

The Jewish Veteran

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

Congratulations to incoming JWV & JWVA Officers





Harvey Weiner

National President Sandra Cantor

Book Review:
Soviet Jews in World
War II: Fighting,
Witnessing,
Remembering
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Luxembourg Honors Jewish American GI on 75th Anniversary of his Death

By Deborah Josefson

A monument and square named after a Jewish American soldier lies in the town of Petange at the southwest border of the tiny country of Luxembourg, where France and Belgium meet. This soldier was my great-uncle, 2nd Lt. Hyman Josefson. He was the first American soldier to die for the liberation of Luxembourg. For 45 years he was the quintessential Unknown Soldier, but for the people of Luxembourg, he represented the ultimate sacrifice of American GIs.

The people of Luxembourg commemorate their liberation from the Nazis and the sacrifice of Josefson and other American GI's each year. Every five years, the celebrations include visits from the country's Grand Duke, the U.S. Ambassador, and other dignitaries. As they did this September 9, the officials visit Hyman Josefson Square to lay wreaths in honor of the American troops. The liberation festivities continue with a week of pro-American parades, displays of vintage World War II military vehicles, American-style barbeques and



Procession to Hyman Josefson Square led by Duke Henri (front center) flanked by dignitaries including Petange Mayor Pierre Molina and U.S. Ambassador J. Randolph Evans.

Rockabilly music festivals.

Josefson was a first generation American and one of 550,000 GI Jews. These Jewish American men felt their service in World War II was both an act of patriotism and a fight against Hitler for the survival of their brethren.

An accomplished lawyer and engineer, Josefson was already 32 when he voluntarily enlisted just six weeks after Pearl Harbor.

Josefson was born in South

Fallsburg, New York in 1909 to Harry and Lena Josefson of Iasi, Romania. He entered Cornell University at age 15 on an academic scholarship with a perfect score on the state scholarship exam. After graduating in 1929 with a civil engineering degree, Josefson stayed at Cornell for another two years to receive his law degree.

As a young lawyer, he argued before the New York State Supreme Court

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A Ride to Remember

By Cara Rinkoff

JWV Member Allan Silverberg biked 60 miles in just one day to honor the memory of those who died in the Holocaust. The 75-year-old Silverberg took part in the 5th annual Ride for the Living in Poland on June 28, which is sponsored by the Jewish Community



Center (JCC) in Krakow. A total of 250 cyclists rode their bikes from Auschwitz to the Krakow JCC.

"We started in the morning and then finished in the evening, and that evening was also very eventful. They had about 700 people at a Shabbat dinner," Silverberg said. According to the Krakow JCC, each year the dinner serves as the largest gathering of Jews on Shabbat in the city since before World War II.

Silverberg found out about the ride from the JCC director, whom he

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D'vrei HaShomrim

This article is being written during the month of Elul, the month that precedes Rosh Hashanah. Each morning in Elul, at the conclusion of the weekday service, the Shofar is sounded. It is the view of the Rambam, the great rabbinic sage, that the blast of the Shofar serves us as a wake-up call, reminding us that Rosh Hashanah, also known in the Torah as the Day of Judgement, is just around the corner. This is a time that reaches out to us, calling for self-scrutiny and introspection in preparation for what is coming. Just as a marathoner does not run an event without warming up and stretching, Elul is the time given to us for a spiritual warm-up.

Those of us who have served in the armed forces are well acquainted with the difficulties and challenges that came with that service. A key for dealing with both routine and extraordinary crises is the quality of our resilience and our ability to cope and rebound. Those who take their religious faith seriously are endowed with "Spiritual Resilience." As a Vietnam veteran, my Jewish faith helped me cope and overcome the often traumatic episodes I encountered in combat as well as in daily life.

The process of developing spiritual resilience goes hand in hand with introspection and self-scrutiny. The military provides us with a model in the form of tactics in the short-term and strategy for the long-term. The process consists of asking ourselves a few challenging questions such as: where am I now on life's continuum, where do I want to be, and how do I plan to get there. This process must be undertaken in small and thoughtful bites. If my ultimate goal is too ambitious, it will only lead to frustration; if not ambitious enough, it will lead to complacency. This undertaking fits into another theme of the month of Elul, that of Teshuva or repentance. Teshuva is a four step process: iden-



Rabbi Sandy Dresin, Chaplain (COL) USA, Ret Director of Military Programs, The Aleph Institute

tifying inappropriate behavior, regretting it, abandoning it, and then requesting forgiveness from The Almighty.

Elul is the month that comes with the opportunity to seek out and identify the special and unique role for which we were created. As the Talmud Sanhedrin teaches, every person must recognize that 'the world was created for me, not to exploit it - but rather to provide the opportunity to make a contribution to the betterment of society and the human condition. Should we fail, the world will be bereft of that unique offering only we are capable of contributing.

May you and all those you hold dear be inscribed for the coming year in The Book of Life for a happy, healthy, prosperous, and meaningful New Year.

THE JEWISH VETERAN

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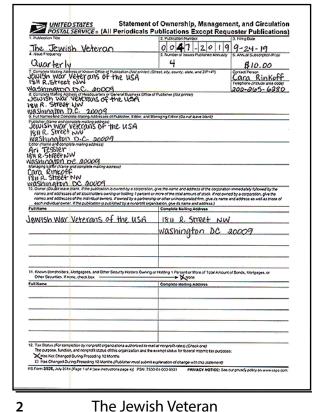


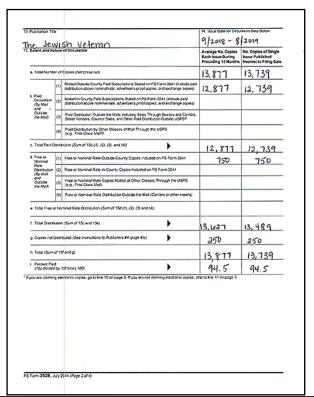
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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Harvey Weiner

Each new National Commander usually has a vision of what he or she wants to accomplish during their one year in that position. The JWV is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) organization, which is governed by statute and by its constitution and bylaws. It is a chartered corporation. It is not a military unit where whatever the Commander says or does is law and must be followed. Within its legal framework, JWV National is run by the National Executive Committee, a Coordinating Committee, and its Executive Director, but the National Commander is the leader and the face of the organization.

I have at least two visions for my role in the next year. The first is publicizing the JWV to the greater American community and the second is enhancing unity within the JWV.

It is my intent to attend as many outside events as possible to counter the false belief that Jewish-Americans do not serve in the armed forces. I am a combat veteran. I expressed my personal reasons for this vision in detail during my installation speech in Richmond.

In recent months I attended multiple events in Massachusetts, including the commissioning of the USS Thomas Hudner, a reception on the USS Ramage, a reception on the USS Jason Dunham, the July Fourth turnaround of the USS Constitution, and the groundbreaking ceremony of the Fall River Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. In May, I organized and led a veterans group discussion at my Harvard college reunion.

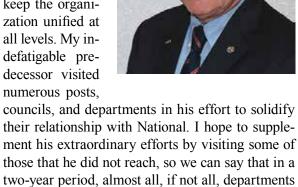
In a magazine article written in the 1890s, Mark Twain said that American Jews do not serve their country in the armed forces. He was wrong. Jewish-Americans have served in all of America's wars. Through the Vietnam War, they served in numbers greater than their proportion in the general population.

I also hope to increase unity within the JWV. The old joke is two Jews, three synagogues. Within the JWV, the joke might be two Jewish veterans, three JWV posts. In my years as National Judge Advocate, I have seen some unnecessary divisions within the JWV and it is my goal to help heal that.

When I first became active within my department, there were intense verbal battles, which detracted from achieving our goals. This drove some members out of the JWV and on more than one occasion I said to myself "what do I need this for?" Nevertheless, I persisted.

Before becoming president of my temple more than two decades ago, I went to a seminar for incoming temple presidents. We were taught that the most important objective of a temple president is to preserve the congregation by not splitting it. Even if you know what you want to do is right, if its effect is to split the congregation, don't do it, unless what you want is absolutely necessary, as opposed to being merely desirable. In my two-year term as temple president, I jettisoned at least one proposed change because its benefit was outweighed by its effect on maintaining the unity of the congregation. It is my goal as National Commander to keep the organi-

cated to the echelons below.



I look forward to my tenure as National Commander and hope that my visions will come to pass.

and posts were visited by a National Commander.

National does so much and I want this communi-

Information on scholarships for high school seniors and veterans from the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. Foundation is now available on our website, www.jwvusafoundation.org

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.

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!

ON THE HILL

Members at the 2019 annual National Convention passed an array of resolutions focused on veterans' issues. The topics included dental care for veterans, expedited TSA screening, housing grants for disabled veterans, monitoring of for-profit colleges, suicide prevention, and veterans courts. Members at the convention passed a total of 20 resolutions.

The dental care resolution calls on Congress to support and pass H.R. 96, which requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service. The JWV resolution states that, "without good oral health the condition of other parts of the body will deteriorate."

Another JWV resolution supports expedited airport screening for disabled veterans. It calls on Congress to enact S.1881 and H.R. 3356. The Senate bill has three co-sponsors and the House bill has 34 co-sponsors, so there is still a long way to go.

JWV is now on record supporting the Ryan Kules Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019. Congressman Gus Bilirakis of Florida introduced H.R. 3504. It is named for Ryan Kules, a double amputee who had to pay out pocket for adaptive renovations he needed.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that 50 colleges received 30% of the post-

9/11 benefits. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, more than 1,000 for-profit college campuses closed between 2014 and 2018. When these schools close, it often happens without warning, and student veterans lose money and credits. JWV calls on Congress and the Departments of Education and Veterans Affairs to strictly monitor for-profit colleges.

Suicide continues to plague the veteran community. Approximately 20 veterans commit suicide every day. That number has held steady for some time. There continues to be a need for more mental health professionals to become directly involved in identifying at-risk veterans. Federal funding has increased significantly in the past 10 years, and there is a growing awareness when it comes to the rate of suicides among veterans. Some states decided that with an increase in federal funding they can save resources by cutting funding for state suicide prevention programs. JWV calls upon the states to continue to fully fund both suicide prevention projects and research into the cause of self-destructive behaviors. JWV asks its members to contact their local representatives to demand that state suicide prevention funds remain intact.

Another important state program is Veterans Treatment Courts. These courts need adequate

funding, as the costs to properly fund them can be a considerable drain. These courts significantly decrease recidivism rates among veterans wherever they have been established. JWV calls upon its members to communicate



COL Herb Rosenbleeth, USA (Ret) National Executive Director

with their state representatives and ensure veterans courts are maintained where they currently exist.

As we go to press, the "Widow's Tax," or the Survivor Benefit Plan - Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset has not become law. Failure to enact this legislation costs more than 65,000 surviving military spouses and their families about \$12,000 a year in much-deserved benefits. JWV strongly favors repeal of the SBP-DIC offset.

The key to having our resolutions accomplished is for our members to contact their Senators and Representatives. These and other resolutions passed at National Convention can be found on the JWV website.

Congressional Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Helping Homeless Veterans

By Larry Jasper

The U.S. House of Representatives Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunities held a field hearing in New Port Richey, Florida, on September 16. The hearing on combating homelessness in the Tampa Bay area focused on the best practices utilized throughout Tampa Bay and identifying gaps where more targeted intervention is needed.

The panel consisted of Chairman Mike Levin, D-CA, Ranking Member Gus Bilirakis, R-FL, and Rep. Vincent Spano, R-FL. The committee's ten other members were not present.

Those who were called to testify included Joe Battle, Director of the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, Danny Burgess, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, David Lambert, Chairman of the Pasco County, Florida Housing Authority, Michael Raposa, CEO of St. Vincent DePaul CARES, Brian Anderson, Founder and CEO of Veterans Alternative, and Mary White, a former homeless veteran and single parent.

White spoke courageously about her life as a homeless veteran and single parent to an infant. She outlined the long process of getting aid, her difficulties with affordable childcare, and a lack of public transportation. After several years of taking advantage of support available to homeless veterans, White is now finishing her master's degree and is on her way to supporting herself.

Some of the key points made during the hearing:

• A non-veteran can get temporary housing for all members of their family, but the VA will pay for temporary housing only for the veteran, not his or her family.

 The Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which combines Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the VA has helped reduce the homeless veteran population in the Tampa Bay area

by about 70%. Since 2011, homelessness among veterans in Florida has been cut in half.

- There is no federal standard or method for accurately counting homeless veterans.
- To get a veteran into housing under the HUD-VASH program takes approximately three months. In most areas, there is no temporary housing available while a homeless veteran waits for approval.
- In many areas apartment owners will not rent to someone using HUD-VASH vouchers because the program does not keep up with fluctuating housing prices. Also, HUD-VASH does not provide for move-in costs.
- There are no transitional programs for incarcerated veterans.
- St. Vincent DePaul CARES has tried to purchase housing for homeless veterans but no bank is willing to provide loans, even though HUD-VASH vouchers will cover the payments. The



On the dais, center, Rep. Levin, to his left, Rep. Bilirakis. In chairs, from left, Ms. White, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Raposa, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Burgess, and Mr. Battle.

organization asked the subcommittee to work out a loan guarantee for such housing, similar to the VA home loan guarantees.

The subcommittee also discussed the June 6, 2019 launch of the new Veterans Community Care Program. This will strengthen the nationwide VA Health Care System by empowering veterans with more health care options.

After the formal hearing I had an opportunity to speak with both Bilirakis and his Outreach Director, Rob Fleege, about what my post, the Department of Florida, and JWV as a whole, can do to help with the issue of homeless veterans.

I feel this hearing was an excellent example of bipartisan cooperation for the benefit of veterans, especially homeless veterans. It is apparent that the lawmakers hold veterans in high esteem and are genuinely interested in honoring veterans in any way possible.

The Cross May Stand, Though it Offends

By Harvey Weiner, Former JWV National Judge Advocate



Cross located in Bladensburg, MD. Photo by Ben Jacobson (Kranar Drogin).

There is an old legal adage that bad cases make bad law. It was clear from the start that filing a lawsuit to remove the 40-foot World War I memorial cross in Bladensburg, Maryland was the wrong case at the wrong time. Nevertheless, the American Humanist Association (AHA) brought the case without input from the JWV. If the very conservative U.S. Supreme Court took the case,

it was likely the Court would either ignore it or overturn decades of favorable legal precedents, which were mainly achieved by the JWV.

Once the Supreme Court took the case, JWV had no choice but to submit an amicus (friend of court) brief to have its voice heard. There were seven other amicus briefs in addition to the ones filed by the AHA and JWV.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which had represented the JWV in prior war memorial cross cases declined to participate. The law firm of Jenner & Block and the Chicago Law School stepped in to help the JWV.

The JWV brief mentioned that Jewish-Americans had served in all of America's wars and through the Vietnam War, served in greater numbers than their proportion in the general population, that JWV is the country's oldest active veterans service organization, that approximately 250,000 Jewish-Americans served in World War I, and that 3,500 Jewish-Americans died in that war. The case was argued on February 27, 2019. That morning, the JWV National Judge Advocate spoke at the Honor Them All rally in front of the courthouse. During arguments, Justice Brett Kavanaugh referenced the JWV amicus brief in one of his questions, which is highly unusual.

On June 20, 2019 the Supreme Court issued its decision which, as expected, allows the cross to remain in place. The majority opinion, concurring

opinion, and dissenting opinion all mentioned the JWV amicus brief.

This case helped publicize JWV's purpose of affirming Jewish-American presence in all of America's wars.

Both the majority and the dissent quoted from John McCrae's famous World War I poem "In Flanders Fields," the first stanza of which is as follows:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt drawn, saw sunset glow, Loved, and were loved, and now we lie In Flanders fields.

After the SCOTUS decision, a revised version might read as follows:

In Bladensburg, a cross did stand
Between three streets on public land
That honor those killed in World War One,
Who, through Christ, will live anon
Though not so those who don't believe.
We are the Court. So do not grieve.
We worked. Seven opinions did we weave.
The cross may stand, though it offends,
In Bladensburg

Security Takes Preparation

By PNC Col. Carl A. Singer, USA Retired Everyone needs to be concerned about security, but not obsessed with it. Living life should be your primary focus. It's important to be cautious, but not paranoid.

As chair of the JWV Homeland Security Committee I was asked to develop a mission statement. The committee's mission is to provide useful, relevant information to individual JWV members and all echelons. The committee seeks to digest, synthesize, and apply publically available information focusing on homeland security on a national level, building security and safety, personal physical security, and personal financial security.

In America today, we live with the uncomfortable reality that Jewish institutions can be a target for violent extremists. When it comes to synagogues, they were designed for dignity, beauty, accessibility, and openness. A synagogue is not meant to be a fortress. But given the possibility of an attack there are some things to consider, which can be customized to your particular needs.

- Fencing should be considered around the building to channel entrance traffic. Surveillance cameras should provide a live video feed of the surrounding area, including all entrances. The monitor used to watch the feeds should be accessible, not locked in an office where no one can see it.
- Buildings should have locked doors and safety rooms. Those rooms should be easy to lock quickly, have curtains that prevent anyone from seeing inside, and include an area away from the door where people can hide without being in the line of fire. Each room should also have a telephone in order to call for help, and the building's name and address should be included on a sign near that

phone. Emergency exits should only be used in emergencies and never propped open or used for any other purpose. Windows can make a room vulnerable to the outside, so it might be helpful to apply a frosted coating or replace with stained glass.

If you are considering an armed security guard, there are some factors to think about The guard will make people feel comfortable and secure by standing outside the building, but would be the first one targeted in an attack. The purpose of the guard is actual security, not a show of security. A guard should be inside a lobby with a direct view of the main entrance, as well as access to a monitor showing a live feed of outside activity. They should not be visible from the outside. The guard must be able to communicate with police immediately, as well as with everyone else in the building.

Veterans Helping Veterans in New Jersey

By Cara Rinkoff

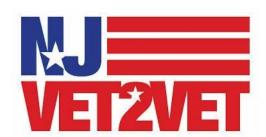
September is suicide awareness month. According to a report released last month by the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, 325 active-duty troops died by suicide in 2018, which is the highest number since the Defense Department started collecting data in 2001. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately 20 veterans take their own lives every day.

Richard Berg, Commander of Post #265, volunteers for the New Jersey Vet2Vet program, which is an organization trying to reduce those numbers. Berg is one of the many veterans who are trained as support specialists for the helpline. Veterans, and those still on active duty can call, chat, text, or

e-mail Vet2Vet for assistance 24/7.

Berg started volunteering for the group in November of 2010. JWV Post #972 Commander Richard Dvorin introduced Berg to the organization. Dvorin started working for Vet2Vet after his son Seth was killed in action.

Calls from all over the country, as well as from service members serving overseas, are routed to the phones in New Jersey. Berg said he speaks with veterans and their spouses who are dealing with a multitude of issues, including returning home from deployment, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and suicidal thoughts. Berg noted that most family members are not trained to deal with some of the issues re-



turning service members have to deal with, which creates stressful conditions in their homes.

The New Jersey Vet2Vet Peer Support Line was created in 2005, and is a collaboration between Rutgers University and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA). For more information, you can visit the helpline's website at www.njveteranshelpline.org.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

I would like to take this opportunity and thank the JWV Membership Committee members that made tremendous contributions to the overall JWV strength maintenance this reporting period. I would especially like to recognize the Membership Committee Co-Chair, JWV Post 126's Robert Richter for his continuous support and always being there when needed.

For the first time in many reporting cycles, the period from our February 2019 JWV National Executive Council (NEC) Meeting through our August 2019 National Convention showed an increase in JWV membership strength. Although the increase was small, just 53 members, we were able to out recruit our losses. This alone is a big hurdle to achieve. The increase is thanks to our JWV post members who understand the importance of our organization's most important asset, our members.

In the area of retention, our JWV posts are accomplishing tremendous activities within their local communities with the support of membership participation. We need to continue to be visible in our local communities, as well as to share our stories with potential members and the news media.

We still need the assistance of all JWV ech-

elon leadership when it comes to collecting dues. We have tried to help JWV posts retaining members beyond the expiration of their dues period. Rather than waiting for a member to be discharged from our ranks for not staying current with their dues,



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky Membership Chairman

Commanders at all levels must take a proactive approach in the dues collection process. Commanders at all echelons should get their senior and junior Vice Commanders involved in the dues collection process. By teaching and showing future leaders early in the process, they will have a better understanding of what needs to be done to maintain positive strength maintenance in their post.

On behalf of our JWV Membership Committee, we wish you and your family a Healthy and Happy New Year (5780).

Fundraising Tips

By Harrison Heller, Membership Coordinator

During the convention, JWV was honored to have Lauren Gross of Global Impact share some new fundraising techniques and strategies. Gross gave some great information about the current state of fundraising in the United States by mentioning that the U.S. continues to lead the world in charitable donations. In 2018, \$427.71 billion were raised for various causes

We all know that as times changes, we must adapt. One area where fundraising has seen a drastic increase is online. When running a fundraiser, having a digital donation option available is highly encouraged. You should also encourage donors to put down their contact information so you can send a thank you note. Also, invite the donor to some post events. This is a way to increase patrons, who are some of JWV's biggest advocates.

Asking for a donation can be awkward but knowing the basics can ease the tension and make it easier. Here are some basics:

- 1. Set a reasonable target
- 2. Set a long-term goal and deadline
- Share personal experiences with potential donors
 Gear your experience and story to your audience
- 4. Share where the donations will be going a. Share some of JWV's programs
- 5. End the story with an ask and thank you

Get creative with your thank you notes. A hand-written letter can go a long way, but so can a video thank you. In the letter or video, make sure to explain the impact of the donation. A donor will likely share the letter or video with their friends and family. If your post has an online presence, make sure to share that information with the donor. Tell them to follow you online and to check your calendar for any public events that your post hosts.

Next Year in Jerusalem - JWV's Annual Allied Veterans Mission to Israel

JWV's Annual Allied Veterans Mission to Israel is the "best in class" mission that a military veteran can experience. Recently, Jack Du Teil, Executive Director of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association, and one of our allied veteran is an ideal experience for potential members as well as a great retention feature for our current membership.

JWV is in the initial stage of considering an

JWV is in the initial stage of considering an optional package that could be part of the 2020

Allied Mission. Right now we are in the process of connecting with Volunteers for Israel (VFI). If this sounds familiar, you may remember reading an article about it in a previous edition of The Jewish Veteran written by current JWV National Commander Harvey Weiner. This past March I attended a Sar-El Mission and combined it with our JWV Allied Mission.

So far, I have identified eleven JWV Members who have served as a Volunteer for Israel and completed their rite of passage as a qualified VFI member. Many of

the them have served on multiple VFI Missions, returning to volunteer again in the State of Israel.

If you are planning to join us on the 2020 JWV Allied Mission and might be interested in participating in VFI as an secondary side Mission, please email me directly at blischinsky7679@gmail.com. If there is enough interest within our JWV membership I will pursue this adventure. You can find additional information on Volunteers for Israel, at www.vfi-usa.org.



participants, wrote an article about his experience on our trip. The article appeared in the June 2019 issue of The Newsliner, and was reprinted in the previous issue of The Jewish Veteran. I strongly suggest that you read his article.

After completing the Allied Mission, Du Teil joined JWV as a patron. Hundreds of JWV members and their guests have participated in the JWV Allied Mission in the past. Many members have participated in multiple JWV Allied Missions. It



Save the Date For Capitol Hill Action Days and NEC 2020!

Find more information about NEC (February 12-16) in the next issue of The Jewish Veteran!

A Note From the Managing Editor

As I start my work for the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., I want to hear from you. When it comes to The Jewish Veteran, what do you like about the newspaper? What don't you like? What do you want to see in upcoming issues of the paper? If you have any comments to share, please send me an email at editor@jwv.org or you can write to me.

The Jewish Veteran 1811 R. Street NW Washington, DC 20009

It's also time to turn in submissions for our next issue. Please let us know what JWV is doing in your community, or send other pictures and articles by December 2.

I look forward to hearing from you, and making The Jewish Veteran the paper you want it to be.

Cara Rinkoff, Programs and Public Relations Coordinator

Gulf War Committee Report

By Rochel Hayman, Committee Chairwoman

The Gulf War Committee met at National Convention and made a renewed commitment to concrete development and expansion. We recognize that the Gulf War era veteran is the fulcrum point in our organization - we bridge the gap between the wars and conflicts of the previous eras with the post-9/11 generation. Many of our goals are covered in our Mission Statement: The Gulf War Committee is committed to encourage, promote, and expand the goals of our organization by harnessing the wisdom and contributions of our era veterans to further the evolvement of our Jewish War Veterans as a whole. Our hallmark is support on all levels, from outreach to in-reach, active duty to senior roster members, within our organization as well as our local communities, and we resolve to increase communication functions within our organization.

To that end we have outlined and are fleshing out committee positions as well as various subcommittees, some of which are already filled. One of the additional committee positions we have developed is Committee Liaison. This person will coordinate with the chairs of the other national committees to encourage the exchange of ideas and cross-committee coordination.

We recognize that the knowledge and experience of our members is our greatest asset, therefore in addition to recruitment, we are developing areas of communication to facilitate success. We have set up an email address, as well as a Jewish War Veterans Gulf War Vets Facebook page and a JWV Gulf War Vet Network Facebook group. The page is our public face with general information and the group is for committee interaction and more specific contact information. We had one committee conference call since National, which is being uploaded to the Facebook group.

7 Questions with a JWV Member -

Name: Tredwell Abrams

Post: Martin Hochster Memorial 755

Military Service: Marine Corps

Member Since: 2019

1. Why did you join the military?

I wanted to see the world. My list of deployments include, two UDP's (Unit Deployment Phase) to Okinawa including an exercise with Thailand's marines and one with Australian service members. These were in 1997 and 1999. After 9/11 I was a part of Task Force 76 in Afghanistan, stationed at Bagram, Salero, Organi, and Chester in 2004 and 2005. I returned from Afghanistan in 2005 and Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, Louisiana that August. At the time I was stationed at NAS/JRB Belle Chasse, which is south of New Orleans and right next to a levee of the Mississippi River. The next nine months were a traumatic time for everyone. In 2007 I did another combat deployment, but this time it was in Iraq.

2. How did you get introduced to JWV?

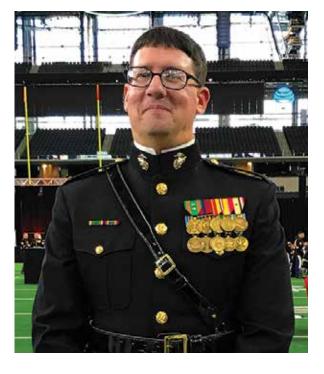
I learned about JWV from my friend Michael Ross at Torah study

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

Having a Rabbi as our squadron's Chaplain during my 2004 tour in Afghanistan. I was surprised to see that we had a Rabbi. This made me feel a lot better, as I am usually the only Jewish Marine in my unit.

4. What is an American tradition that makes you the most proud?

Standing up and singing our National Anthem.



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

The movie 1984. I believe it is a good example of foreshadowing to the current political situation that we are in today.

6. With the rise in popularity of superhero movies, who is your favorite superhero and why?

Agent Coulson of S. H. I. E. L. D., because he is a regular man who helps fight super bad guys and keep the balance of power in check. He's a good example for our youth.

7. What is your favorite traditional Jewish food? Falafel with a nice tahini sauce, chopped peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, and pickled turnips.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Abramoff, Yair S. - Post 100 Arshadnia-Zoldan, Gavriel - Post 100 Barron, Rolando - Post 100 Carter, Teal - Post 100 Farkas, Sandor - Post 100 Frankenberg, Sydney L. - Post 100 Gamson, Leland - Post 100 Garcia, Mario - Post 344 Garner, Marti - Post 77 Gelman, Robert L. - Post 752 Isaacson, Avram - Post 100 Kauffman, Joshua J. - Post 100 Kaye, Matthew D. - Post 344 Mardanow, Arthur - Post 100 Safra, Nona M. - Post 100 Spindler, David - Post 100 Tsionskiy, Maksim - Post 100 Williams, Zachary - Post 343 Winer, Mark - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Culbertson, Sarah - Post 385 Feinstein, Donald A. - Post 118 Hoffman, Bruce - Post 385 Kalin, Touff - Post 385 Montgomery, Maria E. - Post 617 Schwimmer, Melvin R. - Post 118 Shusterman, Eugene - Post 60

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Hamilton, Katherine - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Huffman-Parent, Brad - Post 767

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Burke, Barry S. - Post 941 Copley, David J. - Post 400 Klapper, Lawrence M. - Post 373 Lasoff, Edward - Post 243 Parker, David - Post 300 Shapiro, Harris J. - Post 265

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Cohen, Ronald S. - Post 89 Levin, Matthew - Post 89 Miller, Bruce A. - Post 29

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Foster, Marvin W. - Post 644 Greenberg, Frank - Post 644 Portnoy, Harvey - Post 644 Raymond, Alan B. - Post 644 Schoomer, Paul E. - Post 644 Spiegel, Herbert - Post 605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Atkin, Miriam C. - Post 567 Budman, Jack F. - Post 567 Chanil, Dorothy - Post 567 Kinzbrunner, Eric - Post 360 Nelson, Alan - Post 567 Sklar, Marvin - Post 360 Unger, Jason - Post 360

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Katz, Richard E. - Post 32

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Davis, Donald J. - Post 510 Malisow, Alan M. - Post 510 Ritten, Donald E. - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA Jansen, Joseph M. - Post 354

Jansen, Joseph M. - Post 554

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADADiefenbach, Laurie - Post 64

Levine, Sylvia - Post 64

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Cohen, Charles B. - Post 651 Friedman, Alan S. - Post 39 Gustman, Steven - Post 97 Lipper, Seymour - Post 609 Liroff, Kenneth J. - Post 609 Menkowitz, Elliot - Post 39 Miller, Morris - Post 126 Rosen, Seymour - Post 609 Savat, Stephen R. - Post 609 Silverberg, Samuel - Post 609 Zarge, Herbert - Post 126

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Capuano, Lynn - Post 648
Dolins, Richard - Post 106
Gold, Robert - Post 488
Goldstein, Howard B. - Post 717
Gordon, Richard A. - Post 80
Greenbaum, Tova A. - Post 1
Guldblatt, Leonard - Post 731
Hoylman, Brad - Post 1
Kessler, Martin - Post 652
Silverman, Norman - Post 425

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Lotney, Kenneth E. - Post 587

Schulsinger, Michael A. - Post 587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Goldman, Mitchel R. - Post 98 Klein, Russell G. - Post 697 Slomich, Joshua - Post 305

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Kessler, William L. - Post 533

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Levine, Cyndi E. - Post 112 Weiser, Barrie - Post 121

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Wieser, Philip L. - Post 194

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Abrams, Tredwell T. - Post 755 Gonzales, Felix - Post 753 Rose, Tanya K. - Post 749 Smith, Robert - Post 795 Solomon, Franklin J. - Post 753 Zarin, Jerald L. - Post 574

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC Lowsen, Michael B. - Post 299

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Bernstein, Jess A. - Post 145 Hoffman, Ralph L. - Post 145

Convention Round-up!

By Greg Byrne

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. held its 124th National Convention in Richmond, Virginia, while the JWV Ladies Auxiliary met for their 91st National Convention. Delegates from around the country gathered from August 18-23 to hear from speakers, participate in workshops, and conduct the business of the organization.

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Byrne gave the keynote address and updated members on current initiatives at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He spoke about a period of transformation happening at the VA with four priorities set by Secretary Robert Wilkie. The priorities include improving customer service, implementing the VA Mission Act, systems modernization, and collaborating with the Department of Defense (DOD) to implement an electronic medical records system. Secretary Byrne said the Mission Act has offered veterans choice in their healthcare decisions by allowing them to seek care in their communities when their nearest VA facility is too far away or doesn't offer a service. He also highlighted the importance of the collaboration between the VA and DOD to give caregivers a complete view of a patient's medical history, beginning with their initial exam in boot camp.

Retired Navy Rear Adm. Paul Becker reflected on his 30 years of service as a Naval Intelligence Officer. A member of Commodore Levy Post 380 in Annapolis, Maryland, Becker spoke about leadership and how his Jewish faith inspired him to serve.

Rabbi Irv Elson, Director of the Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplains Council (JWB), spoke to the convention about an exciting new collaboration between the JWB and JWV. The Jews in Green Weekend will bring together Jewish military personnel for fellowship, to share resources, and to build a community, so that when these Jews leave the military, we'll be able to connect them with their local JWV post or JCC.

Major General Baruch Levy, formerly of Tzevet, the Israel Defense Forces veterans' organization, gave a briefing on the current situation in Israel and outlined some of his country's many achievements. Israel is at the center of advancements in medicine and technology, and ranks among the happiest nations in the world. He noted that Jewish Americans should take pride in Israel's achievements because the unity between the State of Israel and the Jewish American community has been of great importance to Israel's success.

The Military Coalition President Jack DuTeil



Rabbi Irv Elson, CAPT, USN (ret)



MG Baruch Levy and Jack Du Teil.

continued the discussion on Israel by talking about his experience on this year's Allied Veterans Mission to Israel. He described the Mission as "the trip of a lifetime." The trip left him with a lasting appreciation for the people of Israel and the importance of the Israeli/American alliance in the region.

In addition to hearing from speakers, delegates participated in workshops where they could learn skills to help lead their posts and departments when they returned home. Past Department Commander Alan Paley of the Department of Florida and Post Commander Steven Krant of Post 256 in Dallas led a session on leadership, where they discussed best practices for department and post management. The workshop was well-received, and plans are in place for a follow-up session at NEC in February.

A fundraising session led by Lauren Gross of Global Impact provided attendees with fundraising strategies to help support their echelons' programs. More information on this session can be found in the Membership section of this issue.

The Resolutions Committee met several times to consider proposed resolutions to bring to the convention floor for a vote. Twenty of these proposals were approved at the convention and will be part of JWV's legislative priorities for the coming year. A complete list of the resolutions passed at convention can be found on our website.

Delegates also considered several proposed amendments to the National Constitution and Bylaws. After a review by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the convention approved two constitutional amendments and one amendment to the bylaws. Further explanation of these changes can be found in National Commander Harvey Weiner's article in this issue.



RADM Paul Becker

Constitution & Bylaws Update

Delegates at the JWV National Convention in August voted for two changes to the constitution and one to the bylaws.

In the constitution, Article IV, Membership, the definition of those who qualify for active membership will now include the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

An amendment to Article VI, Section 1, National Officers, adds the position of National Vice Commander. This will take effect when the next National Commander is elected. The National Vice Commander candidate must be from a different department than the National Commander. If there is a vacancy in the position of National Commander, the National Vice Commander will automatically take over the job. The National Executive Committee will no longer select someone to fill the position.

The bylaws were changed to create a National Marketing and Publicity Committee. The committee will have a chairperson and six members. The National Commander will appoint members of the committee. If you would like to be considered for this committee, please email a statement of interest to Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org.

National Achievement Program Winners

Robert Zweiman Memorial Award - \$5,000 Wei Lin • Hanover, NH

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant - \$2,500

Saamon Legoski • Boston, MA

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant - \$1,000

Ethan Leventhal • Falls Church, VA

Max R. & Irene Rubenstein
Memorial Grant - 1,500
Matthew Multer • Arlington, VA

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant - \$1,000

Karla Rosas • Hanover, NH

National Youth Achievement Program Winners

Edith, Louis and Max S. Millen Memorial Athletic Grant - \$1,500 Anya Hirschfeld • Seattle, WA

Clifford Lee Kristal Education Grant - \$1,250 Gilbert Rosenthal • Canton, MA

Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant - \$1,000 Zachary Teplin • Mequon, WI

The final event of the convention was the National Commander's Banquet honoring outgoing National Commander Barry Schneider. During his term, Schneider travelled more than 71,000 miles and visited members in 22 state. The evening concluded with the installation of the new National Commander, Harvey Weiner of the Department of Massachusetts.

Thank you to all who participated in this year's convention, and we hope to see you next August in Jacksonville, Florida.

Congratulations to All Award Winners!

Feureisen-I. T. Rockman Award

Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256 • Dept. of TALO

Wolfson Award - Tie

Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256 • Dept. of TALO Austin Post 757 • Department of TALO

National Commander's Award Gerald Alperstein • Post 1-NY

Joseph Demiany Memorial Award Nassau-Suffolk District Council - NY

Post-9/11 Veteran Support Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein -Florence Greenwald Post 1- NY

Edward D. Blatt Award

Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126-NJ

Brenner - Jaffee Memorial Awards Best Monthly Publication - Tie

Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256 • Dept. of TALO Scottsdale Post 210 • Dept. of Southwest

Best Bi-Annual Publication

The Beacon • Dept. of New York

Outstanding Email Newsletter Award Martin Hochster Post 755 • Dept. of TALO

Most Improved Online Engagement Award

Facebook: Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256 Website: Department of Michigan

Post Growth Award - Tie Small Posts – 4 – 15 members

Akron Post 62 • Dept. of Ohio Colin J. Wolfe Post 95 • Dept. of VA/NC

Medium Posts - 15 - 30 members

Venice Post 941 • Dept. of Florida

Large Posts – 31–50 members

North Shore Post 29 • Dept. of Illinois

Bountiful Posts – 51 members and up Drizin-Weiss Post 215 • Dept. of PA

Isadore Heiman – Al Berger Award Department of TALO

Robert Zweiman Museum Awards Post with the greatest number of museum members

Milton L. Finel Post 389 • Dept. of NY

Post with the highest percentage of museum members - Tie

Bernard & Sanford Wilkof Post 73 • Dept. of OH William Kretchford Post 730 • Dept of FL

Department with the greatest number of museum members

Department of New York

Department with the highest percentage of museum members

Department of Ohio



PNC David Magidson is presented the Murray L. Rosen Award by NC Barry Schneider.



Howard Goldstein, Jeff Sacks, and Robert Nussbaum accept an award on behalf of North Shore Post 29-IL.



Gerald Alperstein, Jack Holzman, and David Zwerin accept awards on Edward Hirsch and Mark Weiss accept an behalf of The Beacon-Dept of NY, the Nassau-Suffolk District Council -NY, Post 1-NY, Milton L. Finel Post 389-NY, and the Department of NY. Gerald Alperstein received the National Commander's Award,



award on behalf of Department of Michigan.



Scott Wilson and Larry Jasper accepting awards on behalf of Venice Post 941-FL and William Kretchford Post 730-FL.



PNC Barry Schneider, Art Kaplan, Scott Stevens, and Steve Krant accept awards on behalf of Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256-TALO, Austin Post 757-TALO, Martin Hochster Post 755-TALO, and the Department of TALO.



Rochel Hayman accepts an award on behalf of Scottsdale Post 210-AZ,



Nelson Mellitz and Robert Richter accept an award on behalf of Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126-NJ.

Jews in the American Military – Abigail Minis, Founding Mother of the State of Georgia

By Marc Liebman

Abigail and Abraham Minis were two of the 40 European Jews who arrived in the British Colony of Georgia in 1733, just six months after its founding. This group founded what became, along with Charleston, South Carolina, one of the largest and most vibrant Jewish communities in the American colonies. At the time Abigail was 32 and a mother of two.

Born in Germany, Abigail had seven more children, six girls and one boy, before Abraham passed away in 1757. He left her with a 1,000-acre plantation. Rather than be content with what he left, Abigail became what we would call a real estate agent and land developer. Despite her limited English, Abigail was a shrewd businesswoman and soon became one of the largest landholders in southeast Georgia. She also gained a license to open a tavern in Savannah.

When talk of independence from England became serious in the Georgia in the 1770s, Abigail was an early supporter. After the American Revolution started, one British strategy was to take the southern ports of Savannah and Charleston. In 1778, they captured Savannah, but failed to take Charleston.

Abigail loaned the Continental Congress money to help fund the Continental Army because at the time it could not levy taxes. Congress had to request money from the colonies' legislatures, which would contribute what they could afford. It was never enough, and to pay for an Army and Navy, the Continental Congress borrowed money from France, the Netherlands, Spain, and its citizens.

Abigail also provided free food to the Continental Army that defended Savannah, and later Charleston. She brought food to American prisoners held on a prison ship in the Savannah River. Several of the prisoners were members of Savannah and Charleston's Jewish communities, the most notable was wealthy businessman Colonel Mordecai Sheftall, the highest-ranking Jewish officer in the Continental Army.

The British were not happy with her efforts and arrested the 77-year-old woman twice. The Royal Governor of Georgia tried to seize her properties but the British Colonial courts would not allow it. Eventually Abigail and her six daughters fled to nearby Charleston while her son Isaac served in the Continental Army.

When the British captured Charleston in 1780, Minis was arrested and imprisoned for helping Continental Army General Francis Marion and Nathaniel Greene with food and intelligence. She was eventually released and allowed to return to Savannah.

After the war, Abigail Minis continued her business career as well as her active support of the third oldest synagogue in the U.S., Congregation Mikveh Israel in Savannah. All of her daughters wanted to be independent and never married. Like their mother, all became successful businesswomen.

While Minis never served in the military, her efforts to help fund and feed the Continental Army were critical to its success in the South and the ultimate defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown. The Georgia Historical Society calls her one of the

Honoring Veterans in VA Cemeteries

By Cara Rinkoff

A new project launched by the Department of Veterans Affairs will honor all 3.7 million veterans buried in VA cemeteries across the country. The Veterans Legacy Memorial is a digital platform with individual memorial pages. The site went online on August 14. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie says this project "enhances the onsite national cemetery experience and extends the experience to those who otherwise are unable to physically visit the cemetery. The public can use the site to search for Veterans, find their burial site, and read basic details of their life and military service. Eventually, the VA hopes families will have the opportunity to add photos and share memories on the memorial pages. For more information about the Veterans Legacy Memorial, visit https://www. va.gov/remember.



Arlington National Cemetery.
Photo by Elizabeth Fraser.

Founding Mothers of the Georgia Colony and the State of Georgia.



10



The Jewish Veteran Volume 73 • Number 3 • 2019 www.jwv.org

New Underwater Memorial Honors Service Members



Circle of Heroes is the nation's only memorial of its kind and will eventually have 24 life-size statues depicting troops from all services. The first 12 statues can now be seen about 10 miles off the coast of Clearwater, FL.

By Larry Jasper

U.S. military veterans have a new memorial 40-feet beneath the ocean's surface where they can reflect on their service. The first underwater military monument is located just ten miles off the coast of Clearwater, Florida. The Circle of Heroes Veterans' Memorial, opened August 5 with a ceremony debuting a dozen life-size statues depicting U.S. military personnel from all branches of service.

Eventually the memorial site will include 24 life-size concrete statues of men and women from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps., and Navy, according to Brighter Future Florida, a nonprofit group raising donations for the memorial.

The memorial is scheduled to be completed in 2020. All of the statues will surround a center monument featuring five bronze emblems representing each service.

"The Circle of Heroes will be a premier international diving destination and will also serve as a place where veter-

ans with physical and mental injuries can heal," the website states.

The JWV Department of Florida, in conjunction with Rabbi Elson of the Jewish Welfare Board are planning to dive the memorial in January. If you would like to join the dive, contact Larry Jasper at lmjasper@reagan.com.





Shawn Campbell, a former staff sergeant and now a master diver, looks at his name on a plaque next to one of the statues at the Circle of Heroes underwater veterans memorial off the coast of Clearwater, Fla. (U.S. Army/Video still by Bill Mills)

Advocates Demand White House Speed Up Timeline For 'Blue Water' Vietnam Veterans Benefits

By Leo Shane III, the Military Times

Doctors have told Navy veteran Bobby Daniels that he may only have another two years before his terminal prostate cancer takes his life, so he was furious in June when Veterans Affairs officials announced a six-month delay in processing "blue water" Vietnam benefits cases.

"It just feels like they want for us old boys to die out, so they don't have to worry about us anymore," said Daniels, a 79-year-old Missouri resident. "Everything has been on hold for us. I don't know how much more we can downsize while we wait."

Daniels, who served on the USS Lexington 58 years ago, was one of several veterans on hand at a Capitol Hill rally Tuesday asking for the White House to force VA to move ahead on a host of toxic exposure benefits cases that have been delayed while department officials update their processing systems to absorb the new cases.

"Our pleas (to VA) have fallen on deaf ears," said Shane Liermann, deputy national legislative director for benefits at Disabled American Veterans. "We're calling on President Trump directly to end the wait for these veterans ... He can and should end it today."

In June, Trump signed into law legislation finalizing presumptive benefits status for "blue water" veterans who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam during the war there. As many as 90,000 veterans could be eligible for thousands of dollars a month in disability benefits under the law.

But in July, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie announced plans to halt processing of those claims until January 2020 to allow his department time to set up new computer systems for handling the cases to ensure the system isn't overwhelmed by a flood of new claims. He has noted on several occasions

that the law as drafted allowed for the processing delays.

Advocates note that the delay was not required, however. They note that some cases were processed earlier this summer before the stay was announced, and insist that more could be fast-tracked if VA would drop its stubborn new policy.

"It's hard to look these veterans in the eye and tell them they have to wait even longer for their benefits," said Ryan Gallucci, deputy director of the Veterans of Foriegn Wars' National Veterans Service. "Some of these cases could be settled today."

Both House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee ranking member Sen. Jon Tester,

D-Mont., said they have repeatedly asked VA for more information on their benefits delivery timeline, but so far have received no answers. VA officials dispute that, saying they have provided a pair of briefings to congressional staff along with other documentation.

The lawmakers and advocates are also pressing VA to move ahead with a long-pending decision to add several new illnesses to the list of presumptive benefits cases linked to Agent Orange. The presumptive status allows veterans to skip a host of documentation and paperwork when filing a claim, speeding up their receipt of payouts.

White House officials did not respond to re-



Navy veteran Bobby Daniels, right, speaks to a crowd of supporters during a Capitol Hill rally on Sept. 24, 2019. Daniels is fighting terminal prostate cancer he says is linked to Agent Orange exposure during his time aboard the USS Lexington during the Vietnam War. (Leo Shane III/Staff).

quests for comment on the benefits issues.

VA officials sent a letter to veterans groups updating them on the work thus far to prepare their staff for the new cases, but not offering any changes in the proposed timeline for starting to process them.

Several advocates worry that even if the department begins taking cases starting in January, it could be another long wait before veterans see any payouts, since processing can often take months.

For veterans like Daniels, it could mean the difference between receiving regular checks or dying without any response to their health problems.

Daniels served as a petty officer second class on the Lexington. It took 33 years after his tour of *Continued on page 17*



The Department of California honored Oscar Stewart (center) at their convention with a life membership in JWV. Stewart chased away the suspected gunman at the Chabad of Poway in San Diego, California. One person died and three others were wounded in the April 2019 shooting. Stewart's life membership was donated by Post 385 members Ted and Sandy Goldberg. From Left: Greg Lee, Maxwell Colon, Ted Goldberg, Oscar Stewart, Sandy Goldberg, Jerry Silverman.



For the fifth straight year, Post 256 provided a delicious BBQ lunch of brisket, chicken and side dishes to approximately 100 homeless veterans at the Dallas VA facility.



JWV Zussman Post 135 presented a check for \$12,000 to the Fisher House. From left: Fisher House Director Kate Melcher, Ted Gittleman, Eugene Shaffer, Larry Berry, Marty Levine), and JWV Michigan Senior Vice Commander Art Fishman.



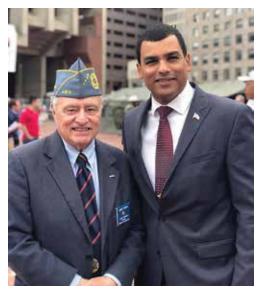
JWV Post 305 Commander Jeff Hill (front row, 2nd from left) honored on Flag Day 2019 as a recipient of the Freedom Medal from the Delaware County Veterans. The award will be presented at the annual Delaware County Veterans Memorial Dinner in November.



The members of Maryland Free State Post 167 from Owings Mills, held their annual Poppy Drive for the Baltimore VA Hospital. Post and Auxiliary members staffed a collection table in front of the Fort Meade commissary on June 30 and July 7. They raised more than \$2,000.



PNC Barry Schneider honors Post 436 Commander Jerry Sherman on his 94th birthday.



JWV National Commander Harvey Weiner and Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Affairs Francisco Urena at the 2019 Greater Boston Stand Down.



Members from the JWV Department of Massachusetts, including Posts 74, 161, 211, 220, and 735, attended the 2019 Greater Boston Stand Down on September 6. The annual event brings together community providers and veterans in one place, to make it easier for veterans to access services. This year, JWV Massachusetts handed out more than 1,250 pairs of socks. This brings the total to more than 22,250 pairs of socks handed out since they first started their involvement with the Stand Down program. Pictured from left: JWV MA Department Commander Jeffrey Blonder and Barry Sobel, members of JWV Post 74.



JWV member Harold Glick spoke at a Memorial Day ceremony in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.



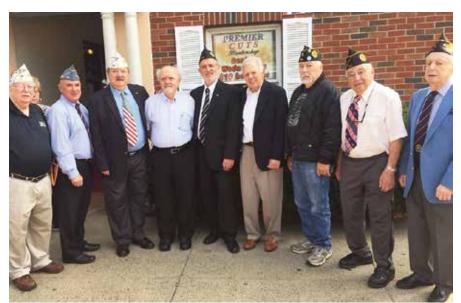
Harvey Bloth of JWV Post 644 presents the 2019 Charles Sandroff Scholarship to Jessica Goldberg. Jessica will be attending Purdue University. Photo: Howard Holtzman/Holtzman Photography.



JWV Post 735 presented a check for \$1,750 to the Brockton Campus of the VA Boston Healthcare System. The post collected the donations on Memorial Day weekend. (From left: Paul Triber, Post Quartermaster Paul Maltzman, Program Manager of Voluntary Services/Recreation at the Brockton VA Campus Lana Otis, Post Commander Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, Post Jr Vice Commander Sue Susman.



JWV Post 41 Commander Gary Ginsberg (4th person from right) attended the dedication ceremony for a monument honoring members of the U.S. Army's 98th Division who fought in World War I. The monument was dedicated on July 13 at the National Infantry Museum and Walk of Honor near Fort Benning, Georgia.



JWV Post 220 Commander Alan Lehman joined other post members for a 9/11 Day of Remembrance event in Danvers, Massachusetts. The event, sponsored by New Brothers Restaurant and Deli, pays tribute to the victims, first responders, and those who joined the military after September 11, 2001. From left: Past Department Commander Jack Romo, National Chief of Staff Barry Lischinsky, Department Commander Jeffrey Blonder, Kary Andrinopoulos, Rabbi Richard Perlman, Jeff Silverman, Jim Horwitz, Melvin Babner, Past Post Commander Moe Sack.

The Safe Haven Museum

By Gary Ginsburg, Commander, Post 41-NY

Nearly 1,000 refugees and Holocaust survivors arrived in the United States' only refugee camp on August 5, 1944. Exactly 75 years later, 200 people gathered to remember them at The Safe Haven

Safe Haven
Museum & Education Center

Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shefter

Oswego, NY

Museum, which is located at the site of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, New York. Among the crowd were 19 of those refugees, as well as their families, friends, and community leaders.

The Consul General of Israel in New York,

Dani Dayan, was just one of the many speakers at the event. Dayan expressed his "most sincere thanks and appreciation to the people of this small city with a population of about 18,000 - Oswego, New York for opening the space of Fort Ontario and their hearts to these Holocaust survivors during 1944, which was a most difficult and violent time in history."

While many of us think of Oswego, New York in terms of only three things - a State University of New York college campus, a nuclear power plant, and severe winter weather - the Safe Haven Museum



Dani Dayan and Gary Ginsburg

and story of the Fort Ontario Refugee Shelter is both an extraordinary and positive chapter in both Jewish and American history.

JWV Jersey Shore Post 125 Completes a Noteworthy Year

Jersey Shore Post 125 represented the JWV with a tent at the 29th annual Oceanfest celebration on July Fourth in Long Branch, New Jersey. An estimated 225,000 people attended the event, and many stopped by Post 125's tent to express their appreciation for the service of Jewish veterans. More than 20 volunteers manned the tent that day, including officers from National, the Department of New Jersey, and the Ladies Auxiliary. Oceanfest served as the season finale for Post 125's year of activities.

The Post decided not to brave the cold weather, and moved its traditional Veterans Day Poppy Drive to Labor Day in 2018. Dedicated volunteers sold poppies at multiple locations, exceeding fundraising expectations. The money raised from the sales allows Post 125 to continue supporting programs and assisting the residents of New

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Jersey veterans' homes.

Post activities during the fall months honored surviving World War II veterans with speakers from both Monmouth County's active veteran services office and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. On Veterans Day, Post 125's Gerald Levine, who serves as the Honorary Commander of the Department of New Jersey, lead a 21-bell salute in the city of Long Branch, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the World War I armistice. That ceremony also included a reading of the names of the victims from the shooting at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue.

Following a winter slowdown, Post 125 hosted another World War II veterans' event and ran an extremely successful Memorial Day poppy drive. The Post elected Levine as Honorary Post Commander, while the Department of New Jersey



More than 20 volunteers from Post 125 took turns manning a tent at the annual Fourth of July Oceanfest celebration in Long Branch, NJ.

named Post 125 as its Post of the Year, and further honored Levine as its Person of the Year.



Air Force Lt Col (Ret) Paul Hendricks talked about his journey to Israel as TALO's guest on the JWV Allied Mission earlier this year. He gave a presentation at the post's Bagels and Lox Breakfast about his experience and how it has affected his perceptions of Israel, Judaism, and the Jewish people.



From left: Gary Glick, David Zwerin, and Jack Holzman viewed The Walls that Heal, a traveling exhibit of a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

Paying respects to Jewish veterans

By Bruce Walton, The Chronicle-Telegram

SHEFFIELD — The Jewish War Veterans of Lorain County hosted Taps for Jewish Veterans on Sunday morning at Salem Jewish Cemetery. The AMVETS Post 32 honor guard conducted the flag presentation ceremony and presented World War II Army veteran Arthur Goodman with the flag.

Goodman spoke at the event about how important it is to honor those who have given so much for a cause all Americans benefit from.

"They've done their time and we're trying to recognize the veterans here today and those who have gone," he said.

Jewish War Veterans Post 222 Commander Steve Smith gave a background of the post, which formed in 1940.

The ceremony also honored the seven local Jewish veterans who died during WWII, whose names are etched into a memorial at the cemetery.

Jewish War Veterans members and family and friends also read more than 240 names of Jewish veterans who died during other wars and were somehow tied to Lorain County.

Zach Simonoff, a member of Agudath B'nai Israel Synagogue in Lorain, and Jay Schmitt, president of Temple B'Nai Abraham in Elyria,



USMC veteran Herman Burris, left, and Ken Sedlak, members of the AMVETS Post 32 Honor Guard, salute at Taps for Jewish Veterans ceremony at Salem Jewish Cemetery in Sheffield May 26. Photo by Steve Manheim.

also read the names of the 58 veterans who died in the past year.

A Hebrew prayer of remembrance and death was made, and taps was played.

Reprinted with permisison. Contact Bruce Walton at 329-7123 or bwalton@chroniclet.com. Follow him on Facebook @BWalton440 or Twitter @BruceWalton.



Tim Holp of the AMVETS Post 32 Honor Guard, plays taps at Taps for Jewish Veterans ceremony at Salem Jewish Cemetery in Sheffield May 26. Photo by Steve Manheim.



Jewish veterans memorial at Salem Jewish Cemetery in Sheffield May 26. Photos by Steve Manheim.



Veteran and Patron members of JWV Post 580 in New Orleans, Louisiana attended a luncheon event featuring Brigadier General Bentzi Gruber of the Israeli Army Reserves on May 21, 2019. Gruber is Vice Commander of Armored Division 252. He spoke about ethics, social responsibility, and leadership in the Israeli military.

The luncheon was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans and is part of the Amiel BaKehila program sponsored by the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs in partnership with Ohr Torah Stone.



Morrey Goldman (left) and Stuart Blume (right) of Post 41 conducted an Honor Flight presentation for 40 people at the JCC in Rochester, NY, on September 24.



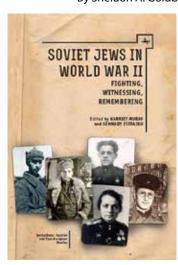
National Commander Harvey Weiner visits the Department of Connecticut.



Post 757 in Austin, Texas participated in a neighborhood Fourth of July parade.

REVIEW: Soviet Jews in World War II: Fighting, Witnessing, Remembering

By Sheldon A. Goldberg, Ph.D.



Before the remodeling National Museum American Jewish Military History several years ago, an exhibit called "The Liberators" featured American GI's who came in contact with the effects of the Holocaust as they marched

across Nazi Germany. Unfortunately all that remains of that exhibit are several recordings made by a few of the liberators describing what they saw and experienced. This confrontation with the Holocaust, even for those Jewish GI's who saw the horrors inflicted on the dead and those who survived, was for the most part a foreign and impersonal experience.

The approximately 300,000-500,000 Soviet Jews who served in the Red Army felt a personal connection to the ravages of the Holocaust they encountered. These soldiers saw their homes, towns, and villages destroyed, as well as the murders of their families, friends, and relatives. It engendered in them a deep hated of the Nazis, and a desire for revenge at all costs. Furthermore, their contact with the results of the Holocaust undermined the Soviet propaganda that there was no such thing as a Jewish nation, nor could there be.

This change of attitude became evident to many of them, including those who had no Jewish or religious upbringing. It became evident as they experienced anti-Semitism at the front, and in the ruined towns and villages they liberated from the Nazis, where surviving neighbors looted homes after Jewish families were taken away and murdered. They saw the remnants of Jewish books and scrolls, pages that were filled with what one Russian historian called "square letters," used to wrap produce and other items for sale or disposal. It was these "square letters" that drew thousands of Jewish Red Army soldiers together, many of whom had no knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet, as they became symbols of Jews murdered by the Nazis.

These are only a small portion of what one learns from this book, which contains a collection of essays that was presented at a conference sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Museum, the Blatavnik Foundation, and the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. Contributors to this volume describe the participation of Soviet Jews as soldiers, journalists, and propagandists combatting the Nazis

by September 2.

Reconnaissance

Luxembourg's Prince Felix

and Crown Prince Jean joined

the allies, and by September 7

they were fighting alongside the

5th Armored Division, gearing

up for a return to their homeland.

commander of the 85th Cavalry

Josefson was an advance man.

His mission was to find, fix, and

fight. In other words, to ascertain

the strength and disposition of

the enemy, remove obstacles, and

clear the way for further combat.

As a platoon leader and car

during what the Russians call the Great Patriotic War (June, 22, 1941-May 9, 1945). The essays include newly discovered and previously neglected oral testimony, poetry, cinema, diaries, memoirs, newspapers, and archives. The importance of these sources lies in the fact that except for poets and writers, Red Army soldiers were forbidden to keep dairies or take notes of what they saw and experienced during the war.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part includes a chapter on the writing and personal thoughts of Russia's most famous journalist, Ilya Ehrenburg. Part two includes conference papers that analyze the works of various Soviet Jewish poets, including Boris Slutskii and Il'ia Sel'vinskii, the film "The Unvanquished," the work of Russia's best known photojournalist, Evgenii Khaldei, and several memoirs. The excellent essays by the various authors presented in the volume do not necessarily portray a unified vision of the Soviet Red Army Jews. It does however, take the reader on an emotional journey through the eyes of the Russian Jews who lived and died during the Great Patriotic War.

Soviet Jews in World War II: Fighting, Witnessing, Remembering Edited by Harriet Murav and Gennady Estraikh Brighton MA: Academic Studies Press, 2014 214 pages with index Available at the NMAJMH online store

Luxembourg Honors Jewish American Gl

Continued from page 1

Court and of Appeals on matters of interstate commerce and transportation.

When the US entered World War Josefson en-

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Hyman Josefson

listed in the Army. He trained at Fort Knox and joined the 5th Armored Division's 85th Calvary Reconnaissance Squadron. After two years of training in the U.S., his unit landed at Utah Beach on July 24, 1944. They marched through Normandy and Northern France, reaching the Belgian border

On September 9, 1944, by mid-day, Josefson's armored M8 Greyhound

Squadron,

Patrol car is the first to breach the Belgian border and enter Petange, Luxembourg. But the celebratory air is severely dampened when a hidden Wehrmacht hits Josefson's Greyhound just as it approaches a flour mill. Josefson is killed, and three others in his car were

Gunner Cyril Mayrose, technical sergeant and driver Burt Magee, and radio operator John Mitchell escaped the car,

Josefson's M8 on fire near the flour mill in Petange (Courtesy of Synidcat D'Initiative du Petange).



Tribute to Hyman Josefson and US soldiers led by the Duke of Luxembourg.

which continued to burn for days.

The crowd that saw it happen erected a makeshift memorial near the flour mill.

Meanwhile, the Americans pushed on and liberated Luxembourg City on September 10, returning Prince Felix and Prince Jean to the Grand

In 1947, a permanent monument replaced the makeshift memorial. The inscription honored the memory of the unknown American soldier who died for the liberation of Luxembourg.

In 1989, Mayrose told the city that their unknown soldier was Josefson, which lead the city to change the name of the area by the monument to Hyman Josefson Square.

75 years later in Luxembourg, World War II is not forgotten, Americans are warmly received, and the legacy of Hyman Josefson lives on.



The Jewish Veteran Volume 73 • Number 3 • 2019 www.jwv.org

A Ride to Remember

Continued from page 1

met seven years ago during his first trip to Poland. Silverberg said he has never done anything like this ride before. "I do bike, but never that far... the most I've ever done is about 45, maybe 48, but never 60 [miles]."

Silverberg said he received support from his local community, as well as people he had never met before. "Some people contributed just by wishing me good luck, and some people contributed by being very generous donors. I raised almost \$4,100."

Bernard Offen is one of the riders Silverberg met in Poland. Silverberg said Offen walked from Auschwitz to Krakow when the camp was liberated. This is the second year the 90-year-old has participated in the Ride for the Living.

Silverberg chose to participate in this event because he wanted to visit the hometown of his parents. Stopnica is approximately one hour from Krakow. Silverberg said nearly all traces of Jewish life in that town were erased during the war and in the years after. "I wanted to see something that I was going to be able to relate to, like maybe even see a cemetery," Silverberg said. "When I got there, we couldn't find the cemetery itself. We even asked an elderly taxi driver there and he didn't even know anything about any Jewish history... at least he wasn't, wouldn't tell us about that."

Silverberg also participated in the ride because of his general interest in the Holocaust. He runs Holocaust education programs which had 15,000 attendees over the past two years.

If you are interested in participating in next year's Ride for the Living, you can find more information on the website, www.ridefortheliving.org.



From left, Unknown, Krakow JCC Executive Director Jonathan Ornstein, and Allan Silverberg.

How to Qualify For Social Security Disability Benefits At the Same Time as VA Disability

By Deanna Power

Veterans who have medical conditions that make it difficult or impossible to work can apply for Social Security Disability benefits even if they are receiving VA disability benefits. Getting VA disability benefits doesn't disqualify veterans from getting Social Security disability benefits. In fact, the two payments should not affect one another. If you have a medical condition that you think will make it impossible for you to work for at least a year, you can still apply for Social Security disability benefits.

Conditions That Qualify For Social Security Disability Benefits

There are hundreds of medical conditions that can qualify for disability benefits. All of the conditions that qualify someone to receive Social Security disability benefits are listed in the Social Security Administrations's (SSA) Blue Book. The Blue Book is searchable online along with the criteria that must be met to qualify for benefits due to a particular condition. Some of the conditions that can qualify for disability benefits that may be relevant for veterans include:

- PTSD
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Vision loss
- Hearing loss
- Heart disease
- COPD and lung problems
- Amputations
- Neuromuscular disorders
- Arthritis

The entire Blue Book can be found online, so you can review listings with your doctor to determine if you will qualify.

Medical Documentation

In order to win your claim for Social Security disability benefits you will need medical documentation that proves you have the medical condition and that it's expected to last for at least a year. If you're not sure if you can meet the exact criteria listed in the Blue Book, you can talk to your doctor to find out if you have the documentation necessary to prove that you are impaired. You can also get help from a patient advocate at the hospital where

you are getting treated.

You can also submit documentation from the VA to prove your disability. When you received your VA rating you should have also gotten a full medical report that lists all of the medical conditions that you had when you medically retired from the service. If you didn't receive this documentation with your VA rating sheet you can request a copy online or by phone from the last military facility where you were treated. A VA advocate can also help you get a copy of your health records.

A VA disability rating will often help a Social Security disability claim because the SSA will see the approval as a sign of your inability to work. Just keep in mind that this does not go both ways. If you're already on Social Security disability, your VA disability claim won't be affected positively because you need an active-duty injury to qualify for VA disability benefits.

Applying for Social Security Disability Benefits

You can apply for Social Security disability benefits online whenever it's convenient for you. If you need help you can have a spouse or a loved one fill out the online application for you. Make sure that you submit copies of all of your medical documentation when you apply online.

If you have questions about your application or need help filling out the application, find your local Social Security Administration office and make an appointment to fill out the application in person. A staff member from the SSA can help you with the application in person or you can bring a loved one, caregiver, spouse, or advocate with you to help you fill out the application and submit your medical documentation at the Social Security office.

Most veterans' claims will be reviewed within three to five months. Wounded warriors' claims will be expedited. If you have a 100% P&T VA disability rating, or if you were injured on active duty after October 1, 2001, your claim could be approved within 10 business days.

This article was provided by Deanna Power and www.Disability-Benefits-Help.org, an independent website that helps people of all ages through the Social Security process.

'Blue Water' Vietnam Veterans Benefits

Continued from page 11

duty for the first of his cancers to appear. It took another 12 years before VA recognized any service-connected medical conditions for him, and even then it was for dental problems, not toxic exposure.

The dying veteran, who would qualify for benefits under the new law because his ship traveled through a designated area believed to have been exposed to Agent Orange contamination, said he wants to get his case settled soon so his wife, Judy, will have a more stable income after he passes.

In recent years, he has taken out a second mortgage and sold off personal possessions to pay for medical treatments for his cancers, still not officially recognized by VA as linked to his services in the seas around Vietnam.

"My biggest fear is leaving Judy behind in tough times to struggle alone," Daniels said. "She shouldn't have to face these issues."

Reprinted with permission from the Military Times.

Join Our Team! • JWV Programs Intern

Description: JWV is seeking a self-motivated individual to be our Programs Intern. This is a perfect opportunity for talented students who want to get involved in the veteran and/or Jewish programming arena.

Duties: Duties include monitoring and reporting on our post events, innovating new programming materials, special event support, and creating new innovative ways to reach Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. This position requires up to 20 hours a week.

Qualifications: Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as recent graduates, are encouraged to apply. Interest in military and veterans issues a plus.

Salary: Unpaid. May qualify as course credit depending on institutional requirements.

How to Apply: The Programs Interns are accepted during Fall, Spring, and Summer semester cycles. Please send your resume and cover letter to Programs and Public Relations Coordinator Cara Rinkoff at crinkoff@jwv.org with the subject line: "Programs Internship Application."

NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY

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

NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDRA CANTOR

Dear Sisters.

As this is my first article as your National President, I want to thank you for electing me and having confidence that I can lead this organization into the future.

Now for a little about me: I was born in Dallas. Texas to Ely & Fannie Cohen. Ely was a WWII veteran serving in the Navy and Marines as a corpsman and medic. He was shot on Iwo Jima while running from foxhole to foxhole, helping other injured soldiers and received a Purple Heart. It is his service and membership in JWV (Post 256) that was the catalyst for me to join JWVA. I credit the JWV for my career as a Jewish educator. In 1977, in The Jewish Veteran (a magazine instead of a newspaper in those days) was an article about a new Jewish Studies program starting at Ohio State University, which is where I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. My parents passed away young, my mom when I was 12 and my dad when I was 24. Many years later I met my husband Allan, a Navy Veteran too! I made him a Life Member of JWV while he was still working weekends and couldn't partic-

ipate. I am happy to say that now he is an active member of Post 256, the Department of TALO, and serves as National Officer of the Day. We have one son, Evan, who attends the University of North Texas.

My theme this year is L'Dor V'Dor, From Generation to Generation; honoring our past and promoting our future! My main thrust during my Presidency will be recruitment, while of course still advocating for our continuing

programs that help veterans, their families, and the community at large. I do feel, however, that recruitment is an absolute must! I implore all of you to ask friends and acquaintances if they have or had Jewish relatives in the military and to introduce them to JWVA. I also ask all our Comrades in JWV mothers,



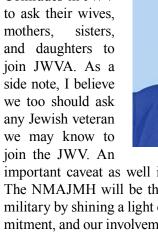
I am very much looking forward to visiting the different Auxiliaries and Departments and getting to know how National can help you and how you in turn can help your community. I hope all Auxiliaries that are associated with Posts assist our Comrades for the betterment of the veteran

community. I see our two organizations as two sides of the same coin – just as two arms are stronger than one; just as two eyes focus together instead of using one, resulting in single vision; just as two ears hear more clearly; just as two legs keep us balanced, so should the JWV and JWVA work together. This is how I feel and why I joined my local Auxiliary so many years ago.

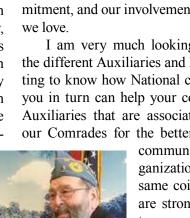
Sisters, again thank you for giving me the honor and oppor-

tunity to represent you. Now let's get to work - increase our membership, increase awareness of our programs, and remember the museum! Loyally Yours,

Sandra Cantor









THANK YOU

By PNP Elaine Bernstein Convention Chairman & PNP Petra C. Kaatz Convention Co-Chairman

Thank you to all our Delegates for attending our 91st Annual Convention in Richmond, Virginia. We had a presentation to our deserving Grant-A-Wish recipient. We presented over 1,500 teddy bears from our Rita A. Panitz Memorial Teddy Bear Program to the Police, Sheriff's Department and Ronald McDonald House. We presented 12 Rhea Sahl baby baskets to pregnant veterans. We donated items to the Ronald McDonald House from their wish list. We contributed several Walmart gift cards to a Veteran for Operation New Start. We contributed seven Uber gift cards to the Richmond VA Hospital. All of this would not have been possible if not for all of you and your generous donations.

We had many people join Partners this year and a good time was had by all who attended the Wine and Cheese Get-together.

The Chai Club Breakfast was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended – JWV, JWVA and friends. National President Linda Singer's testimonial was the highlight of our Convention.

Thank you to everyone who purchased the three for \$10.00 raffles.

I thank every chairman for working so hard to make this an outstanding convention. Special thanks to JWV Convention Chairman, Ed Goldwasser for all his help to me and the Ladies Auxiliary. I thank JWV and JWVA for supporting this Convention, without all of you this Convention would not have been the success it was.

We looking forward to seeing each and every one of you in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2020.



AMERICANISM

By Carol Adler, Chairman

One of the most important activities that any Auxiliary can do to demonstrate Americanism is to sponsor "Poppy Drives" around two of the most important days (Memorial Day & Veterans Day).

The money that is collected from these drives helps to support veterans' activities and to pur-

> chase items needed at the local veterans homes and hospitals. It is important that Auxiliary members help to collect the contributions at a local store or public place.

> Not only is it a Mitzvah but it is a token of our appreciation to the Veterans who served and are currently serving.

Aid to Israel

By Verna Rosenzweig, DP

American Friends of Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in Israel, launched its new South Florida regional office in Hollywood, Florida with an event on March 27, 2019, in Aventura, Florida.

The program, Changing the Future of Global Medicine, featured Prof. Yitshak Kreiss, Director General of Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, as keynote speaker. Sheba, which was established in 1948, has emerged to what is now considered a world-renowned epicenter of innovation in medicine

Invited as a representative of JWVA, Alan Frent, the regional director, asked me to stay after the event for a special dinner. The JWVA has supported Sheba Medical Center since 1948.

Over the years we have donated a million bandages, two completely equipped field ambulances, a surgical wing, an operating theater, a data processor for their Oncology Department, an amniotic research laboratory, a maternity wing, a delivery room, eye surgery equipment, a medical library, sterilization and anesthesia rooms, a limb-sewing machine for their Prosthetics Department, countless infusion pumps and blood gas analyzers, \$100,000 Hemodynamics Laboratory, a \$300,000 Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory, and money to fund thousands of nurses scholarships.

Sheba Medical Center was recently named by Newsweek Magazine as one of the top 10 hospitals in the world. Sheba is noted for its modern medicine and revered for its global humanitarian missions as it sends doctors to areas that require emergency humanitarian aid and disaster response.

JWVA is proud of our contributions to this innovative hospital. I urge you to make a donation to keep this amazing hospital thriving and making a difference in this world.

L'DOR V'DOR • HONORING OUR PAST & PROMOTING OUR FUTURE

Editor's Corner

By PNP Iris Goldwasser

Most people believe that Arlington National Cemetery in our nation's capital is just a resting place for those American military heroes who have passed away, as I did prior to researching the history of this revered cemetery. I have discovered that these sacred grounds also contain the remains of some prominent Jewish government leaders, some Holocaust survivors, and

some honored contributors in various fields.

Among the famous and not so famous people interred on these hollowed grounds are the following government leaders and veterans whose names may seem as familiar to you as they are

Ambassador Meyer Guggenheim was born in the wealthy and well-known Guggenheim family and became the Ambassador to Portugal under President Eisenhower.

Justice Arthur Goldberg was born to Jewish immigrants and served under Presidents John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter and became Secretary of Labor and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

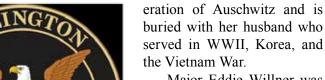
Ambassador Samuel Berger was an orthodox Jewish immigrant from Lithuania and became Ambassador to South Korea and Assistant Secretary of State for the Far East. The South Korean press dubbed him "Silent Sam" because he tended to work behind the scenes.

Senator Warren Rudman who represented New Hampshire and was known for the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act which attempted to balance the federal budget.

Senator Frank Lautenberg who represented New Jersey and was influential in the fight against anti-drunk driving, anti-smoking, domestic violence and refugee settlement. He was the last WWII veteran to serve in the Senate.

I also discovered two Jewish Holocaust survivors who served this country and are buried in **Arlington Cemetery:**

Charlene Schiff was born in Poland (now Ukraine) and survived the Holocaust by hiding in forests and eating insects. After immigrating to the U.S. after WWII she served on the U.S. Presidential Delegation to commemorate the lib-



Major Eddie Willner was born in Germany, survived Auschwitz and slave labor, and subsequently arrived in the U.S., serving in our military for 21 years. He has the only headstone at Arlington noting that he was a Holocaust survivor

There are other contributors to our U.S. history who impressed me as well during my research:

Lt. Col. William Friedman was born in Russia and immigrated to the U.S., serving in our military during WWII as the War Dept. Chief Cryptologist. He broke Japanese codes which led to our victory in the Battle of Midway.

Major Gen. Orde Wingate was a British citizen and a Christian, but a firm believer in Zionism and is honored for his role in training Haganah which later became the Israeli Defense Forces in 1948. He was killed during WWII in an U.S. Army plane crash together with his American crew and are all interred together in Arlington. He is honored each year in a ceremony held by JWV.

Lt. Col. Albert Sabin was an immigrant from Poland who became a doctor of great renown. He was instrumental in the development of vaccines for polio, dengue fever, and Japanese encephalitis.

Capt. Joshua Goldberg was born in Russia and served in the Russian Army before arriving in the U.S. He became a Rabbi during WWII and served in our military as the commanding officer for all religious personnel in CT, NY, and NJ. The Chapel in our NMAJMH is named in his honor.

The fascinating history of this wonderful country is all around us; we only have to open our hearts and minds. I found the history of this National Cemetery as riveting and diverse as the individuals buried there. Each individual had a story to tell and I hope you found them each as enlightening as I did. What I discovered and found most amazing was the many immigrants who became American citizens and subsequently became an integral thread in the history of our country. Each of us also has a thread to contribute and woven together we can all add to the history of the U.S.

Mental Health Issues/Veteran Suicide

By Dr. Charwynne Hazlewood, Chairman

While visiting with Medical Directors in VA hospitals across the country this past year, it was brought to my attention that many mental health issues afflict our veterans each day. Suicide is at the top of the list. After doing some research, I found the statistics on veterans suicide alarming.

The findings listed below were issued by the Department of Defense as part of the VA report, The Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) National Suicide Data Report, issued in June 2018:

- There were 20.6 military suicides per day; 16.8 were veterans and 3.8 were active duty
- Texas and Florida had the greatest number of suicides in the country.
- · Hawaii, Rhode Island and North Dakota had the least number of suicides.
- The suicide rates for male veterans was 19% higher than for non-veteran males.
- The suicide rates for female veterans was 2.5 times higher than for non-veteran females.
- The largest group of soldier suicides comes from older veterans, ages 50 and up, living in the western part of the U.S.A.
- The suicide rate among veterans is 1.5 times higher than for non-veterans.
- · Of the 20 military suicides a day, only six have been under VA care.

The VA has made suicide prevention its number one priority. The Veteran Crisis Line has expanded to 700 employees and a Suicide Prevention Coordinator is housed in every VA facility, new cross-sector partnerships have been created with families and communities for suicide prevention and partnering with the departments of Homeland Security to support veterans during their transition from military to civilian life.

Many initiatives have been implemented for suicide prevention. The question remains "What can one individual do to address this dilemma?" We all must do our part. Free, confidential support is available 24/7 to veterans in crisis or anyone concerned about a veteran. If you know a veteran who needs help, please call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. We can make a difference.

Leadership/Membership/Organizing

By Sophie Ruderman, PNP

It is said that we women can multi-task! Our two hands can manage several jobs at the same time; many of us are CEOs at home or in business, nurturers of our families, Uber drivers for our children, chefs, laundresses, maids, etc.

Our Auxiliaries can multi-task as well. We fundraise on Veterans Day and Memorial Day to collect for veterans. We stand on corners sometimes and/or set up collection tables at many stores and markets. At the same time we can offer membership applications and explain the goals of our organization and our various programs. We can appeal to those who want to assist us in our efforts on behalf of the veterans and the children in the local communities, describe our efforts at Ronald McDonald Houses, and our Teddy Bear Program that comforts traumatized children, and our donations to the police, firemen, children's hospitals, etc.

Always be friendly and thank the people who approach our tables and be grateful for their contributions

Remember an individual only needs to be related to a Jewish veteran and we welcome Patron members as well.

NMAJMH NEWS • SAVE NOW

Our REMEMBRANCE WALK is almost complete. To be included RESERVE A PAVER TODAY FOR USE TOMORROW. Choose your paver spot with only a \$100 deposit.

OUR HEROES exhibit has been reduced from \$180 to \$100 until our NEC meeting in February 2020.

> **HURRY – TAKE ADVANTAGE OF** THESE OPPORTUNITIES NOW!

Check our museum website at www.NMAJMH.org for more information.

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

It's always great to have college student groups come to the museum. Among the recent ones was a group from Cal State Northridge. The group was touring D.C. and visiting a variety of institutions to find inspiration for their campus cultural center. Our docent Sheldon Goldberg led them on a tour of our exhibits. We hope we provided some ideas as they develop their plans.

We also welcomed a group of students from Liberty University, an evangelical Christian school in Lynchburg, Virginia. For the first time Liberty is offering a Holocaust history course. We provided a talk on Jewish concentration camp liberators before touring our exhibits. Several of the students looking for research topics said they were inspired to explore the stories of liberators and Holocaust survivors who later joined the U.S. military in either World War II or Korea. Our friends from George Washington University's Experiential

Jewish Education program helped arrange for Robert Teitel, a Holocaust survivor, to speak to the Liberty students.

Born in 1941 in the Netherlands, Teitel discussed his family history and his experiences after his father was executed at Mauthausen concentration camp and his mother died from Tuberculosis. Teitel ended up in an Amsterdam orphanage. By 1947, he was living with a foster family when his grandfather arrived from Jerusalem where he had been living since the 1930s. When his grandfather attempted to bring him back to Jerusalem, it created an international kidnapping sensation that was covered in Holland's major newspapers. Teitel returned to Amsterdam. Eventually, he made it to the United States, but it required an act of Congress. In 1950, H.R. 7372 was introduced by Representative Franklin Delano Roosevelt Jr. "to authorize the admission to the United States of Robert F. Teitel, a minor." Once in the United States, he lived with his grandfather who had moved from Jerusalem to New York.

On August 6, TM Garret joined us from North Mississippi for a well-attended talk about his journey from white nationalist to anti-racism ad-



TM Garret spoke to a large audience who came out to the Museum to hear about his experience of becoming, and then leaving, the White Nationalist movement.

vocate. TM's story was included in the last issue of the Jewish Veteran. TM emphasized the need for compassion, even to those who might not deserve it. This is what brought him away from extremism and what he believes we need in today's troubling environment. Along with bringing in a lot of visitors to the building, the talk was covered in Washington Jewish Week and helped the museum receive a lot of social media attention. Special thanks to JWV Membership Coordinator Harrison Heller for making the connection with TM.

We've also been hosting more private events lately including Shabbat services, pre-wedding events, and baby namings. We've got a great location in the desirable Dupont Circle neighborhood with a room that can seat more than 100 people. As with all aspects of the museum, we need you to spread the word. Our growth depends on you!

Reserve Today for Tomorrow

By PNP Iris Goldwasser, Development Chairman

Although the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) is not as large as the Smithsonian, we are aware of its importance to Jews and the veteran community. Our museum is impressive to visit with its vivid and interesting exhibits, but to bring it forward into the future we must remember our mantra, "Let's make our museum bigger and better."

The Remembrance Walk of engraved pavers in front of our building in Washington, D.C., which captures the interest of tourists walking by as they stop to read the inscriptions, gives us recognition as a tourist attraction and promotes JWV/JWVA at the same time. There are still some available spots waiting for inscriptions. We don't want anyone to miss out on the opportunity to be included. With that in mind, we are offering you an option to reserve your paver today for future use with only a \$100 deposit. You would pay the balance when the paver is complete.



Our Heroes is a tribute to our servicemen and women, members of our families or friends, who have served in any U.S. conflict. The cost to include your loved one in this display is just \$100, a 4x6-inch photo, and some service information. We are also extending the offer to be included in Our Heroes until February 2020 due to the



Sgt. Edward Goldw.

great interest from members. To better promote the NMAJMH we require an avid and interested membership and we rely on you to help us in this endeavor. Please keep your membership up-to-date and help us gather other interested people to join. They do not have to be a member of JWV, JWVA, or Jewish, just a supporter of our organization and our goals. Always remember, there is strength in numbers.

We must continue to grow to remain viable, to make our mark on the Washington community, and to become the legacy we envision for the next generation.

Upcoming Book Talks

Sunday, October 27 • 2:00 pm

Dearest Ruth, How Are You?: Falling in Love through Letters during WWII By Selma Ruth Wolkow

Selma (Ruth) met Irv on a blind date shortly before he was deployed to Europe to fight in World War II. Through the course of a year, they corresponded,

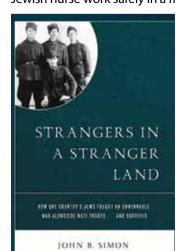


writing over 100 letters to each other. By the time he came home, they had fallen in love. This book expounds on the importance of words and the written language in developing a lasting relationship.

Monday, November 4 • 7:00 pm

Strangers in a Stranger Land: How One Country's Jews Fought an Unwinnable War alongside Nazi Troops... and Survived - By John Simon

What did it feel like to be an openly Jewish soldier fighting alongside German troops in WWII? Could a Jewish nurse work safely in a field hospital operating



theater under the supervision of German army doctors? Several hundred members of Finland's tiny Jewish community found themselves in absurd situations like this, yet not a single one was harmed by the Germans or deported to concentration or extermination camps.

By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

Women of JWV – We Need Your Stories

Many people were saddened to see the museum's long running Women in the Military: A Jewish Perspective exhibition come down to make way for a permanent exhibit. We are working to fill the void left by Women in the Military, but we don't want a new exhibition to simply be a repetition of the previous exhibit. It would be wonderful if a new women's exhibition could tell new stories. To do that, we'll need your help.

The collections and archives of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History have been built on the donations of JWV members. Nearly all the objects in the museum's collection have been acquired through the generosity of veterans and their families, making our collection one that truly reflects the diverse experiences of Jewish Americans in the U.S. armed forces. That said, 85% or more of the materials in our collection pertaining to women's service in the U.S. military is from the World War II era.

If you are a woman who has served in the US armed forces in the post-WWII era, the NMAJMH wants your story and photos. Whether you served





Evelyn Ablon writing on chalkboard tracking flights for the US Army Air Corps during World War II.

in Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, or peacetime, we need your help to show that Jewish women have served and continue to serve in the American military. You do not need to be a member of JWV to be included (though we would love to have you as a member).

To be included in the museum's collection and

potentially in a future exhibition, please contact Pamela Elbe at pelbe@ nmajmh.org. While we greatly appreciate the generosity of our members, please do not send items to the museum unless requested. All collection offers must be made in writing, via snail mail or email. Please describe each item, attaching a list if necessary. If possible, please also include photographs of objects. The informa-

Nuclear Biological Chemical Training, Fall 1990, 1LT Keith McCullar and CPT Susan Schechter Meisner.



Barbara Gordon Goldstein x-raying patient's teeth, ca. 1951-55, while serving as a dental hygienist in the US Navv.

tion provided will be reviewed and you will be contacted with a response.

Please remember:

- Only the legal owners of an item (or their legally designated representative) can donate (transfer title to) items.
- The museum cannot guarantee that donated items will be exhibited.
- All donations must be made free and clear, with no restrictions.

Items of particular interest to the museum are photographs, correspondence, military records, and memoirs, but we may also be interested in ephemera, military equipment, and uniforms. We also have a veteran questionnaire that can be sent to you if you do not have materials to donate but would like your story to be included in the museum. Please help preserve the stories of Jewish women's service in the U.S. armed forces.

Lt. Frances Y. Slanger, one of the first women to land in Normandy

Friedel Yachet Schlanger was born in 1913 in Lodz, Poland. When she was seven, she immigrated with her family to the United States, where her name was changed to Frances Slanger. She graduated from the Boston City Hospital School of Nursing in 1937. In 1943, she enlisted in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and attended the first nursing basic training program at Fort Devens. She was sent to Europe as a part of the 2d Platoon, 45th Field Hospital. She landed in Normandy on June 10, 1944 and worked as part of a surgical team on the front lines while in Europe.

Lt. Frances Y. Slanger died in Elsenborn, Belgium on October 21, 1944 during a German artillery attack. She was the first American army nurse to die in enemy action in the European theater of operations. She was 31 years old. On the night before she died, Slanger wrote a letter to Stars and Stripes military newspaper, praising American servicemen and thanking the wounded for the privilege of easing their pain and sharing some of their hardships.

This portrait was painted by Joseph Fine, whose wife Sue was Frances Slanger's cousin.



Oil painting by Joseph Fine of Lt. Frances Y. Slanger, one of the first women to land in Normandy, France during World War II. Slanger was killed during a German artillery attack.

Attention All Posts, Councils, and Departments

Please submit a copy of your Constitution and By-Laws to the archives. It is very important that JWV has these documents on file. If your echelon does not have its own separate Constitution and By-Laws, please send a notice to let us know that you use the National Constitution and By-Laws.

Pamela Elbe at pelbe@nmajmh.org

Mail to:

Pamela Elbe **NMA JMH** 1811 R St NW Washington DC 20009

U.S. World War I Memorial Update

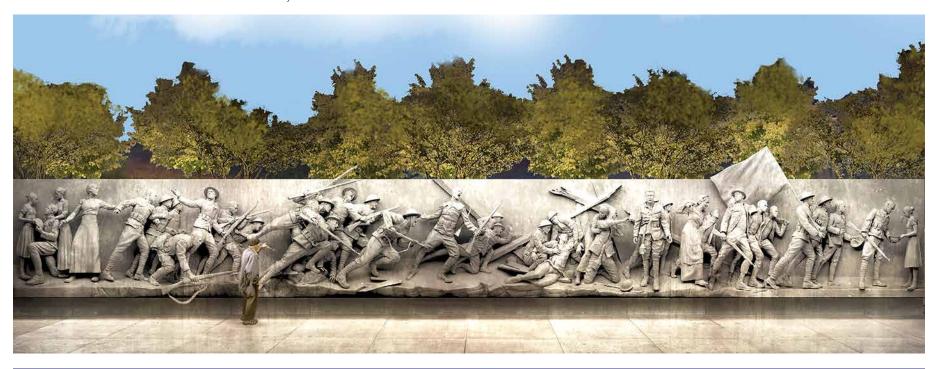
By David W. Hamon, Veterans Service Organizations & Military Director, U.S. WWI Centennial Commission

The U.S. National World War I Centennial Commission continues to make good progress on building a National WWI Memorial in Washington, D.C. In April of this year the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) in Washington gave its final approval for the design of the memorial. You can find the latest design information, including a computer generated image of the memorial in Pershing Park, which will be the future home of the memorial, as

well as the interpretation center, a statue of General Pershing, and more at www.wwlcc.org/memorial.

In September, the Commission hopes the CFA will approve the final design features of the park itself, including lighting, landscaping, accessibility, and other infrastructure. Those elements would be funded and maintained by the U.S. Park Service within the Department of the Interior. The Commission hopes to officially break ground in October. Sabine Howard, the world famous sculptor, has started creating clay armatures of the first seven figures on the memorial. These completed items will be shipped to a special foundry in the United Kingdom where they will be cast in bronze

If your Post or Department is interested in becoming an official American Expeditionary (AEF) Memorial Corps Chapter/ Organization by making a donation to help build the memorial, the Commission will send you a special engraved certificate. Remember the Doughboys! Please don't let their service and sacrifice go unrecognized.



TAPS

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May this New Year be sweet, healthy and happy. L'shanah Tovah!

Greetings from Post 409
Clearwater, Still Going Strong!

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

PA PDC 706 Larry Holman
In memory of PNC Ronald Ziegler

PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health

Happy Holiday!

Saluting the Veterans of Heritage Hills

Mazel Toy!

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, PNC 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

In Memory of My Wife - Jack Porter
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 In Memory of Don Rothman PC #44

By Wife Bernice Rothman PAP #44

Stephen & Helen Sax Live long and prosper

In Loving Memory of
Eleanor (Smith) & PNC AI 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

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

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

In Memory of Moshe Shaki-Tiberius
Lieutenant-Tank Forces IDF

Good Health & Best Wishes to all Veterans and their Families

PPC Post 191 Aaron Silver
In memory of my wife Marilyn-JWVA

PNP 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

NC 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!

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