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 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
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, 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: identifying 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.

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

Display your JWV Membership Proudly
The JWV supply store isn’t just for pins and poppies! You can also purchase JWV branded badges, caps and jackets!

Post Banners and Flags! Shirts, caps, and jackets!
Visit the online store at the JWV website or contact Pat Ennis at 703-753-3733 or by email: pat@asb-va.com

Rabbi Sandy Dresin, Chaplain (COL) USA, Ret Director of Military Programs, The Aleph Institute
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 organization unified at all levels. My indefatigable predecessor visited numerous posts, councils, and departments in his effort to solidify their relationship with National. I hope to supplement his extraordinary efforts by visiting some of those that he did not reach, so we can say that in a two-year period, almost all, if not all, departments and posts were visited by a National Commander. National does so much and I want this communicated to the echelons below.

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

Contest to Design JWV’s 125th Anniversary Logo!

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

Who is sponsoring the Contest? Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Inc.

Guidelines

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

• Entries must be the original work of the entrant(s) and must not be derived from any third-party designs, trademarks, or copyrighted images.

• The Logo must be appropriate for a cap pin, printed materials such as posters, brochures, and for use on social media.

• Logo must look good in color and black and white. Do not use halftones and gradients unless created inside a vector graphics program.

• Logo design can be submitted in the following formats, jpeg, psd or PDF, but if you are chosen as a winner, you MUST be able to provide a high resolution vector file (EPS).

Eligibility

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

How to Enter

Send your name, address, phone number and your email address along with a jpeg or PDF of your design to Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org. Entry submissions must not be larger than 5MB. If yours is the winning submission, you MUST be able to provide a high-resolution vector file (EPS) of it. Multiple submissions are accepted.

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

Judging and Winner Selection

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

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

Ownership

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

Prize and Winner Notification

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

Good luck to all entrants!
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 Special Adaptative 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 his 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 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 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 Flege, 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

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 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 dawn, 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 publicly 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

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 #272 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 returning 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 (NJDMVA). For more information, you can visit the helpline’s website at www.njveteranshelpline.org.
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 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 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 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 a 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.
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 evolution of our Gulf 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 Facebook page and a JWV Gulf War Net 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.

4. What is an American tradition that makes you better, as I am usually the only Jewish Marine in my unit. I learned about JWV from my friend Michael Ross at Torah study

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.

www.jvw.org
Volume 73 • Number 3 • 2019
The Jewish Veteran 7
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 DuTiel 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 echelon’s 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.

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 ctturner@jwv.org.

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 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.

Edward Hirsch and Mark Weiss accept an 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.
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 Jews in the American Military – Abigail Minis, Founding Mother of the State of Georgia.

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

It’s about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to draw congressional districts and determine how many seats each state gets.

It’s in the constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It’s about $675 billion.

The distribution of more than $675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and local communities is based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it’s a way to participate in our democracy and say “I COUNT.”

Census data are being used all around you.

Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

Your privacy is protected.

It’s against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.

Honoring Veterans in VA Cemeteries

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.
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’ Memorial, opened August 5 with a ceremony debuting a dozen life-size statues depicting U.S. military personnel from all branches of service. The first 12 statues can now be seen about 10 miles off the coast of Clearwater, FL. The Circle of Heroes will be a premier international diving destination and will also serve as a place where veterans with physical and mental injuries can heal, the website states.

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.

“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 veterans with physical and mental injuries can heal,” the website states.

By Larry Jasper

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

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 the end 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 at 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 Foreign 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 requests 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. He took 33 years after his tour of duty to get VA to process claims linked to Agent Orange exposure during his time aboard the USS Lexington during the Vietnam War. (Leo Shane III/Staff).
JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

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 IN THE COMMUNITY

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 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 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 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.

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.

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.
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 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.”

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

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

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 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 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, 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 permission. Contact Bruce Walton at 329-7123 or bwalton@chroniclet.com. Follow him on Facebook @BWalton440 or Twitter @BruceWalton.
At the outset, it is necessary to point out that the experiences of Soviet Jews during World War II were complex and multifaceted. The participation of Soviet Jews as soldiers, journalists, and propagandists combatting the Nazis, 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 families, friends, and relatives. It engendered in them a deep hatred 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 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 diaries 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 I’llia 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

Available at the NMAJMH online store

Luxembourg Honors Jewish American GI

Continued from page 1

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

When the U.S. entered World War II, Josefson enlisted 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 by September 2.

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.

As a platoon leader and car commander of the 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, 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.

On September 9, 1944, by mid-day, Josefson’s armored M8 Greyhound Patrol car is the first to breach the Belgian border and enter Petange, Luxembourg. But the celebratory air is severely damped when a hidden Wehrmacht cannon hits Josefson’s Greyhound just as it approaches a flour mill. Josefson is killed, and three others in his car were wounded.

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

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.
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.ridefortheholiving.org.

---

**A Ride to Remember**

Continued from page 1

---

**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 Administration’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 being 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 service 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.
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 corporsman 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 participate. 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 your wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters to join JWVA. As a side note, I believe we too should ask any Jewish veteran we may know to join the JWV. An important caveat as well is joining our museum. The NMAJMH will be the legacy of Jews in the military by shining a light on our history, our commitment, and our involvement in this great country we love.

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 opportunity 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
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 to me:

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 liberation of Auschwitz and is buried with her husband who served in WWII, Korea, and the Vietnam War.

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 JWW.

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 NMAMHI 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.

Our Auxiliaries can multi-task as well. 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 respected and remembered.

Mental Health Issues/Veteran Suicide

By Dr. Charwynne Hazelwood, 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 Members.

• 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.

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.
Reserve Today for Tomorrow

By NPN 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 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.

MUSEUM NEWS

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 admittance 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 advocate. 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!

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 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.

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 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.
Women of JWW – 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 JWW 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 U.S. armed forces in the post-WWII era, the NMAMJMH wants your story and photos. Whether you served 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 JWW 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. 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 information 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. Slangr, 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 Slangr. 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 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. Slangr 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, Slangr 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 Slangr’s cousin.

Attention All Posts, Councils, and Departments

Please submit a copy of your Constitution and By-Laws to the archives. It is very important that JWW 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.

Email to: Pamela Elbe at pelbe@nmajmh.org
Mail to: Pamela Elbe
NMAMJMH
1811 R St NW
Washington DC 20009

www.nmajmh.org   Volume 73 • Number 3 • 2019   National Museum of American Jewish Military History   21
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.wwiassoc.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. These 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 Forces (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

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE
Moss, Ervin - Post 344
Sayer, Harriet - Post 100
Zitzen, Abe - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
Ashman, Charles R. - Post 786
Case, Bernard - Post 603
Fine, Ernest - Post 385
Fogel, Richard M. - Post 786
Horan, Martin W. - Post 603
Kaplan, Seymour - Post 385
Klosky, Lowell H. - Post 385
Needle, Jack - Post 603
Schulman, Benjamin D. - Post 385
Silverman, Philip - Post 680
Sherman, Arthur - Post 138

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT
Detich, Leonard - Post 45
Ginsberg, Meyer - Post 45
Glooskin, Ebner E. - Post 45
Ginsberg, Meyer - Post 45
Kaplan, Sid - Post 76
Kline, Harold - Post 39
Krumholz, Norman A. - Post 125
Lampf, Sanford - Post 609
Litman, Joseph - Post 536
Lipsitz, Harry - Post 125
Mirsky, Arnold Post 63
Lipton, Abraham - Post 98
Mirsky, Merrell B. - Post 126
Morgenstern, Edwin A. - Post 692
Olshan, Abraham - Post 178
Pill, Theresa G. - Post 140
Rosenberg, Jerome B. - Post 740
Rosenberg, Joseph D. - Post 740
Rosen, Lillian - Post 167
Scherer, C. W. - Post 644
Sherman, Carl K. - Post 644
Stern, Abe - Post 50

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
Blumenthal, Harris - Post 575
Cader, Irving - Post 165
Dickman, Robert H. - Post 305
Goldsmith, Alan S. - Post 718
Weiser, Isidore - Post 440
Taylor, Jules - Post 631
Weiser, Isidore - Post 440

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND
Borstad, Renee L. - Post 126
Borstad, Renee L. - Post 126
Cohen, Roy - Post 125
Cohen, Roy - Post 125
Gimpel, Edward - Post 609
Gimpel, Edward - Post 609
Gordon, Sterling A. - Post 609
Gordon, Sterling A. - Post 609
Hecklen, Lewis - Post 76
Hecklen, Lewis - Post 76
Kaplan, Sid - Post 76
Kaplan, Sid - Post 76
Kline, Harold - Post 39
Kline, Harold - Post 39
Krumholz, Norman A. - Post 125
Krumholz, Norman A. - Post 125
Lampf, Sanford - Post 609
Lampf, Sanford - Post 609
Litman, Joseph - Post 536
Litman, Joseph - Post 536
Masanoff, Jules - Post 972
Masanoff, Jules - Post 972
Markman, Erwin - Post 39
Markman, Erwin - Post 39
Minsky, Arnold Post 63
Minsky, Arnold Post 63
Silverberg, Leo M. - Post 740
Silverberg, Leo M. - Post 740
Scherer, C. W. - Post 644
Scherer, C. W. - Post 644
Stern, Walter A. - Post 125
Stern, Walter A. - Post 125
Stein, Walter A. - Post 972
Stein, Walter A. - Post 972
Yellin, Herman D. - Post 609
Yellin, Herman D. - Post 609
Zagoria, Howard - Post 609
Zagoria, Howard - Post 609

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
Berger, Sara S. - Post 258
Bernstein, Jack - Post 68
Bernstein, Jack - Post 68
Donowitz, Max - Post 502
Donowitz, Max - Post 502
Greenberg, Sylvan - Post 1
Greenberg, Sylvan - Post 1
Halperin, Melvin N. - Post 756
Halperin, Melvin N. - Post 756
Hilu, Nathan - Post 1
Hilu, Nathan - Post 1
Hoehberg, Irving - Post 1
Hoehberg, Irving - Post 1
Kaplan, Mitchell - Post 191
Kaplan, Mitchell - Post 191
Kloner, Cyrus - Post 41
Kloner, Cyrus - Post 41
Levine, Stanley - Post 389
Levine, Stanley - Post 389
Marder, Henry - Post 415
Marder, Henry - Post 415
Mesches, Arthur - Post 25
Mesches, Arthur - Post 25
Rosenberg, Murray - Post 69
Rosenberg, Murray - Post 69
Sandoz, Mildred - Post 717
Sandoz, Mildred - Post 717
Silverman, Harold - Post 717
Silverman, Harold - Post 717

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
Abrams, Elwyn - Post 179
Hersh, Ted - Post 14
Kursman, Bernard S. - Post 44
Martel, Sidney - Post 44
Rubin, Samuel H. - Post 44
Schoemann, Steven M. - Post 587
Stone, Arnold - Post 44

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND
Dembner, Irving - Post 21
Feinstein, Albert M. - Post 23
Feinstein, Albert M. - Post 23
Feldman, George B. - Post 23
Feldman, George B. - Post 23
Mandell, Leonard C. - Post 406
Mandell, Leonard C. - Post 406
Pepper, Arnold L. - Post 23
Pepper, Arnold L. - Post 23
Port, Seymour I. - Post 23
Port, Seymour I. - Post 23
Rotkin, Carol S. - Post 23
Rotkin, Carol S. - Post 23
Shratter, Morris - Post 499
Shratter, Morris - Post 499
Weinberg, George - Post 165
Weinberg, George - Post 165

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND
Dembner, Irving - Post 21
Feinstein, Albert M. - Post 23
Feinstein, Albert M. - Post 23
Feldman, George B. - Post 23
Feldman, George B. - Post 23
Mandell, Leonard C. - Post 406
Mandell, Leonard C. - Post 406
Pepper, Arnold L. - Post 23
Pepper, Arnold L. - Post 23
Port, Seymour I. - Post 23
Port, Seymour I. - Post 23
Rotkin, Carol S. - Post 23
Rotkin, Carol S. - Post 23
Shratter, Morris - Post 499
Shratter, Morris - Post 499
Weinberg, George - Post 165
Weinberg, George - Post 165

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST
Becker, John F. - Post 619
Becker, John F. - Post 619

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST
Becker, John F. - Post 619
Becker, John F. - Post 619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO
Benson, Harry - Post 235
Holleran, Harlan - Post 235
Holleran, Harlan - Post 235
Kancher, Leonard - Post 580
Kancher, Leonard - Post 580
Lewis, Paul Herbert - Post 256
Lewis, Paul Herbert - Post 256
Mensch, Sam - Post 580
Mensch, Sam - Post 580
I SERVED
FOR his future

With USAA, you’ve earned access to a membership that can be passed down from generation to generation. So no matter what reasons you served for, the best reasons are yet to come.

JOIN USAA AND BEGIN YOUR LEGACY.
CALL 800-292-8JWV (8598) OR VISIT USAA.COM/JWV

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. Jewish War Veterans of the United States receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. Use of the term “member” or “membership” refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. To join USAA, separated military personnel must have received a discharge type of “Honorable.” Eligible former dependents of USAA members may join USAA. © 2019 USAA. 250717-0219-JWV
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. Barnard • 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 Elliot & 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 Sarbasky
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 Hreidink
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 Tov!
Jack Kent (Kantrovitz)
In Memory of wife Marilyn Shapiro Kent
Kalman (Kal) A. Leichtman
A WWII Proud Jewish American
MA PDC Stanley R. Light
In memory of Shirley Hersh, PPC Post 26
PNP Petra & PDC Jason Kaatz
Good Health & Happy Holidays!
In Memory of Morty Kessler
Bell-Oak Post 648, Queens-NY
Mazel Tov, 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
PNP 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 Al Schlossberg
Harriet & Norman Schnitzer, PDC
In Memory of Ralph Leon Shear
Lubert/Shear Families - All 22 of us!
Irv Schildkraut • JWV Post 440
Proud Vet of USMC, USN, USA
PNP 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 Stadtmuener • Post 648
In loving memory of Clare Stadtmuener
Shalom & Mazel Tov to all Veterans
Greta & Jerry Stoliar • Post 346
The Tarnofsky Family
In memory of Len Klinit - 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!

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Amount of payment: ____________________________
Card #: ____________________________ Exp: /
1st line: ____________________________
2nd line: ____________________________
(no more than 30 characters per line)

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

Jewish War Veterans
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC-20009

2019-3