us, the pictures by this time being passed around to the crowd as they howled about how ugly she was as a child. Her husband motioned for us to come in and sit down at their table. The younger people emerged from the back room with bottles of water and glasses. We sat without saying a word and drank. Suzie no longer remembered her English. After 41 years and a drink of water, of all the questions to ask and all I wanted to know, what finally came out was, "How are you?" The answer of course was "Fine." Marie, as any normal mother would, asked about her family; she had six children. Are they all here? No, one is married; the others are all here. She pointed them out. Do they go to school? No. How come? We are too poor. The children must work to support the family. Trang, who was seated with us, was now being kept very busy and enjoying every minute of it. Marie asked

about their real names. Suzie's name is Bong and her husband's name is Toung (my keyboard is unable to put in the proper markings that go above some of the letters, but the pronunciations are Bohng and Tong, if I remember correctly). The banter continued, but I was too dazed to remember what was being said. Marie finally asked Bong about her mother. She died in 1970, two years after I met them. After about 10 minutes with me unable to ask an intelligent question and Bong and Toung too embarrassed to get truly personal in front of what was by now a very large but quiet crowd in front of their house listening intently to every word, I suggested it was getting late, and everybody needed to get home, really meaning we all needed to get on with our lives. I was disappointed in myself that I was too drained to handle the situation. We took pictures of everybody and exchanged addresses promising to send them the pictures. Marie suggested we give them some money, and Trang said we should give it to Troung. I gave him the Vietnamese money Marie put in my hand and said how much we appreciated the hospitality, and we wanted them to buy presents for the children. As twilight was ending we all exchanged goodbyes.

During the short ride back to her home we learned from our toothless friend in her pigeon English that her wartime American boyfriend wrote that he was coming to visit her. She wanted to marry him. That is when we learned she and her boyfriend were 65. When she got out of the car Marie gave her some mone, thanking her for all she had done. By this time it was just Marie and me, the driver, Trang and Boa. The curious villagers disappeared to their homes as we were no longer a



story.

We finally had a chance to stop and reflect. Trang and Boa, who were as responsible as anyone for our successful search opined that they never really thought we would find her and were just doing it as an adventure. They were more surprised than me that we found Suzie and equally pleased. As we said our goodbyes and exchanged addresses Marie slipped them each an expression of thanks the way most Americans do, a big tip. Though they accepted it I don't know if I would have done it because these people became our friends, and I hope they were not insulted by our expression

of thanks. We will stay in touch with them through emails--in touch with Trang anyhow.

We arrived back at our hotel at about 7 PM. For everyone except you, Bong, Troung, Marie and me, the story ends here. Marie was determined to keep it going.

The next morning Marie approached the people at the Front Desk of our hotel to explain that we wanted to send Bong some money along with a letter and needed their help with translation and mailing. After discovering a cell phone number, we called to tell Troung we had a present for them. He agreed to come to our hotel the next morning.

Bong, Troung, and his brother arrived promptly the next day. A young lady at the front desk agreed to translate for us. After some small talk about our families, we again asked about her mother. After her death, Bong and her brothers and sisters were raised by the father whom I never met. He still lived in that same house. I reminded her how she would jokingly insult the Marines (You numba 10 Marine. You no good. He numba one Marine) and then charm us with her smile. And how another Marine and I visited her mother's home during the monsoons, having been sent by our Captain to purchase candles for the Marines on the hill. We were wined and dined, given fresh clean clothes and slept off the meal. We were even given free candles for ourselves. The other Marines had to pay. Bong reminded us that she was only 11 at the time and remembers nothing. She asked to see the pictures again, and Marie went to our room to get them.

I inquired about how they earned money. It seems that Troung leased land from the government for the family to farm rice. They were allowed to keep some and sold the rest of the rice back to the government, but now the government was not renewing the lease because it was going to build something on the land. The



From left, Susie (Bong), Marie Lavigne, Andy Lavigne, and Susie's husband, Troung, after the reunion.

family had to find another way to survive. They would probably buy produce from the local farmers and sell it in the market places. By this time Marie had returned with the pictures. Bong asked if she could have a photo of her mother because she did not have any pictures of her. We gave her one and promised to send her the rest after we got them copied. It may sound selfish, but they are my memories too. We again said our goodbyes with promises to write. We gave them an envelope with more money in it, saying it was in remembrance of her mother. Marie told me we would be sending money periodically to help them out

While at the hotel, I studied Bong, and she looked exactly the same as her picture. Older, yes ... bigger, some ... wrinkled, not much... wiser to the ways of the world, more so than me. Happy, I think. I hope so.

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 6

Initiative, exploring conceptions of Jewish identity and learning about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict more in-depth. This wouldn't have been possible without your kindness.

Once again, I offer my sincerest thanks for the continued generosity of the JWV of the USA.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Cohen

Dear JWV:

Thank you so much for selecting me to receive the 2007-08 Louis S. Silvey Grant. I am honored to have been chosen by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. The money will prove invaluable in financing my college education at Cornell University.

Sincerely,

Joseph Mansky

Commentary

By PNC Bob Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

ALL OPTIONS ARE ON THE TABLE—DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE TABLE IS LONG OR SHORT

North Korea has conducted an underground nuclear test in a munitions range equal to the US Hiroshima atomic bomb; they have tested their ICB missiles and—they have said that they were no longer bound by the 1953 truce [the one that ended the Korean Conflict]. Kim Jong-Il has also named his youngest son as his successor—guess he's probably the best one in playing video games. What happens if they send troops into South Korea, or even fire off a nuclear weapon at Japan or even the USA?

Iran has tested its missile—good enough to reach our troops, Sunni nations and Israel. Our President is giving them until the end of the year to show how reasonable we are going to be in our diplomacy. Probably we will pass it off as merely a test of a delivery system for expanding their ability to implement their nuclear energy grid. The year end will come and go, and can we expect there to be a love fest with Iran?

And, on top of it all, we are now engaged in war in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Yep, Pakistan. The real soft spot there is that Pakistan, an exceedingly fragile government, actually has nuclear bombs or devices. Since we are friends, they have “assured” us that they are in full control of them; even though the head of their nuclear research has sold some of their research on the black market; and, if they happen to run short on their budget, will they have to sell a couple of bombs? We have sent them billions of dollars with only their assurance and no right of any joint control or even location.

OOPS! While we are exceptionally concerned with leakage of secret information from Pakistan, our government has released a 266-page report listing the US sites showing highly enriched uranium storage, nuclear fuel fabrication plants, nuclear research facilities and “highly confidential safeguards sensitive.” Apparently, it was a mistake which we will now make sure doesn't happen again—interesting approach.

Our President seems to feel that he can use his rhetorical snow job as a control, especially after saying that all options are on the table, including military or nuclear—which apparently means that, since all options are on the table. If through some inadvertence a nuclear device or bomb happens, by mistake, to hit a capitol, will we consider whether we want to respond?

Without some definition, our national direction of security is obscured.

We do, however, have some experience as to options. During the Cold War, both we and the Soviets sat for 40 years in Europe without a problem. We sat with Mutual Assured Destruction, Flexible Response and whatever other theory they had, which meant that each side could immediately or preemptively respond to a threat or actual delivery of a nuclear device.

So what is the problem of specifying the reality of our response? That we will immediately retaliate without the need to enter into meaningless negotiations or being concerned with global public relations. That it will apply whether the provocation be done by a nation or by any so-called rogue nations or groups financed or sponsored by a nation.

There has to come a time when the fear of a nuclear conflict is put into proper perspective with what we can accept as a firm firewall. Retaliatory death has a finality to it—it's the only alternative option we should offer.



*Register now for
JWV's 114th Annual National Convention
in New Orleans*

*Registration deadline of July 8th, 2009,
is fast approaching!*

Registration form can be found on page 18

Color guard uniforms in assorted sizes and rifles in working condition available to an organized post for the cost of shipping and handling only. Contact Melvin Kaplan, Commander Post 651, Fairlawn, NJ, 201-796-3795, 89A Glenwood Ave., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407.

After Cairo, It's Clinton Time

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

It's hard to know whether to laugh or cry after reading the reactions of analysts and officials in the Middle East to President Obama's Cairo speech. "It's not what he says, but what he does," many said. No, ladies and gentlemen of the Middle East, it is what he says and what you do and what we do. We must help, but we can't want democracy or peace more than you do.

What should we be doing? The follow-up to the president's speech will have to be led by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. This will be her first big test, and, for me, there is no question as to where she should be putting all her energy: on the peace process.

No, not that peace process — not the one between Israelis and Palestinians. That one's probably beyond diplomacy. No, I'm talking about the peace process that is much more strategically important — the one inside Iraq.

The most valuable thing that Mrs. Clinton could do right now is to spearhead a sustained effort — along with the U.N., the European Union and Iraq's neighbors — to resolve the lingering disputes between Iraqi factions before we complete our withdrawal. (We'll be out of Iraq's cities by June 30 and the whole country by the close of 2011.)

Why? Because if Iraq unravels as we draw down, the Obama team will be blamed, and it will be a huge mess. By contrast, if a decent and stable political order can take hold in Iraq, it could have an extremely positive impact on the future of the Arab world and on America's reputation.

I have never bought the argument that Iraq was the bad war, Afghanistan the good war and Pakistan the necessary war. Folks, they're all one war with different fronts. It's a war within the Arab-Muslim world between progressive and anti-modernist forces over how this faith community is going to adapt to modernity — modern education, consensual politics, the balance between religion and state and the rights of women. Any decent outcome in Iraq would bolster all the progressive forces by creating an example of something that does not exist in the Middle East today — an independent, democratizing Arab-Muslim state.

"The reason there are no successful Arab democracies today is because there is no successful Arab democracy today," said Stanford's Larry Diamond, the author of "The Spirit of Democracy." "When there is no model, it is hard for an idea to diffuse in a region."

Rightly or wrongly, we stepped into the middle of this war of ideas in the Arab-Muslim world in 2003 when we decapitated the Iraqi regime, wiped away its authoritarian political structure and went about clumsily midwif-

ing something that the modern Arab world has never seen before — a horizontal dialogue between the constituent communities of an Arab state. In Iraq's case, that is primarily Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds.

Yes, in a region that has only known top-down monologues from kings, dictators and colonial powers, we have helped Iraqis convene the first horizontal dialogue to write their own social contract for how to share power.

At first, this dialogue took place primarily through violence. Liberated from Saddam's iron fist, each Iraqi community tested its strength against the others, saying in effect: "Show me what you got, baby." The violence was horrific and ultimately exhausting for all. So now we've entered a period of negotiations over how Iraq will be governed. But it's unfinished and violence could easily return.

And that brings me to Secretary Clinton. I do not believe the argument that Iraqis will not allow us to help mediate their disputes — whether over Kirkuk, oil-sharing or federalism. For years now, our president, secretary of state and secretary of defense have flown into Iraq, met the leaders for a few hours and then flown away, not to return for months. We need a more serious, weighty effort. Hate the war, hate Bush, but don't hate the idea of trying our best to finish this right.

This is important. Afghanistan is secondary. Baghdad is a great Arab and Muslim capital. Iraq has something no other Arab country has in abundance: water, oil and an educated population. It already has sprouted scores of newspapers and TV stations that operate freely. "Afghanistan will never have any impact outside of Afghanistan. Iraq can change minds," said Mamoun Fandy, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

You demonstrate that Iraqi Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds can write their own social contract, and you will tell the whole Arab world that there is a model other than top-down monologues from iron-fisted dictators. You will expose the phony democracy in Iran, and you will leave a legacy for America that will help counter Abu Ghraib and torture.

Ultimately, which way Iraq goes will depend on whether its elites decide to use their freedom to loot their country or to rebuild it. That's still unclear. But we still have a chance to push things there in the right direction, and a huge interest in doing so. Mrs. Clinton is a serious person; this is a serious job. I hope she does it.

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Military Memories

By Daniel Vahab



Josephine Anton, Chair of the JWV Women in the Military Committee, testified at a roundtable to address and assess the ability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide the right services to the country's 1.8 million women veterans. The roundtable was held by Rep. Bob Filner, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

When then 26-year-old Josephine Anton first saw a request in the newspaper for women to join the service, in 1942 in the midst of WWII, she immediately left college in her last year of Law School.

"I knew I was going to join...and I haven't regretted it since," Anton, 91, said. "I thought it would be exciting and I thought I could help."

Because of efforts made by Congresswoman Edith Rogers of Massachusetts, a bill to establish the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was passed in 1942, according to the U.S. Army Center of Military History (USACMH) website. Rogers was inspired by the women who served as volunteers in WWI without benefits. She wanted women who served to get the same recognition and benefits that the men received. The bill that followed was a "compromise."

Politicians and military leaders, at first uncomfortable with the idea of women in the military, finally realized that woman could supply the extra "manpower" needed to allow the men to fight. Anton was among the first WAACs. She went through 90 days of non-combatant training: 30 days of basic training, 30 days of clerical training, and 30 days of officer training. "We weren't like the women today who do the same training as men. The only thing we came close to doing like the men involved gas masks."

According to the National Museum of American

Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) website, WAAC's weren't officially recognized as part of the Army. In addition, WAAC's received less pay, no rank, and no legal protections. Then, in 1943, President Roosevelt signed a bill that established the Women's Army Corps (WACS) "with full military status." In WWII, over 150,000 women served as WACS, according to NMAJMH.

Anton was the only Jewish woman in her group. She said her fellow soldiers were shocked to find out she was Jewish.

"They were all looking at me like I was a freak. "It sounds ridiculous now, but they were looking for my horns. Most of them were from the South and had never met a Jewish person before." But, she added, "We all got along very well and respected each other." And while she wasn't able to celebrate the Jewish holidays because there was no Rabbi around, Anton said she still fasted on Yom Kippur.



Anton said her most memorable time in the military was when she served as the temporary commander of a black group of WACS. Another time Anton recalled nursing a woman who had been raped by a soldier. Since then, Anton commented, "I have met women who are still suffering." Anton then noted that "that there's always been sexual harassment."

As one of the few WAACs still alive, Anton continues to serve her country as the Chair for the Women in the Military for the Jewish War Veterans. In addition, Anton volunteers at the Veterans Hospital in Riviera Beach where she commutes from her home in Boca Raton.

"(Josie) is a tribute to a Veteran and a person of good faith. She has served her country in a position needed at the time she was in the military. She is an inspiration to all," said Ira Novoselsky, National Commander of Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

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Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation Spotlights



WWII Veteran and JWV Member Mike Singer

For more than six decades, Mike Singer has dedicated himself to helping fellow military veterans and their families. He has a keen understanding of the hardships soldiers face in battle and back home, as well as the many challenges experienced by military families. His personal history is steeped in educational moments that did not always take place in a classroom, and subsequently he places a high premium on available and affordable educational opportunities.

“When I learned about the number of students assisted by the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and the fundraising initiatives underway to help these Marine Corps families in need, I was extremely impressed. Many of its scholarship recipients are the first in their family to attend college. The Foundation provides students with access to education that, for many, is financially out of reach. Without an education many things in life are out of reach. The Foundation serves a critical bridge between Marine families in economic hardship and a life opportunity.”

As a young boy growing up eight miles south of downtown Chicago, Mike Singer always managed to scrape together part-time work despite the difficult economic times. At the young age of 14, his path would dramatically change course when, following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, Singer followed in the footsteps of his two older brothers and enlisted in the U.S. military. He chose the Marine Corps and hoped that the recruiters would not uncover the fact that he was underage. Somehow, he flew under the radar, and the 14-year-old Jewish teen from the South Side of Chicago sailed right through to boot camp. Following training in Colorado, his 1st Marine Division left for the South Pacific where Singer saw action in Guadalcanal,

New Britain, Peleliu, and elsewhere.

During the fall of 1944, Singer was among the first wave of Marines to attack the well-fortified island of Peleliu. A fierce battle raged; the island heat reached 120 degrees, and the 1st Marine Division suffered tremendous losses. Peleliu had the highest casualty rate of any battle in the Pacific War: 6500 casualties, including



1250 killed. Singer suffered multiple wounds during the fighting and lay in the heat with only two canteens of water. He was eventually discovered and airlifted to a hospital ship. He was sent to a military hospital in southern New York. Following surgery and months of recuperation, he received orders to

join the Marine Corps invasion at Okinawa. However, before he embarked on this unwelcome return to the South Pacific, the war had ended. Sergeant Mike Singer received four Purple Hearts, one Bronze Star and one Silver Star among many other medals.

Following his five years of active duty service, Singer returned to Chicago, earned his high school diploma and went to work at a local gas station. While his own healing continued, his interest in assisting fellow military veterans steadily increased. He began visiting veterans at local hospitals, and in 1946 Singer helped found the Jewish War Veterans Post 407 in Flossmoor, IL.

Continued on page 30

Laissez Les Bons Temps Roulez!

(Let the Good Times Roll!)

Convention Schedule subject to change

Daily • Aug 18-23

Morning Minyan - 8:00 a.m.

Sunday • Aug 16

Dinner with New Orleans Jazz

Monday • Aug 17

Swamp Tour and Mardi Gras Museum Visit!

Reception at WWII Museum

Tuesday • Aug 18

Wreath-laying Ceremony

Committee Meetings

National Executive Committee Meeting

Vietnam Veterans Night Out

Wednesday • Aug 19

Joint Opening Session, JWV-JWVA

Speaker: Tammy Duckworth, Assistant

Secretary of the VA for Public &

Intergovernmental Affairs

Resolutions

1st JWV Business Session

Century Club

Thursday • Aug 20

2nd JWV Business Session

Committee Meetings

Resolutions

National President's Banquet (JWVA)

Friday • Aug 21

3rd JWV Business Session

Committee Meetings

National Commander Elections

Sabbath Evening Services

Saturday • Aug 22

Sabbath Morning Services

NMAJMH Board Meeting

Commander's Banquet

Convention Journal Ad Rates

Inside Front Cover..... \$750.00

Inside Back Cover..... \$500.00

Full Page..... 7.5 x 10 inches..... \$375.00

Half Page 7.5 x 5 inches \$200.00

1/3 Page 7.5 x 3 inches \$150.00

1/4 Page 3.25 x 5 inches..... \$120.00

1/6 Page 3.25 x 3 inches.....\$75.00

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Jewish War Veterans 114th Annual National Convention New Orleans • August 16-23, 2009

Omni Royal Orleans Hotel
621 St. Louis Street • New Orleans, Louisiana 70140
Phone: (504) 529-5333 • Fax: (504) 529-7089

A one night (\$135/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations. All prices include tax. Rooms with two double beds are very limited. A 3-night minimum stay is required

\$150 Convention surcharge for those not staying at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel.
People living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

Name: _____ Post No. _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

Arriving: ____/____/____ at _____ Departing: ____/____/____ at _____ Total nights _____

2009 JWV 114th Annual National Convention	Cost	How Many?	Amount
Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
I prefer: <input type="checkbox"/> King/Queen size bed - Depending on Availability (Single Room) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds (Double Room)	\$135.00 per night		
• Third bed <i>cannot</i> be added to a room that already has 2 beds. 3rd Person, sharing where possible	\$65.00 per night		
Minimum Deposit only	\$135.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel	\$150.00		
Sunday Night Dinner with New Orleans Jazz • August 16 No. of: Fried Chicken_____ Fish_____ Sugar Free Dessert_____	\$37.50		
Louisiana Swamp Tour & Visit to Mardi Gras Museum • Monday, August 17	\$42.50 per person		
Century Club • Wednesday, August 19	\$100.00 member		
	\$40.00 spouse		
Traditional Kosher Shabbat Dinner • Friday, August 21	\$27.50 per person		
Commander's Banquet • Saturday, August 22 No. of: Chicken_____ Fish_____ Kosher_____ Sugar Free Dessert_____	\$40.00 per person		
Total:			
I am paying by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card:		Sign and mail this completed form, along with your payment to: Jewish War Veterans 1811 R Street, NW Washington, DC 20009 Attn: Convention Dept.	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No.	Exp. /		
Signature			

Albany Post 105 Honors American POWs

American servicemen who endured some of the most difficult times of military service gathered for a recognition ceremony at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, NY, on Tuesday, April 7. American former POWs received honors and praise from fellow veterans, current Soldiers and future generations of servicemen.

Master of ceremonies for the event was Richard Goldenberg, commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. Albany Post 105. Goldenberg is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and continues to serve as an officer in the New York Army National Guard.

“This ceremony paid homage to those Americans who were taken prisoner of war or listed as missing in action,” said Karen Covey, volunteer manager for the Stratton VA Medical Center. “The program was a powerful reminder that we will keep faith with those who so faithfully served America.”

“It is a true honor to be part of recognizing America’s Greatest Generation,” Goldenberg said to the former POWs. “Warfare has changed tremendously in the past few generations, but your service and your sacrifice have become a beacon for those who serve today in the Latest Generation.”

Goldenberg spoke to the former POWs, commenting on how the Army has applied the lessons of POWs past to current servicemen and women today.

“As a Jewish Soldier, the Army recognized the unique threats that captivity in places such as Iraq or Afghanistan might mean to a Jewish Soldier,” Goldenberg said. “Like many of you who served in Europe in World War II, I too was offered an opportunity to remove any Jewish identification from my military service tags. Like many of you, I declined the offer,” he said.

Dignitaries on hand for the recognize the sacrifice and service of American former POWs were U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko, New York State Assemblyman James Tedisco, Albany County Executive Michael Breslin and Rennselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino.

The springtime commemoration coincides with America’s single largest surrender of military forces in the nation’s history. On April 9, 1942, 12,000 American servicemen serving on Bataan in the Philippines un-

der Maj. Gen. Edward King surrendered to Japanese Imperial Forces. More than 57,000 Filipino troops were also part of the capitulation, forced to surrender after a fighting withdrawal throughout the winter of 1942 used up all the Filipino and American supplies of food, water, medical supplies and most importantly, ammunition.

Only about 2,000 survived their captivity and ultimately came home to tell of their sacrifice.

Local military cadets from the LaSalle Institute provided the ceremony color guard while Cadet Jackson Ramos from the Christian Brothers Academy in Albany read his personal essay on the story of the daisy and its meaning to the former POWs.

“The daisy is the flower chosen as a national symbol in remembrance of all former POWs,” Cadet Ramos said. “American folklore has long deemed that daisies won’t tell, making it a sincere tribute to those who have endured hardships in silence.”

“I was asked to say a few words on behalf of all the POWs, but there is never enough time or enough words to describe what we went through,” said Robert Jackson, Commander of the Northeastern New York Chapter of American Ex-POWs. Jackson went on to describe his time in confinement in Europe during World War II, briefly touching on the most significant part of his memory: his liberation.

“I can tell that even today, I can still plainly see the tanks rolling up to our camp. It is a sight a keep with me,” Jackson said.

“Bridging the generations with our POW’s and the Christian Brothers Academy and LaSalle Military Institute cadets made for a wonderful aspect of the program,” said Rebecca Freedman, coordinator for the day’s program.

“I am an American Soldier,” Goldenberg said to the group. “And the Army creed today was founded on the service and the deeds of America’s former POWs. I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade,” Goldenberg said.

“It means so much to the veterans to realize that someone does remember them and their service to our country, especially by our military cadets,” Covey said.



Dan Yates, left, from the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs, presents the state proclamation honoring American former Prisoners of War to Mario Checca, at right, the Vice Commander of the New York State Department of American Ex-POWs. Observing in the background is Jewish War Veterans Albany Post Commander Richard Goldenberg and Christian Brothers Academy Cadet Jackson Ramos. Photo courtesy Stratton VA Medical Center.

New Orleans Jules Lazard Post 580 Emerges Re-energized

By Judge Sol Gothard, Commander

On March 30, 2009, The Jules Lazard Post 580, New Orleans, LA., Jewish War Veterans of America elected the following officers: Judge Sol Gothard, Commander; Jack Sands, Sr. Vice Commander; Dr. Milton Fingerman, Quartermaster; Micky Marsh, Officer of the Day. Other officers were appointed. Like New Orleans itself, the Post has become re-energized and active. At the time of this writing, in less than 2 months, 15 new members have joined the Post, two of whom are women. They include nine younger veterans of Viet Nam, Desert Storm, and Afghanistan (one of whom—a woman member—will be speaking at a special dessert reception we will be holding at the JWV's Annual National Convention). We are having discussions with a dozen more, and we are becoming aware of new contacts on an almost daily basis.

Recently, Tulane ROTC students were accommodated for a Pesach Seder. On April 25, a Shabbat service was held at Congregation Beth Israel, in Metairie, La. honoring JWV members. The special speaker was Arieh O'Sullivan, a New Orleans native who made aliya, became a Lt. in the Israel Defense Forces and a paratrooper. During the services, all 22 of the veterans in attendance, went before the Bimah, draped under several large talleisim, almost like a chuppah, to receive blessings. Our members led most of the service. Joining us were three Naval ROTC students, in full dress uniform: they were an inspiration to everyone in the synagogue, especially the veterans.

At our regular meeting on May 12, our guest speaker was William M. "Bill" Detweiler, consultant to the president for military and foreign affairs, National WWII Museum.

On May 19, Ann Levy spoke at an American Legion Post 23 meeting, telling the story of the miraculous survival of her family during the Holocaust and their arrival in New Orleans. As usual, she was magnificent and inspiring. I made contact with our fellow veterans of the American Legion and hope to have future programs with them and other veterans organizations, such as the VFW. I also invited the members of American

Legion Post 23 to the gala dessert reception at the WWII Museum, highlighted below.

On May 21, through the good offices of Councilmember-at-large, Arnie Fielkow, a proclamation honoring JWV Post 580 was read in New Orleans City Hall. It contained beautiful comments about our Post.



Post 580 was recently honored with a proclamation from the city of New Orleans. Shown from left with the proclamation are: Post Surgeon Dr. Louis Trachtman, Post Quartermaster Dr. Milton Fingerman, Post Commander Judge Sol Gothard, and Post Chaplain Rabbi David Goldstein.

The annual National Convention of JWV will be held in New Orleans from August 16 – 23, 2009. On August 17, 2009, at 7:00 pm at the National WWII Museum, 945 Magazine Street, our Post is hosting a gala dessert reception as part of the program of the 114th Annual National Convention of the Jewish War Veterans of America. National JWV will receive a proclamation from the City of New Orleans; a Marine honor guard will present the colors. Our new, beautiful banner will be displayed,

representing the new beginnings of our Post, and I will give a short talk on the topic, "A City, A Synagogue and A JWV Post: From Devastation to Rebirth." Our own Captain Carol (Yael) Berman of Congregation Anshes Sfard will also give a short talk on the topic, "My Path to Judaism: A Jewish Officer on Duty in a War Zone."

On Memorial Day, we said prayers and placed flags at the graves of Jewish Veterans. In the future, we will also have a presence at all events honoring and/or remembering veterans, and we will volunteer to work on Christmas day in the Veterans Hospital. The Post is actively seeking veterans of the Armed Services, National Guard, USPHS, and Reserves, from throughout metropolitan New Orleans, the State of Louisiana, and the State of Mississippi, where there are no JWV posts, as well as Jewish personnel on active duty, particularly those stationed in the New Orleans area. If you know of any veteran please let me know. My phone is 504-887-3570, and my email address is judgesol@cox.net.

I am proud of my Jewish heritage. I am proud to be an American. But I take the most pride in having served my country as a Jewish soldier. This is how I feel every time I proudly wear my JWV cap, which expresses my pride to my fellow Americans, Jew and non-Jew alike.



Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from a dozen Packs and Troops participated in what is the Detroit Area's largest Jewish Communal event, the annual Walk for Israel. The Women's Auxiliary of Jewish War Veterans Post 510 presented an American Flag to Cub Scout Pack 613, which is chartered to the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and is a joint program of the metro area's 5 Conservative synagogues. Pictured above are members of the Jewish War Veterans, who led the Walk and are the Charter Partners of Venturing Crew 18, members of JWV Post 510 Women's Auxiliary along with members and leaders of Pack 613.

Sheldon Miller Post 631 Commander David Richman (at left) presented a certificate of appreciation for many years of loyal and dedicated service to George Feldman.



Sgt. Eric Mejia presented retiring Post 603 Hospital Chairman Nathan Elbaum with an award for years of dedicated service at the Post's recent Installation of Officers.

The NMAJMH is seeking information on deceased veterans and their places of burial to be included in our Archives. Please send information to:

Debra Stern c/o NMAJMH
1811 R St., NW
Washington, DC 2009

or

Debra Stern
5102 NW 35th St. Apr. 601-D,
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319.

Please include the following:

NAME (JWV member ?)
HOME STATE
RANK
DATE OF DEATH (Killed in Action ?)
BRANCH OF SERVICE, CONFLICT
AWARDS
NAME & LOCATION OF CEMETERY
ROS/PLOT/SITE



Leading the Jewish War Veterans in the Salute to Israel Parade May 31 in NYC were Past National Commander Warren Dolny, Department of New York Commander Sheldon Ohren and Past National Commander Jerome Cohen



Members of JWV Austin, TX, Post 757 participated in the annual Veterans Day parade in downtown Austin. The Post had a float in support of veterans and marched along with it. Members of the Post also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Texas Veterans Memorial.



South Philadelphia Post 98 held Passover services at the Delaware Valley Veterans Home for residents and officials. Shown from left are: PPC Bernard Lertzman, DC Larry Holman, Aux. President Gloria Abramson, Volunteer Coordinator Jack O'Donnell, Commandant Aurelio Peter Ojeda, Post 98 Commander Donald Feldman, and County Commander Herb Zemble.



Allen Miliefsky, current Sr. Vice Commander of the Department of California, has been chosen as San Diego's "Veteran of the Year" for 2008-2009. This award was given by Will Hays, Captain USN Ret. at the San Diego Veteran's Museum. Allen was recommended by both the United Veteran's Council of San Diego and Post 185.



Members of the JWV Mission to Israel met with Post 180 during their trip. Shown from left in the front row are: PC Hurley Langert, PC Ivan Goldstein, Quartermaster Ze'ev Weintraub, NC Ira Novoselsky, PC Dan Nadel, and PC Arnold Sullum.

Shown on Memorial Day, 2009 are members of Jewish War Veterans Post 316, Long Branch, NJ. From left: PPC Ben Gorcey, PPC Ralph Binder, Arthur Tauber, Alex Casseli, Daniel Friedman, Sol Friedman's grandson, National QM Sol Friedman, Buddy Rassas, Hal Meurer, National Aide de Camp Jerry Levine, Bert Resnick, B. Grauman, and 95 year-old veteran Abe Schwarz. Photo by Joshua Levine, grandson of Jerry & Florence Levine. Missing from picture: PDC Michael Winnick.





Past Walter I. Berlin Brevard Post 639 Commander Paul Licker (at left) joined Colonel Steven Kirkpatrick, (center), Commander of the 920th Rescue Wing Reserve and other civic leaders for a tour to Charleston, SC. Shown at right is participant Brevard County Judge Alli B. Majeed.



National Vietnam Veterans committee chairman Roger Gove (at left) presented PDC Larry Epstein with his official National Vietnam Veterans' Committee Senior Co-Chairman cap. Larry, who was elected Senior Co-Chairman at the August 2008 Convention by a unanimous vote, has donated the first five thousand dollars towards the new permanent museum exhibit through the Vietnam Veterans Committee.



NC Ira Novoselsky (at right) spoke at the annual Department of New Jersey Legislative Breakfast. Shown from left are PNC Bob Zweiman, Honoree NJ State Assemblyman Jack Conners, and Department of New Jersey Commander Carl Singer. Photo by Ed Hornichter.



The Three Village Post No. 336 installed officers in South Setauket, NY, at their 35th Annual Installation of Officers. Pictured from left: Seymour Greenberg, David Stein, Commander Robert Sandberg, Arthur Golnick, Harold Lilie, Ira Schwartz and Martin Kufperberg. Photo by Francine Schultz.



Dr. Peter Petit, Director of the Institute of Judaic-Christian Understanding, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA, addressed a meeting of JWV Post 239 on the topic of Better Understanding between Jews, Christians, and Members of Other Religions. Pictured from left are Post Commander and Mrs. Maur Levan and Dr. and Mrs. Petit.

Correction: A picture on page 21 in our November 2008 issue incorrectly stated that members of Lt. James I. Platt Post 651 were shown participating in Memorial Day Services. The caption should have stated that the members shown belonged to the Bergen County Council.



North Shore Post 220 participated in a ceremony at Temple Ner Tamid in Peabody, MA, for Yom Hazikaron on May 2, 2009. From left: Syd Gold, Quartermaster; Ed Lischinsky, Junior Vice Commander; COL (MA NG Retired) Barry Lischinsky; Dr Eli Davidyan, former IDF Paratrooper; LTC (USA Retired) Dr Jack Romo, Commander; Moe Sack, Senior Vice Commander; COL (USAF Retired) Alan Lehman.



The Commanding Officer (CAPT. C. F. Faison) of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton presented to Jewish War Veterans representatives, COL. Maxwell & Linda Colon, The U.S.A. President's Volunteer Service Award and the Hospital Commander's Public Employees Roundtable Certificate of Appreciation Award.



Burt Weissbuch, Department of Nevada Judge Advocate, was honored at the JWV Sgt. Manny Peven Post 65 Henderson, NV, membership meeting on May 3, 2009. Weissbuch was presented with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System. This award was given to Weissbuch for giving over 4,000 hours of Voluntary Service to the VA Healthcare System. Post 65 Commander Eddie Kranson on right is shown presenting the award to Weissbuch.



Norm Gudema, 2nd from left, Commander of Post 740 presents a check for \$500 to Mr. Kenneth Mizrach, Director of the VA New Jersey Health Care System at the East Orange Veterans Hospital on February 2, 2009. Looking on are David Michelson, Post 740 Adjutant and Jerry Rosenberg, member of Post 740.

Paul A. Rosenblum JWV Post 44 took wheelchair patients from the VA hospital to a Cleveland Indians baseball game. Post 44 takes patients two or three times during the summer and has been engaged in this activity for several years. Serving the veterans are Post 44 members Lester Brandais, Richard Swartz, Post Commander Sid Wakser, and Roger Gove. Oh, yes, the Indians won.



People and Places

- **Jerusalem Post 180** held its annual Orde Wingate Memorial on March 24, 2009, at Ammunition Hill. The keynote speaker was Moshe Arens, former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Former Minister of Defense.
- **Edwin D. Klein Post 138**, Valley Glen, CA, funds a "Dinner and a Movie Night" for a returning veteran and his family for a year, subject to renewal by a vote of the Post's members. The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for families to do little things together that create or recreate bonds lost by long separations while in service to the country. The first recipients of the programs are the family of David Sarabia, who saw duty in Baqubah, Iraq.
- **PNC Sam Greenberg** raised the flag on the Luzerne County (PA) Courthouse commons to celebrate Israel Independence Day.
- Two members of **Neumann-Goldman Post 69** have reached 50 years of service in JWV. **Melvin I. Saks** and **Irving Feuer** were presented with plaques for their service by Bronx County Council Edward Baraw. They are the 6th and 7th members of the Post to reach the 50-year membership plateau.
- **Mel Brody**, PDC, Department of Southwest, was elected Chairman of the Unified Arizona Veterans. The UAV, a consortium of 45 state Veterans organization represents the 750,000 veterans in the State of Arizona. Mel is the current NEC representing the Department of Southwest, a member of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, serves on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission and is the Treasurer for the Arizona National Cemetery Memorial Day Committee. He and **Jesse Gersten**, who was elected Treasurer of the UAV, are the first members of the Jewish War Veterans to be elected to an office in Unified Arizona Veterans.
- JWV member **Eugene Levine** received the French Legion of Honor Medal at the French Embassy in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, for his military activities in France during World War II.
- **Jewish War Veterans Post 444**, New Jersey, has been renamed SPC Marc Seiden Post 444 in honor of SPC Marc Seiden, a young soldier who was killed in Iraq shortly before his planned return to the U.S.
- **PNC Irv Steinberg Post 440**, Boynton Beach, FL, presented its Man of the Year Award to **Leonard Klanit** for his willingness to accept the positions of Quartermaster and Adjutant when the previous holders

of these positions became ill.

- **PDC Harry Cohen** and **PC Sol Zalesky** of **Goldberg-Karpf Post 519** presented a karaoke machine to Heartlands of Tamarac Administrator Janet Dadia.
- Members of **Penny Whitman Post 300**, Volusia/Flagler County, FL, have a monthly poker game with the residents of the Emery Bennett State Veterans Nursing Home in Daytona Beach, FL
- At the April 5, 2009, general meeting of **Post 209**, Monroe Township, NJ, Interim Post Commander **George Applebaum** presented a check for \$5,000 to Linda Reith, Chair of the NJ National Guard Family Readiness Council. The Council was formed to help NJ National Guard families facing financial difficulties. This check represents the Post's third major donation to the Council.

Reunions

- Korean War Day of Recognition will take place at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and at Arlington National Cemetery on July 27, 2009. For further information and to reserve seats, contact J. Norbert Reiner, 6632 Kirkley Avenue, McLean, VA 22101-5510, 703-893-6313, or Tony Dzierski, 6610 Greenview Lane, Springfield, VA, 703-451-5591.
- USS Iwo Jima Class Association reunion will take place September 16-20, 2009, in Tucson, AZ. Contact Robert G. McNally, 152 Frissell Street, Hampton, VA 23663.
- The 35th Infantry Division Association will hold its annual reunion Sept. 23-27, 2009, in Topeka, Kansas. Delegations from cities in Europe the 35th Division liberated in WWII will attend. Contact COL Robert Dalton, 785-267-3295, or go to www.35thInfDivAssoc.com.
- Marine Air Groups reunion, WWII to present, will take place in Branson, MO, Oct. 23-26, 2009. Contact James Jordan, james.m.Jordan@Hughes.net, 417-535-4945, or Bob Miller, mbobsue13@aol.com, 636-327-5854.
- USS Hornet (CV-8 and CV-12, CVA-12, CVS-12) 61st reunion will take place Sept. 16-20, 2009, in Buffalo/Niagara Falls, NY. Contact Carl & Sandy Burket, Secretary, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com or USS HORNET Association Inc., PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673.

New Members

The JWV welcomes our newest members to our fold. We hope you will join with us and participate in our many programs and activities.

Department at Large

Jeffrey A. Jacobs-100 • Moses I. Safenovitz-100

Department of California

Arnold Lerner-385 • Edward E. Ash-603 • David Greenstein-680

Department of Connecticut

Mark S. Braunstein-142 • Joel L. Safir-142

Department of Florida

Warren Freidman-300 • Leonard M. Resnick-373 • Paul Glasser-639 • Arthur L. Grant-705 • Everitt Perlstein-759

Department of Illinois

Sidney Rubin-089 • Richard A. Hofeld-407

Department of Maryland

Jerome B. Rosenbloom-167 • Irving A. Eisen-567

Department of Massachusetts

Maurice Filler-140 • Mark Azia-157 • George R. Barnes-157 • Victor Beck-157 • Richard A. Constant-157 • Sanford Levey-157 • Sybil Warshaw-157 • Joel L. Dunsky- 211 • Morris I. Sharaf-220

Department of Michigan

Leonard R. Farber-135

Department of Minnesota

James P. Hassing-162 • Harvey B. Winthrop-354

Department of Missouri/Kansas

Steven B. Schorr-605 • Walter Annowitz-644

Department of New Jersey

Paula Finkelstein-126 • David A. Frankel-126 • Abraham B. Albert-133 • Harvey R. Jacobs-133 • Martin A. Wachtel-972

Department of New York

Mitchel I. Rickman-006 • David Rabin-080 • Jerome R. Richard-250 • Harold C. Levenberg-336 • John R. Carr-652 • Bertram L. Abbey-717 • Arnold B. Weinstein-717 • Stanley R. Zelman-717 • Harry Bogart-776

Department of Pennsylvania

Nevin J. Mindlin-097 • Herbert S. Lyons-706

Department of TX-AR-LA-OK

Joel A. Picker-580 • Thomas M. Shafer-755 • George L. Bass-757

In Search Of

• Searching for someone who knew Manuel (Manny) Levine from Brooklyn, NY. He was inducted at Camp Upton, Yaphank, L.I., March 12, 1941, and served at Ft. Riley, KS, Troop "D," 104th Cavalry (H-Mecz), 1325th service unit. He was injured in a non-combat accident and received an Honorable Discharge on Nov. 15, 1941. He also volunteered from 1931-33 at the CMTC (Citizens Military Training Camps) in Plattsburgh, NY. Contact Gail Levine-Fried, 2125 E. 33rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11234, 718-338-6123, grlevine76@aol.com.

• An 18 year old high school senior from Ostrander, Ohio is looking for stories and other memorabilia from military veterans. Contact: Kyle Nappi, 1890 Warren Road, Ostrander, OH 43061, knap607@yahoo.com.

• I spent 1955 in Korea and the Army sent us on a train to a combined Passover service. I am looking for any other G.I. who might have taken some photographs. Please contact a.mrosen@comcast.net.

• Searching for those who knew my father, PFC Martin Rosenfeld-U.S. Army, who served in the European

Theater during WWII in 290 Infantry, 1st Battalion, HQ Company. His years of service were from 1942-1945 as a Balloon Crewman 506 and M.P during that time. Contact Ahron Rosenfeld, 718-644-6775, Ahron1@verizon.net.

Commander's Corner

Continued from page 4

the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery for this project. As things move along, we will be contacting everyone for assistance.

And finally, before the end of my term I want to thank our staff at the JWV National Office and Museum, our National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth, my Administrative Assistant Christy Turner, Director of Operations Larry Richardson (Semper Fi) Cheryl Waldman, Mrs. Bailor, Assistant Museum Administrator Mary Westley and the many members of the support staff.

Please continue to support ALL our JWV and NMAJMH programs.
See you in New Orleans.
Thank you.

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD

Some of you might remember reading a children's book many, many years ago entitled, "The Little Engine That Could." It was about a little locomotive which aspired to be just like its bigger brothers and sisters. In the end it (not its brothers and sisters) succeeds in pulling a train over a very large mountain, while chanting the phrase, "I-think-I-can," "I-think-I-can."

Your National Museum of American Jewish Military History is similar to the little engine that could. With limited funds and a remarkable overworked staff we produce an excellent product – "We think we can!"

Come take a look at what we have done! Our exhibits range from "Women in the Military," "Jewish Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients" to the "JWV 1933 Protest march Against Nazi Germany." Then, there is our Archives – letters, diaries, photographs, awards and decorations, articles of war, etc. We also have a "Yahrzeit Program" in which J.W.V. members, their families and others are honored at stations in our museum and throughout the internet world on the anniversary of their passing and other appropriate occasions.

With the Museum in my thoughts on the Friday before Memorial Day, I was sent a message from our National Headquarters. It said:

"We have been notified by Chaplain Jacob Goldstein of the death of 1st Lt. Roslyn Schulte in Afghanistan. She

was killed by the explosion of an I.ED.

1st Lt. Schulte, a recent graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, is from St. Louis, Missouri."

Not only did the note shake me up, but it again brought back to me the mission of our National Museum. Lt. Schulte-- we will try to catalog your life and work; we will honor you; and we will tell all who will listen about your devotion to your country.

Unfortunately, like any engine big or small, your National Museum of American Jewish Military History needs fuel to operate. Please reach into your hearts and minds and souls. Membership is important! Contributions help! Also kindly think about placing us in a small or mid-size portion of your will, trust, or life insurance policy." "We-think-we-can," and with your help, "We-will!"

For information on membership or to make a contribution, please contact the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, 1811 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009.



From the Archives *by Pamela Elbe, Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH*

The archives of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History have many interesting collections relating to Jewish service in the American military. One example is that of the recently acquired Franz and Ruth Biermann Collection.

Franz Biermann was born in 1915 in Fürth, Bavaria. In 1939, just five months before the Nazi invasion of Poland, Franz married Ruth Schwartz. Prior to their marriage Franz began trying to arrange passage for the couple to the United States. As anti-Semitism increased in Nazi Germany and the threat to Jews grew more imminent, the Biermanns fled to England to await their American visas. The family had to draw a Judenvermögensabgabe and paid the special tax levied on those Jews who "desired" to leave Germany.

In 1940, they, along with Ruth's mother, immigrated to the United States and Franz started graduate work at Columbia University. In 1941 he received a Master of

Arts degree from Columbia, and he continued his graduate work there until 1943 when his PhD dissertation was interrupted by his being drafted into the U.S. Army.

In the fall of 1943 Franz joined the army as a private. He received basic training at Fort Belvoir and military intelligence training at Camp Ritchie. In the spring of 1944 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and transferred to the European theater. During WWII he was the chief of a combat intel/document team. In May 1945 he was transferred to the Office of Military Government/Field Information Agency (Technical) and became involved in the collection and publication of German scientific papers which had been prepared during the war but not published or accessible to the rest of the world.

In 1947 he was discharged from the active service, transferred to the inactive reserve and became special

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From Your Museum Membership Chairman *By George D. Sepp*

Tradition is a solid facet of Jewish life. As we age we can see the influence it has played in our own unique and developing heritage. So, like it or not, the legacy you leave becomes an important keystone in the evolution of your family's heritage. Your museum is a dynamic, living entity dedicated to telling your story, your life, your legacy to present and future generations.

Your Museum presents a compelling picture of the role of American Jews in the development of our great nation. It serves as a clear resource for thousands of visitors and scholars each year. What a wonderful way to impress the developing minds of future generations.

Your support is needed to continue and to be there

for them. This is our only way to solicit your help and support. We are not tied to your JWV dues. So send in your membership now. Think of your legacy, think of your family heritage, and think of your Jewish Traditions. Join with us today.

You may join for as little as \$25.00 a year. Call Mary Westley at (202) 265-6280, x511; or email her at mwestley@nmajmh.org, for an application, or visit the NMAJMH website at www.nmajmh.org and click on the Membership menu item, print out the form and send it to NMAJMH, 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. Thank you and best regards.

Open Letter to Comrades, Sisters, Members and Friends

From Iris Goldwasser, Chairman, Tree of Honor and Memorial Candle Programs

Who would have dreamed three years ago, when the Tree of Honor Program was born, that this labor of love and respect would have produced such success? Thanks to all of you, 589 leaves and 11 acorns and stones have been inscribed. To date, with your help and dedication we have raised \$110,950.90 for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. There are only 61 leaves remaining that are available and awaiting inscription, so encourage your family and friends to participate in this project – we do not want anyone to feel “left out” of this perpetual honor. We look forward to completing this Tree ASAP and hope to include you.

The NMAJMH also hopes to include you and your family in the new Memorial Candle Program that is under development at this time. Would you be interested in receiving a timely reminder of the Yahrzeit of your loved ones every year? Although those of you who participate in the Yahrzeit Computer Program already

receive such a notice, this new project is directed to those who do not. If you wish to be included in this Memorial Candle Program, you will receive an envelope containing the date of Yahrzeit and a memorial candle to be lit the evening before, as Jewish custom requires. To maintain this project we need your participation; some responses have already been received, but more are needed to bring this proposal to fruition. If we see no further requests by our National Convention this endeavor might be terminated. There is no charge for participating in this program; however, we do anticipate a donation that would benefit your museum and at the same time enable us to continue this service. To register your loved one in this new program complete the form below.

I look forward to your participation and continued interest in the NMAJMH, the legacy of your service to our country.

Memorial Project

Sponsor _____ Telephone# _____

Address _____

Post/Aux _____

Deceased _____ Relationship _____

Date of Death (Jewish) _____ (English) _____
Month / Day / Year Month / Day / Year

Before or After Sunset? Y/N _____

To Expedite Processing, Please Provide Full And Complete Information.

NMAJMH Needs You to Answer the Call Today

A key section of the proposed National Museum of American Jewish Military History's permanent core exhibition is entitled, "Answering the Call." To make this exhibit a reality for future generations and to provide operating funds for today and into the future, we are asking you to answer the call today.

The members of JWV all answered the call of their country to serve in the U.S. military and protect and defend our country. The NMAJMH stands as a testimony to that service that has been a hallmark of Jewish life in America stretching back to 1654 and ahead into today's battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In today's difficult economic climate we must ask you to answer the call one more time. The economy is impacting the museum's need for operating funds and our ability to mount our ambitious permanent exhibit, Jews in the American Military, which will stand as a permanent tribute to all those who have answered the call.

While we have a strategic plan for our exhibit, we will need upwards of \$500,000 to make our plan a reality. This sum is in addition to our ongoing need for operating funds to ensure that our museum is a vibrant part of the Washington, DC, museum world. On Sunday, June 7, more than 200 people visited the museum as part of a series of events conducted by a museum consortium of which we are a member. It is vital that we continue to ensure that the Jewish and non-Jewish communities alike know that "We Served,"

and "We Continue to Serve."

Our proposed permanent exhibit will strengthen our message and will serve a variety of educational purposes: recognizing and celebrating the contributions and sacrifices of men and women; serving as the institutional memory of a group of people who share common experiences or a common history; and helping to strengthen the emotional link between the living and their ancestors.

The NMAJMH's exhibition will use narrative, images, artifacts, and multimedia to explore the contributions of Jews to the defense and security of the United States by interweaving stories of the personal, national, and organizational (the JWV). Visitors will be encouraged to reflect on the military service of their ancestors and living relatives, and consider the contemporary relevance of Americanism.

Your contribution will ensure that the museum has the operating funds it needs today and will be able to show future generations that we answered the call when our country needed us. Answer the call again today. Our heritage must continue to ring out through the generations.

Please send your contributions to:

**National Museum of American Jewish Military History
1811 R St., NW
Washington, DC 20009**

From the Archives

Continued from page 26

advisor to the chief scientific advisor on General Clay's staff. During the years of the Berlin Blockade a large share of his work was channeled to the task of caring for and supporting the West Berlin German scientific community.



Franz Biermann (with pipe) at the Office of Military Government/Field Information Agency (Technical) in Berlin, circa 1945.

While he remained an employee of the Department of Defense, Franz often worked in close liaison with (and occasionally directly for) the State Department. He became chief of a unit whose task was to gather

and analyze all material on the then-emerging African nations. To become better acquainted with the area, in 1957 he took a three month trip throughout all of Africa under State Department sponsorship. During his long career Franz also worked on the applications and uses of computers, decades before the advent of the personal computer. He worked on the development and application of a computer system designed to store and retrieve data on various groups of people, which was a large shift from the way computers had previously been used.

Throughout WWII and later during the German Occupation and his State Department tour of African nations, Franz maintained a prolific correspondence with his wife Ruth. These letters between the Biermanns, some in German and some in English, comprise the bulk of their collection. Their letters and documents provide much insight into the lives of a German Jewish family forced to flee Nazi persecution and of the contributions made by Franz's work to the American military and U.S. government.

THE PRIVILEGE OF PROTECTING OUR MILITARY HERITAGE FOR TOMORROW, BY PLANNED GIVING TODAY

By Seymour Weinstein, JWV National Legacy and Welfare Chairman

As members of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, it is our responsibility to preserve the history of all Jewish Americans who served in our Armed Forces from the time of the Revolutionary War to our current service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

How best to accomplish this goal, then by supporting the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) located at 1811 R. Street NW, Washington, DC. This Museum stands as a monument to the Jewish men and women of our Armed Forces. Its exhibits are breathtaking, its archives are replete with examples of heroism and service to our country.

Your support can be a present gift to the Museum

today or a future gift tomorrow.

A letter of Intent is merely a declaration of the signor that he or she has made or will make a gift during his or her lifetime or upon death to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History Endowment Fund. This Letter of Intent is not a legal obligation, but merely an expression of your good intentions.

You can make a gift today, or you can make a “commitment for tomorrow” by signing a non-binding Letter of Intent as set forth below, to show your commitment to the Privilege of Protecting our Military Heritage.

The following JWV members have already pledged a future gift to the Museum by signing a Letter of Intent or Codicil:

Josephine Anton
PNC Michael Berman
Sidney Blank
Hannah Deutch
Lawrence Epstein
PNC Sam Greenberg
Arthur H. Greenwald
Jason & Petra Kaatz

Melvin A. Lebowitz
Jack Jacob Leon
Michael J. London
PNC David Magidson
Edward Marshall
Nelson Mellitz
Alan R. Moskin
Robert Rosenfield

PNC Lawrence Schulman
Debra Stern
Walter and Anita Stern
Bernhard and Ruth Storch
George Weinstein
Seymour Weinstein
PNC Robert & Jeri Zweiman

LETTER OF INTENT

In the tradition of our Jewish Faith, I wish to share my blessing with the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. I have made or will make a gift during my lifetime or will make a provision in my Will or Trust to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History Endowment Fund.

Signature

Date

Print Name

I understand that this Letter of Intent is not a legal obligation and may be changed at any time at my discretion.

May we use your name as a signer of the Letter of Intent in *The Jewish Veteran* and the Museum websites? _____Yes _____No

Please return this Letter of Intent to the NMAJMH, 1811 R Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 or-call (202) 265-6280 or email to cwaldman@jwv.org.

But remember, to more fully realize your charitable goals, while still ensuring your family's financial future, you should discuss your planned giving with your attorney, financial planner and accountant.

Department At Large

Brewster A. Branz-99 • Robert Brenner-99

Department of California

Maurice Eis-385 • Vernon Hoover-385 • Caroline Staff, Block-595

Department of District of Columbia

Herman Frankel-58

Department of Florida

Lester Gross-266 • Samuel Silver-266 • Milton Alper-373 • Harold Cohen-409 • Milton Goldberg-440 • Morris Keller-440 • David L. Rosenblum-519 • Dexter K. Libby-520 • Paul Novak-613 • Frank Baroff-631 • Julius Gray-631 • Teddy Kaye-631 • Herbert A. Finkelstein-778

Department of Illinois

Jerry Eisenberg-800 • Morris Hara-800

Department of Massachusetts

Harold I. Sloane-32 • Walter Galuski-154 • Leonard Freedman-168 • Henry B. Greenberg-168 • Milton Katzman-168 • Norman Briss-630

Department of Michigan

Seymour M. Schwartz-135

Department of Missouri/Kansas

Samuel Tessler-644

Department of New Jersey

Herbert Rubel-10 • Ben Hopmayer-47 • Milton Grossberg-78 • Julius Weingast-273 • Isidore

Gerenstein-395 • Morton Rushfield-651 • Elliot Samuels-651 • Irving Walter- 651 • Robert L. Gennes-741

Department of New York

Nathaniel Saperstein-1 • Ralph Witkin-1 • Bernard Wray-1 • Pauline Schneider-3 • Irving Price-6 • Floyd B. Weiss-41 • Meyer Klahr-191 • Lowell W. Rubenstein-251 • Lewis Small-258 • Stewart Rubin-415 • Norma Sherman Vogel-415 • Bert Crystal-652 • Paul Peyser-652 • David N. Lederman-655 • Maxwell H. Phillips-770

Department of Ohio

Nathan Kanter-44 • Nathan Schenker-44 • Meyer Barnett- 587 • Alexander Klug-712

Department of Pennsylvania

Max Coren-098 • Harold Feinberg-165 • Arnold Robinson-165 • Bernard Rubin- 212 • Sylvia Kaminsky-305 • Eugene E. Lerner-305 • Sorel Myers-499 • Pauline S. Kaiser-785

Department of the Southwest AZ-NM

Jean O. Berlin-210

Department of Wisconsin

Joseph Richfield-701

We regret that Edward L. Finfer was incorrectly listed in Taps in the last issue. We are delighted that this was an error, and that he can be counted as among the active members of Post 215. We apologize for the error.

Mike Singer

Continued from page 30

For more than 60 years he has dedicated countless hours to volunteer work at a nearby Veterans Home. “A little bit goes a long way to bring joy to veterans in need. I encourage others to visit military hospitals, give the soldiers a hug, play bingo or simply lend an ear,” Singer explains.

He meets weekly with his fellow Post 407 members and has led many fundraising efforts for veterans and their families throughout the years. He has served as a National Civil Rights Officer, a post which brought him to Washington, DC, to lobby members of Congress for veterans’ issues, and is the former Commander of Jewish War Veterans of Illinois and the Under Age Veterans of Illinois. Singer was introduced to the Marine Corps Scholarship foundation several years

ago by Brigadier General Mike Mulqueen and strongly believes in the foundation.

“I’ve seen a lot in my lifetime, and in my opinion, the real heroes are those who give back to others in need. The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation itself is the truest of heroes, and I’d do anything I can to help the organization.”

An avid swimmer, Singer enjoys fond memories of swimming in the waters of the South Pacific off of the side of the military ships upon which he was stationed. He can still fit into one of the two Marine Corps green jackets he purchased in 1941. The other jacket was cut off of him when he arrived at the New York military hospital in 1944. Mike and his wife Jean have been married 61 years and have two daughters and five grandchildren.



L' Shanah Tovah



CMDR. Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila
Happy Days and Good Health

Jerry & Sara Alperstein

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76-NJ
Chag Sameach

Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
Naples, FL/Denver, CO

PNatl. Adj. Izzy & PDP Harriet Brosbe

Sidney M. Gluck, Mesa, AZ

PPC Norman & Phyliss Goldberg • Post 98

Nat. Inspector Sidney & Fay Goldman

Irving & Dena Goldberg

National Officer of the Day
Martin & Sandy Greenberg

PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg
Happy Holidays to All

PCC-PNEC Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 69
PCP Mildred Pirkowsky • Aux 3

Roland Greenwald • Holiday Greetings

Lt. Robert P. Grover Post 10

Donald H. Haber, PDC-NY

Susan Schneider Helsinger
President, Dept. of NY -2007/2008

PDP Ruth Herbst & PDC Willy Herbst
Post 83 Celebrating 75 Years!

In Service to a Higher Calling
Larry & Debbie Holman

Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1
Our Original Post

PC Arthur & Barbara Kahn • Post 74-MA
L'Chayim and Best Wishes to All

PPC Norman & Marilyn Kailo • Post 695



Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Enjoy Your Health!

NC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

The Perlman -Matlin Post 800
Best Wishes & Happy New Year

SGT. Manny Peven Post 65

LT. J. I. Platt Post 651 • Fairlawn, NJ

Jerry & Lea Rosenberg • Post 740, NJ
Good Health & Happiness to All

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

Lillian Rovner, PDP • IL

Murray Runin, PDC/PNEC

Zinita & Cliff Sawyer • Post 113
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Join your Comrades and send a holiday greeting to family and friends in the next issue of the Jewish Veteran!

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Name _____

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(no more than 30 characters per line)

The Dedication of Haym Salomon, Patriot



Our Country is Rich in Stories of Heroes who fought and died
To make Life in America Free
On one Revolutionary Patriot, We Americans can all Agree
Haym Salomon stands out in History's American Revolutionary War
A Giant Man of Destiny
I take it on myself to concentrate on him, one whose story, no end, has
intrigued me

Of him, stories are told, His Valor Bold, Sentenced by the British to
Hanging Twice
Because of his financial activity with the Sons of Liberty, his expertise to
Raise funds for Gen. Washington's Army, his capture was highly priced
A story told, from the Jewish Fold, the most Holy Day from Prayers called,
Delivered the money to Valley Forge; Victory was assured with the
British downfall

Here was a Man, who Hungered for a Land, where All could walk Free
He helped Found It, and by it His whole Life surrounded,
His whole fortune used to secure it—Died a pauper, so you see
America owed him a Great Debt, Did Not repay Him instead
And lies buried in Phila. in an Unmarked Grave

We Ask our Government Now, to permanently Recognize him, and HOW?
Allow a National Calendar Day to Honor Him
This WE CAN DO, Our part-payment to HIM miniscule, for HIS
Contribution to ME and YOU, and Our Land Tis of Thee
To such a Dedicated Individual, His Memory would Continue the Example
Only HE could DO, and DID, and helped this Land become FREE
A Day of Recognition, even though of long-dated attrition, This will
Partly Compensate to some Degree

It was HIS FAITH and Deliverance, that helped make the difference,
For Our County, U.S.A., to be what it is today.

By Jack Litz, PNC