



The Jewish Veteran

A Jewish Voice for Veterans and a Veteran's Voice for Jews

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Secretary Robert Wilkie Talks With JWV

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert Wilkie, met with PNC Norman Rosenshein at JWV Headquarters on Friday, June 14, and spoke about his views on serving veterans. Secretary Wilkie and PNC Rosenshein were joined by National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth and Veterans Treatment Court judge, Halee Weinstein. Judge Weinstein is a long-time friend of Secretary Wilkie and joined him on a tour of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

Secretary Wilkie's grandfather and father were combat veterans, his father being an Army Lieutenant Colonel. The Secretary himself is an Air Force Reserve Lieutenant Colonel. He is a graduate of the College of Naval Command and Staff, the Air Command and Staff College, the United States War College, and the Joint Forces Staff College. Secretary Wilkie's extensive military background and experience make him uniquely qualified to lead the



Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie came to visit the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and afterwards, spoke with JWV about what's in store for the VA. Pictured from left: Past National Commander, Norman Rosenshein, Veterans Treatment Court judge, Halee Weinstein, Secretary of the VA, Robert Wilkie, and JWV National Executive Director, Herb Rosenbleeth.

Department of Veterans Affairs.

Secretary Wilkie is committed to changing the culture within the VA to make it more accountable and responsive to the needs of veterans.

In the past, some senior leaders have exhibited a pattern of mismanagement and lack of integrity. Issues such as falsified waiting time reports, dirty

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Mission Accomplished



By Jack Du Teil

Between March 31 and April 10, 2019, The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV) conducted its 2019 Mission to Israel. An annual event, the mission was led by JWV

JWV's Mission to Israel program is specifically designed to give non-Jewish veteran community leaders an opportunity to experience Israel first-hand so that they will see that Israel is America's friend in the Middle East and our partner for peace in the region. Allied veterans return from Israel with a better understanding on aspects of the State of Israel's security and so will use their new perspective to advocate on Israel's behalf.

This year, Jack Du Teil, President of The Military Coalition and Executive Director of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association was selected to participate. His story is below.

National Commander Barry Schneider (Maj [Ret], USAF) and also included 3 other non-Jewish members of other veteran organizations.

I was fortunate enough to have been included in this adventure as a guest of this great organization. It turned out to be one of the most impactful trips I will likely ever make in my life, and I will

be eternally grateful to the leadership of JWV for this incredible opportunity.

Visiting Israel only solidified my long-held belief that it is our nation's most important, loyal ally in that entire region of the world. And the loyalty Israel demonstrates toward the USA is not just diplomatic at the leadership

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D'verei HaShomrim

What unbelievably frustrating times. On the one hand, we live in the freest country that has ever existed; despite its flaws. Flaws are not the surprise. After all, we are human. Freedom is. It's not typical at all of governments to be by and for the people, yet that's what the USA has been successful at for 240 years. But what the freedom has begotten as of late has not been the pursuit of happiness – the recurring shootings, including two at synagogues in the past year as well as 4 attempted arsons of synagogues the week I am writing this – show that something is very off. I don't pretend to have the ultimate answers to these troubling issues, but perhaps we can take the moment to focus on three points that each of us can advance in our own lives, to better impact the world around us.

Self, mission, and action. Every individual in the armed services understands that one must have a clear identity and knowledge of our responsibilities. This leads us to focus in on our mission, and most importantly, to get it done. As Jews, both as individuals and as a nation, we need to reflect likewise, and perhaps, apropos of the holiday of Shavuot, we can use G-d's introductory line, His mission statement to the Jewish people, to do so. "And you shall be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Firstly, "And you shall be for Me": This relationship with G-d might be a complicated one. But when we put aside the baggage and just take in the simple fact that G-d desires this relationship; that G-d cares about what I do and the choices I make, we have a better sense of self. This life is not just one of fulfilling personal bucket lists; it's about recognizing that G-d put us here for a purpose.

That purpose is encapsulated first in the term "kingdom of priests." The word Kohen (priest) actually means "one who serves," but it is typically in the capacity of bringing others closer to G-d. The job of the Jew is to lift others higher. To assist others to understand that this world is not a jungle,



Chaplain Elie Estrin

it's a place of meaning and purpose.

And finally, "A holy nation": Sometimes the above is done in an active way, by actively influencing others, and sometimes that is done as a result of the Mitzvot you do in your own home, even by yourself. People around you will sense it, and see a person living a good, egoless, yet driven life, and they will be inspired to do the same.

Jewish war veterans understand these ideals more than most, having lived it in less than ideal circumstances. But now is the time for action. Tell your stories. Let's touch people one by one, bringing one and all to recognize the preciousness of every moment of our lives, and to express that by spreading goodness, both within and without. We need to stand up strong and proud and spread the message: Live lives of goodness and purpose. That's who we are, and what we are meant to do.

I wish you all a very joyous Shavuot!

Recently National received a letter from a post asking about JWV's effort to combat anti-Semitism. We are printing National Commander Schneider's response for the information of all members.

Firstly, I want to thank all of you for expressing your concerns regarding JWVs efforts to combat anti-Semitism, and for being as active as you are in the fight to put an end to said anti-Semitism. Efforts at the grassroots level are of vital importance, and we hope you will continue the fight.

To combat this senseless, seemingly eternal hatred will require a great deal of effort on all our parts, and we are always interested in hearing from you, our membership, on how you feel we can best assist you. We will always welcome constructive comments and suggestions and will always use them to help direct our programming and press releases in a manner that best suits the needs of our members.

To that end, we have regularly disseminated press releases to the public urging and demanding that certain actions be taken by U.S. elected officials to help stem the tide of anti-Semitism. To name but a few recently, JWV has officially strongly condemned the comments made by Rep. Omar, condemned the recent synagogue shootings, and urged that the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism finally be appointed a Special Envoy by President Trump. Here at National, we will make a point to bring attention to the rampant anti-Semitism in this country to the lawmakers on Capitol Hill who have been tasked with ensuring the wellbeing of its citizens, especially those facing undue persecution.

Whenever a particularly notable anti-Semitic event occurs, the JWV tries its best to make a statement in a timely fashion, and again we welcome your suggestions for anti-Semitic events to be aware of. For local/small/everyday incidents of anti-Semitism, we rely strongly on posts like yours to ensure that as few of these incidents slip through the cracks as possible.

Please do not hesitate to inform national headquarters of any concerns or recommendations you have going forward.

Dr. Barry J. Schneider, National Commander



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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

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The Jewish Veteran is published 4 times a year:
Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, by the

Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

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

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to Jewish War Veterans, 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Subscription price in the United States is \$5.00 per year, included in membership. Nonmember subscriptions: \$10.00. Single copies: \$2.50.

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.

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NPA#112285 • ISSN 047-2019.

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**Our Annual
Holiday Card
Appeal will be sent
in August.**

**Your generous support
is appreciated!**

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Dr. Barry J. Schneider

RULES, REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES, none of us like them but everyone, each business and organization must follow them if they are to be successful. You, me, our families and yes JWV have specific rules we must follow in order to maintain good order and discipline. When I served on the NORAD IG team, the worst offense an organization could commit was “not following their own rules and procedures.” The same applies to each of our echelons. Posts must be in good standing in order to receive the full benefits of membership including the right to vote at national conventions. Four items are required to vote at National Convention:

1. Annual elections and submission of a Warrant for Post or Department Installation.
2. Annual financial report
3. Fidelity Bond
4. Properly submitted IRS form 990

A full explanation and description of how to file can be found on our web site under Membership> Member Resources> Post Management and Forms.

At the national level, we must start living and operating by our Constitution and By-laws, not just invoke the rules when it suits our purpose. I encourage each of you to read and study our Constitution and By-laws in order to better understand how we should operate.

Why is this so important? Many posts and departments I visited believe, true or not, that everything at convention and/or NEC is predetermined

by a select few. So why bother! As this year's convention schedule is being developed, there are many changes being proposed. There will be many new workshops designed to assist you with post operations and management. There will be important national resolutions developed to become part of our legislative agenda and assist the national commander prepare for his testimony before Congress. There will be policy changes brought forth which will influence how we operate and interact with our various echelons in the future. Most importantly, there will be several amendments offered to our By laws. These proposed changes will directly influence how we operate as we go forward. Our younger members will find increased possibilities to advance in the organization, to use their skill sets to help us become more relevant to our next generation of veterans. Our senior leadership will continue to provide the excellent guidance to our organization while developing our next generation of leaders.

“SO WHAT you say!” Here is so what!

- If your echelon is not in good standing, if you do not attend convention and provide your delegate list, you abdicate your right to be part of the decision making process. This is how the status quo is changed. YOU must step up, YOU must make a commitment, YOU must make your voice and desires known.

- The future of JWV is up to YOU. Do we embrace change for a new generation? Or do we continue to operate in the same way and expect

different results? YOU decide!

Come to convention! Make your voice heard! Be part of the ongoing evolution of the Jewish War Veterans of the

United States of America. We are an honorable, effective and respected organization. Do we continue to excel in our mission? Or do we, as so many other organizations have done, throw up our hands in frustration and close our doors? Do not allow our wonderful and effective organization to fail.

If not you, if not us, WHO? If not August 2019, WHEN? Let's make this year's convention one for the record book. Let us embrace change, let us open our doors to all, let us be transparent in all we do, let us thrive for another 123 years. It is your choice!

This is my last article as your National Commander. Thank each and everyone of you for the honor and privilege to serve. To all the posts and departments I visited, thank you for all the effort you and your team put forth to help me understand your concerns. I hope I made a difference to you and your post. I wish my successor great success and accomplishment as we move forward in the coming year. I will continue to make myself available to assist you and the national organization at any time and in any capacity where I may be of service.



Contest to Design JWV's 125th Anniversary Logo!

What is the Contest for?

The purpose of the contest is to design a logo for the 125th Anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc.

Who is sponsoring the Contest?

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc.

Guidelines

The contest begins on July 1, 2019. Submissions will be accepted through January 31, 2020.

- Entries must be the original work of the entrant(s) and must not be derived from any third-party designs, trademarks, or copyrighted images.
- The Logo must be appropriate for a cap pin, printed materials such as posters, brochures, and for use on social media.
- Logo must look good in color and black and white. Do not use halftones and gradients unless created inside a vector graphics program.
- Logo design can be submitted in the following formats, jpeg, psd or PDF, but if you are chosen as a winner, you MUST be able to provide a high resolution vector file (EPS).

Eligibility

The contest is open to any individual 18 years or older.

How to Enter

Send your name, address, phone number and your email address along with a jpeg or PDF of your design to Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org.

Entry submissions must not be larger than 5MB. If yours is the

winning submission, you MUST be able to provide a high-resolution vector file (EPS) of it. Multiple submissions are accepted.

Questions concerning the contest should be addressed to Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org or (202) 265-6280.

Judging and Winner Selection

All entries will be displayed at the 2020 February National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting and voted on by attendees. Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc., reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify entries that do not meet these Terms and Conditions.

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc. reserves the right to not select a winner if, in its sole discretion, no suitable entries are received.

Ownership

Contestants assign all ownership rights, including all intellectual property rights to the logo, to Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc. Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc. may alter, modify or revise the logo as it sees necessary to fit the organization's needs.

Prize and Winner Notification

\$500.00 will be awarded to the contest winner. Winning design to be chosen at the February NEC 2020 in Arlington, Virginia. The winner and winning design will be featured in an upcoming issue of The Jewish Veteran.

Good luck to all entrants!

The National League of Families

The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia will be turning 50 next year. The League's sole mission, fully supported for decades by JWV, is "to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War."

JWV has been and is a supporter of the National League of Families in every way we can. Our national commander almost always speaks of the POW-MIA issue during our presentation to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees each year. JWV flies the POW-MIA flag at every meeting of our national convention and at every meeting of our National Executive Committee. I personally participate at the League's annual national meeting each June. Our departments and posts keep those who are MIA in their minds.

The National League of Families was founded in the late 1960's. The US government's policy was to keep a low profile on the POW/MIA issue and urged families not to publicly discuss the issue. Realizing that this approach was not working, the first POW/MIA story was published in October 1968. Because of that publicity, the families began reaching out to each other and the group began to grow. Some POW/MIA family member groups were able to meet in Paris with the North Vietnamese representatives. Also, thousands of Americans sent telegraphic inquiries concerning the prisoners and the missing, marking the beginning of the issue becoming more widely known.

In May 1970, the League's charter and by-laws



were adopted in a meeting at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. Since that time, a seven-member board of directors has provided guidance and management of the organization.

The League's national office is in Falls Church, Virginia. It operates under the direction of the Chairman of the Board and is staffed by two full-time employees and two part-time archival document specialists. Ann Mills-Griffiths, MIA sister, is the Chairman of the Board and the principal spokesperson of the League. Ann has been the League's mainstay since the late 1970's. Another mainstay of the National League of Families is Richard Childress, who served in Vietnam with JWV's National Judge Advocate, Harvey Weiner.

As of February, there were still 1,589 American missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. I remember when the number was around 2,500, and I recall going to meetings where live sightings were reported. I also vividly recall when the POW/MIA flag, with the words, "You are not forgotten," first appeared. The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag, other than "Old Glory," to ever fly over the White House. On March 9, 1989,

a POW/MIA flag that had previously flown over the White House was permanently installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia..." The Department of Veterans Affairs displays the POW/MIA flag 24/7. The National Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans, and World War II Memorials also display the POW/MIA flag daily.

I still have a vivid recollection from my childhood of a POW/MIA case. My mother's close friend, Mrs. Birnbaum, had a son who was a navigator on bombing missions over Germany. His name was Sanford Birnbaum. Sanford was last seen bailing out of his shot-up plane and was never seen or heard from again. After the war, Mr. and Mrs. Birnbaum traveled to civilian hospitals in Germany to see if they could find him. A missing, unaccounted for individual is a tragedy.

As long as one person remains unaccounted for, JWV will be a supporter of the League.



COL Herb Rosenbleeth, USA (Ret)
National Executive Director

Homeless Veterans In America

By Dr. Marsha Schjolberg, CAPT, MSC, USN (Retired)

In the last issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, it was reported that suicide prevention and homelessness among veterans are the top two issues that the VA is focused on eliminating. Clearly, these issues are interrelated. We all know that despair and a sense of emptiness hastens the loss of life.

Despite the current climate of economic growth, homelessness among veterans continues to be a growing phenomenon. Although veteran disenfranchisement, which plays out as "homelessness" effects every state, the sunbelt states have the largest populations of homeless veterans. It's hard to be homeless in the winter in North Dakota; not so much on the beaches of Southern California, Florida, and the warm dry climate of Arizona.

As an example, California, which currently represents less than 4% of all enlistees, hosts 24% of all homeless veterans in the United States! According to numerous government studies previously submitted to JWV, 99% of all homeless veterans are enlisted and have served only one enlistment before separating from the service. 98% of all homeless veterans in California are NOT from California. Moreover, the face of the homeless veteran has changed. No longer are we seeing large numbers of Vietnam veterans, but rather young men and a growing number of women with children are sleeping on the streets.



Veterans' organizations have stepped up to develop post enlistment training centers and homeless shelters. The military has stepped up and enhanced its Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) which helps military forces transition to civilian jobs, and the GI Bill has been enhanced to support both academic universities and technical training programs. Yet the problem grows. Government and support agencies have developed food banks, housing units, training programs as well as psychosocial services, but these agencies often feel like they are swimming against the tide. Why?

An "all volunteer" force attracts a cross section of people. Patriotism with the desire to serve has always been the overriding reason to join the

service, but many also join to improve their personal circumstances by leaving undesirable environments and unpleasant family circumstances. The military becomes the new "family." Once the enlistment ends, the "new family" breaks up. Then what?

As a career Medical Service Corps officer of 28 years with a background in public health, and a doctorate in at risk education/educational leadership, the issues seems clear. Disenfranchisement is the big nut. In the military each person is part of a team, a family, with a specifically defined role and set of expectations. We are "all in this together." As a civilian, that same level of support often does not exist.

Moreover, homelessness not only affects that individual veteran and his/her family, but has a major impact on the VA medical system and the veterans living in the area. VAMC's in sunbelt states are often overwhelmed with long waits to access care, where other states with fewer veterans are not as severely impacted and may have services that are underutilized.

For 25 years I have been volunteering at STAND DOWN, which is part of a national movement to help homeless veterans. Each year, several thousand homeless veterans and their families (kids under 16) gather in cities up and down the coast of California as well as other states.

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Mission Accomplished

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level – it is heartfelt by their citizenry.

There are many reasons for this, but at its core I believe this is directly related to the compulsory military service performed by the vast majority of Israelis as they become adults. By virtue of it – unlike American youths – they are made acutely aware of the constant threats to their liberty, by beligerent neighbors on every physical border.

Israel is very good at teaching the vast history of the Jewish people to its youngsters. Moreover, of necessity, they are also made acutely aware of the relatively short – and utterly miraculous – history of the modern State of Israel, and the hard lessons associated therewith.

Of Survival and Triumph

On our first full day in Israel, we visited Independence Hall, where David Ben Gurion – first prime minister of Israel – announced the nation's declaration of independence on 14 May 1948. We also met with officials from Tzevet, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) veterans organization. Tzevet's Chairman, Major General Dr. Baruch

We also visited a secret ammunition factory set up underneath a kibbutz, called Givat Hakibbutzim. Code named the "Ayalon Institute," the factory was manned by 45 Haganah boys and girls – between the ages of 14 and 18 – who manufactured millions of rounds of ammunition. Its secret was so closely guarded that even the other members of the kibbutz had no idea of its existence.

Within 24 hours of declaring independence, Israel was attacked not only by Palestinians, but also its other Arab neighbors. Had it not been for the foresight and bravery of the Haganah (and the ammunition manufactured at the Ayalon Institute), Israel would have quickly lost its war of independence.

Our group also visited Armored Corps Memorial and Museum at the strategically crucial location of Latrun, Israel (captured from the Jordanians during the Six Day War of 1967). There, together with National Commander Schneider, I was honored to lay a wreath at the Wall of Remembrance, bearing the names of more than 5,000 Israeli casualties from Israel's wars, dating back to 1948.

As solemn an occasion as this was, the most sobering place we visited was Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Museum. It was so engrossing and personally impactful, that our wonderful tour guides – IDF LTC (Ret) Ronit Nachman and her son Amit – had to retrieve me, so I would not miss the bus. To me, Yad Vashem is not something you can describe – it can only be experienced...and never forgotten.

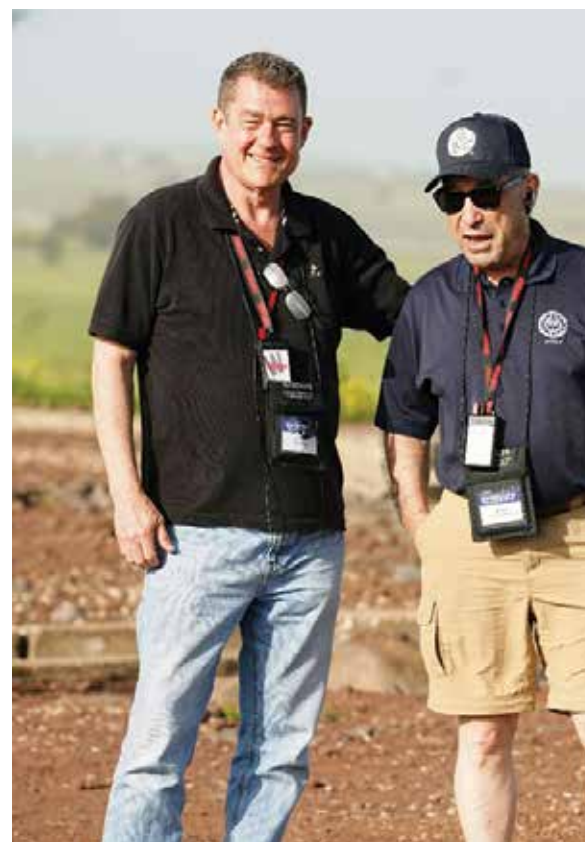
So Often Miscast...

Far too often many in the American media seem to portray Israelis as "occupiers," and pillory them as unreasonable negotiators, responsible for chronic unrest with the Palestinians. These arguments are vacuous, and born of the complete ignorance (or duplicity) of those making them.

Many point to Israel's refusal to negotiate agreements using a "land for peace" approach. Not only do the historical events of the past century belie the potential success of such concessions, but one only needs to visit places like Latrun, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights to understand why they are simply strategically impossible to make (and it shouldn't take a military genius to realize it).

And so, ignoring the unlikelihood of Israel ever successfully negotiating real peace, with an entity still constitutionally committed to the extermination of its people, Israelis are often portrayed as the bad guys in the media, and even (shamefully so) by elected officials in our country!

In fact, Israelis – as a people – are not only quite compassionate, but they are some of the most prolific contributors to the collective good of humankind. We visited two institutions on our trip, which underscore these points.



From left: USAWOA Executive Director CW4 (Ret) Jack Du Teil and JWV National Commander Maj (Ret) Barry Schneider at the Golan Heights.

The first was the Galilee Medical Center (and level-one trauma center) at Nahariya, near the Syrian border. In the lobby you see a glass display case, containing a Katyusha rocket that once struck the hospital.

This was the perfect prelude to a tour we took of the underground facilities later built – a carbon copy of the facilities upstairs. Fully equipped, including foodstuffs and a sophisticated ventilation system, it can accommodate the medical staff and patients within one hour after notification of an attack.

At the height of the Syrian civil war's refugee crisis, media pundits were quick to report Israeli refusal to accept refugees (out of legitimate security concerns). What they neglected to report was how more than 4,000 of the most horrifically wounded casualties of that conflict had been treated at this and other Israeli hospital facilities.

With the approval of Prime Minister Netanyahu himself, the wounded and their immediate families were accommodated, at Israeli government expense, during the patients' courses of treatment. As a Christian, the words "turning the other cheek" come to my mind....

Our group also visited the Weizmann Institute of Science, one of the world's leading multidisciplinary basic research institutions in the natural and exact sciences. It is named for Dr. Haim Weizmann, the first president of the State of Israel and founder of the institute, and has a long history of investigation and discovery, rooted in a mission of advancing science for the benefit of humanity.

One only needs to do an internet search on the words "Israeli Inventions" to be amazed at the contributions the citizens of this small, young nation have made to medicine, science, technology, and even to the everyday lives of human beings across the planet.

Just the other day, I even discovered that the Waze application I use to navigate in my car was first developed and popularized by the Israeli com-

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Western Wall in Jerusalem. Thousands of worshippers - of all faiths - come to pray on a daily basis. Israel not only provides security for its visitors but continues to meticulously excavate and preserve the history of this and other important historical sites.

Levy, provided us with an unclassified but quite thorough national security briefing.

Later that day, we visited the Haganah Museum. Tracing its roots to as early as 1907, the Haganah was formally organized in 1921, as an underground Jewish paramilitary organization during the British Mandate of Palestine (1921–48). With an eventual strength of 30,000 fighters it became the core of the IDF, following the United Nations' approval of the partition of Palestine and Israel's declaration of independence.



The Armored Corps Memorial and Museum at the strategically crucial location of Latrun, Israel.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Keep an eye out for your updated JWV post or department alpha roster. They will be sent out mid-July. The alpha roster is second only to your JWV charter to be considered as the most important membership document in your possession. JWV post or department commanders should treat the alpha roster as if it was their personal financial bank statement. It must be reconciled and balanced on a routine scheduled basis. Information on this document should be treated with accuracy and sensitivity. Save and guard this document and by all means never share the information of your membership with a third party. Please respect the information provided by JWV members and treat it as sensitive information. As leaders, we owe it to our members to respect the privacy of their membership.

If used properly, the alpha roster serves as an ideal tool to be used as a post alert or notification roster. However, the data entered on the alpha roster must always be current and accurate. To assist with accuracy, it is recommended that before the start of each post or department assembly, commanders should take time to have their members review their personal information posted on the alpha roster for accuracy. This task may be delegated to your post or department Adjutant; however, the responsibility for timely accuracy lies with the post or department Commander.

In order to achieve accuracy, updating your alpha roster should be an ongoing process. When posting changes to your alpha roster, please submit your updated information to Harrison Heller at hheller@jwv.org. Once your alpha roster is updated and returned it is important to verify that all your requested changes are properly annotated to the new alpha roster. Remember to treat the alpha roster as your bank statement. Do not assume

that the statement/roster is always correct.

Commanders at all echelons are required to ensure that all JWV Members stay current with their membership dues. The highest percentage of our membership loss falls in the category of JWV Members failing to stay current with their membership dues. After a reasonable period of time, if a JWV member fails to submit their membership dues, they are automatically dropped from the JWV National rolls. Thus, terminating membership from all echelon levels of our organization.

There is an easy solution to prevent this manageable loss from occurring. Commanders at all echelon levels are asked to use the alpha roster as your tool, let the alpha roster work for you. Utilize the alpha roster's suspension dates to prevent a valued JWV member from letting their membership dues lapse. After all, our membership is our most important asset in our organization, and we should treat our members accordingly.

JWV members who will be coming to this year's JWV 124th Annual National Convention (August 18-23, 2019) in Richmond, Virginia, please plan to attend both our leadership workshop and membership committee meetings. Both scheduled events will focus on leadership and membership tools that will be helpful for all echelons. Hope to see you there!



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

The Square - Fundraising Game Changer



By LTC George H. Heart, WA State Guard, Ret.
CMDR, Atlanta JWV Post 112

"Sorry, but I don't have any cash on me..." and hurriedly sprinted past our table into the grocery store. Have you ever encountered that excuse while fundraising at your poppy stand for Memorial and Veterans Day? Well, we here in Atlanta sure have! At one of our past Post BOD meetings we discussed this and one of our members jokingly piped up: "I wish we could take credit cards - lol!" That's when our own Quartermaster, Sam Benator, injected, "But we can!" We all laughed, but then asked how. Sam explained to us that there is a device known as Square®, basically a little doohickey that attaches to a cell phone that allows acceptance of all major credit cards. There is no charge for the hardware and application or contract. There is a minimal service charge of 2.75% per "swipe" and it is extremely easy to use.

We decided to try it out last Memorial Day at two of our fundraising tables. So, when we got the old line "...don't have any cash on me..." we were able to retort with a broad smile. "We take credit cards!" That stopped many folks right in their tracks! They never heard of "basically pan handlers (though for a good cause)" accepting credit cards now. What chutzpah! But it worked. Not only did it work, we were able to engage more people about, not only about how the credit card accepting cell phones worked, but also about the work of the Jewish War Veterans. Another unforeseen upshot was that donors who used their credit cards gave much more than folks who only dropped a dollar bill into the bucket. It seemed it was psychologically much easier to give more with a credit card, then plunking down hard cold cash.

The Atlanta Post will increase its use of Square® for our November Veterans Day fundraising activities. Will your JWV Post now be able to say, "We accept credit cards!"

Become a Veterans' Service Officer

By Michael Winnick, Director of JWV's National Service Officers Program

I have a really great job for someone who wants to help veterans and their families. Someone who doesn't mind fighting with the bureaucracy (and sometimes losing) but often winning. Someone who gets a sense of achievement, and while not receiving any compensation, you don't have to reach deep into your wallet.

How often have you spoken to a vet who complains that he or she had applied to the VA for health care or for compensation for injuries they had in service and they were rejected because they filled out the wrong form?

Or after filing the correct form they had been rejected because they didn't provide the right evidence. It happens more often than anyone cares to admit, and very often the frustrated vet stops trying.

JWV is the oldest Congressionally chartered Veteran's Service Organization, and it is the function of our Veteran's Service Officers (VSO's) to help these vets to get through the bureaucracy. Not just to give them the proper applications, but to help them get help for their problems. The VA has programs for every possible problem that a veteran might encounter while confronting the problems of readjustment.

Often the veteran will call needing help with an unexplained ailment and when they relay their symptoms you realize that they really don't have a problem with migraine headaches but they are trying to cope with PTSD or TBI and the 2 aspirin every 4 hours is not helping. How great we feel when you can refer him/her to the right doctor to treat the real problem.

Fact is when you take on the case of a vet in need they become part of your life, and along with the complaints about how slow the VA is you also get the phone call to just wish you a "happy holiday".

Last week I got a phone call, the "caller ID" warned me that it was from a 90 year old veteran whose case had been going on for 2 years. I mumbled "I have no answer for you ..." but I answered anyway, only to hear him sounding spry and alert to tell me he got the letter from the VA and they are now compensating him!

There is nothing I can think of that feels better than being able to close a file with a positive result. All I had to do was take a course and a test (If I passed it you definitely can) and become accredited to the VA from JWV.



REMINDER

Members: Please make sure to inform your post commander and quartermaster right away if there have been any changes to your address, email address or phone number.

Post Leadership: Please make sure to update your records and to notify National right away of any changes to a member's information.

7 Questions with a JWV Member

Member: Aaron Scheinberg

Post: Col. Irving Heymont Post 299

Current Residence: Hedgesville, WV

Military Service: West Point class of '03 (Mickey Marcus award recipient from JWV), United States Army, Infantry Platoon Leader and Civil Affairs Officer in Iraq (OIF 05-07) with 2-8 Infantry, 4th ID

Member Since Year: 2003



1. What drove you to join the military?

The examples of service from my family and a desire to be part of something bigger than myself. Both my grandfathers served in the Army. My father's dad, Sam Scheinberg, was a combat engineer in WW2 and helped to liberate France and concentration camps in France and Germany. Both of my parents served in a different way as public educators. I joined the Army through West Point and my younger brother, Joshua, joined the Air Force shortly after 9/11.

2. How did you get introduced to JWV?

I knew of JWV through my grandfather, but really got to know the organization and members as a cadet at West Point. JWV truly helped me get through West Point by building a community at the Jewish Chapel on Post. Members, many who served in WW2, Korea, and Vietnam would sponsor our weekly Shabbat dinners, Sunday bagels, and would always provide mentorship as a group of

folks who have been through what we were facing. My wife, Natasha, and I were later married at the West Point Jewish Chapel.

3. What was your most memorable Jewish experience while serving?

Flying from Haswah, Iraq, to Baghdad to meet up with the only Jewish chaplain in Iraq and helping to put on a Passover Seder for Jewish soldiers across theatre. The best part was seeing Jewish West Point graduates who I knew as cadets coming together from bases and outposts all over Iraq.

4. Is there a piece of legislation coming before Congress that you find that will best serve our veterans?

One of the highlights of my career in service is working for Senator Manchin on Veterans legislation. Senator Manchin has been on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee since he was first elected and is very active on veterans issues as

West Virginia has one of the highest rates of military service in the country. Right now, a big focus of ours is on economic opportunities for veterans and suicide prevention.

5. What is your favorite movie and does it relate with your experience in the military?

There Will be Blood. I don't think it relates to my military service, it's just an awesome movie.

6. Who is your favorite superhero and why?

It's always been Superman for me. When I was in high school, I won 7 gold medals in the Maccabee Games as a sprinter on the track & field team. I wore a Superman shirt after every event and folks started calling me "The Fastest Jew in America"

7. What is your favorite traditional Jewish food?

Everything bagel, veggie cream cheese, and lox with a side of creamed herring

Not yet a member of JWV?

Scan the code below to join the Jewish place for veterans and the veterans' place for Jews!



NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Farkas, Sandor - Post 100
Garcia, Mario - Post 344
Jefferson, Howard J. - Post 100
Khoronov, Inna - Post 100
Menkowitz, Elliot - Post 100
Miller, Jack L. - Post 859
Piper, Neil - Post 100
Rosenberg, William P. - Post 100
Spindler, David - Post 100
Tessler, Ari - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Frazier, Roscoe W. Jr. - Post 138
Hoffman, Bruce - Post 385
Lee, Robert G. - Post 138
Morgan, Kerry D. - Post 385
Schlarifer, Jack I. - Post 603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Berger, Lawrence A. - Post 142

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Davis, Christopher - Post 767

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Shevlin, James - Post 589

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Copley, David - Post 400
Gold, Jack S. - Post 631
Harnick, Brian - Post 698
Levy, Daniel A. - Post 639
Meyer, Marc D. - Post 352
Michael, Gerry - Post 352
Pascas, Murray N. - Post 265
Shapiro, Harris - Post 265

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Axelrod, Leslie - Post 29

Picker, Morris - Post 153
Podroykin, Artur - Post 153
Rabin, Erwin W. - Post 153
Savage, Matthew J. - Post 800
Zelman, Morton B. - Post 29

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Berman, Steve - Post 605
Herold, Rachel - Post 605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Cohen, Gary - Post 360
Cohn, Joseph - Post 360
Tenenbaum, Yechezkiel - Post 167

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Norcross, James R. - Post 220

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Muskovitz, Alan J. - Post 510
Pevzner, Martin M. - Post 474
Scheck, Richard - Post 510
Segel, Mark Y. - Post 510
Seidman, Melvin - Post 510
Siegel, Ronald A. - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Cox, Douglas A. - Post 65
Moss, Neil I. - Post 65
Norman, Sharon H. - Post 65
Wise, Bradley D. - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Colton, Harris N. - Post 126
Friedman, Alan - Post 39
Hartman, Kenneth E. - Post 126
Levin, Stanley A. - Post 126
Niederer, Sue - Post 972
Wynne, David J. - Post 126

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Cohen, Sheldon W. - Post 336
Eisenberg, Lawrence B. - Post 106
Felix, Michael G. - Post 652
Gottesman, Samuel - Post 36
Levine, Gary S. - Post 6
Yomtov, Barry - Post 717

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Schulsinger, Michael - Post 587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Melenbaum, Rita - Post 98
Woldenberg, Will L. - Post 98

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Anderson, William H. - Post 112
Arieli, David - Post 112
Bar-On, Yaniv - Post 112
Battle, Jefferson - Post 112
Baucom, Nicholas G. - Post 112
Bell, Liam - Post 112
Brady, Alec - Post 112
Brunson, Darius C. - Post 112
Buzulak, David - Post 112
Campbell, Ethan J. - Post 112
Gunter, Richard - Post 112
Herrera, Victor - Post 112
Johnson, Brandon A. - Post 112
Klein, Scott I. - Post 112
Leavell, Josiah T. - Post 112
Libenson, Michael B. - Post 112
Lopez, Sidney - Post 112
McEwan, Tristan - Post 112
Molina, Joshua - Post 112
Molina, Tito B. - Post 112
Nason, Tobin B. - Post 112
Newman, Jonathan R. - Post 112
Price, Austin - Post 112
Rodriguez-Sanche, Everado - Post 112

Rosenberg, Austin - Post 112
Rudesill, Brady M. - Post 112
Seiferd, Frank - Post 112
Unate, Vanesa - Post 112
Virk, Shagundeeep S. - Post 112
Vitullo, Michael - Post 112
Welch, Brett M. - Post 112

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Apelas, Morton - Post 210
Fuchs, Nathaniel C. - Post 210
Pearlman, Ray - Post 194
Sweetow, Susan - Post 194
Talvy, Joseph S. - Post 201
Wieser, Philip - Post 194

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Ablon, Sam J. - Post 256
Abrams, Tredwell - Post 755
Cohen, Raphael - Post 256
Collum, Gregg W. - Post 753
Hecht, David - Post 574
Karlebach, David - Post 256
Kassoff, Jonathan - Post 574
Kern, Lawrence F. - Post 256
Malofsky, Aaron S. - Post 755
Mandel, Dov M. - Post 755
Millner, Daniel Joseph - Post 757
Pappert, Jerry - Post 574
Pompa, Alana - Post 757
Sands, Edwards - Post 256
Shaw, Frank - Post 574
Schnitz, Adam B. - Post 755
Zarin, Jerald - Post 574

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Ciccoli, Danielle M. - Post 765

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Teplin, Stanley F. - Post 145



Harvey Weiner has been JWV's National Judge Advocate since 2013. He previously served on the National Executive Committee, as Vice Chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Committee, and as Vice President of the National Court. He is past Commander of the Massachusetts Department and past Post Commander of the Newton-Brookline Post #211. He is a life member of the JWV, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Disabled American Veterans. He is a life member of and General Counsel to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

Harvey is a Vietnam War combat veteran, who, as an Army Captain, was an intelligence advisor to the Vietnamese. His combat experience includes small raids, night ambushes, mortar and rocket attacks, sniper fire and land mines. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star (M) among other decorations. After the war, he returned to Ft. Dix, N.J., where he defended 38 courts martial and was a Chief Investigating Officer.

Harvey is a U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs Accredited Attorney and is admitted to both the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. He has been trained and certified as a veterans' mediator and has assisted in the training of other veterans' mediators.

Harvey is active in the Jewish community. He is past president of Temple Beth Avodah in Newton and was on its Executive Board for 25 years. He has been the JWV representative on the Greater Boston Jewish Community Relations Council for 13 years.

Harvey has practiced civil litigation in Boston at Peabody & Arnold for over 47 years. He is president of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation and the Federal Bar Association (Mass. Chapter) and past president of the Boston Inn of Court and the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association.

Harvey has been married for over 51 years to Linda, who was a Waiting Wife, has two adult children, one granddog, and lives in Newton, Massachusetts.

Welcome to JWV's 124th Annual National Convention!

Join us in beautiful and historic Richmond, Virginia, for our 124th Annual National Convention! Our convention brings together JWV members from around the country to network, discuss programs, conduct organizational business, and plan for JWV's future.

Here you will learn more about the issues facing our veteran and military community. Members will craft the resolutions that will be the core of our legislative priorities.

This year there will be sessions on Post Leadership, how to run successful fundraising campaigns, using social media effectively, and how to become an accredited Veteran Service Officer.

Attendees will come away from these sessions with useful information that they can bring home and effectively implement at their posts and departments.

► Post Leadership Seminar

Learn what skills and resources are needed for managing and growing your Post. Topics will include a "high altitude" overview of the roles and responsibilities of National, Department and Post; recruiting and retention strategies; boosting visibility within your community; online and social media; and how to hold successful meetings. We will also present highlights of the Post Leadership Guide.

► How to Fundraise Successfully

Need any tips on how to run a successful fundraiser? Looking to start a new fundraising campaign? Come learn the ins and outs of new and innovative fundraising strategies. With these new strategies, your post can run new and successful fundraisers in your community. Integrating new technology and targeted messaging with current efforts can only improve current efforts.

► Website and Social Media Training

This training session on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) will cover who the target audiences are, what social media sites are most suitable, identifying where your post's weaknesses are, when are the best times to promote, and why this class is being given. Learning how to target messages can help you grow programs and draw attention to your cause. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are excellent tools to utilize to grow your post and programs. Social media is the best free publicity a post can have.

► Becoming a Veterans' Service Officer

In this session, you will learn what it takes to become accredited as a National Service Officer, and what is involved to remain a service officer. Will include Q+A's.



► JWV & JWVA Joint Convention Opening

Welcome to beautiful and historic, Richmond, Virginia, for our 124th Annual National Convention.

Speaker: Representative from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

► National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting

The National Executive Committee is responsible for the business of running JWV. All members are welcome to attend the meeting, but only NEC members can vote on issues brought before the body.

► Constitution & Bylaws Committee Meeting

The constitution of an organization contains the fundamental principles which govern its operation. The bylaws establish the specific rules of guidance by which the group is to function. This meeting is held only when there are proposed changes to either the constitution or bylaws.

► Resolutions Committee Meetings

The Resolution Committee meeting is where our members come to discuss and debate JWV's policy-making proposals that inform JWV's position on an issue or topic. Resolutions are the back bone of our our Legislative Priorities presented before Congress.

► Membership Committee Meeting

Learn how to grown and maintain your Post! Learn new recruiting tactics and how to retain your members. At this meeting you will get tips from various JWV echelons that have displayed successful positive gains in their strength maintenance. Listen, learn and share. Hope to see you there!

Here's a quick look at some of this year's Convention meetings and events!

Sunday, Aug. 18

Constitution & Bylaws
Convention Rules
Convention Committee
Budget Committee
Personnel Committee
Finance Board
NMAJMH Event

Monday, Aug. 19

National Executive Committee Meeting
JWV/JWVA Joint Convention Opening
Resolutions Committee
Credentials & Registration

1st Business Session
Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, Aug. 20

Leadership Seminar
Resolutions Committee
Website & Social Media Training Session
Jewish Warrior Weekend Meeting
Korean War Veterans
Scouting & JROTC Committee Meeting
VAVS Q+A Session
Membership Committee
JWVA Nat'l President's Reception & Banquet

Wednesday, Aug. 21

Resolutions Committee
Awards Committee
Youth Achievement Awards
1st Business Session
Post 9/11 Veterans
Gulf War Veterans
Becoming a Service Officer
Women in the Military
Vietnam Veterans
2nd Business Session
Vietnam Veterans Night Out

Joint Session: Where will we be in 5 years

Thursday, Aug. 22

Joint Session: Fundraising
3rd Business Session
NMAJMH Meeting
NC Election
NC Banquet
**Schedule subject to change*

JWV
124th

Annual National Convention
August 18-23, 2019 • Richmond, Virginia

JWVA
91st

Omni Richmond Hotel • 100 South 12th St., Richmond, VA 23219 • www.omnihotels.com/Richmond • 804-344-7000

Hotel registration deadline is Tuesday, July 16

A one night (\$159/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations.

A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Hotel reservations must be made through JWV.

There is a \$175 Convention surcharge for JWV members not staying at the hotel.

Local members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

JWVA events are open to everyone!

Sign and mail this completed form, along with your payment to:
Jewish War Veterans
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Attn: Convention Dept.

Voting Eligibility at the 2019 National Convention
To be in good standing and eligible to vote at the National Convention, all Posts must have complied with the following items:

- Complete IRS Form 990-N (or 990 or 990-EZ) and submit a copy to National Headquarters.
- Submit a completed Installation Form to National Headquarters.
- Submit a completed Financial Report, which must then be approved by the Finance Board Chairman.
- Proof of Fidelity Bond and post liability insurance.

JWV Name: _____ **Post #:** _____

Ladies Auxiliary Name: _____ **Aux. #:** _____

Address: _____ **Dept.:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zipcode:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Room will be shared with: _____

Arriving on: _____ **Departing on:** _____ **Total nights:** _____

Registration for both JWV + JWVA	Cost	QTY.	Amount
Rooms Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds	\$159.00 per night		
<i>Please note that handicap rooms will be assigned by JWV on an as need priority.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I need a Handicap room.			
3 rd Person in a room	\$79.50 per night		
JWV Member Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$175.00 per member		
National Commander's Banquet • Thurs, Aug. 22 _____ Beef _____ Salmon _____ Kosher _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$45.00 per person		
National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee (\$50.00 at Convention)	\$45.00 per member		
Partners Club (\$50 new members / \$25 renewal) • Mon, Aug. 19	\$50.00 \$25.00		
National President's Reception and Banquet • Tues, Aug. 20 _____ Herbed Tilapia _____ Sliced Flank Steak _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$45.00 per person		
Double Chai Club Breakfast • Wed, Aug 21 _____ This is my first Double Chai Breakfast _____ I already have 15 stones on my pin _____ I am happy with the Double Chai Pin I have now I have _____ on my pin and will need one more (15 stones max)	\$36.00 per person <i>You don't need to belong to the Ladies Auxiliary to attend our Double Chai Breakfast. Everyone is welcome! You will have a great time!</i>		
Raffle Tickets _____ JWV _____ JWVA	\$5.00 Each 3 for \$10.00		
Total			
All events must be pre-paid in full		Amount paying now:	
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No. _____		Exp. _____ / _____	
Signature _____			

Vietnam Veterans Night Out

Wednesday, August 21 • 6:00 -8:30 PM

Food • Fun • Friends

This popular dinner is an annual event when we come together to share good food and great fun with old and new friends.

Everyone is welcome!

\$45.00 per person (includes tax and tip) before August 15
\$55/cash per person if you pay at the Hotel

Contact Jerry Alperstein at 212-477-3131
or go to JWV.org for more details.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



The Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 held another successful Poppy Drive fundraiser. Post and Auxiliary members stood shifts beginning at 8 a.m. at 13 coffee house and brunch cafe locations around North Dallas and surrounding suburbs, collecting funds to benefit hospitalized veterans at the Dallas & Bonham VA facilities. All monies raised are used to gift non-medical comfort and morale-boosting items such as internet workstations, treatment room furnishings, recreation equipment, and more. A special "shout-out" to the California Pizza Kitchen restaurant in Plano, Texas, a first-time venue. In addition to permitting our volunteers to set-up at the door, Sunday & Monday patrons were given the opportunity to designate 20-percent of their meal tab to our cause! Shown manning the table is Post 256 Sr. Vice Commander Jim Walsh. Photo by Steve Krant.



Members of JWV Post 41-NY along with 5 Boy Scouts from Temple Beth El participated in the Memorial Day parade in downtown Rochester, NY. Four post members marched, and two Boy Scouts carried the national and post colors. The other Scouts and post members were in nearby vehicles.



PNP Elaine Bernstein and PNC Michael Berman represented the National Ladies Auxiliary of the JWV and the Jewish War Veterans of the USA as they participated in the memorial ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC, on Memorial Day.



Albany Post 105-NY presented Rev. Charlene Robbins (center) with this year's Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award. Charlene is the epitome of chaplaincy with presence, supporting countless area organizations and events. To her left is JWV Capital District Council Commander Richard Goldenberg, and on her right is Post 105 Commander Fred Altman.



Approximately 60 friends and members of the local community and the JCC gathered for JWV Post 692's 3rd Annual Memorial Day Program. Lt Colonel Sheldon Goldberg, USAF (Ret) and Docent at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, and Post 692 Adjutant, acted as Master of Ceremonies and introduced retired Colonel Erwin Burtnick, Commander, JWV Department of Maryland, the keynote speaker. Other VIP's who attended the program and addressed the audience were Rabbi Moishe Kavka who gave the invocation, retired Navy Captain, Rabbi Irving Elson, Chairman, Jewish Welfare Board's Chaplain's Council, who gave the benediction, and Mr. Michael Feinstein, Bender JCC CEO.



Post 1-NY members Barry Pinchefskey (nearest) and Commander Edward Hochman lay a wreath for Post 1-NY during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Soldiers & Sailors Monument in Riverside Park.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



From left: Evan and Laurie Altman and Sam Benator from JWV Post 112 placed almost 300 flags at Crestlawn Cemetery in honor of Memorial Day. Three more post teams fanned out to other cemeteries in Atlanta and placed over 1,000 flags at Jewish veterans' graves.



The North County Post 385-CA installation of officers program was attended by Oscar Stewart, one of the heroes of the Chabad of Poway shooting. Following the installation, Mr. Stewart became a Life Member of the Post. From left: COL Jerry Silverman, Post Commander, Dr Barry Schneider, National Commander, Oscar Stewart, Art Kaplan, National Chief of Staff and Officer of the Day, and COL Maxwell Colón, Past National Commander. Ed & Sandy Goldberg gave the Post a check for \$500.00 for a JWV LIFE membership to be presented to Oscar Stewart for his heroism which saved Jewish lives.



Members of St. Louis Jewish War Veterans Post 644 held their annual picnic at Stacy Park on June 2, 2019. The picnic is one of the organizations' events, which include observances of Memorial Day and Veterans' Day. Jewish veterans and patrons of all branches of military service, whether they served in wartime or peacetime, are encouraged to join Post 644. All veterans are encouraged to join us for bagels and camaraderie. They meet monthly at the Jewish Federation Building the 3rd Sunday of each month. For more information contact: Ed Cohen 636-536-3818 or Ellis Frohman 636-519-7512.



PNC Ira Novoselsky (left), and Post 161-MA Commander Joseph Cole (right) presented JWV's National Americanism Award to Cadet Captain Kenneth Vo.



JWV Post 157 members and the JWV Dept. of MA Commander served as Color Guard for the New England Revolution-Chelsea Football Club soccer match on May 15. The match served to highlight the ongoing rise of hate crimes around the world, using sports to bring attention to these issues and bringing people together to tackle prejudice. From left: Samuel Holland, Jeff Weitzenkorn, Fred Glass, Paul Weinbaum and Arnold Pinsley.



JWV Past National Commander, Carl Singer (left), and Lt. Col (Ret.) Robert Farkas pay respect at the grave of Jonas Philips, an American Revolution veteran. Congregation Shearith Israel held a ceremony at the Chatham Square Cemetery in lower Manhattan on May 19 and decorated the graves of 19 Jewish veterans of the American Revolution. PNC Singer is from the Department of New Jersey and Farkas is a member of JWV Post 1-NY.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



JWV North Shore Post 220-MA members James Norcross and Donna Lehman coordinated the 2019 JWV Post Flagging Mission for our departed veterans. James, the post's newest member, volunteered to co-chair this year's Post Flagging Mission. The Post flagged in four local communities, totaling over 1,000 flags. Special thanks go to the community partners that assisted in the flagging mission: Boy Scout Troop 88, Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary (JWVA), The Lappin Foundation/Gary Colton, and members from Temple Ner Tamid. With their continued support, the post's flagging mission was completed prior to the 2019 Memorial Day weekend. Shown: Community partners and Post 220 member, James Norcross (far right).



From left: AVC Buddy Epstein and Simon Berger, members of JWV Long Branch-Valley Stream-Oceanside Post 717-NY, shared the honor of serving as co-Grand Marshalls of the Long Branch, NY, Memorial Day parade. Both are shown holding certificates they received from the city.



COL Maxwell Colón, PNC (left), and Linda Colón, PNP (center), were presented with 'The President of the USA Volunteer Service Award' by Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton Commander, CAPT Frank Pearson. They accepted the award on behalf of JWV Post 385-CA and JWV Gary Grant Ladies Auxiliary-680.

COL Elizabeth Casely (right), an honorary Post 76-NJ member, invited Commander Kronick to her promotion ceremony at the Pentagon. COL Casely has been involved with the post for over 20 years. Her mother visited Assemblyman Kronick's legislative office when Elizabeth was young to express her daughter's interest in attending West Point. Kronick said, "After the initial meeting I became better acquainted with her family and observed Elizabeth's determination to serve. I then wrote a letter of support." After serving in Germany, Korea and Iraq, Elizabeth was invited to address Post 76-NJ. COL Casely expects to graduate from the War College shortly.



National Commander Barry Schneider (left) and JWV Department of Michigan Commander Dr Ed Hirsch prepare to place a wreath at the grave of Lt. Raymond Zussman, a WW2 Medal of Honor recipient. Photo by Art Fishman.



From left: Ranger Candidate Oberstlt (LTC) Alexander Sauer, Bundeswehr (German Federal Armed Forces) Liaison to Ft Benning, and Leutnant zur See (Ensign) Fabian Hadler, speaking with Atlanta JWV Post 112 Commander, LTC George H. Heart, WA State Guard, (Ret), during Passover Seder. Photo by Ilene Kent, the PIO of National Museum of the Infantry and Soldier Center at Ft. Benning.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On Memorial Day, JWV Post 126-NJ was the leader in organizing and running the Cherry Hill Township Memorial Day Ceremony which took place in front of the Township All War Memorial. The ceremony was attended by over 300 residents. Photo from left: Post 126 Jr. Vice Commander, William Roth, Past NJ Department Commander Nelson L. Mellitz, Post Honorary Commander May Brill (WW2 Veteran), Cherry Hill Township President David Fleisher, Past NJ Department Commander Robert Richter. Back row: American Legion Post 372 Chaplain John Murphy.



JWV Post 380-MD, the "Commodore Uriah P. Levy Post"—marched in the annual Annapolis Memorial Day parade. Five members marched the route and three guarded our unit's flank in a jeep escort. As usual, we were the best looking veteran organization, and per seniority we led the march right behind the Grand Marshal (a WWII SeaBee) and the Naval Academy band!



Members of Post 140-MA participated in their local Memorial Day parade. Pictured from left: Gary Turetsky, Mordy Lapin (emergency vehicle driver), Post Commander Bob Waldheim, Casey Noddy (Iraqi war veteran and new member of the post), and Irwin Moiseff.



On left, Bob Maran, WW II Veteran and JWV Atlanta Post 112 Board Member, and right, Department Commander Robert Max, thank JWV Patron Fred Ross for his donation at the Georgetown Kroger. The post raised several thousand dollars that will be exclusively used for veterans programming and charitable contributions. Besides poppies, the post has started selling small American flags, which have become increasingly popular and helped with fundraising efforts.



Gregg Philipson, of Post 757-TALO, is reviewing the text panel at the Bullock Texas State History Museum's exhibit about him as a Texas collector. The photo and the Purple Heart medal are those of his late Uncle, Pfc. Gerard M. Degenstein, who was killed in action on November 16, 1944.



Past Department Commander Sidney Lichter, Post 47-NJ (second from left), presenting the Bob Daniels Memorial Education Grant to Emma Gallof, granddaughter of Robert Cherry, Post 146-NJ. Also in the photo is Past Post Commander Robert Cherry (left) and Emma's proud parents on the right.

Erase the Hate: **Don't Let the Ink Define You**

By Harrison Heller

HBO has a fairly new documentary series titled VICE. Each hour-long episode features 1 or 2 stories that do not get much coverage in the mainstream news. Their most notable episode was their report on the 'Unite the Right' march in Charlottesville, VA. This event brought America's ugly side back to the surface with torch carrying white supremacists and neo-Nazis chanting "Blood and soil," "white lives matter," and "Jews will not replace us," as well as the reemergence of David Duke and the Ku Klux Klan.

Since the events in Charlottesville, there have been two high-profile anti-Semitic attacks, the attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA and the attack at the Chabad in Poway, CA. Two African Americans were gunned down outside a Kroger grocery store after the shooter attempted to get into an African American church in Louisville, KY. In a ten-day span, three African American churches were burned down in Louisiana. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), 40 people died at the hands of "alt-right killers" in 2018, compared to 17 in 2017. As of 2018, the SPLC has tracked a record high 1,020 hate groups operating in the United States. This is the fourth straight year with a 30% increase.

There are some people in these groups who experience a change of heart and realize that hate leads you down an even darker path, and they want to escape. TM Garret, a former skinhead and Klansman, said, "Hate is a fulltime job. 24/7 paranoia." Some of these people have literally worn their hate and ideology on their sleeves and bare them on their hearts. Romey Muns, a former member of the Aryan Brotherhood, said, "Seeing all the hate tattoos I have on me...it's embarrassing."

In early May, I came across a YouTube video from Vice entitled *Covering Up Racist Tattoos: Erasing the Hate*. The video featured the story of a campaign called "Erase the Hate" that provides free tattoo cover-ups for former gang members and hate/extremist group members. The program was started by TM Garret in August 2017 at Sickside Tattoos in Horn Lake, MS. Since the program started, they have expanded to several studios in 6 states and have given cover-ups to 100-150 people. Approximately 70% are gang tattoo cover-ups and 30% are hate tattoo cover-ups. Upon viewing this video, I reached out to TM and Sickside Tattoos about wanting to learn more about this program.



One of JWV's cornerstones is to combat anti-Semitism and hate, and this is a real-life example of that and the ultimate change of heart, as well as a true second chance. I heard back from TM almost instantaneously. He and I arranged a night where we could talk about his experience and learn more about the "Erase the Hate" campaign. Everything in TM's life was a lead-up to this campaign and prepared him to become the leader and champion for those wanting to escape the movement.

The way most people get involved with hate/extremist groups is falling into a cycle of validating beliefs, rooted in fear and distrust, and finding likeminded people. This is no different than TM's story. I wanted to learn more about the "Erase the Hate" campaign, and in order to learn that, I had to know the inspiration, the spark that lit the fire and became a beacon of hope to escape.

During our conversation, TM told me the story of how he got involved in the white supremacist movement and how he rose through the ranks. TM was born and raised in small, conservative town in southern Germany of approximately 500 people. As he was growing up he described himself as a bit of a loner and was constantly bullied. He eventually found a way to get the attention he so craved, and that was through telling racist and anti-Semitic jokes with a group of several kids. TM got a sense of gratification, so he kept on telling jokes. Through the attention that the jokes gave him, he became known as the "Nazi Kid." He hated the nickname and hated the label, but the bullying suddenly stopped.

In middle school he was handed a tape from a friend that had hard rock music. The music featured lyrics and themes that were very familiar to TM. Themes of being misunderstood, being Nazis "but they weren't," and nationalism. With each new tape he received, the music became harder, and messages became more of white supremacy and hate. At the same time, he started taking on the image of a skinhead. TM became self-radicalized through the music and was indoctrinated by age 15. In 1997 he formed a band that featured music about pride, saving the

country, saving the white race, and wanting to ban immigrants and "kick out all the foreigners." The only black person he knew at the time was an African American girl, whose father was an American serviceman stationed in Germany. That was when he heard the N-word the very first time – out of the mouth of the same kid who gave TM the cassette tape.

In the late 1990's TM was asked to join a German Ku Klux Klan group, but it was not what he had expected. The internet became a huge recruiting tool for white supremacist groups and allowed them to communicate with ease. As TM's doubts about the group grew, he was encouraged by a klavern in Mississippi to open a new KKK group in Germany.

In 2000, he flew to Mississippi and was inducted at a cross-burning ceremony. He flew back home as the Grand Dragon for the Realm of Germany and Imperial Representative for Europe. TM was convinced that, "it was not about hate, it was about love for our own race. But at the end, it was about hate."

As we spoke about the ideology of the German KKK, TM told me that the German far-right was more Pagan, a person "can't be anti-Semitic and Christian at the same time. Jesus was Jewish." He told me that the blood drop in the middle of the KKK emblem represented the blood of Jesus Christ, and this whole concept confused him. For TM, the identity part became much more important



TM Garret, founder of the "Erase the Hate."

ant in his new group and the racism became far less important. This caused a lot of infighting within the new organization, between TM and other members.

In the Fall of 2002 the police and government began to knock on the doors of members, and informed them they were being investigated. TM contacted a trusted member and told him that he was resigning and that he wanted to disconnect. TM and his family moved about 100 miles away, where they rented a place owned by a Turkish Muslim landlord.

After settling-in, TM was asked by the landlord if he could help him with some IT work. TM was broke and looking for work, so he accepted the offer. Several months prior, he says that he would have never taken the job. Since the job was taking longer than expected, the landlord made some Turkish tea and pancakes. TM refused at first because maybe he touched the food. He later thought that it could be rude in the Turkish culture to refuse the food. He believed that if he refused, that the landlord would turn into a Muslim terrorist or

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TM Garret, shown here at 18 years old, when he was the lead singer and guitarist for his skinhead band, Wolfsrudel, that featured music about white pride and white nationalism.

Continued from previous page

something horrible would happen. So, he took a bite and a cup of tea. This went on for months and months. TM later decided to not take the money, he wanted to help and be a good neighbor.

One day, the landlord invited TM over for dinner with his family. It was baked chicken, oven fries, and fish soup. TM laughed and told me that he hates fish soup. The fish soup was put in front of him, and he paused. He was afraid to reject the food, as judgmental thoughts raced through his mind. He built up the courage and said to his landlord, “I can’t eat it. I don’t like fish soup.” The landlord’s wife smiled, took it away, and brought him some chicken. TM was amazed and tried to comprehend what happened. “What had just happened here? I was sitting here so judgmental expecting the bad stereotypical reaction that I was taught, and it did not happen.”

In 2012, TM was 10 years removed from the white supremacist movement and he had moved to Memphis, TN. There he opened a music studio. In 2016, TM became involved in civil and human rights. It was the time when police brutality hit the media and Black Lives Matter was launched. TM realized that there was still a gap between the black and white communities, and everybody was now protesting. After the protests, everybody would go home and think they’ve done enough. He did not agree and thought more must be done to bridge “gaps that were created by racism, ignorance, and hate.” As part of these initiatives, TM started the non-profit C.H.A.N.G.E (Care, Hope, Awareness, Need, Give, Education), along with Pastor Ray Johnson, a former member of the Bloods street gang.

In 2017, TM paired-up with Sickside Tattoo Studio shop manager, Drew Darby, and owner, Jack Flores, to form Erase the Hate. TM once had a strong desire to remove the tattoos that reminded him of his past, and the people at Sickside knew other people in TM’s position. They now work together to combat hate and help those who are trying to erase their past by providing gang and racist tattoo cover-ups for free.

On May 3, 2018, TM was featured in a short film by Chapman University titled, *Rewired*. The film tells this same story of TM’s journey in the white supremacist movement. He was invited to the screening at the university after which he visited the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. After visiting a full-size replica of a gas chamber from a Nazi concentration camp, he decided he wanted to interact more with the Jewish community. He soon became involved with the Simon Wiesenthal Center, where he continues to speak. After the largest anti-Semitic attack in United States history at the Tree of Life Synagogue, in Pittsburgh, PA, this cemented his further involvement with the Jewish community. Later this year, TM will be speaking at Alpha Epsilon Pi’s 106th Convention in Alexandria, VA, during a pre-convention session on the Tikun Olam track. He has also spoken at multiple Jewish day schools.

At the end of our conversation, TM told me his birth name, Achim. A former skinhead and Klansman was born with a Hebrew name.

If you know anyone, or if a friend or family member knows anyone, who is trying to escape the white supremacist movement or a street gang, please contact TM Garret at info@changememphis.org or text 662.671.2470 to get help.

Secretary Wilkie

Continued from page 1

and missing medical equipment and supplies, and other problems that compromised patient safety are now being addressed.

Secretary Wilkie has brought many military people to the VA. His Chief of Staff is a former Air Force Colonel. He appointed a Senior Enlisted Advisor, which the VA has not had since the days of Omar Bradley. These military personnel will help fix the culture at the VA. Leadership will improve.

The newly passed VA Mission Act was the next issue to be discussed. The Mission Act improves the ability of the VA to provide the healthcare veterans need, when and where they need it. It gives veterans the option to seek care in their communities. “It will also put veterans at the center of their care, and offer options, including expanded tele-help and urgent care, so they can find the balance in the system that’s right for them,” said Secretary Wilkie. The Secretary pointed out that there has been a decline in the number of veterans asking to go outside of the VA for their treatment.

Secretary Wilkie is committed to establishing an electronic medical record for all veterans. He sees the creation of a combined DoD/VA medical records as one of his major goals. This record would be available at all physicians appointments.

The Secretary said the greatest problem affecting veterans are mental health issues. Poor mental health is attributable to suicide and addiction. Vietnam veterans are the largest contingent of those needing mental health care. We need a real deep national conversation on mental health.

Right now, veteran suicides occur at the rate of over 20 deaths a day. Secretary Wilkie said his approach is to take the stigma away from getting needed care for mental health issues. Military personnel are often reluctant to seek this type of care for fear that doing so will negatively impact their military career.

Another issue that affects military and veterans is loneliness. Technology and social media give people the illusion of social connectivity, but many people report feelings of isolation. People today often view other people as text messages, not as people. Military personnel lack sufficient contact with others, often because they have become used to texting. Face to face communication, or at least speaking directly to someone would ease some of the feelings of loneliness.

Secretary Wilkie said, “We have lost the ability to be civil.” In the past, opposing politicians would meet informally with each other and have a civil, even friendly conversation, about a divisive issue. Genuine friendships existed between those on opposite sides of an issue. Politicians could talk with each other, but not today.

“I just presented to the Congress a \$220 billion budget,” said the Secretary. That is the largest budget in the history of the Department. It will enable the VA to provide many of the services that veterans need.

JWV appreciates that Secretary Wilkie demonstrate the leadership skills needed to accomplish the VA’s important agenda. We enjoyed his visit to our headquarters and we look forward to working with the Secretary and his staff.

Mission Accomplished

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pany Waze Mobile. I would have loved to hear that story on the evening news.

Caretakers of Our Collective History

As a tidbit of autobiographical data, I happen to be a Christian. But my grandfather was raised in an Orthodox Jewish family, and I fell in love with my best friend and Jewish wife of 31 years.

From this perspective, I was awestricken by the degree to which Israelis have become the archeologists, caretakers, and guardians of so much of our collective history. Regardless of faith association they regard the excavation, preservation and protection of historical sites and artifacts in this land – so rich with ancient artifacts – as a national imperative.

Because of this, in Capernaum I was able to stand in the ruins of a temple where Jesus preached, and view the foundation of Saint Peter’s house. I visited Masada and viewed the excavated and partially reconstructed palace fortress, built by King Herod, where hundreds of Jews grimly chose suicide over falling into Roman hands. And that afternoon, I floated in the Dead Sea.

In Jerusalem, I prayed at the Western Wall. I touched the spot where Jesus lay in his manger (in the Church of the Nativity), walked the stations of the cross, and touched the slab on which his crucified body was anointed at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. At Mount Zion, we visited King David’s Tomb and the Room of the Last Supper.

These are just a few of the places we visited. But were it not for Israel’s commitment to the discovery and preservation of history – and its partnership with the Vatican and numerous other religious, national organizations and institutions – this would not be possible. Many sites would still be buried.

Conclusions

At the beginning of this article I stated my belief in the importance of Israel as a key ally of the United States. Visiting the country, and interacting with its people only strengthened this belief. But I came away with a few more impressions.

By and large, the Israeli people are far more pro-American than they are portrayed in our country. This is not because they need America’s help to survive – to the contrary, they have been doing a spectacular job of this on their own, and indeed thriving.

The Israelis appreciate the alliance they have with us, for the same reasons we should reciprocate these feelings. The value in this alliance goes well beyond the obvious strategic, military rationale. Israel’s value as a partner is evident on many fronts, to include economics, science, agricultural development, and culture.

Finally, I would like to once again thank JWV for this incredible opportunity. I would also like to thank each and every one of the wonderful people in our group, for being part of the “trip of a lifetime.”

All photos courtesy of Michael Kapin.

We are planning our 2020 Mission to Israel. If you would like to receive information about this trip, contact Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org or call 202-265-6280.

Veteran Inspired By His VA Patient Experience Now Leads Volunteer Program At Detroit VA

More than 75,000 volunteers give 11 million hours a year in service to America's veterans. It is impossible to calculate the amount of caring, sharing and impact VA volunteers have on veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. For Army veteran Bill Browning, spending time inside a VA hospital as a patient put him on the path to becoming the Chief of Voluntary Service at the Detroit VA Medical Center.

Fred Piess and Bill Browning are Veterans that continue to serve through the VA Voluntary Service program.

Bill laughs and says, "This may date me, in 1987, I found myself in a VA hospital bed. I was nervous and scared, facing a diagnosis that I had no information or clue about, type 1 diabetes. A VA volunteer visited with me and offered me assistance. Something as simple as a craft kit to keep me occupied as I recovered gave me hope. I finished the craft kit and hung the final product in my office."

Demonstrating how powerful and moving one patient experience and volunteer interaction can be, Bill came to work for VA nine years after his hospital stay. Bill says, "My time spent in the military was rewarding, I never thought I'd come back to VA, but the care I received there was such a motivation and it really changed my life, saved my life."

Bill oversees more than 400 active volunteers in Detroit, including 12 Red Coat Ambassadors. "It's a unique job," states Bill, "when patients see a Red Coat, we prep that volunteer to have enough tools in their toolbox to provide answers or at least know where to find answers for our guests." According to

Bill, "Red Coats are important to deliver a standard of excellence at every VA Medical Center. You know when you see a Red Coat, you'll get the help you need."

As far as the Red Coat and volunteer mission, Bill says, "People don't usually want to come to a hospital, typically they are not feeling well, so the goal is to ensure every interaction with any volunteer is going to make them feel a little bit better."

Fred Piess is one of the Red Coat Ambassadors at Detroit VA working with Bill. Fred, an Air Force Veteran, has 32 years experience as a Michigan state social worker, with 27 of those years spent working with children and protective services. Fred is also a member and representative of the Jewish War Veterans service organization. Fred's post commander suggested he volunteer at the VA in 2016 and he's been a part of the team ever since.

With Fred's social work experience, he is a natural for the Red Coat Ambassador position. "Working with people, solving problems and getting them to the right place for whatever they need is my job," says Fred.

Earlier this week, Fred was coming out of the volunteer office near a parking structure, where he saw a veteran leaning heavy on his cane and out of breath. Fred grabbed a wheelchair and got him to where he needed to go. What makes Fred feel great about his volunteer service is, "knowing that if he had to walk he never would have made it. Those are the moments that matter."

Fred is developing a facility map of services for Veterans and staff to help them navigate the hospital and, like all other Detroit Red Coats, serves as a Patient Advocate Liaison to help with on-the-spot service recovery. Fred says, "Sometimes you listen to a person, the problem isn't so much VA, it's the understanding of the benefits, services and programs."

Why would you want to be a VA Volunteer? One of the most important benefits of volunteer-



Fred Piess and Bill Browning are Veterans who continue to serve through the VA Voluntary Service program.

ing is the opportunity to explore and fulfill your passions. For many VA volunteers, that passion is serving veterans. For others, their "why" is the chance to explore a new career field. For some, they like feeling like they are investing in an activity that is making a difference in their community.

"What brought me to VA's Voluntary Service was my experience as a VA patient and having that memory of spending my time in the hospital and a volunteer visiting me, offering help. They [volunteers] gave me hope to press forward and one day join them as a team," says Bill Browning.

To find out more visit: <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/>.

This story originally appeared on Vantage Point: Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Last year JWV members volunteered over 20,000 hours in VA hospitals throughout the country.

If you would like to become a VAVS volunteer, contact JWV VAVS Committee Chairman, Ken Ashworth at: ken.smash64@gmail.com.



Air Force Veteran and Red Coat Ambassador Fred Piess talks with visitors at the Detroit VA.

Homeless Veterans In America

Continued from page 4

Veterans spend four days living in a tent city being assisted by physicians, dentists, psychologists, clergy, counselors, and veterans court services. Additionally, they are able to obtain new clothes, job counseling, hair cuts, showers, food, housing information, VA benefit information and even the opportunity to obtain a "free ticket" back home. Last year, I befriended a homeless veteran and his teenage girls at STAND DOWN. He was a former Marine. We talked for a long time. He was part of the unit who brought down Manuel Noriega. He left the service in the 90's and has been homeless ever since. He thought he could "make it" in San Diego but had no skills beyond being an infantryman and just couldn't get it together. "Suddenly, I had no

one to tell me what to do," he said. I asked him if he wanted free plane tickets for his family so that he could go home to Kansas City. He declined. He told his parents and friends back home that he was successful and felt that he couldn't go home a failure. Sadly, his story is not unique. In fact, it is all too common.

However, distance and time change people. We mature and grow. The importance of psycho/social network cannot be overstated. The veteran has a network of high school friends and family to help guide them, provide them with a couch if necessary, and the local veterans groups would be welcoming. Familiarity and a sense of belonging is paramount. It's a win-win.

So what to do? In 2017, Jewish War Veterans of the United States passed a resolution that would require one time enlistees to be discharged at their place of entry unless they had unique circumstances that would demonstrate a need to stay in their current state. Those circumstances included being married to a working spouse, being accepted to college or trade school in the area, having a post enlistment job offer, or having a medical condition that could only be handled locally. What have we done with that resolution? To my knowledge, nothing!

Fellow veterans, talk is cheap. Let's be bold and mindful of the end game: the elimination of suicide and homelessness among our fellow veterans. And let's move forward with our resolution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

Bob Jacobs & Art Kaplan, Co-Chairmen

Co-Chairman Art Kaplan (TALO) and I are looking forward to the National Convention in Richmond. Our project of gathering the military stories of those who served during the Vietnam Era (1959-1975) has reached a major turning point. We never expected to get the stories of all who served but we did hope to get a representative sampling; and that we have done. Jerry Alperstein (NY) and a sub-committee of volunteer proofreaders have completed their work on the 65 or so stories gathered so far, and plans are moving ahead to publish them on disc for sale with profits going to the NMAJMH. The stories include people who served in most, if not all, branches as well as those who served in Vietnam and other parts of the world. We'll hear more on this from Jerry at the convention.

Wisconsin Commander Kim Queen will be making a visual presentation at the convention of a proposed Vietnam Veterans Committee Facebook page.

Our committee "Vietnam Veterans Night Out" event will actually be in the hotel this year on Wednesday, August 21st. We are looking forward to guests from both the local VVA Chapter 78 and possibly the Virginia VVA State Council President. It is best to make your reservations ahead of time. Dinner is \$45 per person (including tax & tip) or \$55 cash if paid at the convention. Contact Jerry Alperstein at 212-477-3131. If you wait until getting to the hotel to register, we cannot guarantee seating or choice of meals.

Hopefully, new information about the possible Vietnam exhibit in the NMAJMH will be available to present at the meeting. If you have any ideas for a future project for the committee, either bring it with you to Richmond or send it to me (Bob).

We are also looking into the possibility of having a phone link for the meeting so that those who cannot get to Richmond can participate in the committee meeting. The staff at National are seeing what they can do to make this happen.

See y'all in Richmond.

VAVS

Ken Ashworth, Chairman

Last fiscal year (2018), JWV's Veteran Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) hours totaled over 20,000. This represents the efforts of JWV Members throughout all 200+ JWV Posts. We volunteered at over 70 VA Care and Medical Facilities. Departments of Florida, California and TALO, (Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma) had the highest donated hours of JWV's 20+ Departments participating.

Volunteers assisted with the following tasks: working at various facilities to help keep them operating smoothly; working information desks; transporting patients to and from their vehicles; transporting veterans through the halls of the hospitals; visiting patients, running Bingo games; supporting youth summer programs; serving snacks to patients and staff; sponsoring families; serving daily popcorn snacks; and so forth.

If you are a volunteer for the VA, thank you for all that you do. If you would like to get involved,

please contact your post or your local VA Center. If you have any questions, feel free to send me an email at ken.smash64@gmail.com.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

Sheila Berg, Chairman

Women are the fastest growing demographic in the military. The VA Women's Health Services have tripled since 2000 to over 500,000 today. Outreach from the VA must be enhanced to confirm acceptance and service. Without the passage of the Deborah Sampson Act there is no continuity of treatment and service. Gaps in gender specific needs without legislative enforcement will only be lip-service.

The Deborah Sampson Act. (S. 514) is a comprehensive bill to address the needs of women veterans, from primary care, maternity care, training, readjustment, related services and appropriate staffing for the VA. This legislation addresses the issues women veterans now face, whether they are in-service and or a veteran.

Individual concerns are proper fitting flight suits, flak jackets and helmets. Women serve in positions formerly reserved for males, and there is a need for gender specific equipment and clothing. Presently, Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH), and Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), have introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure female veterans have access to prosthetic items. According to Rep. Pappas, "It is incumbent upon us to ensure that women who have answered the call to service have access to the same quality care as their male counterparts." According to Rep. Stefanik the bill "Pushes for further research into how to best develop the incredible technology to fit women's bodies."

The VA has established the Women's Veterans Call Center staffed by representatives who can answer general questions about benefits, eligibility, and services specifically for women veterans. For more information, contact the Women Veterans Call Center at (855) 829-6636.

Recently, JWV member Debra Stern was interviewed on television about her military service during WWII. Debra served as a truck driver, transporting troops, ammunition, and commanders.



You can watch Debra's interview at: <https://www.local10.com/news/florida/woman-95-remembers-what-is-what-like-to-serve-during-world-war-ii/>

STAMP PROGRAM

Michael Corbett, Chairman

As a result of my initial work on the Stamp program, we had a tremendous response and received

many stamps. But that excitement has waned in the past 3 weeks. I actually have 8 full boxes of stamps ready to go out to the VAMCs - each box weighs within an ounce or 2 of 4 pounds (with the box alone weighing almost a half pound) The approximately 3.5 pounds of stamps in each box - about 7,500 stamps; which will give a dozen veterans several hours of dexterity exercise and/or diversion from the tedium of being a patient. I also have about another 4 boxes worth of stamps to sort, trim, and fill the USPO "Priority Mail" boxes. Each box costs between \$13.50 and about \$15.00 to mail.

When people send stamps, most tear off the corner of the envelope with the stamp, and the back of the envelope remains attached - this extra paper unnecessarily contributes to the weight of the box. Some people cut the envelope in half and send the stamp half to me. I need to trim these further. As you can tell, there is some amount of work needed for this program.

As a test, I mailed letters to synagogues in 4 Florida counties and I am preparing to contact the remainder over the next 2 months. The letters consumed \$110.00 in postage and about \$30.00 in envelopes; add to that about 24 hours of hard labor in signing and stuffing them in envelopes - you get the idea! There is both a monetary cost and a manpower cost involved for all this start-up, but we expect the cost to level-off to a more reasonable amount after the first year. The Department of Florida is absorbing all these costs.

In addition to the 55 Fisher Houses I contacted, I also sent letters to 68 VA hospitals and domiciliary care facilities around the country. I introduced the program and let them know we are prepared to provide stamps over the long-haul. These letters went out in April and I've received only a single response - from New Mexico; perhaps they thought it was a "phishing" expedition. That's precisely why we need the departments and posts on top of this - to meet with Rehabilitation Therapists and "sell" the program as beneficial for their purposes; and, with Recreation Specialists to explain that this program can fill the void of a hospitalized veteran's idle time. By the end of this month I shall contact these VA facilities via e-mail and re-introduce the program and try, again to entice them to request stamps.

To summarize, everyone exclaimed their love and support of the program but they've all gone on Summer break. I'm hopeful that they are spending some of the time communicating the need with their other organizations, businesses, friends and relatives, because this is the type of program that requires persistent attention to be successful. Meanwhile, our den is full of the boxes and, bags of stamps needing to be sorted and trimmed; and, our dining room table is overflowing with the adminstrivia of the project - envelopes, address labels, packing tape for the boxes, Shabbos candles...oh, that's not part of the program!

My excitement will come when we hear from the VA facilities of their enthusiasm for the program after they consume the first box.

Please feel free to share this with everyone there because, when we get to Richmond, there will be a test.

NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.



NATIONAL PRESIDENT LINDA P. SINGER

My year as your National President has been a wonderful experience. I have been so proud to serve as your President. There are many highlights of my year that stand out in my memory and I would like to share some with you.

At the Department of New Jersey, I was taken to the distribution center for their Pajama Program. The poetry program they have for young people is inspiring. I was also taken to the Viet Nam Educational Center. These two places were outstanding for their wonderful work, but in such different ways.

On Veterans' weekend I attended part of the Warrior Weekend program at our National Museum of American Jewish Military History. It was so inspiring to see so many dedicated Cadets from around the country. The next day I visited Arlington National Cemetery where they celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI.

My visit to the Department of Florida included a luncheon in my honor with seven Past National Presidents attending. I also toured the West Palm Beach VA Hospital and was most impressed with their gigantic automated laundry that does all the laundry for the Miami VA Hospital as well as their own.

My visit to the Department of New York included a most interesting meeting and delightful luncheon along with a tour of the local Ronald McDonald House on Sunday. The next day we went to the Brooklyn

VA Medical Center for both Grant-a-Wish and Minnie Robinson presentations.

My visit to the Dallas, Texas Auxiliary was filled with interesting activities, new ideas and new people. The visits to the various U.S. Military Academies were most inspiring. I will give more details at the 2019 National Convention in Richmond, Virginia where I hope to meet most of you.

Until then, always remember that our goals are to help veterans, children and seniors have a better quality of life. Our hearts and hands help those in need.



Linda P. Singer

HOSPITAL / ADOPT-A-HOSPITAL / GRANT-A-WISH

By Chairman Natalie Blank, JrVP

Not all heroes wear capes like comic book characters. Some heroes, OUR HEROES wear or wore the uniform of the military.

Hospital

Let's support our heroes and show our concern for them as we visit them in Veterans Hospitals.

One great way to make them feel special is to remember them on their birthdays. Check with the Volunteer Office as they might have access to birthday information. Bring cake, sing "Happy Birthday" and present them with a card or a balloon. Your very presence will make them feel special.

Adopt-A-Hospital

There are many Veterans Hospitals across the U.S. that do not receive any attention and are not serviced. Some of our veterans live there. Let's not forget them just because these facilities are not close to any JWV/JWVA unit. Something as simple as canteen books could make a difference, as they enable patients to purchase items not provided by the VA. Help make this a banner year – hopefully we'll see more Auxiliaries participate in this program.

Grant-A-Wish

This very important program grants a terminally ill veteran a last gift for either him or his family. Our support of this program is paramount to the goals of our organization. We ask you to collect your pennies, donate them at Convention or mail them in so we can present this year's participant a worthy gift.

Our heroes deserve our attention, let's make our heroes lives a little brighter with visitations!

and Army Capt. Irving Tepper; from the Vietnam War: Army Capt. Morton Harold Singer.

Our Jewish heritage is composed of many heroes, some are well-known and acknowledged while others remain ignored and their stories untold. These historic accounts about Arlington Cemetery and the resting places of these heroes should be heralded and disseminated. In future issues of the *Veteran* I hope to bring more stories to light.

MEMORIALS OF JEWISH INTEREST

By Editor Iris Goldwasser, PNP

Arlington National Cemetery is located on what was once the Arlington plantation. The plantation was confiscated from its owner, Mary Ann Curtis Lee, wife of General Robert E. Lee, during the Civil War, due to unpaid taxes. Admittedly, some historians suggest this was also to punish Lee for leading Confederate forces.

The first burials took place during the midst of the Civil War in 1864. Among them were ten Jewish soldiers, all of whom fought for the Union. Today, more than 5,400 Jews are among the over 300,000 buried in Arlington.

In 1898, the USS *Maine* was sent to Cuba to protect U.S. interests. However, there was an explosion and the ship sank in Havana harbor, killing most of the men aboard, including 15 Jewish sailors. This incident triggered a war between the U.S. and Spain. It is estimated that 5,000 Jews served in the Spanish-American War. A memorial was erected in 1915 in memory of the USS *Maine* at Arlington Cemetery. After the Spanish-American War in 1898, Congress designated part of Section 16 for Confederate soldiers. Sergeant Moses Ezekiel, son of a prominent Sephardic Jewish family from Virginia, was selected to design a Confederate Memorial, and went on to become one of the world's most prominent sculptors. President Woodrow Wilson dedicated this Ezekiel Memorial in 1914. Moses Ezekiel, the only known Jewish Confederate in Arlington, is buried next to the memorial he designed.

The Space Shuttle *Columbia* disintegrated

upon re-entry into Earth's atmosphere on February 2, 2003, killing all seven astronauts aboard. A monument commemorating the *Columbia* was dedicated the following year on February 2. The Star of David on the memorial represents Israeli Air Force Colonel Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut. Ramon was the son and grandson of Auschwitz survivors and veterans of the 1948 Israeli War of Independence. He brought symbolic Jewish items into space with him, including a mezuzah made of barbed wire and a mini Torah scroll from a Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, among others.

Dedicated on October 24, 2011 the Jewish Chaplains Memorial honors the fourteen Jewish Chaplains killed in the line duty. Instrumental to the erection of this monument was Kenneth Kraetzer, a member of the Sons of the American Legion, who visited Arlington and noticed monuments commemorating Catholic and Protestants Chaplains but nothing for Jewish Chaplains. Together with Sol Mogleu and Admiral Harold Robinson and spearheaded by the Jewish Chaplains Council of the Jewish Welfare Board and the Jewish Federation, a monument to the fallen Jewish Chaplains was finally dedicated. On the face of this memorial are the fourteen names of the Chaplains along with the insignia of Jewish Chaplains – the Ten Commandments topped by a Star of David and flanking the insignia are two rampart lions which evoke the blessing of Judah by the Patriarch Jacob. Among the fourteen are three from WWII: Army Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Army 1st Lt. Louis Werfel

SPECIAL MUSEUM OFFER ENDS SOON!

From now until our National Convention in August, the NMAJMH is offering a huge discount to honor your Hero on the "Our Heroes" photo display in the museum.

The cost of honoring your Hero is only \$100, a savings of \$80 off the regular price of \$180! The clock is ticking so DO IT NOW!

Send your payment of \$100, along with a 4"x6" color or black + white photograph of your Hero, your Hero's name, branch of service, and years of service to:

Mike Rugel
NMAJMH
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

This offer ends on the last day of the Convention – HURRY!

HEARTS AND HANDS HELP THOSE IN NEED

JWVA
National President's Banquet
 honoring
National President
Linda P. Singer

Tuesday, August 20
 6:00pm Reception • 7:00pm Dinner

There will be great food and wonderful entertainment! Everyone is welcome!

You will have a FESTIVE evening!

\$45 per person



Rita Panitz Memorial
Teddy Bear Program

**Bears here, bears there,
 big ones, small ones!**

Bears bring big smiles and happy faces!

Think of all the smiles on the faces of the children as they cuddle one of the bears you have donated. Now is the time to start collecting bears. Every bear can be a friend to a child in need. Let's make it our number one priority to bring happiness to the children who are our future.

On Monday, August 19th, we have made arrangements to donate the bears to the Fire Department, Police Department, Children's Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House. Think of the thanks we will receive when the residents in the Richmond area notice the label attached to each bear that reads, "National Ladies Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans."

Let's aim high! Bring or mail your bears to convention. We hope that each Auxiliary will send one, that every sister will bring one. Please ask your Posts to help with this wonderful program.

If you would like to make a donation for the Bear Program, send your check to Elaine Bernstein, PNP, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872.

Let's make this the
BEST Bear Convention ever!

DOUBLE CHAI CLUB
Join Us For Breakfast!
Wednesday, August 21

The **Double Chai Club** has a special meaning for all of us. We rededicate ourselves annually to our purpose -- service to the veteran and his/her family.

Join us at an outstanding breakfast!

Become a member of
 our "**Double Chai Circle.**"

This breakfast is open to everyone.
We look forward to seeing you there!



\$36 per person



Come Join Us In Richmond, Virginia!

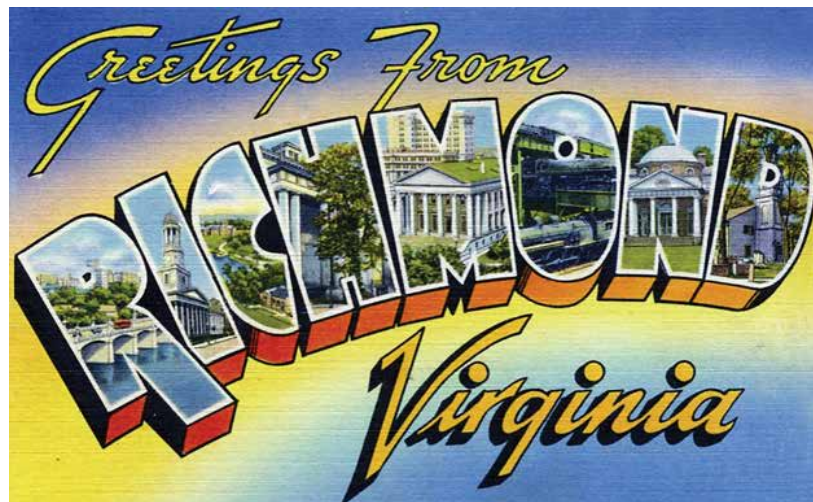
91st Annual National Convention • August 18 - 23, 2019

Come one! Come All! Join us in Richmond, the capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia and soak up some of this beautiful city's history, as well as its modern-day riches.

Today Richmond is an exciting city with a vast variety of attractions and activities for visitors. Take a leisurely stroll along the Canal Walk along the James River to view the historic statues. Enjoy some of its delicious cuisine in one of the many interesting restaurants.

Visit the home of Edgar Allan Poe or the National Historic Landmark District of Monument Avenue. Nature lovers should take a trip to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden on the North side of Richmond. Visit the Virginia Holocaust Museum, founded to educate the community about the Holocaust.

The Omni Richmond Hotel is a perfect place to stay while you experience Richmond. It is centrally located with easy access to area attractions.



There are numerous local restaurants with a variety of cuisines, sure to offer something to every taste.

We look forward to getting together once again to find ways of increasing our membership, exchanging ideas on how to keep our National Ladies Auxiliary active on behalf of our veterans, current military, children and seniors.

Let's do it again! Our Pounds Auction at the last convention was surely something to talk about! Everyone had such a great time, we are going to do it again. Please bring a pound of anything, and put it in a brown lunch bag. If you don't have a brown bag, we'll have extras.

Start looking now! Examples are candy, erasers, popcorn, etc.. Use your imagination. As long as it weighs a pound. You won't know what you are bidding on. Follow the clues of the Auctioneer.

See Joanne Blum or call her at 860-869-2982, and give her your item for the Auction.



Admission is \$2 • Snacks will be served
It will be an evening of fun and laughter!

Partners Club

Please join us at the Convention on Monday, August 19th at 5:00 pm for a wine & cheese get-together.

The purpose of this program is to help our administration function. The funds collected help keep our Washington office operating. Remember, anyone can be a partner member. If you know people who would like to support our cause, please ask them to join.

The cost is \$50.00 to join, and \$25.00 to renew every year after the first year. I hope all the members who originally joined will renew and continue to help our National Ladies Auxiliary.

Please make your checks payable to JWVA and send to the office and earmark Partners.

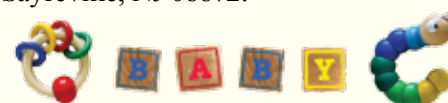


Rhea Sahl
Memorial Baby Shower
For Pregnant Military Women

We're holding a baby shower for our pregnant military women during our National Convention in Richmond, Virginia on Monday, August 19. It is one way that we can say "Thank You" to these women for serving our country.

We would like to fill baskets for each pregnant mom-to-be with items needed for a new born, such as: diapers, bath towels, wash cloths, bibs, onesies, bottles, baby lotion, pacifiers, burp cloths, crib sheets, receiving blankets, night clothes, etc. Each basket averages at least \$100.00 and we plan on presenting 12. If you would like to purchase these items yourself you may do so.

If you would like to make a donation for the baby shower, send your check to PNP Elaine Bernstein to purchase any items for the Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower Program. Make your checks payable to: Elaine Bernstein, PNP, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872.



You can send your items and donations for the Baby Shower and/or the Teddy Bear Program directly to the hotel, between August 13 and August 15. Address packages to: Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 S 12th St, Richmond, VA 23219. Attention: Elaine Bernstein, PNP, Convention Chairman JWVA.

HEARTS AND HANDS HELP THOSE IN NEED

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

We continue to bring speakers and programs to the Museum on weeknights or weekends. In addition to the chance to have excellent programs, it also allows visitors to see the Museum who can't make it to here during our regular hours. The spring months had several well attended programs.

On May 14th, Roy Eichhorn joined us for a talk on the Ghost Army. The WWII group of over 1,000 soldiers ran deceptive practices for the Army in Europe. Eichhorn shared the remarkable stories of how these men fooled the German with inflatable tanks and airplanes, audio tricks and false radio transmissions, camouflage and special effects and even the occasional job pretending a few drinks had loosened lips enough to leak out some strategic false information in a local bar. At war's end,



Inflatable tanks used by the Ghost Army to deceive Germans.
Courtesy of Roy Eichhorn.

a lesser known responsibility of the Ghost Army was taking care of Holocaust survivors and others in displaced persons camps where language skills played an important role.

For decades, the work of the Ghost Army was classified. As a result, it's only been in recent years that these soldiers have begun receiving credit for their work. The Ghost Army Legacy Foundation is now working to achieve larger recognition. A documentary film was produced for PBS in 2015. Today, the foundation is campaigning to award them a Congressional Gold Medal.

A large number of the surviving Ghost Army vets are Jewish. They include men like Seymour Nussenbaum, Gil Seltzer, and Bernie Blustein. Nussenbaum's WWII scrapbooks have become a tremendous source for Ghost Army historians like Eichhorn. Special thanks to Marty Ganderson for

his work interviewing Nussenbaum and connecting us to Roy Eichhorn.

June 1st and 2nd was the Annual Dupont-Kalorama Museum Walk Weekend. This is always one of our busiest times of the year. We participate in Walk Weekend with four other museums in the neighborhood: Anderson House-The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, Dumbarton House, The Phillips Collection and The President Woodrow Wilson House. We opened the day of June 1st with a Shabbat service led by Shel West of Washington Hebrew Congregation. Walk Weekend

brings a wide variety of visitors who might not come through our doors otherwise. It's a pleasure to tell our stories to these new visitors. Our docent and historian Sheldon Goldberg helped provide information and share history with the crowds. On Sunday, COL Richard Kurtz spent time in the Museum meeting visitors and signing his book *Then a Soldier*, a memoir of

his Vietnam experiences. It's great to be a part of our neighborhood community and participate in events like this.

On June 12th, we welcomed historian Pamela Nadell to the museum for a talk on her new book *America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today*. Rather than give her standard book talk, Nadell focused on Jewish women in wartime and in the military to provide a talk unique to our Museum. The wartime stories were connected to the book's larger theme of showing how Jewish women maintained a specific Jewish identity while contributing to virtually every aspect of American history.

She shared fascinating stories of women who were there for the Revolutionary cause like Grace Nathan. We often discuss Union officer Colonel Marcus Spiegel as a key Jewish figure in the Civil War. Nadell discussed his wife Caroline and her



Pamela Nadell discusses her new book, *America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial times to Today*.

role as a military wife separated from her husband for years. The Civil War also brought Confederate women aiding the cause of their section. Eugenia Phillips Levy was arrested twice as a spy. At the same time, her sister Phoebe Yates Levy Pember was matron at Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond. It was World War II that recast American women as foot soldiers on the home front and Jewish women were no exception. They worked both in the war



Phoebe Pember was chief matron of Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond during the Civil War.

industry and as WACs, WAVEs, and nurses in the armed forces. Of course, the tradition continues, and it was nice to have young women currently in service in the audience.

Remember, we rely on our supporters to get the word out about the museum. Tell your friends and family to visit when they're in D.C. Please encourage them to become members and follow the museum on social media and visit the website. Our growth depends on you, spread the word!

Erasing the Hate

Tuesday, August 6th

TM Garret was once a part of the White Supremacist movement. Now, he's a civil rights activist. Garret will join us to discuss his journey from hate to compassion and how to combat extremism in today's environment.



Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie tours the museum on June 14th. Wilkie is the first sitting VA secretary to visit the museum.

By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

Washington Conservative Guild Angels visit the Museum

While we have a big name, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History has a very small staff and limited resources. The Museum has a fantastic collection covering Jewish service in the American military from the Revolutionary War to the present and caring for all that history is a big task. We are fortunate to occasionally receive help

from the museum community, and recently the NMAJMH hosted a large group of volunteers from around the DC area for an Angels Project.

Angels Projects pair conservators with collections that need care, be it general care or a special project. A group of conservators typically volunteer a day of their time to work with a site's staff to

provide basic care and rehousing for specific collections. We are very grateful to the Washington Conservation Guild for choosing the NMAJMH as the site for their 2019 Angels Project. The help that their volunteers provided was invaluable and very much appreciated.

By Ashley Jehle, WCG Angels Project Coordinator

On April 14th, volunteers led by the Washington Conservation Guild (WCG) gathered at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History for a day of collaborative work (and fun) in collections storage. WCG volunteer leaders worked with Pamela Elbe, the museum's collections, archives and exhibitions coordinator, to identify areas with preservation needs and tasks that could be completed within the scope of an outreach grant. WCG is a nonprofit organization



Volunteers sew ties in place on the Tyvek rack cover

of art conservation professionals dedicated to preserving art and historic materials in the DC area. Through the generous support of the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, WCG was awarded a Regional Angels Grant to complete basic collections care, conservation consultation, and simple preventive conservation activities such as re-housing collections at a site with minimal conservation facilities.

With Pam's guidance, the WCG Angels Project focused on military uniform storage, historic newsletters, and recent acquisitions. Conservators from all experience levels and specialties, along with other museum professionals and collections enthusiasts, worked together across five different stations. One group made padded hangers to support garments hanging on racks, while another group used tissue paper to pad out uniforms stored flat in drawers. These measures help support the textile garments and accessories and prevent creasing and distortion over time. Another very handy group constructed two

large Tyvek covers to protect uniforms hanging on open racks from dust and debris. Downstairs, another group worked to rehouse *The Jewish War Veteran* newspapers from the 1950s. These unique editions, which have not yet been digitized, are now better housed for storage and safe handling. After completing that job, volunteers moved on to help process recent acquisitions by recording the contents of scrapbooks and other photograph and document collections.

Many of the materials rehoused are of particular historical value to the institution. For example, several of the uniforms and associated artifacts in storage belonged to Sgt. William Shemin, who served in World War I and was known to have repeatedly risked his life to save wounded comrades. He also became the leader of his platoon in France when his senior commanders lost their lives. According to his daughter, his heroism was not recognized during his time of service because of his religion, and new legislation allowed the case to be reviewed. Shemin posthumously received the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award for valor, in 2015 from President Obama. The preservation of artifacts such as these in NMAJMH's collection is crucial to the long-term ability of the museum to continue to exhibit these important objects and share the stories of their significance with visitors.

Thank you to the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation for their generous support of this project, as well as University Products for their assistance with supplies. For more information about conservation, please visit WashingtonConservationGuild.org and CulturalHeritage.org.



Measurements are taken of a rack of uniforms in order to construct a protective Tyvek cover.



Volunteers work to rehouse editions of *The Jewish War Veteran* from the 1950s.



Washington Conservation Guild Angels Project volunteers.

Burial and Memorial Service held for Homeless Veteran

By Ben Kane

On August 19th, a Jewish war veteran named Neil Schaffer passed away in a Los Angeles hotel room. He had no known family, only a few friends, no job, and no home to call his own. In March of this year, the JWV was made aware of his passing, and sought to recognize him in a manner that befit a member of the tribe. JWV-CA Chaplain Dov Cohen and Department Commander Greg Lee led the efforts to memorialize Mr. Schaffer.

Chaplain Dov Cohen is the National Cemetery Foundation President, as well as the JWV National Chairman of the “End Homelessness Now” program. He helped put together several memorial programs in Mr. Schaffer’s memory—one at the Los Angeles City Hall, one at the Los Angeles National Cemetery, and ensured that he was honored at the Annual Gala at the Reagan Presidential Library. Mr. Schaffer’s memorial



From left: California JWV State Commander Greg Lee, Cantor Kimberly Haynes, and Chaplain DOV Cohen at the memorial service for Neil Schaffer, which took place Sunday, March 31, at the Los Angeles National Cemetery.

service at the National Cemetery was the first to be conducted in the remodeled Bob Hope Chapel and served as the start of a new program with the

goal of memorializing deceased homeless veterans. The National Cemetery is currently working to provide military funerals to deceased veterans providing buglers, flag folding ceremonies, and all the other crucial parts of the military funeral before laying them to rest in a recently constructed columbarium.

The JWV department of California is very active in the fight against veteran homelessness. Posts in the area are working for the sake of veterans with groups like the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, VFW, and more. From job and benefits assistance to working behind the scenes on pro-veteran legislation, these partnerships help ensure that veterans of all faiths have a higher chance of getting the recognition, respect, and assistance they deserve. The JWV is honored to do its part in serving the American Jewish veteran community, throughout their years of service and afterwards.



Members of the Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 and Ladies Auxiliary, ably assisted by several Cub Scouts and a team of volunteers from Congregation Ner Tamid in nearby Lewisville, Texas — who discovered the event through the Post’s Facebook page — decorated the graves of Jewish veterans with American flags at several Dallas-area cemeteries in preparation for the coming Memorial Day weekend. The group’s traditional first stop was Shearith Israel Memorial Park, the city’s oldest Jewish burial ground, for a brief ceremonial reading by Post commander Steve Krant, followed by the playing of Taps by NEC Jerry Benjamin. Linda Singer, National president of the Ladies Auxiliary, was visiting the Post and had the honor of placing the first flag. Photo by Jule Bovis, former U.S. Navy Photojournalist.

Did you know?

- At no charge, an eligible veteran is entitled to Military Funeral Honors which includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps. Generally, the family tells the funeral director who will put in this request.
- If you meet eligibility requirements, you can be buried or inurned in a VA National Cemetery. The VA will furnish the headstone and grave liner and the cemetery is maintained at no cost to the family. However, you may not reserve a space in the cemetery ahead of time, there is no guarantee that a family member will be in-terred nearby, and ceremonies are not conducted on weekends.
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. The Certificate is provided to your family upon request from your local VA office.

For more information about veteran funeral arrangements, download our “**Planning Your Veteran Funeral**” at: <https://www.jwv.org/programs/serving-veterans-military/burialandflaggingservices/>

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Dittman, Morris - Post 100
Hyre, David F. - Post 100
Zitren, Abraham – Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Miller, Herman - Post 21
Seidman, Philip - Post 21

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Epstein, David - Post 385
Finer, Allen - Post 688
Fradkin, Arthur - Post 603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Glooskin, Ebner – Post 45
Kessler, Stanley M. - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Arbus, Samuel - Post 321
Heller, Norman I. - Post 639
Hirsch, Murray - Post 265
Zundell, Warren - Post 243

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Fishman, Marvin H. - Post 153
Podber, Seymour M. - Post 800
Stoller, Irving - Post 328

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Goldenberg, Thomas - Post 644
Goldford, Marvin E. - Post 644
Seltzer, Harry - Post 644

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Baum, Alfred - Post 74
Bertman, George - Post 161
Heller, George - Post 220
Sacks, Irving - Post 220
Weiner, E. Donald - Post 74

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Manchel, Frank - Post 474
Mogill, Melvin - Post 510
Silver, Ira G. - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Katzovitz, Leon A. - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Barnett, Larry - Post 609
Blechman, Stanley S. - Post 609
Bogart, Alvin S. - Post 695
Diener, Conrad - Post 609
Curzman, Stanley - Post 126
Finkelstein, Paula - Post 126

Glassman, Martin - Post 126
Goldstein, Marvin - Post 125
Herer, Carleton - Post 740
Josephs, David H. - Post 601
Klang, Selma J. - Post 125
Milstein, David - Post 609
Olinsky, Leonard - Post 126
Pomp, Philip - Post 63
Ritter, Alfred - Post 126
Schindler, Walter - Post 125
Schwartz, Rudolph - Post 126
Walter, Howard - Post 125

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Boltson, Howard L. - Post 488
Eck, Perry - Post 41
Hilu, Nathan - Post 1
Hoffman, Bertram C. - Post 25
Katz, Ascher - Post 191
Kirschenbaum, Joel - Post 2
Shapiro, Morris - Post 41
Smith, Paul E. - Post 1
Zak, Jon - Post 3

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Feist, Robert K. - Post 587
Frankel, Bernard - Post 44

Hosansky, Norman - Post 122
Schloss, William - Post 44

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Bruskin, Sidney - Post 697
Cohen, Harry - Post 98
Goldstein, Bennett - Post 98
Kitchman, Albert - Post 706
Lehrfeld, Arthur - Post 98
Malamut, Stanley - Post 98
Shear, Clinton S. - Post 98
Weinstein, Allen L. - Post 98

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Freedman, Milton H. - Post 112

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Berman, Harold B. - Post 256
Bobkoff, Kenneth B. - Post 755
Dunks, Albert - Post 256
Garment, Alan L. - Post 256
Leviton, Albert - Post 256
Lieber, Ronald C. - Post 574
Renberg, Kenneth - Post 618
Silver, B. Harry - Post 256



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July 4th • Happy Birthday, America!



Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

PNC Lou & PDP Gloria Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

SFC Lillian Aronson, USA (Ret)
I'm grateful for reaching 101 years!

Chag Sameach
Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ

PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw
Eugene Baraw

Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
USF Austria/USASETAF Italy

Post 202 • Naples, Florida
Warm Greetings to All JWV Members

PA PDC 697 Stan Bilker
In memory of my wife, PDP Adele

PNC Jerry & PNP Joanne Blum
Good Health & Happiness to All

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

PDC Jordan Crosby • Post 440
In memory of PDP Edith Crosby

PDC Elliott & PAP Elissa Donn
Best Wishes & Good Health to All

Diane & Marshall Duberstein
Greetings • Gerald Elkan

Greetings from Post 409- Clearwater, FL!
Co-cmdrs Murray Zolkower / Stan Sarbarsky

In Memory of Lorraine Engelmann
Loving wife, mother, grandmother

Greetings! Jerry Farris, PDC-PA
PA PDC 98 Donald Feldman
In Memory of my wife, Edith

In Memory of Carol C. Frank
In Memory of Fred Hiendrick

Jim Friedlander, PC • Post 99-ME
In memory of Mel Stone, Late QM/PPC

In Honor of all who have served!

In Memory of Lt. Jack S. Gardner
U.S. Marine Corps, 1952-54

Good Health & Happiness to All!

In Memory of my Father
Samuel Goldberg

Sidney B. Goldberg, PDC • Post 50
Abe Cohen - Lehman Memorial

PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg

In Honor of PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg
In Memory of Leo & Anita Gilbert

PNC Edwin & PNP Iris Goldwasser
Honoring Veterans

Alan J. Gould Post 105
In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.

PNC Sam & PNP Barbara Greenberg
Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69
National Adjutant • 2016-2019

PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz
Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Saluting the Veterans of Heritage Hills
Mazel Tov!

Jack Kent (Kantrovitz)
In Memory of wife Marilyn Shapiro Kent

Kalman (Kal) A. Leichtman
A WWII Proud Jewish American

MA PDC Stanley R. Light
In memory of Shirley Hersh, PPC Post 26

PNP Petra & PDC Jason Kaatz
Good Health & Happy Holidays!

In Memory of Morty Kessler
Bell-Oak Post 648, Queens-NY

Mazel Tov, NC Barry Schneider!
Eva Mangeim, WWII
Walkie Talkie Quality Control Inspector

Best Commander - George Marshal
Post 211, Newton-MA

PNC Sheldon Ohren
L'Chaim - To Life

Post 712-OH In memory of Michael Rubin

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays

Stephen & Helen Sax
Live long and prosper

In Loving Memory of
Eleanor (Smith) & PNC Al Schlossberg

Harriet & Norman Schnitzer, PDC
In Memory of Ralph Leon Shear
Lubert/Shear Families - All 22 of us!

Irv Schildkraut • JWV Post 440
Proud Vet of USMC, USN, USA

NC Barry J. Schneider
Best Wishes to all JWV & JWVA members

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

Good Health & Best Wishes to all Veterans and their Families

NP Linda Singer & Stuart Singer
In loving memory of PDC Bill Singer

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY

CH Murray Stadtmauer • Post 648
In loving memory of Clare Stadtmauer

Shalom & Mazel Tov to all Veterans
Greta & Jerry Stoliar • Post 346

The Tarnofsky Family
In memory of Len Klanit - Post 440

Norma & PNC Paul Warner, Ph.D.
Health & Happiness to All

NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner
Be Well!

In Memory of Philip & Jolia Weinstein

Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute
www.msawi.org

Jeri Zweiman
In loving memory of PNC Robert Zweiman

David S. Zwerin, PDC
Post 652 • Merrick, NY

Any Jewish WWII person captured, sent to Auschwitz, etc., and survived

Send a greeting or message to family and friends in the next issue of **The Jewish Veteran!**

Name: _____

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(no more than 30 characters per line)

Only \$30.00 per 1 line, or \$50.00 for 2 lines, you can purchase a one year subscription which includes greetings for 4 issues! Names and greetings can be submitted anytime. Please fill out the form and send it along with your payment to:

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