



The Jewish Veteran

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

Virtual Convention Planning Underway

By Cara Rinkoff

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. will not hold its 125th National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida this August. Instead, due to the current coronavirus pandemic, everyone is invited to attend a virtual convention.

“While we had no choice but to have a virtual convention, a silver lining may be that this will lead to attendance by those members who are unable to attend an in-person convention,” says National Commander Harvey Weiner.

The virtual convention will still take place at the same time we would have been meeting in Jacksonville, from August 23-27.

All committees will be required to meet during the convention. While there will not be a set time for those meetings, committees will receive a block of time during which they must schedule their meeting.

“If we’re going to have a convention, then to not have meetings is a waste of time,” says Coordinating Committee Chairman Norman Rosenshein.

The registration fee for the virtual convention is \$18.00. Only those who have paid the registration fee and are in good standing will be allowed to speak or vote.

The business meetings will have a similar format to the ones we typically have at convention.

There will be live and recorded speakers appearing at those meetings and during the opening of the convention.

The schedule will be sent out to all registrants prior to the start of the convention, but you can find a basic schedule of what meetings will take place on certain days on page 11 of this issue. You can register for the convention online, or by sending in the form on page 11.

There are still plans to have a convention journal this year. We hope to have those sent out either by mail or electronically to your homes before the start of the convention.

Major General Maurice Rose, One of World War II's Greatest Combat Generals

By Falk Kantor

During JWV's 27th Annual Mission to Israel, I participated in a tour of the Armor Corps Museum at Latrun. Our tour guide, retired Brig. Gen. Zvi Kantor asked if anyone knew Maurice Rose. No one raised their hand. That's when I vowed to learn all I could about Rose.

U.S. Army Major General Maurice Rose died during World War II while leading the 3rd Armored Division into Germany. At the time of his death, Rose was the highest ranking Jewish officer in the U.S. Army and the highest ranking American killed by enemy fire in the European Theater.

Maurice Rose's grandfather, a Rabbi, led one of Poland's premier centers of Jewish learning. Rose's father Samuel, served as the Rabbi for a congregation in Denver, Colorado for more than 40 years.

After graduating high school in 1916, Rose lied about his age in order to enlist in the Colorado National Guard. When superiors found out about his real age six weeks later, they discharged him. Once the United States entered World War I, Rose re-enlisted, and became a 2nd Lieutenant in the 89th Infantry Division.

The 89th Division fought at St. Mihiel where Lt Rose was wounded by shrapnel and hospitalized. After three weeks, he left the hospital without authorization to rejoin his unit. However, while in the hospital, Rose listed his religion as Protestant, and maintained that affiliation throughout his Army career. There is no record he formally converted.

In the first American offensive of World War II, Rose served as chief of staff for the 2nd Armored Division in North Africa where he received his first Silver Star. Rose received a promotion to Brigadier General and took command of the 2nd Armored Division. Rose led his troops in combat across Sicily and then into France shortly after D-Day.

General Rose became the commander of the 3rd Armored Division during combat in France in August 1944. Shortly thereafter, Rose received a promotion to Major General. Under Rose's leadership, the 3rd Armored Division led an advance across northern France and Belgium. On September 12, Rose's division became the first armored unit to enter Germany and the first to breach the Siegfried Line.

During the winter of 1944-45, Rose's division helped stem the German advance in the Battle of the Bulge. They captured Cologne on March 7. On March 29, the Division made the longest one-day advance through enemy territory by any Allied division during the war, more than 100 miles, stopping just south of the German city of Paderborn.

When the 3rd Division started advancing towards Paderborn the next day, Rose took his usual place up front with his forward echelon. During the fighting a German tank got in the way of the jeep. The tank's hatch opened and a German with a machine pistol began shouting at the jeep's three occupants as they stood with raised hands in front of the tank in the fading daylight. As General Rose



Gen Courtney Hodges, CG, 1st Army, Lt Gen J. Lawton Collins, CG, VII Corps, and Maj Gen Maurice Rose, CG, 3rd Armored Division, at a Presidential Unit Citation Ceremony, Honnef, Germany, March 1945 (photo courtesy of the Univ of Illinois 3rd AD Archives).

reached for his holster to surrender his pistol, several bursts of machine gun fire struck the General. The General's aide and driver fled the area and made it back to the U.S. lines.

When 45-year-old Rose was buried in Margraten in the Netherlands, the military placed a Star of David above his grave. After a review of his records, the Army replaced the star with a cross after finding that he had listed Protestant as his religious affiliation.

While there may be questions about Rose's religion and the symbol marking his grave, he remains the son and grandson of rabbis.

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D'verei HaShomrim

By Retired Chaplain Col. Jacob Goldstein

As I write this column, tectonic shifts and actions are occurring in our country. Our daily way of life has changed for many Americans due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our schools are shut, synagogues are closed to prayer and other functions, people are confined to their homes, and our lives are turned upside-down in ways that are difficult to describe. How can we not go to synagogue to pray, attend a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a wedding, etc.? I wish to share with you an event that changed my life during my 38 years as the longest serving Chaplain in the U.S. armed forces.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I, along with millions of other Americans, was engaged in my daily routine. In an instant, our lives were changed by coordinated terrorist attacks, one at the World Trade Center in New York City. That day I received a message on my pager from the Headquarters of the New York National Guard, where I served as the Chaplain for the Joint Forces Command. The message called me and other unit ministry teams to the World Trade Center site. I saw the horrors of deaths and destruction in an area where hundreds were killed in the blink of an eye. The lives of all Americans were changed from that day forward. No longer were we the open society that existed up to the moment of those attacks. A new way of life started. There were additional security scanners in buildings, more intense airport screenings, and security guards in many buildings with questions asked of all who entered.

This brings me to where we are now in our lives, which have turned upside-down. Eventually after 9/11, our lives returned to a new normal as we



adapted to a changed reality. Our country returned to its success, until this pandemic hit the entire world. Just as the Lord assured Moses in the desert, "Do not be fearful and tremble, for I the Lord am with you," place yourself in the hands of Hakodesh Boruchhu, the Lord above, and continue to do good deeds, be charitable to one another, and engage in prayer as we Jews have always done in times of distress and danger.

I will conclude with an incident that happened to me at the World Trade Center site. On my third day there with almost no sleep, a fellow chaplain came to me and handed me a Yarmulke someone had found in the rubble. Instinctively I turned it over to see if it had an inscription inside. It said, "The wedding reception of Steven to Melanie, Sept. 10, 2001." Imagine light in the darkness, a religious symbol for all to see. May the Lord guide us in all our deeds for good, heal those who are ill, and comfort the families who have lost dear ones during this time.

The Power of One

By Rabbi Irwin Wiener

In 1965, sitting in front of my television, a news-flash appeared listing the death toll in Vietnam. In those days, it was a daily occurrence. The intensity of the conflict was beginning to show signs of terrible days and years ahead.

What caught my eye at that time was a name I had not seen, nor uttered, for many years, Major Alan Pasco. He was a childhood friend growing up in the Bronx, New York. We hung out, played basketball, went to the same playground, and just enjoyed life. He was one of the first casualties.

These thoughts came to mind when I recently viewed a movie, "The Last Full Measure." This period in our history still brings back horrific images of maimed bodies, lost limbs, lost lives, and lost opportunities. The men who sacrificed so much for so little have no future, no love to warm their hearts, no families to watch as they join for holidays and other celebrations.

These men and women will never have families of their own, no children to shower with affection, no stories of growing old while enjoying the fruits of their labors. There are no tomorrows, only yesterdays. In the ten years of the Vietnam War there were 58,220 casualties.

I watched this film, tears rolling down my cheeks, not truly understanding the purpose of the sacrifices. My mind wandered to the early 1970s, when our country showed its disdain for the war by shunning our men and women in uniform. At that time, America showed its anger and frustration by

insulting and criticizing the actions of these brave souls.

The one thing we did not do is focus our contempt on the people who brought us to the brink of disgust in anything and everything our country was now involved in. From the Secretary of Defense, to the Secretary of State, to the Generals, and of course, to the President of the United States, we neglected to remind them their obligations rested with the care and safety of those we send into battle. Time and again we read and witnessed the lack of fortitude in determining the value of this so-called undeclared war.

Over, and over, I watched as the pain of their involvement became too much to bear. The wounded, the dead, all giving the last full measure in an attempt to survive and fulfill their obligations as patriots. Young and old joined together to help each other in the madness they encountered. Medics tried to piece together the broken and shattered remnants of what was once whole.

None of us can truly understand the torment, the agony, the despair felt as fellow soldiers fell at the feet of their comrades. Can we ever focus on the blood soaked ground and not feel ashamed at the senseless slaughter of our brothers, our fathers, our sons, and our future?

Perhaps only eyes washed by tears can see clearly the futility of war. Perhaps the tragedies we encounter are less significant than what happens within us. This, to me, is the reality of death and destruction perpetrated on ourselves as we try to



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Interested in writing an article about veterans' issues? Want to let everyone know what your post or department is doing? Send your articles and photographs to Managing Editor Cara Rinkoff at editor@jwv.org. You can find more information about guidelines for article and photo submissions on www.jwv.org. The deadline for the next issue of The Jewish Veteran is September 2, 2020.

justify this madness.

Airman First Class William Pitsenbarger, to me, is a symbol of both what is right with our service men and women and at the same time, what is wrong with the way we treat them as they display the heroism expected. The depression, homelessness, and lack of proper medical treatment are all indications of our neglect for the sanctity of life and gratitude for their service.

People like Airman First Class Pitsenbarger and all who have served and continue to serve are owed a debt of gratitude. He represented all that is good in us. He represented the sacrifices we are willing to make to protect who we are. He represented, and still represents, the millions who serve, who give of themselves so that we can enjoy the beauty of freedom and the values established by the few for so many.

Have we learned anything from this travesty? Have we learned anything from the lack of re-

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Harvey Weiner

There is an old Yiddish saying, “Der mensch trakht un Got lakht,” which translates to, “Man plans and G-d laughs.” Despite our most careful planning, the road of life is unpredictable. So it was for all of us when the COVID-19 pandemic caused all our plans to change. As National Commander, I had a variety of events cancelled or postponed beyond my term of office including the Allied Veterans’ trip to Israel, a possible trip to Afghanistan to spend Passover with Jewish troops in a combat zone, the opening of the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir, the opening of the Dwight E. Eisenhower Memorial in D.C., and all the Memorial Day activities. My scheduled visits to the departments of the Midwest, New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Nevada, and Illinois were canceled. Many local visits were also cancelled or postponed, including the dedication of the Massachusetts Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Fall River and the Harvard R.O.T.C. Commissioning ceremony. I had hoped to be the keynote speaker at both of those events. However, I was able to attend the early birthday party of JWV with Post #1 in New York City at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, where JWV was born. I was the only passenger in the Amtrak quiet car returning home to Boston.

However, to quote a non-Yiddish saying, “When G-d shuts a door, he opens a window.” The cancellation of events has given all of us the opportunity to connect in other ways. Every two weeks since we began sheltering-in-place, Christy Turner, Herb Rosenbleeth, Barry Lischinsky, many Past National Commanders, and I, have called all 22 Department Commanders for a wellness check and to urge them to call all Post Commanders for a wellness check. I have also called the Commanders of the five “lone” posts in Seattle, Maine, Colorado

Springs, and Denver, and held a Zoom call with members of the Israel post.

Many National Committees, Posts and Departments have met by Webex, Zoom, or other videoconferencing platforms, which has opened up participation to those who are infirm or immobile or would not have attended an in-person meeting because of weather, travel, or other reasons. Virtual JWV meetings had twice the attendance of in-person meetings, although this was likely aided by the shelter-in-place situation. I attended virtual meetings of the Minnesota and Massachusetts Departments, a virtual JWV funeral, two virtual presentations by our museum, and virtual JWV Memorial Day events for the Departments of Illinois, Michigan, and Massachusetts. We submitted a video for the Jewish Welfare Board’s virtual Jewish Community Memorial Day Observance, which aired live on Facebook.

While the horrific coronavirus situation has caused much heartache, death, sickness, suffering, and grief amongst our membership and around the world, it has provided a chance for our members to perform mitzvot. For example, after the death of 102-year-old JWV member, Lillian Aronson, who was featured in the last issue of The Jewish Veteran, Barry Lischinsky attended her funeral by automobile and after everyone left, he placed a JWV plaque and American flag on her grave. I helped write the obituary of a patron of my Post and her children have directed donations in her name to JWV.

When I visited the Department of Pennsylvania in early March, I was searching for an appropriate substitute for handshaking. I thought elbow bumping was too awkward. I had two ideas for replacing

the handshake.

The first, the Hindu Namaste, where you put your hands together in front of your body and bow. The second, a friendly, not snappy, military salute, not initiated by rank. Although both were endorsed by those assembled, a JWV member made a different suggestion after the meeting. He said we should make a “V” with the index and middle fingers of your right hand and place them on your heart. The “V” could be interpreted as peace or victory or both, and the message is from the heart. So, I am now placing those two fingers in a “V” formation over my heart and wishing all of you peace and victory over the modern plague that is infecting the world. My sincerest condolences to all those who have lost friends, family, and post members to COVID-19. Stay safe and if you can, stay home.

Since this is my last column, I want to thank everyone for their support. I want to give a shout out to my Chief of Staff, Barry Lischinsky, my mentor PNC Ira Novoselsky, my always working for JWV Advisor Norman Rosenshein, my encourager Herb Rosenbleeth, my supporters, and Christy Turner and the wonderful JWV National staff. The latter adapted to the quarantine and kept the organization going without a hitch. During these terrible times, I wish only the best for my successor, who I know will successfully lead us out of the present darkness.



★ ★ ★ An Essay on Patriotism ★ ★ ★

By Stanley A. Levin

When troubled times occur of any sort, at no time, in no particular place, would anyone of us not consider ourselves an American? It is in those troubled times when we become one as a people and country. The essence of patriotic behavior is commitment to duty, honor, and country. Whether we live in California, Utah, North Dakota, Indiana, Maine, Pennsylvania, or Alabama, we all consider ourselves patriotic Americans. If one were to travel through different regions of the country, we would find different accents in language usage and specific cultural differences that are all unique to that area of the country. Yet we are all Americans. If we travel to any foreign country, we do not say we are from New Jersey, from Mississippi, from Maine, etc., we are first and foremost proud Americans. Our individual loyalties are not to any one of our states. The brilliant insight and vision of the country’s founders, when writing the constitution and governing laws, designed the framework for our federal government. The determination of President Lincoln to preserve the Union throughout the Civil War further solidified our country as one union. World War I and World War II established us as a world power. We would not have won those wars without the commitment and patriotism of the

American people. The draft started during WWII and continued during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Despite the draft, millions of men volunteered to serve in World War II even before they were called up. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, men immediately lined up to join the armed forces to serve the country. That era can be considered a time when patriotism and the concept of devotion to country were at its peak. During the Korean War, a war fought without total commitment of the country due to political reasons, not one man that this writer knew of ever evaded the draft. Each of us who were drafted did not enter the service with the fervor to serve as did the men of WWII. We did not wear the flag on our sleeves. It was a question of honor, duty, and responsibility to serve the country, essentially patriotic behavior. Unlike celebrated veterans returning from WWII, when surviving Korean veterans returned from war we were not welcomed with open arms by the public. We took the risks, we proudly served, and simply meshed back into civilian life.

During three years of bitter fighting, 37,000 Americans died in that forgotten war. I visit many high schools to discuss the history of war and my personal experience with a small group of fellow Korean War veterans. We constantly emphasize

patriotism. Rather than lament about missing two years of our civilian lives, we emphasize our pride in having served and tell the students that freedom is not free. It is rewarding for us to see the enlightened faces of the kids. It is particularly rewarding to hear the good questions they ask. It is disgraceful that only a few paragraphs in current school history books mention the Korean War. We feel a responsibility to make up that void in our small way. We tell the students the baton is passed to them to take care of the nation. Their generation may one day be called on and have an obligation to serve, sacrifice, and preserve the ideals for our great country. Sadly, our education system is not adequately dealing with history or civics. The curriculum should enable students to learn of the exploits and sacrifices of patriotic heroes of the past. Teaching civics would further enlighten young people with a strong sense of responsibility to each person in the country. We have become an uneducated populace with the resultant weakness in the patriotic spirit that existed in the decades prior to the 1960s. We should honor the men and women serving in our armed forces. They are current examples of that essential patriotic behavior; the commitment to duty, honor, and country. Let us not forget who we are.

The Gulf War

This summer marks 30 years since the beginning of the Gulf War, which began as Operation Desert Shield and was soon followed by Operation Desert Storm, the combat part of the conflict.

On August 2, 1990, Iraqi forces invaded and occupied Kuwait, an act which the United Nations Security Council condemned. President George H. W. Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher deployed forces to Saudi Arabia and urged other countries to do so as well. The goal of the Gulf War was to prevent Saddam Hussein from completely capturing Kuwait and to throw Iraqi forces out of the area of Kuwait which they were occupying.

Desert Storm, the name given to the combat operation, began on January 17, 1991, with an exceptionally powerful aerial and naval bombardment. There was great fear of what dangers U.S. and coalition forces might encounter. The Washington Post published a big editorial on the potential casualties we would face if Saddam Hussein used chemical weapons against our ground forces. Many also believed that Iraqi forces were solidly dug in and that it could be a lengthy, hard fought battle to dislodge them.

Thankfully, the ground assault did not take long. The U.S.-led coalition quickly liberated Kuwait and advanced into Iraq. Saddam Hussein's forces were defeated and a ceasefire was declared only 100 hours after the ground campaign started. Aerial and ground combat were confined to Iraq, Kuwait, and to some areas on the border with Saudi Arabia. Iraq launched Scud missiles against certain military targets in Saudi Arabia and against Israel.

The Scud missiles targeting Israel resulted in the death of 74 Israelis and approximately 230 Israelis were injured. Most of these were indirect casualties, such as heart attacks. In response to the threat of Scud attacks against Israel, the U.S.

sent a Patriot missile air defense artillery battalion to Israel along with two batteries of MIM Patriot missiles to protect civilians. One of the most damaging attacks caused by a Scud missile occurred in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, when a Scud missile hit the barracks of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, a reserve unit from Pennsylvania. The attack killed 28 soldiers and wounded more than 100 others.

While U.S. casualties from the fighting turned out to be extremely low, many returning soldiers reported a phenomenon known as Gulf War illness. This is a very important issue to this day, generally covered in various legislative proposals targeting burn pits.

I would like to give a shout out to those members of JWV whom I know were part of in the Gulf War victory.

Rochel Hayman is JWV's Gulf War Committee Chairperson. During the Gulf War Hayman served in the Air Force as a broadcaster with the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) in Dahran, Saudi Arabia. She recently completed her term as the Commander of the JWV Department of the Southwest.

Jeff Sacks served as a reservist who was activated for Desert Shield. Sacks was the Company Commander of the 822nd Military Police Company throughout Desert Storm. The 822nd guarded Iraqi prisoners of war. Sacks recently served as the JWV Department Commander of Illinois. Retired Major Sacks is also active at the national level of the Jewish War Veterans.

Chaplain Jacob Goldstein was mobilized with the New York State National Guard. The U.S. Army assigned Goldstein to the Patriot Battery in Israel. Goldstein became the senior Jewish Chaplain in the U.S. Army and completed his service career as a full Colonel.

Cliff Crystal was an Army reservist from the Washington, D.C. area. He used to come by

the museum and JWV headquarters regularly. Cliff was mobilized for the Gulf War. When he returned he was very sick and he died soon thereafter. In retrospect, he may well have been a casualty of the burn pits.

Steve

Robertson served on the legislative staff of the American Legion when he was mobilized. His unit was the 276th Military Police Company of the Washington, D.C. National Guard. Robertson says that in Passover of 1991, Jewish personnel in the gulf area were given the opportunity to participate in Passover services and a Seder on a ship. Robertson says approximately 450 attended. The program lasted for three days. Robertson had an outstanding career as an advocate for veterans and eventually became the Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Nelson Mellitz served with the Defense Logistics Agency as a Command Service Contracting Officer during the Gulf War. He is an outstanding JWV leader who has recently been the Department Commander of New Jersey. Retired Colonel Mellitz currently serves as JWV's National Quartermaster.

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA is very proud of those of you who helped win the Gulf War! We are eager to see your participation in JWV and your number of members continue to grow, and we look for our Gulf War veterans to move into positions of leadership in JWV.



COL Herb Rosenbleeth, USA (Ret)
National Executive Director

Va To Engrave Controversial Motto In Bronze At All Department Cemeteries

By Leo Shane III, MilitaryTimes.com

Despite controversy surrounding the department's motto, Veterans Affairs leaders are planning to install new bronze plaques bearing the phrase at each of the nation's 140-plus veterans cemeteries later this year.

The move was announced over Memorial Day weekend in Secretary Robert Wilkie's annual message to the country about the holiday.

He said the phrase — "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan," an excerpt from President Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address — is an important touchstone for the department workforce and all of America.

"Those words are the basis of our VA mission, to care for our veterans and their families," he said. "That's why later this year, we will memorialize — in bronze — Lincoln's charge to the nation in all of our VA cemeteries."

VA officials said the decision to install the plaques was made in January, but it was not publicly announced until months later. VA press secretary Christina Noel said there is no cost estimate



for the work or specific time frame for when it will be finished.

The motto has drawn criticism in recent years as the number of women veterans in America has steadily increased. Several lawmakers and outside advocates have pushed for a more gender inclusive motto — "To care for those who have borne the battle, and for their families and survivors."

Women make up more than 10 percent of the nation's veterans population and 17 percent of current military personnel.

But VA officials have consistently opposed

such a move, citing cost concerns and historical accuracy.

Rep. Kathleen Rice, D-N.Y. and one of the leading congressional voices pushing for a motto change, called the new bronze plaques "an outrageous disservice" to women veterans.

"I have urged Secretary Wilkie to update the motto on several occasions, but the VA has refused, arguing it would be too costly to change," she said. "However, this proposal to spend more money on displays of the current motto blatantly contradicts that reasoning."

Similarly, officials from Service Women's Action Network called the move insulting to women veterans.

"(This) is a permanent acknowledgement that women veterans are not seen and their contributions are not recognized," said SWAN CEO Deshauna Barber. "If women veterans are invisible in the VA motto, where else are they invisible?"

"The VA motto needs to be gender-inclusive and reflect the current reality of our military force, which contains a sizable female veteran population

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET COMMITTEE

By Chairman Alan Paley

The Budget Committee is busy preparing financial reports for the NEC meeting and Museum Board of Directors meeting that will take place during National Convention.

When the fiscal year for both JWV and the museum closes on June 30, the national office quickly puts together a cash basis summary of what happened during the year, and sends in to the committee sometime in July. After receiving it, we prepare presentation worksheets and start to analyze the numbers that fell outside the budget. The committee communicates with accounting and operational personnel at National. We incorporate their explanations into the worksheets, which are then passed out at the meetings.

For both JWV and the museum, we will create an excel worksheet that shows the 2017 audited financials, the 2018 audited financials, and the 2019 audited financials. This three year history helps show trends for certain line items. The sheets will also show the 2020 cash basis, which is the actual dollars received and spent (before the audit process takes place), as compared to the 2020 budget.

The worksheet will also show the 2021 budget which the NEC approved in February.

For line items that are either over or under the budgeted numbers, we will have explanations as to what caused the difference.

Once the report is presented we will open up the floor for questions.

We urge everyone in attendance to keep in mind that the numbers we are presenting are prior to the auditors reviewing the transactions. Certain adjustments may be made based on the advice of the auditors.

The JWV members who make up the Budget Committee that I chair are Robert Nussbaum, Larry Rosenthal, Barry Lischinsky, Elliot Donn, Stanley Rolnick, Irwin Magad, and David Zwerin.

GULF WAR COMMITTEE

By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman

Were you on active duty during the period of the Gulf War? Do you know someone else who is? Is there someone in your Post who is? Is there a younger/youngish veteran you've been trying to recruit for your post but they want connect with folks more their age? Well, your answer is the Gulf War Committee and we welcome you (and them) to join our brainstorming discussions once a month. We're growing a network of folks by soliciting opinions and feedback about everything under the sun on what we can offer JWV as a whole and what we (and others) are visualizing to have from the current and future Jewish War Veterans in regards to the lifestyle and challenges affecting Gulf War-era vets. We continued discussion about communication and networking venues and now have a few new options to investigate. We looked back at recruitment options presented by Membership Chair Barry Lischinsky at the NEC and came up with additional ideas as well. We also received an update on the National Desert Storm Memorial and came up with possible resolutions to put forward at the next national meet-

ing. Originally planned for an hour, our discussion lasted almost two, and everyone contributed.

We in the GWC are requesting your assistance, to spread awareness and encourage participation. We would like to have a Gulf War Committee contact in every Department. Anyone can like our Facebook page (@JewishGulfWarVets), and we have a private Facebook group.

Since there are some who are not on social media, we have set up an email address for our committee, jwvgwc@gmail.com. We encourage posts and departments to contact us with members or other individuals we should follow up with.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

From its inception at the last National Convention, the Marketing Committee, comprised of Howard Goldstein, Rochel Hayman, Steve Krant, Kim Queen, Sheila Berg, Dick Aronson, Lou Michaels, and Greg Lee, have been meeting every two weeks via conference call and Zoom. Staff support is provided by Cara Rinkoff and Christy Turner.

Since the NEC meeting report, the committee has worked on implementing two of the four projects identified prior to NEC. A research study of members and former members, as well as the development of a centralized repository, are in process and scheduled to be completed by National Convention. We have recently started on the third project, improving brand awareness. We will start the fourth project later this year, which is creating target marketing programs.

The first and largest project undertaken by the committee is the comprehensive study of our current membership. An online and a mail version (same questions, different format) were designed and sent out. The survey asked dozens of questions, including, why people joined, what they like and dislike about JWV, dues, Post meetings, and more. We sent out a similar survey to a limited number of former members. In addition to many of the same questions from the member survey, we also asked why they dropped out.

Results are still coming in. Emails were sent to 3,600 members and 564 former members. Of those, approximately 900 were returned as invalid addresses. In addition, questionnaires were mailed to a random sample of 1,500 members and former members, for whom we did not have an email address.

An initial review of the answers to the question of "What is the word or phrase which comes to mind when you think of JWV?" has elicited many interesting responses. We'll have more information on those answers in the next committee report.

Second, the committee is building a repository of best practices, marketing materials, and programs. It will allow all of us to share successful programs and events and serve as a resource that Posts and Departments can access when looking for ideas. We have developed the repository's conceptual design, where it will be housed, and what it might include. Work is also progressing on creating a standard template and the submission method.

We are currently obtaining bids for building the online infrastructure. Materials such as those laid out at the Membership Committee meeting at the NEC, as well as submissions from Posts and Departments, will be solicited and welcomed.

The third area, which we've recently started, is looking at ways to increase the awareness of the Jewish War Veterans around the country. At this time we are still deciding on the committee's role in this endeavor.

We look forward to sharing the survey results with committees and national staff so they will have facts to help them move the organization forward. A comprehensive report will be provided at National Convention.

STAMP PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Chairman Michael Corbett

Has the JWV Stamp Program run its course? Before the COVID-19 pandemic enveloped the country, we saw a significant decline in requests for stamps from VA facilities where they were used for physical therapy exercises and to provide a form of recreation to disabled veterans.

We have not received any requests in the past couple of months for one of our four-pound boxes of stamps.

Certainly, rehabilitation therapists have many tools to aid veterans in their efforts to regain manual dexterity and recreation specialists have the benefit of VA investments in equipment and supplies used to entertain our brave veterans.

The question remains however, after many years of a robustly successful program under the initial leadership of Eugene Moor, when hundreds of boxes of stamps were mailed to VA facilities around the country, and then Mel Gervis, why does it seem the program is drying up while VA rehab and recreation programs flourish?

We know the points of contact at 51 VA hospitals are aware of the JWV Stamp Program. We know the Department of Florida covers the cost of sorting, packaging, and mailing boxes of stamps to the VA at no charge to them. We know many JWV and Auxiliary members, as well as members of the general public, continue to support our stamp program with donations of stamps from around the country. From past experience, we know boxes of stamps can be used up in anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. What we don't know is why no one has requested stamps since well before the coronavirus put a stop to most activities.

At this point, what we think will work best for JWV is direct involvement by our Posts. Posts geographically closest to VA hospitals should appoint a committee to interface with VA physical therapy and recreation personnel to sell the Stamp Program. When JWV members make direct contact with VA personnel, it accomplishes the dual purpose of gaining favorable response for the stamp program and exposes the local JWV Post to a long-term relationship with the VA.

Based on this expectation, we would like all Post Commanders to appoint a VA liaison for the stamp program who will make contact with the VA and reintroduce the Stamp Program using a

Continued on page 11

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Good Standing and Retention is Key

By Harrison Heller, Membership Coordinator

There are certain membership responsibilities for those in leadership positions. A well-informed leader who performs the duties that are assigned to him or her breeds proud and loyal members. Those members in turn return the favor in recruitment.

January	February	July	November
• 2nd Membership Renewal Notice is sent out to members • Alpha Rosters are sent out to Commanders & Quartermasters	Finance Board & 990-N information sent out to Commanders and Quartermasters	• 1st Membership Notice is sent out to all members • Alpha Rosters are sent out to Commanders & Quartermasters	Post Liability Insurance and Fidelity Bond Information is distributed to Post Commanders & Quartermasters

One of these responsibilities is assuring your post remains in good standing with both National and their Department. Every February, National reaches out to the Commanders and Quartermasters of each post to let them know certain items are due. These items include:

- Annual Finance Board Report
- 990-N Submission Receipt
- Post Installation Form/Warrant
- Post Liability Insurance & Fidelity Bond

Making sure your post is in good standing is not only important for National so the post can vote in an upcoming election, but for recruiting new members. If a post is doing what it is supposed to be doing, it will attract new members.

Members will take pride in their posts and attract prospective members. Your post will be able to participate in community events and become visible. Think of it this way, would you want to go

Leaders should also be transparent with post members as much as possible and delegate some duties to trustworthy members to grow future leaders. Below is a calendar showing when certain items are distributed to Post leaders and their members.

to a restaurant that is poorly managed?

As noted on the calendar above, the first membership renewal notices for the upcoming membership year are sent out in July and a second renewal notice is sent out in January. The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. If you renewed your membership before the end of the year, you will not receive the second notice. Between these times, Post and Department leadership should take the time to encourage all members to renew their membership.

Let's make the rest of 2020 the greatest year for membership renewals and retention. A properly run post can easily accomplish these tasks. If there is a post that is struggling, a successful post should reach-out and offer to help. As we've heard time and time again, JWV members love the comradery of their post. Let's spread our love of comradery of our individual post to comradery of all posts.

Promote Centenarian Membership!

By Harrison Heller, Membership Coordinator

Reaching 100-years-old is a special milestone that should be celebrated with friends, family – and JWV!

JWV is proud to offer a free Centenarian Life Membership to members who are 100-years-old. We encourage all of our posts to contact National to let us know when a member is about to turn 100 and we can provide a certificate for them.

All National needs is:

- The Member's Full Name
- Birth Date
- Post Name and Number
- Branch of Service

You should present the certificate during a special celebration. You can even invite community leaders, elected officials, and of course, your local newspaper or television station to help honor your centenarian.

Meeting Requirements Waived

Due to the current unprecedented situation created by the coronavirus, all JWV echelons are hereby excused from holding any mandatory meetings until further notice.

If your post or department would like to hold a meeting, JWV committees often utilize video conferencing. Please call Harrison Heller at 202-265-6280 for more information on these options.

Memories of a Jewish War Hero

By Jeffrey Blonder

May 20, 2020 marked the 11th anniversary of the death of U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Roslyn Schulte. A roadside bomb killed Schulte while traveling to Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. She was only 25-years-old and the first female graduate of the Air Force Academy to die in combat. I met her briefly the day before she died and did not know her name until after she died.

In 2008 I served at Camp Mike Spann in Mazār-i-Sharīf, Afghanistan for 15 months. I was assigned to the base as a Naval Reservist and my mission was to be a Combat Advisor to the Afghanistan National Army. I was also the Senior Enlisted Leader for the naval element on base. At the time of my deployment, Camp Mike Spann was a small Forward Operating Base in Northern Afghanistan. One of my jobs was to assign personnel to augment the base security forces when it needed to leave the base for missions. Due to my position and seniority I was not required to go out on missions. However, I decided it would not be right to assign others to tasks I would not do myself. I routinely assigned myself to the three types of duties in a convoy, which are the driver, gunner, and truck commander. On May 19, 2009 the security forces of the base had a mission to convoy to the nearby German Air Base in Mazār-i-Sharīf and return. This mission was critical as it was the way



1st Lt. Roslyn Schulte

we got supplies and provided air transportation. I decided to put my name in as Truck Commander. The Truck Commander is the eyes and ears for the driver. This individual is also responsible for operating all the electronic gear. Although I served as a gunner on a recent mission, I chose to go out again for a personal reason. My wedding anniversary was May 20, and the German Air Base had a nice exchange so I thought I could get a gift for my wife, Cindy. The process of a convoy is fairly sim-

ple. You show up at a designated spot on base and are briefed on threat assessments and proper procedures in the event of an emergency. Since my base was small and due to my position, I knew most of the personnel on the base. When I got to the staging point, I noticed three unfamiliar faces. I was curious about why they were on my base so I went over and started a conversation with them. One of the people was Schulte. Our conversation was brief and I don't think I got her name. The next day, a civilian contractor who I worked with reported that a contactor from his company and an Air Force person died due to a roadside bomb on a road I had traveled on several times. He did not know any other details. Two days later I was watching CNN, saw Schulte's face, and immediately recognized her as being on my convoy two days earlier. I found out she was visiting my base's Intel Department so I went to one of my roommates. He told me he had dinner with her the day before she was killed. This hit me hard so I started to research her life. Schulte was from St. Louis, Missouri and raised Jewish. She graduated from the Air Force Academy in 2006. This chance meeting with her reminded me how precious life is and we should cherish every encounter we have with people as important.

JWV's online Post 77 is named after Schulte and Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Bruckenthal who died in Iraq on April 24, 2004.

Member: Monroe M. Ginsburg

Post: Heritage Post 644 in St. Louis, MO

Military Service: U.S. Army

Member Since: 2005

1. Where and when did you serve in the military?

I received a direct commission into the U.S. Army Dental Corps and went on active duty in July 1981. My assignments were Dental Activity at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina from 1981 to 1984, Dental Activity in Bad Toelz, Germany from 1985 to 1987, Dental Activity at Ft. Benning, Georgia from 1988 to 1993, Dental Activity at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina from 1993 to 1995, Dental Activity and Dental Officer for the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Ft. Campbell, KY from 1995 to 1999, the Dental Clinic in St. Louis, Missouri from 1999-2000, and Dental Activity at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri from 2000-2002. I also deployed to Grenada in 1983 as part of Operation Urgent Fury and Saudi Arabia in 1991 for Operation Desert Storm. I retired from the military in 2003.

2. Why did you join the military?

I come from a strong family tradition of patriotism and American pride. Both my grandfather and father served in the U.S. Army. Many of the dental school faculty at Washington University were retired dental officers or had military experience, which had a positive effect on my decision to join. Lastly, I was looking for an opportunity to get dental practice experience before going into private practice. My family had a very positive experience during my first two tours, so I decided to continue for a full military career.

3. How did your Jewish faith impact your time in the service?

Prior to my military service, my Jewish involvement was at a basic level, with nothing significant after my Bar Mitzvah. That changed when I was asked to be a Jewish lay leader at Ft. Benning in 1988 and received my Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) certification. It was a very rewarding experience to



take care of the religious needs of our Jewish military men and women. I also served as the lay leader at Ft. Bragg from 1993 to 1995 and during my deployment for Operation Desert Storm.

Serving as a Jewish lay leader had a profound impact on my overall military experience. One of the highlights of my lay leader experience was during Operation Desert Storm. Our Jewish services were held in Kobar Towers near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Religious police roamed the area and severely restricted our public Jewish practice activities, so we had to be discrete about advertising and conducting Jewish religious services. Rabbi Amos Chorny was deployed with us during the High Holidays and Sukkot. As Sukkot approached, Chorny and I secretly built, as far as we know, the only sukkah in Saudi Arabia. It was on the roof of one of the apartment buildings in Kobar Towers. It was a challenge trying to sneak the palm branches we brought in from the desert into the building for the s'chach (roof) of the sukkah. It was a true religious experience for me to sing with our small congregation in our clandestine sukkah while at the same time listening to the Moslem call to worship which could be heard in the surrounding area.

Another lay leader highlight was during a gap between the assignments of rabbis at Ft. Bragg, the division chaplain asked if I would represent the Jewish community and make some comments along

with chaplains representing the other religious denominations at the funeral for actress Martha Raye. I was so proud to represent our Jewish community at that occasion.

These experiences significantly strengthened my Jewish pride and involvement and added an important dimension to my military service.

4. Have you ever experienced anti-Semitism at home or abroad?

No.

5. Why did you join JWV?

I joined JWV in 2005. Joe Iken, a member of our shul, invited me to join Heritage Post 644 in St. Louis, Missouri. My father had been a member of JWV in Long Beach, New York, so I was familiar with the organization.

I immediately got involved with Post activities, elected commander a couple of years later, and have been very active since then.

6. How would you improve a current JWV program or what type of program do you think JWV needs to add?

One of my areas of focus is membership. I think our national membership and marketing committees are doing a phenomenal job. At the Post level, we need to keep promoting JWV in our communities. In spite of all our marketing and presence in the community, we still have people tell us they've never heard of JWV. With the current guidelines, if an individual has a DD-214 and an honorable discharge, he or she can be a member. We need to remind potential members that it is not a membership requirement that they served in a combat zone or overseas. I get many veterans tell me that they already belong to other organizations and have no time to add another organization. My response is that even if they don't have time to participate, their membership is important not only at the Post level, but on the National level as well. Their membership helps JWV maintain the leverage it needs to take care of military veterans and support Jewish values.

7. What's your favorite Jewish food?

Noodle kugel and matzoh brei.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Jaffe, Michael - Post 100
Krauser, Robert M. - Post 100
Ross, Scott - Post 77
Schimmel, Richard M. - Post 100
Toman, Joshua M. - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Mischel, Lawrence - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Dembo, Gilbert N. - Post 118
Gordon, Lance B. - Post 603
Kushner, Larry M. - Post 603
Michlin, Irv - Post 185
Naiditch, Michael C. - Post 603
Philbin, Matthew - Post 185
Rockenmacher, Sol - Post 603
Rubin, Robert T. - Post 603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Gechlik, Glen - Post 142

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Gelman, Dan - Post 589

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Burak, Barry N. - Post 243
Dorion, Timothy - Post 243
Harley, Aubrey - Post 243

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Weinbaum, Paul T. - Post 157

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Engstrom, Tim - Post 331
Flores, John - Post 354
Simpson, Peter M. - Post 354
Valentin, Tim - Post 331

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Mischel, Lawrence - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Koch, Adam T. - Post 972
Rosenberg, Joseph - Post 126

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Ackerman, Robert G. - Post 336
Bedell, Irwin - Post 336
Kass, Michael L. - Post 652
Miller, Bradley A. - Post 336
Steinbaum, Steven - Post 336

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Feldman, James K. - Post 73

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Marcus, Steven - Post 194

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Balderston, Donna - Post 753
Bloom, Michael - Post 755
Cohen, David - Post 256
Coolican, Hunter A. - Post 256
Devido, David - Post 574
Garber, David - Post 574
Greenhill, Hunter - Post 755
Heilpern, Noelle J. - Post 256
Wackhaus, Gustav A. - Post 755
Widman, Rachel A. - Post 755
Zwickel, Hayley I. - Post 755

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From Our Archives...

This article appeared in the Spring 1990 issue of The Jewish Veteran

JWV has concluded its second Veterans' Mission to Israel and by all reports the Christmas tour was a spectacular success. Participants of the Mission returned with a truer understanding of the nature of Israel's challenges as the sole democracy in the Middle East.

Initiated during the 1989 Easter holidays, this semi-annual event provides the top leadership of America's veterans' service organizations with an opportunity to personally evaluate the Middle East situation with a first-hand look at the Jewish state.

According to JWV National Commander Murray L. Rosen, "appearance has replaced fact" in the public perception of Israel. JWV seeks to bring veteran leaders to Israel to meet her people, learn her history, study her military preparedness, and address the current situation confronting Israel.

The visit included many historical sites, such as Masada, Yad Vashem and the Western Wall, the Christian holy places in Jerusalem,

Bethlehem and Nazareth, important military battle sites such as Ammunition Hill, and military installations.

State and Department Commanders, past and present, of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and representatives of AMVETS and the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans' Affairs took part in this Mission.

Each participant returned from the trip with a positive view of Israel, and as an unofficial ambassador of good will to the Jewish State. "The articles I have read in the newspaper are grossly exaggerated," said Arthur Bartolai, Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. "I feel this is a very peaceful country, and I thank G-d that I was able to get here (Israel) and see for myself. After coming to Israel I have found that the Jewish people are courageous and strong. I will sleep better at night knowing we have the best ally we could have in the Middle East."

Arthur Morin, Past Department Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, New Jersey, said, "I absolutely cannot believe the terrain Israeli soldiers have to fight in. No matter what hill you're on, you're looking up a gun barrel of the enemy. It must be terrific pressure to live here. I hope they live to see their dream come true of a peaceful Israel."

Timothy Carmody, Past State Commander, New Jersey American Legion, praised the people and the spirit of Israel. "From the Negev to the Golan Heights, to the Mediterranean Sea, I've been privileged to observe this wonderful country as an American and as a Gentile. The spirit of these people and the excitement of a new country is unbelievable. In Israel, I truly feel there are no strangers for me. There are only friends.

JWV seeks to encourage greater understanding of Israel as an integral part of America's security interests in the Middle East through this mission.

JWV Post 180 in Israel

By Gershon Katz

It's widely known that Jewish members of the U.S. Armed Forces have served on many lands, fighting to protect America's national interests or helping other nations break free from the yoke of tyranny. Our service men and women have deployed to some of the world's most inhospitable places. A soldier, sailor, or airman may have briefly enjoyed leave in one of the world's most beautiful places, but would probably relegate the experience to memory. With this in mind, you may take it for granted that after serving our country overseas, veterans have headed back to America.



Ambassador Mario Bucaro Flores of Guatemala

You won't find JWV posts in swampy Guadalcanal, frigid Chosin, or beautiful Paris. However, many of our brother and sister Jewish veterans and their families have made their home in the land of milk and honey, the land of Israel. Not only are we surviving and thriving here, but we're organized, too. We're proud to assemble for fellowship and service under the banner of Jewish War Veterans Post 180, headquartered in Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel and the Jewish people. At one time, four JWV posts existed in Israel. They were in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Netanya.

JWV's 33rd Allied Mission to Israel – 2021

Sunday, February 28: Depart JFK on an overnight, non-stop ELAL flight

Monday, March 1: We arrive in Israel at Ben Gurion airport. A city tour on the way to the hotel in Tel Aviv if time permits.

Tuesday, March 2: Visit to the hidden underground bullet factory from the British mandate time. Afterwards we are hosted by TZEvet (The JWV of Israel) for an Israeli Defense Force (IDF) briefing and lunch. Afternoon visit to Palmach Museum.

Wednesday, March 3: After breakfast we depart Tel Aviv for Latroun, the armored corps memorial center. Visit Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem

Thursday, March 4: A tour of Jerusalem including Mount of Olives, Shrine of the Book at Israel Museum, Mt. Herzl National Memorial Center, and Bethlehem.

Friday, March 5: Today we visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum and Machne Yehuda market. An afternoon visit to the Jewish Quarter ends with a Shabbat service at the

Western Wall.

Saturday, March 6: – Today we leave Jerusalem and make stops at both the Dead Sea and Masada. We head north through the Jordan Valley towards our Tiberias hotel.

Sunday, March 7: We start at Misgav Am overlooking Lebanon. Proceed to the Golan Heights. Visit the battle fields of the Yom Kippur War and the new city of Katzrin. Afternoon visit to Kfar Naum – the synagogue where Jesus preached.

Monday, March 8: Visit Nazareth. Proceed to a tree planting site where each of us can plant a tree and get a certificate. Drive to Haifa to see the Bahai Gardens and arrive to your Herzeliya marina hotel.

Tuesday, March 9: Enjoy a delicious Israeli breakfast before the flight home. Evening arrival in JFK.

If you are interested in joining us on our 2021 Israel trip and would like more information, please contact Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org or 202-265-6280.

As a result of attrition and consolidation, JWV Post 180 is now the only post operating in the Jewish state. Although small in number, we are a vibrant post whose members meet several times a year for camaraderie, good food, and enlightening entertaining appearances by a range of guest speakers. Post 180 not only provides its members with good times, but also contributes to the well being of Israel and its people by supporting various causes in the community.

Our members, who represent a cross section

of American-Israeli society, are proud of their service to the United States. We have relocated to Israel to live a more spiritual life. Unflinching in our love for the United States and our admiration for those who currently serve in her armed forces, we are also proud citizens of Israel and supporters of the Israel Defense Forces. Included among our members are parents and grandparents of English speaking veterans of the IDF. We avail ourselves of many opportunities to show support for the de-

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Although by the time you read this Memorial Day 2020 will be a memory, without the usual parades and barbecues with friends and neighbors thanks to the coronavirus, I feel it is important to tell you more about the real meaning and history of this day.

It's easy to forget what Memorial Day actually means while you're sitting by the pool and looking ahead at summer vacation, but the holiday signifies much more than just a three-day weekend.

Memorial Day is a solemn day of remembrance for everyone who has died serving in the American armed forces. The holiday, originally known as Decoration Day, started after the Civil War to honor the fallen Union and Confederate soldiers.

In January 1866, the Ladies' Memorial Association in Columbus, Georgia passed a motion to designate a day to throw flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers from the Civil War at the local cemetery.

However, the ladies did not want this to be an isolated event, so the group's secretary Mary Ann Williams, wrote a letter and sent it to newspapers all over the United States.

In the letter, the ladies asked people to celebrate the war's fallen soldiers on April 26, which is the day the bulk of Confederate soldiers surrendered in North Carolina in 1865.

On that day, four women from the Ladies' Memorial Association in Columbus gathered to decorate the graves of the Confederate soldiers. They also felt moved to honor the Union soldiers buried and note the grief of their families by decorating those graves as well. Some writers believe their gesture of humanity and reconciliation served as the inspiration for the original Memorial Day.

Many Southern women repeated the practice on April 26 in 1866, 1867, and 1868,

Poet Francis Miles Finch lived in Ithaca, New

York and read accounts of what the women were doing in Georgia. He was so moved by this account that in 1867 he wrote "The Blue and the Gray," a poem that says, "They banish our anger forever/ When they laurel the graves of our dead!"

The story was just so strong and so well known that the authorities in the North made it national. There were few if any flowers blooming in the North in April. On May 5, 1866, General John A. Logan (Commander in Chief of the grand Army of the Republic, an organization of and for Union Civil War veterans founded in Decatur, IL) issued a proclamation calling for Decoration Day to be observed annually nationwide.

In May 1868, the day became a federal holiday with the date set as May 30 so that people could decorate the graves of fallen soldiers with wildflowers.

By 1890 every northern state had officially made Decoration Day a state holiday.

Decoration Day was the official name of the holiday until 1882, when it unofficially became known as Memorial Day. The name became official in 1967.

In 1915, following the Second Battle of Ypres, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a physician with the Canadian Expeditionary Force wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields." Its opening lines refer to the fields of poppies that grew among the graves in Flanders. As the poem became more popular, the poppy became a symbol of Memorial Day.

On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act which moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, from its traditional May 30 date to the last Monday in May. The law took effect in 1971.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War advocated re-

turning to the original date. In 2002 the VFW said, "Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed a lot to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day."

On December 28, 2000, the National Moment of Remembrance Act became law. One of the primary provisions of the act was to ask Americans to pause and observe a National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 P.M. local time.

One additional observance is to have the American flag at half-staff until noon. The proper way to do this is to quickly raise it to the top of the pole and then slowly lower it to half-staff. At noon, it is then raised back to the top for the rest of the day.

This year Memorial Day was officially observed on May 25. I hope it was more than a week-end of backyard barbecues and shopping (for those areas where stores have re-opened).

Let us never forget the price of our freedom and honor those who gave their all for our freedom. As veterans, we well know that freedom is not free. It is paid for by our blood and sacrifice, and in too many cases, the lives of our fellow veterans. It is up to us, American veterans, to remind others of this. Not just on Memorial Day, but every day.



Larry Jasper, National Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I always enjoy reading "The Jewish Veteran," and I particularly enjoyed the Battleship IOWA (BB61) Passover story. However, regarding the "Operation Benjamin" article, and project; it seems senseless to look for "very obviously Jewish names". Many so-called "Jewish names" are of German, or Eastern European origin, and it might end up leading to mistakenly replacing a Latin Cross, with a Star Of David; for someone who wasn't even of the Jewish faith. This would be the exact opposite of what they are trying to do, and I hope they do their research better than that.

Regards,

Marc J. Cohen

Dear Editor,

I found the article in the Volume 74, Number 1, 2020 Jewish War Veteran about "How to Fight Anti-Semitism" by Bari Weiss very informative. But I feel it misses the point. Being anti-Jewish or anti-Semitic is playing with words. We Jews win when there is what Americans call fair play.

Sportsmanship is a prime example. If someone hits a home run in a baseball game, his team should get the play on his side of the scoreboard. If the umpire doesn't do his job, it's not fair play and if everyone can see this he ought to be penalized.

If a Jewish professor in an Israeli university lowers a student's grade because the essay is critical of Israel this is not what education is about.

Jews flourish in free competition. They become generals, athletes, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, politicians, poets and, yes, Zionists. Without it there would be no state of Israel.

Don't be afraid of freedom of expression. If you're fair with your opponent, they'll be fair with you. It just works like that. Boycotts have long been a tool of Jewish leaders. Chase Bank stopped boycotting Israel because they found they had something to lose by it.

If someone boycotts... or sanctions you, then do the same thing to them. That's how it works.

If a boycott, divestment, or sanction hurts you, it's because your tactics are wrong. If your daughter wants to marry someone you don't like — you'll change your mind when she runs away and has a baby.

When Hitler came to power in Germany and World War II began, his steamroller had a telling effect. But you could still make your own alternative: go to Canada and help the British; learn to fly a bomber, show them what you could do!

Thank you,

Michael Henken

JWV Post 80

Display your JWV Membership Proudly!

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Shirts, baseball caps and jackets!



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Jeff Sacks Announces His Candidacy for J WV National Commander

Jeffrey Sacks was born and raised in the Chicago area. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant via ROTC when he graduated from the University of Illinois in 1979. He served on active duty during the Cold War in Washington, D.C. and West Germany in military police assignments. He was mobilized in 1990 in support of Operation Desert Shield and commanded the 822nd MP Company during Operation



Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq in 1991. Following the Gulf War, he stayed in the Reserves, retiring as a Major in 2017. Sacks was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during Operation Desert Storm.

Sacks and his father, a WWII Navy veteran, joined J WV Post 153 together in 1996. He rose through the ranks, and has served as the Post Commander, Department of Illinois Commander, NEC, and on various National Committees. He

is currently the National Awards Committee Chairman and serves on the board of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

In civilian life, Sacks served as a law enforcement officer from 1987-2012 with the Chicago Police Department before retiring as a Sergeant. He works part time in the security field for a local high school. He is married to Pye Squire. They have five adult children (two are J WV members) and nine grandchildren. Jeff is active in his synagogue, EHNTJC of Skokie, Illinois, and has served on its board as Security Committee Chairman for the last six years. He volunteers as a Range Officer with the Conservation Club of Kenosha, Wisconsin. He is active in other military and veterans organizations including the VFW and American Legion.

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Alan Paley Announces His Candidacy for J WV National Vice Commander

Alan Paley enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1966 and served as a Weapons Specialist on Phantom F-4D fighter aircraft at bases in West Germany, Italy, and Libya. He joined New Jersey J WV Post 651 in 1968 as an in-service member.

Following his honorable discharge in 1970 he became active in J WV and rose through the ranks of his post becoming one of the youngest Post Commanders in J WV. In 1979 he was elected Bergen County, New Jersey Council Commander. He relocated to Florida in the early 1980s and later transferred to Florida Post 606, serving as Post Commander from 1996 to 2016. He became Commander of Broward, Palm Beach County Council in 1999. He served as Commander of the Department of Florida from 2015 until 2019. Since 2016 he has been the National



Budget Committee Chairman and in 2019 was appointed as the National Adjutant. He is a life member of both J WV and NMAJMH and has over 50 years of continuous service to J WV.

In civilian life, Paley is the Chief Financial Officer of Overseas Cargo, Inc., a 3rd party logistics and warehouse service provider specializing in the handling, storage, and exportation of perishable goods. He has three children and one grandchild. Alan serves on the Executive Board of Temple Beth Torah Sha'aray Tzedek and served as Vice President of Finance/Treasurer for eight years. He was honored as the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Man of the Year in 2015. In 2016, Alan was named Chief Financial Officer of the Year by the South Florida Business Journal.

grandchild. Alan serves on the Executive Board of Temple Beth Torah Sha'aray Tzedek and served as Vice President of Finance/Treasurer for eight years. He was honored as the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Man of the Year in 2015. In 2016, Alan was named Chief Financial Officer of the Year by the South Florida Business Journal.

The Power of One

Continued from page 2

spect we display by ignoring the traumas of these dedicated individuals? Will we ever stand up and demonstrate our concern for all those we are responsible for?

Yes, my dear friend Major Alan Pasco gave his life in defense of his country. Yes, 58,220 other men sacrificed so much for so little in return. Yes, Airman First Class William Pitsenbarger comforted the wounded, attempted to offer comfort in an atmosphere of despair, and taught us how the power of one person can make a difference. Yes, Vietnam is in the past, but it should not be forgotten.

And yes, the stark memorial dedicated to their memories should remind us we owe so much that can never truly be repaid, but we should never stop trying.

Searching for Additional Veteran Service Officers

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. needs your help to expand our network of Veteran Service Officers. The job of a Service Officer is to assist veterans in getting the benefits they have earned for themselves and their families. J WV currently has four Service Officers registered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. We are looking for more support from our members in all 50 states so that if someone has state-specific questions we can't answer, we can refer them to you. If you have any questions or if this is something you might be interested in, please contact Raiana Berman at rberman@jwv.org.

✓ Voting Eligibility at the 2020 National Convention

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

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

Make a Difference!

Resolutions

We challenge you to make a difference in J WV's future by identifying key issues affecting our Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and female veterans.

Writing a resolution is a great way to become involved in J WV on a national scale.

Resolutions approved at convention become part of the National agenda when J WV's National Commander testifies before Congress every year.

Need help writing a resolution? Go to: www.jwv.org/communications/national_resolutions

Deadline to submit resolutions is July 24.

Constitution & Bylaws

The deadline to submit proposed changes to the Constitution & Bylaws is July 10.

Resolutions and Constitution & Bylaws submissions should be sent to Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org.

Place Your Ad or Greeting in the 125th Anniversary Convention Journal!

Your ad in our Convention Journal is a terrific way to let people know about your business and to show your support for the veteran community.

Your greeting is a wonderful way to recognize a friend, a fellow member, or a post. Wish someone good luck, thank them for a job well done, or acknowledge a milestone.

For more information, visit the J WV convention page at: <https://www.jwv.org/programs/building-membership/national-convention/>

National Convention 2020

Sunday, August 23

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

Monday, August 24

NEC Meeting
JWV/JWVA Joint Opening
Resolutions Committee
Credentials and Registration Committee
1st Business Session

Tuesday, August 25

Membership Committee
Resolution Committee
Marketing Committee
2nd Business Session
Scouting & JROTC Committee
Korean War Veterans Committee
Vietnam Veterans Committee

Wednesday, August 26

Awards Committee
Youth Achievement Awards Committee
Resolution Committee
Gulf War Veterans Committee
Post 9/11 Committee
Women in the Military Committee
3rd Business Session

Thursday, August 27

NMAJMH Meeting
Closing Nominations and Elections

* Schedule subject to change

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. 125th Annual National Convention August 23-27, 2020

Register now for our first ever virtual National Convention!

The coronavirus may prevent us from gathering in Jacksonville, but it can't stop us from getting together for our National Convention. This year, the convention is coming to you. August 23-27, JWV members will gather online to conduct business, hear from several speakers, and elect a new National Commander as we head into our 125th year.

You can join the fun online or on the phone – but first you need to register. You can register online now or fill out the registration form and send it to our National Headquarters.

JWV

Member Name: _____ **Post #:** _____

Address: _____

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

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

JWV Member Convention Registration Fee	\$18.00		
JWV Raffle Tickets	\$5.00 each		
	3 for \$10.00		
Total:			
Amount of payment:			
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No.	Exp.	/	
Signature			

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continued from page 5

guide we provide. Once this contact is established, instead of sending the package directly to the VA, we will send them to your Post liaison who will personally deliver them to the VA.

At the same time, we feel this will expose the Post and JWV to the VA and the process could receive media coverage, which will enhance the post's standing in its community. If the Post Commander feels this is a viable approach, please contact National Stamp Program Chair, Michael Corbett at ocusmc@hotmail.com to arrange the start of this process.

Meanwhile, the Stamp Program will continue to support Fisher House facilities that request stamp collecting kits for youngsters when they spend time awaiting their veteran's health improvement. These kits are paid for by the Department of Florida and include a beginner's stamp album for worldwide stamps, a magnifying glass, a packet of about 100 stamps with hinges, and a pamphlet on How to Collect Postage Stamps.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Bob Jacobs

Above all else, I hope that this finds you and yours safe and in good health.

As I'm sure you all know by now, the National Convention in Jacksonville will not take place and will be replaced with a virtual convention. When I receive information on how our committee will meet virtually, I will pass it on.

In the meantime, several of us have been hard at work to finalize the long-running literary project. We have collected about 90 stories, including those of two Medal of Honor recipients. We will apply for the copyright in the name of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History this week. We are going to donate 200 copies of the disc to the museum for sale. There will also be a paper version, printed and sold by Amazon, with some of the money going to the museum. The original plan was to present the discs as part of the NMAJMH program in Jacksonville. Since that cannot happen, we will make the presentation at our next in-person national meeting. As of right now, that will be at the NEC in Orlando, Florida January 28 to 30. I would like to thank those committee members who helped with the proofreading and editing of the stories. I would especially like to thank PDC Jerry Alperstein (New York) for acting as the editor of this project. Those who have not submitted their stories may still do so, but they will be held for a future revised or sec-

ond edition. The next question is, where do we go from here?

At our last meeting, I announced that we will be able to have space in the museum for an expanded Vietnam Era exhibit. I also solicited members to send me a list of any items you have regarding Vietnam (or elsewhere) Jewish military experience. I have received a couple of lists but we need more in order to do justice to this new project. We have also received over \$2,000 in donations earmarked to developing the museum project. If you, or anyone you know can help, contact me at conrailbob2003@yahoo.com.

And now for some cleanup of the canceled Vietnam Veterans Night Out. A number of you have sent Jerry checks to cover one or more seats at the dinner. I have been assured that refunds will go out by the end of June. If you sent your money and the check already cleared, you will get an actual refund check. If you sent your money in more recently and it hasn't been deposited, your check will be shredded.

In closing, we are all going through a very trying time. Try to be positive and look forward to better times ahead.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Sam Benator, a member of JWV Post 112 in Atlanta, Georgia, delivered pizza and soft drinks to staff at the VA Hospital's nursing home known as the Eagles Nest. The post has held bingo games and pizza parties at this location for more than four decades. The nursing home has reopened two floors as a COVID clinic, and the post wanted to honor the workers.



JWV Massachusetts North Shore Post 220 members Mark Tolpin and Barry Lischinsky joined the President of Pride of Lynn Cemetery to place flags on 235 grave sites ahead of the Memorial Day weekend.



Ira Novoselsky of Post 161 helped the JROTC from Revere High School place 1,000 flags to represent the 201 veterans from the town who have been killed in action and the 800 other veterans from the town who have passed away, including some from COVID-19.

Members of Drizin-Weiss Post 215 are stepping up to the front lines during the current COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Thaddeus Ritch de Herrera, assigned to Concentra Medical Center, is treating first and front line responders. Dr. Joshua Lipschutz is treating patients in Charleston, South Carolina. Dr. Leon Malmud of Temple University offered suggestions on how to segregate the spread of the virus and treat patients. Post Commander M.B. Kanis mailed hundreds of masks to members of our post and others in order to safeguard veterans. Joel Grubman and his wife sewed cloth masks which they delivered to veterans. Member Glenn Marshall made a generous donation that is helping with food deliveries to first and front line responders in three states. From Left: Ritch and Rose Ingrassia.



Walter I. Berlin Post 630 in Melbourne, Florida held elections and installed its new officers on March 15. From Left: OOD Jack Garfield, Commander Jeff Fiskin, Quartermaster Leonard Shaffter, Installing Officer and Judge Advocate PNC Jerry Blum, Junior Vice Commander Howard Gans, and Senior Vice Commander Steve Taubkin.



On May 20, the Honor Guard from Post 256 in Dallas, Texas participated in the funeral for JWV member Harry Hermann who died from COVID-19. From Left: Dick Lethe, Art Kaplan, Harold Harris, Steve Krant, and Allan Cantor.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On April 7, approximately 275 seder meal kits were prepared and distributed to members of the Worcester Jewish community in a joint program with the Torah Center of Worcester. Cars lined up in the JCC parking lot as volunteers passed out their orders. Bruce Mendelsohn of JWV's Newton-Brookline Post 211 helped deliver meals to those who were unable to leave their homes. From Left: Mindy Sackrin Hall of the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts and Mendelsohn.



Past Illinois Department Commander Jerry Berns received a surprise parade in honor of his 97th birthday. His daughter planned the parade to commemorate his special day because of the COVID-19 stay at home orders in Illinois. Participants in the parade included JWV members Jeff Sacks, Robert Nussbaum, Howard Goldstein, Stan Nathanson, Joel Fabrikant, and Marshall Kayman. More than 20 cars circled the block for about eight minutes, honking when they passed Berns. Berns expressed surprise at the celebration but said he was thrilled by the show of love and support. He says he'll never forget it. From Left: Sara Moore, Hilary Star, Jerry Berns, and Marla Berns Moore.



Post 639 in Brevard County, Florida donated \$1,000 dollars to the Viera VA Clinic on February 13. This is the latest of many donations the post has made to this Florida clinic. From Left: Volunteer Coordinator Marizza Moreno-Benton and Post Commander Jeff Fishkin.



JWV Post 140 member Robert Waldheim joined a Marine Corps League Color Guard and three members of the VFW for a Memorial Day service at a cemetery in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. From Left: 3 VFW Members and Robert Waldheim.



Joel Lebowitz of JWV's Dan Michelson Post 740 in Livingston, New Jersey placed a flag on the grave of Captain Lawrence Portnow at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Iselin on Memorial Day. The Portnow family sponsored Lebowitz and his family to come to the United States in 1948 at the end of World War II.



Members of JWV Department of Wisconsin placed more than 2,100 flags on cemetery graves in the Southeastern part of the state for Memorial Day. From Left: Ron Laux, Dennis Zyszkiewicz, Kim Queen, Judy and Mark Schneider

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Post 126 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey supported the food drive held by the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Southern New Jersey on May 1. From Left: Post Commander Dr. Sam Tilonsky and Administrator Perry Levine.



The Department of Maryland joined with the Jewish Uniformed Service Association of Maryland for a live virtual Memorial Day service. It took place at the Jewish Section of the Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery. From Left: Rabbi Chesky Tenenbaum, Charles Jay, and Charles Sandler



Richard Kitson, left, and Gary Glick, members of Major Joseph H. Lief Post 488 on Long Island, New York, joined a parade to help Werner Hess celebrate his 99th birthday on Friday, May 15. There were 30 cars and a minibus involved in the birthday parade.

Mr. and Mrs. Hess enjoying the birthday parade.



JWV Founding Ceremony

JWV Post 1 held a ceremony in New York on March 13 to celebrate the 124th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish War Veterans and Post 1. National Commander Harvey Weiner participated in the ceremony at the site of the founding meeting, which is now the DoubleTree by Hilton Metropolitan. In the lobby, a plaque reads:

"On this site on March 15, 1896, in the Lexington Avenue Opera House, the Hebrew Union Veterans Association which became the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, the oldest active veterans organization in the United States was founded."

Singled out for special mention at the ceremony were the seven Jewish Civil War veterans who organized that first meeting: Jastrow Alexander, Isadore Eckstein, Isadore Isaacs, Jacob Jacobs, Joseph Steiner, Joseph Unger, and Joseph Wolff.

Post 1 Junior Vice Commander Rabbi Andrew Scheer said during the ceremony, "I am heartened when I see American flags on the

grounds of the historic 18th and 19th century [Jewish] cemeteries in Chinatown, Greenwich Village, and Chelsea where Jewish veterans from Congregation Shearith Israel, the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue, are buried."

He added, "Their sacrifice is a reminder that although our membership in Jewish War Veterans today continues a tradition begun in 1896, we are part of an even longer, unbroken lineage of proud and patriotic Jewish military service that stretches back before our nation was even founded."

During the ceremony Scheer also led memorial prayers in honor of those seven men who attended the first meeting.



From left: Jerry Alperstein, Michael Menschel, National Commander Harvey Weiner, Rabbi Andrew Scheer, and Edward Hochman.



Ian Queen is an Army NCO and JWV member. He is working with Department of Health personnel at a location in central Florida to ship hand sanitizer, masks, and gloves. Military personnel working in this location are required to have a mask on if they are within six feet of another person. They also wear boot or shoe covers, chemical suit overalls, isolation or surgical gowns, face shields, and goggles. All the items are shipped to different countries to be split between physical and field hospitals and first responders. Queen is the son of Kim Queen, the Department of Wisconsin Commander.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



The Department of Michigan held its annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Machpelah Cemetery in Ferndale on Monday, May 25. They broadcast the ceremony live online for Temple Shir Shalom and JWV members who were not allowed to attend due to COVID-19. From Left: William Glogower, Donald Schenk, Mark Weiss, Paul Roach, Art Fishman, Commander Ed Hirsch, Larry Berry, and Rabbi Michael Moskowitz.



Perry 'Johnny' Levine, Administrator of Post 126 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, placed flags on the graves of 200 Jewish veterans at the Locustwood Memorial Cemetery on May 14.



Members of Post 178 placed flags on graves at three cemeteries on May 12, including the cemetery of Congregation Beth Am in Lakewood, New Jersey. From Left: Post Commander Dave Kessler, PDC Al Adler, Barry Segal, and PDC Bob Jacobs.



Marc Liebman, of JWV Post 256 in Dallas.

Members of JWV Post 256 in Dallas, Texas and JWVA held a ceremony at the Shearith Israel Memorial Park. After the ceremony, the group placed flags on graves at that cemetery and others throughout the Dallas area. From Left: Dick Lethe, Art Kaplan, Marc Liebman, and William Oglesby.



JWV Post 692 held a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Jewish Veterans Memorial in Rockville, Maryland on Memorial Day. From Left: Rabbi Moishe Kavka, Sheldon Goldberg, Bill Landau, Marshall Sneiderman, Walter Gold, Arthur Wise, Alan Lewis, Robert Eisenberg. (Photo by Bender JCC CEO Michael Feinstein)

JWV Post 1 in Manhattan donated 260 face shields to the Manhattan Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in April. The post placed an order with the manufacturer, Disc Makers of Pennsauken, New Jersey, in April. The order received delivery priority because it was being donated to the VAMC. Pictured with boxes of masks is Post 1 Adjutant Jerry Alperstein



A Closer Look at “Still”

By Rebecca Bender

At a 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day invasion at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, I read excerpts from a book my father and I wrote together. My father, Kenneth Bender, participated in the D-Day invasion, and received both a Silver Star and Purple Heart during World War II.

“Still” is a book about five generations of my family, the Benders. It covers more than 150 years during which the family migrated from Odessa, Russia, to North Dakota, and eventually Minnesota. Included in the story is my father’s recollections about himself and his war service as just one of more than half a million Jewish servicemen and women in World War II.

Near Cardiff, Wales, June 1944

It was two a.m. when Kenneth heard an unexpected knock on the door of his barracks. “Captain Bender, Sir!” There was some urgency in the messenger’s voice.

Captain Bender had been training in Newry, Northern Ireland, with the two hundred men in his unit for a few months. Company B’s barracks were on the second floor of an old abandoned concrete mill. The men practiced hand-to-hand combat drills in a greyhound dog racing enclosure and hiked up and down Camlough Mountain, where even the big rocks they walked on sank into the boggy ground with just one step. They were continuing their preparation to invade Norway...



General Walter Robertson pinning the Silver Star on Captain Bender. Author files.

Bender’s focus and the focus of the men under his command had been Norway for almost two years... Then the plans abruptly changed... and the entire division had been relocated to Wales. Bender had been told of the new mission — training for an amphibious invasion of Europe to fight the Nazis on the ground. He had been informed of the timetable and the plan to leave for Omaha Beach within the week, but the knock on the door of the barracks woke him with a start. “Captain Bender, Sir!” said the messenger again. “I have a message from headquarters... “Sir, you and all the men in your unit who are Hebrews are supposed to get dressed and come to the officers’ tent in fifteen minutes.”

“Thank you, private,” said Captain Bender.

Bender quickly dressed, grabbed the list of two hundred soldiers under his command, and walked swiftly to the enlisted men’s barracks. He walked in and yelled, “Attention!” The men all stood by their bunks at attention. Captain



Bender continued, “I will now call out names of some men, and I want you to get dressed and meet me outside the officers’ tent in ten minutes.” He started calling out the names of the Jewish soldiers. “The rest of you can go back to sleep. That is all.”

Captain Bender went to the officers’ tent and waited outside for his men. Standing in the coolness of the Welsh night, he thought back about telling his family that he knew volunteering as a private in the infantry was the right thing to do, even though he had graduated from law school just two years before and was working as a lawyer in Rapid City. But why were the Jewish soldiers in his unit being singled out...

The Jewish men of his unit had lined up silently behind Captain Bender. The Captain led them into the tent. “Captain Bender reporting, Sir.”

“At ease, men,” said the officer. The officer broke the anxious silence:

Gentlemen, we have been sent by Company Commander, Captain Keith Schmedeman. Captain Schmedeman has learned reliable information from the front lines, in North Africa and Italy, about how Hebrews, people of the Jewish faith, are being treated by the enemy once they are captured. The Axis are not taking the Hebrews as prisoners of war. They are shooting them on the spot. This has come down from high up. If they see that your dog tags have an “H” for Hebrew, they will kill you or torture you until you die.

The Lieutenant here has a machine that can change your dog tags — you can either switch them from H, to P for Protestant or C for Catholic. When you change your dog tags, you will have a better chance of surviving the war. Now, line up behind Captain Bender to get your dog tags changed. Captain Bender, tell the Lieutenant if you want a C or a P on your tags. Once you have completed this process, you are dismissed.

Captain Bender moved up across from the Lieutenant sitting with the machine, who had his hand out to take the Captain’s dog tags. Kenneth’s twenty-eight years of life passed before him, as is supposed to happen when you see a car heading straight towards you on the road. But Kenneth Bender didn’t see headlights. He saw his Grandma Becky’s face — stern, wise, and warm all at once. “You are born a Jew, and you will die a Jew.” He

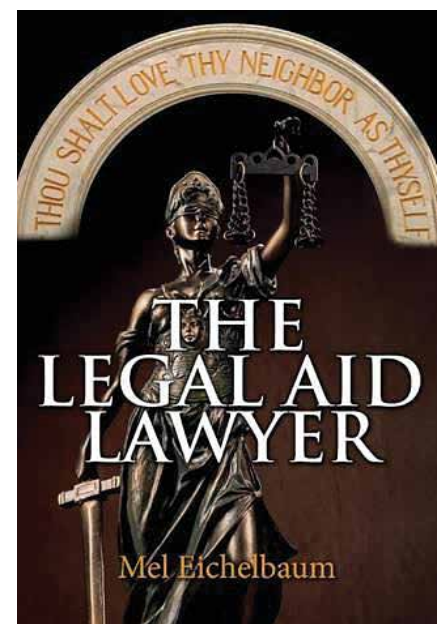
knew what she meant. No matter what happens in between, once you are born as a Jew, you are who you are. You carry the joys and responsibilities of your religion. You carry the history of your people.

Each soldier had two metal tags around his neck, listing next of kin and religion. One of the tags had tape on it, so the enemy could not hear the American soldiers approaching due to the clanging of the two tags. If a soldier was killed, one tag would be removed and the other would remain with the body. ...

“P or C ?” The Lieutenant’s words brought him back to the moment. In the quiet of the tent, Captain Bender felt his words come from deep inside of himself, calm and confident.

“Sir, I will not make the change.” Captain Bender then told the men assembled that they had the option to do as they wished, and he started to walk towards the exit of the tent. That’s when he heard Private Feldman, “Sir, I will not make the change”; then Private First Class Skurmann, “Sir, I will not make the change”; and on and on, like a rolling echo in a tent covered with burlap, that would not naturally lead to the phenomenon of an echo. These were man-made echoes. These were echoes that came from thousands of years of faith.

The Legal Lawyer



Mel Eichelbaum of Post 753 in San Antonio, Texas, recently published his memoirs, “The Legal Aid Lawyer.” In the first part of the book Eichelbaum explains how he didn’t embrace Judaism until his teenage years when the family moved to San Antonio and he was influenced by his rabbi and other Jewish leaders of his synagogue. As a young Jewish lawyer he pursued justice thanks to a law school professor and Tikkun Olam. As the chief litigator of San Antonio’s Legal Aid Association, Eichelbaum took on civil rights and poverty law cases that ended up making legal history.

In the second part of the book, Eichelbaum discusses several of the most significant cases he participated in or served as the lead attorney. One of the cases in the book is used as a teaching tool in law schools during classes on civil rights.

Post 180 in Israel

Continued from page 8

fenders of our second homeland. We make financial contributions to IDF and veterans' support organizations, and we cheer for our soldiers at ceremonies and events. We've also devised a way to show support in a personal manner – many of our members carry small cards which they present to soldiers wherever they meet them. The cards bear an expression of gratitude and a wish for the soldier's safety, in both Hebrew and English.

Our Post Commander, Abraham Kriss, has lived in Israel for 18 years. He's been a JWV Post 180 member for all of that time. He currently lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Sarah. He served in the U.S. Army between the Korean and Vietnam Wars, spending 18 months in Korea. One of his three children lives in Israel with his wife and seven children, and three of his grandsons have completed service in the Israel Defense Force. His fourth grandson currently serves in an IDF combat unit.

Rabbi Yaakov Iskowitz is the chaplain of JWV Post 180. He served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army for 20 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was stationed in Missouri, Colorado, New York, New Jersey, Korea, and in both Stuttgart and Frankfurt, Germany. His career included five years on the staff of the U.S. Army Chaplains' School. Born in Pittsburgh, Rabbi Iskowitz made aliyah to Israel in 1988. He is married with seven children, plus grand- and great-grandchildren.

Rabbi Alan Greenspan, who served as a U.S. Army chaplain, retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He and his wife, Gaila, live in Efrat, south of Jerusalem. Rabbi Greenspan served from 1962 to 1987, including a stint in Vietnam, where he led Passover Seders under very trying conditions. A memorable posting for Rabbi and Mrs. Greenspan was their three-year tour of duty in the Panama Canal Zone, where they served military personnel and Jewish canal workers. The Greenspans came to Israel on aliyah in 1989.

Our leaders and members include several other career service members, and a number of other veterans who served in war and peacetime in various locations. We have quite a few associate members, whose family members served in the U.S. armed forces.

Our group has met with several interesting people in the past few years.

In 2018, we heard from Tom Sawicki, Director of Programming in Israel for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee/American Israel Education Foundation. Sawicki coordinates visits to the region by members of the U.S. Congress and other politically influential individuals. A journalist by profession, he keeps AIPAC's national office up to date on developments in Israel and the Middle East, and is in frequent contact with political, media, and academic leaders in Israel.

In early 2019, we heard from Ziva Mekonen-Degu, who at the time served as Executive Director of the Association of Ethiopian Jews (AEJ), Ethiopian Jewry's flagship organization in Israel. Mekonen-Degu made aliyah to Israel from Ethiopia in 1984 at the age of 11. Accomplished academically and professionally, she has served and advocated on behalf of the Ethiopian Israeli community and other populations in need.

At our next meeting, we met with Uri Ehrenfeld, a retired member of Israel's security forces. Ehrenfeld was a POW during the Yom Kippur War. He is fortunate to have survived not only the battle, but cruel treatment at the hands of his Egyptian captors. Still suffering from the effects of this ordeal, Ehrenfeld came to us as a representative of the Zahal (Israel Defense Forces) Disabled Veterans' Organization. Ehrenfeld is active on many fronts on behalf of veterans, especially those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). His energy and knowledge in veterans' affairs is matched by his Positive Mental Attitude (PMA).

Our captivating speakers are not only drawn from the ranks of Israeli society or American supporters of Israel. At our most recent meeting, we were graced with the presence of His Excellency Mario Bucaro Flores, Guatemala's ambassador to Israel. Shortly after the U.S. embassy moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Guatemala followed



Uri Ehrenfeld

suit. This is not the Central American nation's first presence in our capital. The Guatemalan embassy was located in Jerusalem from 1956 to 1980. Ambassador Bucaro, a veteran of Guatemala's air force, is a warm, engaging individual. He is an eloquent representative of his country. He expressed his country's official position that Israel is the natural, historic homeland of the Jewish people. He also expressed his personal joy at serving in a place where he feels appreciated and at home.

As this piece is being written, in person meetings of JWV Post 180 and other groups throughout the country have been on hiatus for several months due to the coronavirus pandemic. While the virus' effect on the health of people throughout the world is severe, people's solidarity with their fellow human beings has grown. This was expressed directly in our post leadership's recent virtual meeting with National Commander Harvey Weiner, Chief of Staff Barry Lischinsky, and staff member Christy Turner. We haven't started online JWV meetings in Israel yet. In the meantime, let's express our support for one another in a spiritual way, via prayer and mitzvot.

Our post especially enjoys meeting with the JWV-USA mission to Israel each spring. This year, the trip unfortunately did not take place. Hopefully the coronavirus crisis will be abated soon by scientific advances and concerted public health efforts. We look forward to greeting the 2021 JWV-USA contingent in Israel, with joyous shouts of "This year in Jerusalem!"

Controversial Motto

Continued from page 4

that deserve to be acknowledged for their service."

Noel said department officials were not concerned about the potential for controversy with the bronze plaques because "this was a direct quote from President Lincoln's second inaugural and is verbatim." She also noted the quote is already etched in stone at the Lincoln Memorial.

"Of course today, our mission is focused more broadly on the men and women veterans we treat in our medical facilities, provide earned benefits, and inter in our national cemeteries and their families," she said.

On Wednesday, during an online hearing for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, ranking member Phil Roe, R-Tenn., threw his support behind a motto change, calling an update to include women "very appropriate" to consider.

"We certainly don't want to change what

Lincoln said, but it's time in the 21st century to change it to 'those who have borne the battle,' which would include all our veterans," he said.

Last month, officials from the Military Religious Freedom Foundation filed a complaint about Nazi swastikas on several headstones of German prisoners of war graves at a pair of VA cemeteries.

The graves date back to the 1940s, but group leaders argued the offensive symbols needed to be removed given updated understanding of the imagery and new extremist and anti-Semitic activity in America today.

But Wilkie for several weeks argued in favor of keeping the headstones, calling them an important historical recognition of the horrors of World War II. Last week, VA leaders relented, saying they would begin the process of removing the grave markers.

In testimony before Congress this week, Wilkie said that the department has worked on improving outreach to women veterans in recent years, enrolling about 40 percent of the population eligible for VA health care services.

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Estate Planning

Your ongoing commitment to JWV is what allows us to fulfill our mission to help veterans. Some gift options include contribution of all or part of an IRA, annuity, or life insurance policy; contribution of stock; bequest in your will or trust. For more information on ways that generous donors can contribute to JWV through estate planning, please visit our website.

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDRA CANTOR

Dear Sisters,

As this will be my last article in The Jewish Veteran, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my condolences to all throughout the world who have lost loved ones due to the global pandemic, and especially to our fellow Americans who have suffered family illness and losses. I hope and pray that we all stay safe and healthy until a vaccine becomes available.

And now Sisters, it has been the honor of my life to represent JWVA as your National President. The people I have met and the places I have visited will always be memories I cherish. We are an exceptional organization that promotes many worthwhile programs for veterans and those in the general community. I am proud to be part of it! There are so many people to thank for helping me during this last year including my entire staff, and especially my advisors, Judge Advocate, LMO Chairman, and National Editor who I have conferred with and relied on regularly. I am encouraged about my theme of L'Dor V'Dor (from Generation to Generation) in that we have made some progress, first by visiting Auxiliaries that had not seen a National President visit in some time such as Cleveland and Boston. I was scheduled to visit Minnesota, an auxiliary that does not ever remember a presidential visit, but, unfortunately that visit had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus. I am happy to report that Auxiliary 220 (Massachusetts) has recruited several new members and I hope this push for membership can continue with other Auxiliaries able to do the same.

This year I feel lucky and blessed to have served with my counterpart, JWV National Commander Harvey Weiner, who has become a valued friend. I have enjoyed our combined visits and our time

together at both the Chelsea Soldiers Home over Thanksgiving and at the Veteran's Day Reception. Ladies, I believe it's very important, besides the work that we do on our own programs, to work in conjunction with JWV in a role to support and complement our comrades. I think this combined cooperation will only make us stronger.

My biggest personal regret during my presidency is that I was not able to attend the various Service Academy Graduations and Award Ceremonies. When would I ever get to experience such moving and patriotic events? Well, as they say, "the best laid plans..." obviously impacted by COVID-19, caused me to cancel these planned trips. This pandemic caused disappointments to many others as well; however, this is my personal regret. That being said, this year has been a personal high for so many other reasons and I cannot thank you all enough for that!

I would like to extend good wishes to the incoming President and her staff. I hope that the next administration enjoys a meaningful and productive year. I will end this article where I began, with a prayer for us all and the hope that this pandemic will be behind us when we meet for our virtual National Convention.

Loyally yours,
Sandra Cantor, NP



A Dollars Worth Of History

By Iris Goldwasser, PNP/Editor

In the last issue of The Jewish Veteran I explained the interesting history of the United States one-dollar bill, why it was designed as it was, the meaning of all the symbols included on it and how it pertains to our history as a nation. In this issue I would like to continue to investigate its symbolism and importance to the birth of the United States.

If you look at the back of your one-dollar bill again you will find the eagle in the circle on the right and above that thirteen stars are visible which represent the thirteen original colonies. You can see the clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, as history explains, we were coming together as one nation, newly independent, emerging to stand on our own among the many older and established nations of the world.

Many people believe that the number thirteen is an unlucky number. In fact, this is almost a worldwide belief and rarely will you find a room number thirteen or any hotel with a thirteenth floor. But think about this:

- 13 stripes of our flag
- 13 steps on the Pyramid
- 13 letters in Annuet Coeptis
- 13 stars above the Eagle 13 bars on that shield
- 13 leaves on the olive branch
- 13 arrows
- 13 letters in E Pluribus Unum
- 13 fruits
- 13 original colonies all who had representatives who signed the Declaration

These are the references that I used to acquire this information. These are people who either helped design the seal and dollar bill or have investigated its design that I used for this and the last article. They include Charles Thomson the original designer, William Barton, the National Archives, Professor John Swensson, David Mikkelson, Professor Beth Wenger and Paul W. Barada.

As a lover of American history, I ask myself why didn't I know this. When I ask others, they are unaware as well. This is a part of our American heritage, but your children and grandchildren don't learn this and their history teachers don't teach it. Why?

Too many veterans have sacrificed too much to ever allow the meaning of these many symbols to vanish. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that was unwelcoming and many never came home at all. They fought for us and deserve better.

It is important to share this important piece of history. This is just a thread in the fabric of our 250 year American legacy. Let's not forget where we came from and the price of our freedom. History will repeat itself if we forget our past.

Legislation

Harriet Epstein, Chairman

What is the difference between advocacy and lobbying? Which you might be doing as a representative of JWVA?

The general purpose of advocacy is to influence public policy and legislation. The first amendment of the U.S. Constitution which states that, "Congress shall make no law abridging the right of the people to peaceably petition the government for a redress of grievances," permits such activity.

A major subgroup of advocacy is lobbying. In general lobbyists work for well-funded special interest groups, often major corporations, veteran organizations, and religious groups. Lobbyists are paid employees of the group for which they work. They utilize a wide range of techniques including social media campaigns, publicity events, polls, and more to reach legislators and promote their points of view. Lobbyists can provide lawmakers with reliable data and accurate assessments of a bill's effect, but they can use unethical methods of

influence as well, such as bribery. They are regulated by law, and on a national level, must register with specific offices of the U.S. House and Senate.

The type of advocacy provided by members of JWVA is not lobbying. We may wish to address our local Councils, State Legislatures and the U.S. Congress about matters of concern to JWV or JWVA, but we are not paid to do so and do not have to register to arrange meetings with legislatures to discuss issues of interest to our organization, such as veterans benefits or support of Israel. However, we do need to make an appointment for our visits. We may join in a march for Women's Rights with hundreds of other women in the name of JWVA if appropriate and utilize social media and email. In doing this we are practicing advocacy, not lobbying! Our advocacy must be peaceful! Lastly, remember that any policy/legislation we advocate must not be in contradiction of JWV/JWVA policy!

These are strange and difficult times we have been experiencing for the past few months. We all have been affected by the Corona/Covid 19 virus to varying degrees. Thankfully, some of the mobility restrictions issued in connection with this virus are slowly being lifted. Unfortunately, gathering in large numbers is still restricted which means our 2020 National Convention cannot take place in Jacksonville, Florida. However, with all the new technology available to us we still can and will have our annual Convention. It will be a new experience for almost all of us, since few, if any of us, have taken part in a virtual convention.

Our 2020 Convention will take place using "smartmeeting.com." We will be making the use of this program as easy as possible for everyone. If you have a computer with a camera and microphone, a tablet, or a smart phone, it will be simple for you to participate. If you don't have one of these options, you can still dial in on a phone to participate.

We will have almost all the usual meetings, including a joint opening, Resolutions and Recommendations, Student Awards, Memorial Service and reports from our National President, Sandra Cantor, and various program



chairmen. We will also be having a virtual Happy Hour for our Partners. And do not forget our Installation of New Officers and the first NEC Meeting.

There will still be a Journal and a Memorial Book. Don't forget to send in your Boosters and Memorials to be included in these books.

JWVA will be collecting a reduced Registration Fee of \$18.00 that will be payable in advance. In addition to funding our virtual Convention, this will enable us to determine the number of participants from each echelon to determine voting strength.

Please do not forget to send in your raffle stubs and payments. We will be raffling off \$250.00.

We know that this may seem strange and possibly difficult to undertake, but we are working very hard to make everyone as comfortable as possible with this new format. Additional information on smartmeeting.com will be forthcoming very soon so "think positive" as we enter this brave new world of technology.

PNP Elaine Bernstein, Convention Chairman

PNP Petra Kaatz, Convention Co-Chairman

JWVA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee is \$18.00 per person

Name: _____ Aux.# _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: National Ladies Auxiliary, JWV

Mail your registration and payment to: PNP Elaine Bernstein, Convention Chairman,
9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872



Partners Club

**Please join us on Wednesday,
August 26, at 5:00 p.m. for a
Virtual Happy Hour!**

The purpose of this program is to help our administration function. The funds collected help keep our Washington office operating.

Anyone can be a partner. If you know people who would like to support our cause, please ask them to join.

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

We will be having a virtual happy hour during our Convention. We will still have a lot of fun!

Please make your checks payable to National Ladies Auxiliary, JWV and send to: PNP Elaine Bernstein, Convention Chairman, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872

If you have any questions, please call PNP Freda Rosenstein at 908-230-5341.



Student Awards

PNP Joanne Blum, Chairman

Thank you for the applications I've received. I'm thanking you in advance for whatever donations you can send so that our program will be another success. Thank you.

Convention Boosters 2020 • Listings Are \$2.00 For Each Name

I/we wish to have the following boosters listed in the Convention Book.
Please indicate if booster name is a booster (B), child (C) or grandchild (G).

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please make checks payable to: National Ladies Auxiliary, JWV

Mail this form and payment to: PNP Elaine Bernstein, Convention Chairman
9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872



In Memoriam • Our Remembrance Book • \$3.00 Per Name

• Kindly list the names of the loved ones you would like printed in our Remembrance Book •

In Memory of _____ Relationship _____

In Memory of _____ Relationship _____

In Memory of _____ Relationship _____



Please make checks payable to: National Ladies Auxiliary, JWV

Mail this form and payment to: PNP Elaine Bernstein, Convention Chairman
9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

A Message From Museum President Lawrence Schulman, PNC

As my term as President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History comes to an end, I want to thank the Jewish War Veteran members for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. It has personally been a valuable experience. The museum is well respected in the community and highly regarded. It has been such an honor just to be part of a team of leaders that have moved the museum to great heights.

I could not have completed my work without the dedicated staff of Mike Rugel and Pam Erbe, who continue to grow the interest from the community of Washington. Their dedication to the museum has enhanced our quality and interest from all of our members.

Even with the COVID-19 dilemma, Mike has found new ways to make the museum relevant in these trying times. By using virtual book reviews, he has increased our participation in many programs.

Some of the accomplishments are as follows:

- A wonderful museum video, sponsored by the Department of New York that was distributed to all Posts.
- We hosted a Jewish Warrior Weekend, and we have had the Israeli Ambassador and his staff and the Israeli Air Force attaché.
- We take part in the Dupont-Kalorama Museum Walk.

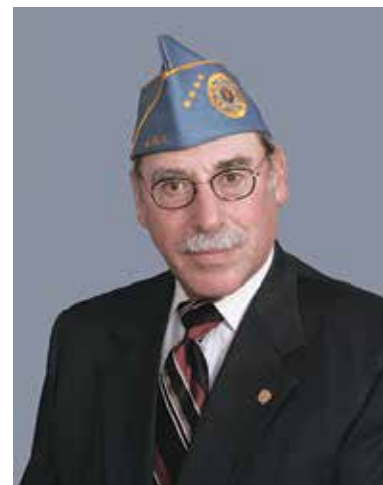
- We have annual Hanukkah events.
- There have been many speakers reviewing books at the museum.
- We have many groups visit the museum, from schools to organizations.
- We celebrate Memorial Day and Veterans Day with many programs geared to the day.

This is only a partial list of the activities that your museum accomplishes on an annual basis.

We need the support of more posts and members to continue the successes that we have had. With your membership in the museum, you help strengthen our museum.

I look forward to continuing to support the NMAJMH leadership,

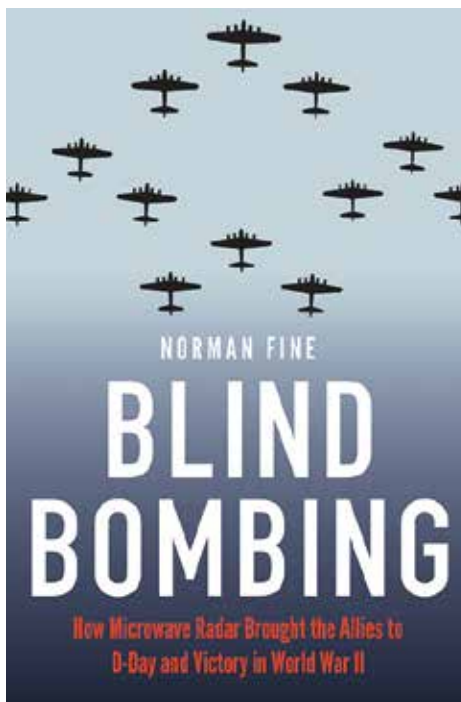
PNC Lawrence Schulman
President, NMAJMH



COVID-19 has closed our doors since the middle of March. We've had to cancel tours from school groups, work groups, families, and more. That doesn't mean we've stopped sharing our history. The pandemic has proved people are eager to learn our stories under almost any circumstance. Historian Sheldon Goldberg and Programs and Content Coordinator Michael Rugel gave virtual talks to synagogues and other groups. We've continued to share our history on our website and social media. This includes written articles and videos. Make sure you follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and check www.nmajmh.org regularly.

Before closing the building, we managed to host our last in-person event at the museum. Dr. David Frey, Director of the West Point Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, spoke about educating future officers about the Holocaust and how to use these lessons to understand and react to potential genocide and mass atrocity situations. Frey led a fascinating discussion about teaching tomorrow's leaders, who will be in a place to use the lessons of history, to understand what leads to mass atrocities. The reach goes beyond just West Point. Frey holds programs with the other service

academies and other parts of the military. We hope to continue the relationship with Frey and the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center.



Author Norman Fine presented his book, *Blind Bombing: How Microwave Radar Brought the Allies to D-Day and Victory in World War II*

Since then, we've managed to move our public programs online using video conferencing. The online speaker series started with Joel Poznansky's talk on the British Army's Coldstream Guards. Poznansky traced his Coldstream Guards lineage back to George Washington who also served in the unit. We had several participants from the U.K., and the technology allowed for a discussion on Jewish service in the British military compared with the U.S.

The second talk was from Bernard Lubran, President of the Friends of Camp Ritchie, a non-profit organization that raises awareness about the Ritchie Boys. He talked about the soldiers who trained in intelligence at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. Many of these were Jewish refugees from Europe

who returned as American soldiers interrogating POWs. Again, the video conferencing allowed this to be an international affair. Amongst the partici-



George Jacobs explains how newly developed radar technology effected his bombing missions in World War II.

pants was Austrian scholar Robert Lackner of the Austrian Center for Intelligence, Propaganda, and Security Studies. He's the author of an upcoming German-language book on the Ritchie Boys who came from Austria. We also had many Ritchie Boy family members there to share some of their own stories. The incredibly powerful stories of refugees from Germany returning to interrogate the POWs who were once their neighbors always resonate with our audience.

Our third online talk featured author Norman Fine and WWII veteran George Jacobs discussing the development of radar for bombing missions during WWII. Fine is the author of "Blind Bombing: How Microwave Radar Brought the Allies to D-Day and Victory in World War II." Jacobs was a navigator on B-17 bombers and used the newly developed technology on bombing missions. It was great to be able to pair a WWII veteran with an expert on this specific technical history.

We saw our audience grow for each of these talks and plan to continue using webinars and video conferencing for talks in the future. Video recordings are available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg>.



Dr. David Frey discusses the work of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) at the United States Military Academy.

By Pam Elbe • Collections, Archives, & Exhibits Coordinator

Documenting the Present: The Pandemic's Impact on Military Personnel

While the phrase, we are living in historic times, is a cliché, it is nonetheless still true. These are unprecedented times and future historians will want to know how people responded to the COVID-19 pandemic both personally and professionally. My original plan for this article was to look at how the influenza pandemic of 1918 impacted Jews serving in the military at that time. Unfortunately, I was not able to find any mention of the pandemic in the museum's collection, despite the impact that it had on those serving in and returning from World War I. In order to prevent future researchers from having the same problem, we are trying to collect information now about how people are reacting to the COVID-19 crisis.



U.S. Navy Cmdr. Brianna Rupp, a preventative medicine physician from the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, takes a survey from a U.S. sailor, assigned to the aircraft carrier the USS Theodore Roosevelt, as part of a public health outbreak investigation, April 22, 2020. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Chris Liaghat.

Anyone who has caught a few minutes of a news broadcast or read an article online is aware that our military has been uniquely impacted by this global pandemic. From high rates of infection on naval ships like the USS Theodore Roosevelt, to National Guard members being deployed to set up COVID testing sites, service members have often found themselves at the forefront of the pandemic. The museum wants to document this history as it happens, before memories of this time fade. To do that we need your help.

If you are currently serving in the U.S. military, the museum wants to document how COVID-19 has affected your life. You may not think your story is extraordinary, but all stories are important. We want to document as many veterans as possible. To have your story and photograph included, please send an email to Pamela Elbe (pelbe@jwv.org) with all of the following info:

- Your name and contact info
- Your branch of service, rank, and MOS



Aircrew Survival Equipmentman Airman Paula Guanco, from Santos, Brazil, sews face masks in the paraloft shop aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier the USS Harry S. Truman in the Atlantic Ocean, May 26, 2020. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kelsey Trinh.

- Military operation/Name of Ship/Unit info/etc.
- Location
- Dates of service
- A brief statement. This does not need to be anything elaborate. It can be as simple as how your daily activities have changed since the pandemic began, or how your unit has been deployed to serve during the crisis. It could be as short as a paragraph or several pages, depending on your situation.
- If you have images available, please send them to the museum. Provide a caption image with the image(s). If you don't have any images, consider documenting your role in the crisis before it is over.

The stories that you send to the museum will be added to our archives so they are available to researchers in the future. If you send images along with your story, your materials will be added to the



NYANG - New York Army National Guard Pvt. Mathew Burke, left, from Mechanicville and Pfc. Janelle McKoy from New Windsor, both assigned to the 104th Military Police Battalion, deliver COVID-19 test kits to a nursing facility in the Bronx, May 26, 2020. Photo by Senior Airman Sean Madden.

museum's Service Around the World exhibit. This display has continued to grow since the exhibition's opening and we would like to be sure that our current service members are as well documented as our veterans.

The theme of the interactive map is American military service around the world from 1948 to the present, and it includes the personal stories and pho-



132nd Medical Group Airmen with the Iowa National Guard conducted COVID-19 screening, May 14, 2020, at a Joint Mobile Screening Center in Denison, Iowa. The Airmen worked with Army National Guard Soldiers to test Iowans in Crawford County. Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Bobby Shepherd.

tographs of those who have served. The information and images you submit will be included in the interactive map in our permanent exhibition, and potentially used in future exhibitions. While we are currently focused on documenting COVID-19's impact on our service members, we are always looking to document the service of our veterans. We need your help to show how Jews have contributed around the globe while serving in the American military. This includes the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, but we also want to include the many smaller operations that are so often overlooked. Whether you were a nurse in Korea, served in Kuwait, or recently returned from serving in Afghanistan, we want to document how varied Jewish military experience has been in the past 70 years.

If you are a Jewish veteran who has served in the U.S. military any time since 1948 or a service member currently serving, you can be included in this display. We are especially interested in making sure that our female service members are represented. You do not need to be a member of JWV to be included (though we would love to have you as a member). You do not need to resubmit your story if you previously sent it to the museum. Please help us show visitors that Jews have served, and continue to serve, in the U.S. armed forces around the world!



Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Alexander Theopolos disinfects oncoming cargo aboard the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier the USS Ronald Reagan during a replenishment-at-sea with the underway replenishment oiler the USNS Tippecanoe. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David C. Warren.

A Final Salute

By Barry Lischinsky

On Friday, April 10, 2020, I received a message from a Shul member, informing me that World War II Army Veteran Lillian Aronson had passed away just three months shy of her 103rd birthday.

Aronson was born in Salem, Massachusetts. At the age of 26, she volunteered for the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC). Aronson served 20 years of active federal service in the United States Army, achieving the rank of Sergeant First Class prior to her retirement. She worked in the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment for 30 years before retiring again. Aronson then started her career as a volunteer.



She became a state and national icon for the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, the Disabled American Veterans,

and the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts.

On the morning of Sunday, April 12, 2020, family members, guests, and veterans attended a private memorial service under the strict guidelines for the prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We had to stay in our cars during the service and military burial honors are not available for veterans who pass away during the current public health crisis.

After the memorial service, I waited until everyone had left before leaving my car to place an American flag and JWV medallion at her gravesite.

In the previous issue of The Jewish Veteran, we featured a story about Aronson's 102nd birthday and her receipt of several certificates in honor of her many years of service.



Photo of Lillian Aronson in Women's Auxiliary Army Corp uniform

Exhibit on Memorial Amphitheater Debuts Online

By Cara Rinkoff



Arlington National Cemetery. U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser.

A new online exhibit to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery debuted in May. The Amphitheater has been the site of the National Memorial Day Observance since it opened in 1920. Now the online exhibit will give people across the country a chance to explore the site and learn more about its past.

Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director of the Office of Army National Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery, said, "Virtual visitation is the centerpiece of the 100th anniversary commemoration, showcasing the resilience of the historical structure and our nation."

The online exhibit contains photographs of the Amphitheater's construction and a video showing its origins, design, and ongoing preservation.

The online exhibit also features the items that were recently removed from a time capsule that went into the cornerstone during the construction process in 1915. Some of the items include a coin and stamp from 1915, an autographed photo of the current president, Woodrow Wilson, and the designs and plans for the Amphitheater. The cemetery plans to place a time capsule in the cornerstone to be opened in another 100 years.

You can find the online exhibit at <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Memorial-Amphitheater-100>.



Stay in touch with JWV!

[Facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans](https://www.facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans)

twitter.com/JewishWarVets

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Lustig, Nick - Post 100
Rosenthal, Harold - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Ross, Leonard N. - Post 603
Yochelson, Saul B. - Post 603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Brody, William - Post 45
Rosenfield, Albert - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Cartagena, Marcel - Post 549
Fogel, Lawrence - Post 631
Gervis, Melvyn A. - Post 440
Gold, Bertram - Post 172
Gordon, Herbert - Post 440
Haar, Ernest - Post 639
Lebenthal, Michael - Post 631
Mish, Joel - Post 373
Weintraub, Donald - Post 400
West, Edward - Post 631

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Bogolub, Harve R. - Post 54
Krengel, Theodore H. - Post 407
Margolin, Louis - Post 407
Miller, Albert J. - Post 29
Nagel, Robert - Post 800

Ordman, Abe I. - Post 407
Pierce, Daniel M. - Post 29
Schneider, Melvin - Post 407
Stone, Ira J. - Post 407
Warner, Michael J. - Post 54
Webster, Lionel - Post 407
Wishnoff, Aaron - Post 407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Hyman, Alvin - Post 644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Gudis, Israel - Post 167
Kobitz, Nat - Post 167
Kurlander, Raymond - Post 567
MacKubin, William E. - Post 167

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Aronson, Lillian - Post 220
Berkowitz, Samuel - Post 022
Barr, Morton - Post 26
Green, Jules - Post 26
Greenberg, Irving W. - Post 161
Harris, Sidney - Post 161
Heffron, Bennett - Post 211
Katzenson, Arthur - Post 32
Lipson, Richard O. - Post 32
Lodgen, William - Post 161

Morin, Morton - Post 32
Raduziner, David M. - Post 157
Shapiro, Paul - Post 161
Sokolov, Hyman B. - Post 157

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Backalar, Jack A. - Post 135
Stofer, David - Post 135
Ekelman, Seymour - Post 474
Frank, Sam - Post 474
Hirschman, Louis - Post 474
Talan, Marvin - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Kaminsky, Sherman J. - Post 354
Nilva, Samuel G. - Post 331
Wolf, Marvin D. - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Turken, Edward I. - Post 21

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Arrow, Berel B. - Post 126
Bender, Harold - Post 695
Bodenstein, William - Post 601
Fox, Martin - Post 63
Gerechoff, Irwin D. - Post 125
Grossman, Aaron - Post 126

Lenson, Harry - Post 76
Lukowsky, Estelle - Post 972
Margolis, Bernard - Post 63
Miller, Morris - Post 126
Pruzansky, Sidney - Post 47
Ravitz, Steven - Post 126
Sandler, Milton S. - Post 126
Schwartz, Erwin G. - Post 609
Steinhorn, Milton L. - Post 972
Waitsman, Harold - Post 126

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Baraw, Eugene - Post 336
Braverman, Philip - Post 488
Henkin, Herbert - Post 105
Kobren, Norman - Post 3
Sperber, Jack - Post 652

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Bicoff, Jack B. - Post 697
Blumenfeld, Merle L. - Post 499
Litman, Harold - Post 98
Stark, Francis - Post 212

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Besser, Maurice A. - Post 436
Cohen, Stephen - Post 580
Haber, Julian S. - Post 755



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my family's safety

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Happy Independence Day!

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."
-Thomas Jefferson

**We Wish All Good Health,
Strength, and Happy Life!**

Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

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

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

**We Wish All
Health, Strength, and a Happy Life**

PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw

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

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

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

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

75th Anniv. Drizin-Weiss Post 215
Members call your post 215-728-9368

Drizin-Weiss Post 215 75th Anniv.
Veterans serving Veterans & Communities

Greetings • Gerald Elkan

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

**In Memory of Carol C. Frank
and Fred Heinrich**

PA PDC 98 Donald Feldman
In Memory of my wife, Edith

In Honor of all who have served!

Greetings to all of our Friends

PNC/PNP Edwin & Iris Goldwasser
We salute those who serve

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

Herbert L. & Beth Gopman

Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69
National Adjutant • 2016-2019

PA PDC 706 Larry Holman
In memory of PNC Ronald Ziegler

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Saluting the Veterans of Heritage Hills
Mazel Tov!

Jason A & Petra C. Kaatz
Good Health to All!

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

Corporal Shepard S. Kopp, USA 1917-19

PNC Sheldon Ohren
L'Chaim - To Life

In Loving Memory of my wife, Virginia
Queens PCC Ron Peters

Dr. Jack Porter
In Memory of My Wife Raya

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays

In Memory of Don Rothman PC #44
By Wife Bernice Rothman PAP #44

Stephen & Helen Sax
Live long and prosper

Norman Schnitzer, PDC
In memory of Harriett

Irv Schildkraut • JWV Post 440

Good Health - To Life!

From Strength to Strength
PNC Dr. Barry J. Schneider

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

Have a good year!
Gloria & Mike Shapiro

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

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

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

The Tarnofsky Family
In memory of Len Klanit - Post 440

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

NC Harvey & Linda Weiner
Thank you for All You Do for Veterans

In Memorial to Joan & Louise Weinstein

In Memory of Philip & Jolin Weinstein
Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute
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National Chaplain Shirley Zak
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