



The Jewish Veteran

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

Congratulations to incoming JWV & JWVA Officers



**National Commander
Jeffrey Sacks**



**National President
Natalie Blank**

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Service Dog Named After Member Page 6

History of Confederate Installations Page 10

Jewish Cemeteries In Distress

By M. B. Kanis

The creation of cemeteries as a final location is as old as man-kind. The creation of Jewish Cemeteries is unique, as Jewish religious customs require that Jewish burial sites be held in reverence.

Recent documented incidents of desecration, vandalism, and failures to maintain multiple Jewish Cemeteries in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area, as well as occurrences in other cemeteries throughout the United States, prompted the following information in the desire to protect the deceased and provide context for the greater good.

What makes a Jewish Cemetery Jewish?

Establishing a cemetery is one of the first priorities for any Jewish community. According to Jewish tradi-



Har Nebo Cemetery in Philadelphia, PA

tion, Jewish burial grounds are sacred sites and must remain undisturbed in perpetuity.

A Jewish cemetery has physical boundaries that set the cemetery off from its surroundings, marking it holy for Jews. Inner reflection is often observed in a place of calm. A Jewish cemetery is considered consecrated ground where Jewish burial practices

and customs are observed.

For Jews, a grave site is permanent and once established should not be violated.

The religious duty of burial is the responsibility of a decedent's children or spouse. If there are no children or spouse, it is the responsibility of the closest relative. If no relatives, then the community. As time passes, it becomes the responsibility of those alive to respect the dead.

How are Veterans effected?

From the earliest sunrise of birth to the twilight last gleaming, members of the Jewish faith, first as volunteers, then as conscripted, and once again as volunteers, have served to protect and defend the United States. As veterans as well as citizens, the lives of people of the Jewish faith are intertwined with ser-

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JWV's First Virtual National Convention

By Cara Rinkoff

More than 215 members, associate members, and patrons registered for JWV's 125th annual convention, which also happened to be the first virtual convention for our organization. The five-day convention, originally scheduled to take place in Jacksonville, Florida moved online due the coronavirus pandemic.

Due to the difficulties of holding votes online, the Convention Rules Committee approved a measure moving votes on all but the election of our new National Commander and Vice Commander to the next in-person convention.

The Opening Ceremony on Monday featured a video greeting

from Secretary Robert Wilkie of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This is the second time Wilkie has appeared at a JWV National Convention, and he also spoke in-person at NEC in February 2020.

At our first business session, more than 100 members tuned in as the Israeli Ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer joined us for a question and answer session. Dermer spoke about the recent diplomatic breakthrough between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, saying he believes this is only the beginning. He thinks other countries in



**Israeli Ambassador to the United States,
Ron Dermer**

the Middle East will find it vital to work with Israel in the near future. "I think to the extent that you have leaders in the Arab world who would like to propel their countries forward and to be a force for modernization, then I

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D'verei HaShomrim

Coping with COVID through Camaraderie

By Chaplain Lt. Col. Yaakov Bindell

New Jersey was one of the early states to get hit with the coronavirus. As the disease spread across the state, the New Jersey National Guard was swiftly called to action. As the State Command Chaplain of New Jersey, within just a few weeks, my job duties suddenly changed from training and developing chaplains, to leading chaplains through one of the biggest challenges this country has seen in over 100 years. I quickly organized groups of chaplains to go visit soldiers and airmen at COVID-19 testing sites, field hospitals, mortuary affairs operations, veteran homes, and long-term care facilities across the state. While I could share countless stories of heroism during the early stages of the pandemic, I feel most inspired by how our service members helped their fellow veterans during the pandemic.

During the early stages of the pandemic, there were many deaths at veteran homes across the state. While soldiers tried to help in any way they could, seeing our state's heroes make their last stand in the face of COVID-19 took a heavy toll on the soldiers assigned to the homes. In order to make sure the veterans who died during this tough time were properly honored, several soldiers working in a dementia unit called Old Glory provided flags in honor of the veterans.

But these soldiers and airmen didn't just go out of their way to make sure the dead received their due honor, they also provided assistance for the living veterans at the homes. At the beginning of the pandemic, for safety reasons, visitors were not allowed to see their family members in person. After several lonely months of not being able to see their family and relatives, veterans were finally given a special day when they would be allowed to see family, albeit only from a window. This day was hugely important for the veterans. Until then, their companions were their adopted military helpers and staff. Despite only being able to see family members through a thick window barrier, soldiers and airmen stepped up to make it the best experience possible. They helped veterans communicate with their families by making sure all cell phones were ready and that windows were clean so resi-



dents could see their family members clearly. You could feel the excitement of that momentous day from the firsthand account of one chaplain. "This mission was so encouraging to the soldiers and airmen. It was like they were walking on air. And for good reason! The event wasn't scheduled to take place until the end of the day, but the whole day was full of excitement and preparation."

The connection between service member and veteran has always been strong but this pandemic has brought us even closer than we could have imagined. For instance, when Memorial Day arrived after months of little human contact, the ceremonies held at the veterans homes were powerful and emotional events for service members and veterans alike. As military members and veterans, we remember the dead and fallen every year, but this year is different. We have lost so many heroes to COVID-19. However, the virus has not only taken our veterans. Many others have died in this most unusual and surreal war. Something that makes this war different than the wars we as service members are used to is that non-service members and family members are in just as much danger as the servicemembers themselves.

I have also been impacted by the deaths this war has caused. The morning I was asked to write this article, I found out the mother of a soldier had



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passed away. By noon that same day, I had to make a shiva call to a friend of mine whose father had passed away. That evening I got a call that a cousin of mine had passed away. It has been a tremendously difficult year of death and sickness. I hope and pray that the Jewish New Year brings health and recovery to our great nation. The High Holidays are almost upon us. This year, let us pray for life and good health. And at this year's Yizkor service, let us remember and honor those who have left us. Shana Tova and may you all be inscribed in the Book of Life.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Jeffrey Sacks

The Tip of the Spear

As I write my first article for “The Jewish Veteran” I realize that we have now suffered six months of the COVID-19 pandemic which has put the bulk of our organization into stasis. We no longer meet in person but via electronic means and we are not as engaged in the many activities that bring nachas upon us. There is a small group which works every day to keep our organization on track and moving forward - our National Headquarters staff. Several hundred of us just participated in our first virtual national convention which was also our 125th annual national convention and it came about in a short amount of time due to the tremendous efforts of our national staff. In the military, the small group of individuals leading the way is called the tip of the spear. Twenty-five years ago, when I was new to JWV and I needed anything from National, I was advised by guys in the know to call Mrs. Bailor. She was the go to woman who might take care of your issue or refer you to someone else who could help. As I have become a guy in the know (although the more I know the more I realize I need to know) I am often asked who to contact at National Headquarters and how to do that. Let's start with the main telephone number (202) 265-6280. I also asked each staffer to write a paragraph of what they would like you to know about themselves and another paragraph about what they do. Sometimes I used the information to write about them and sometimes I used their own words.

The National Staff

Retired Colonel Herb Rosenbleeth is our National Executive Director and responsible for the overall management of our organization and the National staff. He is also the liaison with JWVA, all other Veteran/Military organizations, and represents JWV at the Veterans Day National Committee at the VA. Herb is also the liaison with the Israeli War Veterans Association, Tzevet. After retiring from the U.S. Army, Herb has faithfully served our organization for three decades. He has served as JWV staff on three of larger missions to Israel. His brother Sam is a member of the JWV Tampa Post and his cousin Dick is a member of a JWV Post in Philadelphia. He is married to Francie, who is a member of the JWVA, as is his sister Lea. Herb is also the Past President of the Military Coalition. He can be emailed at herbr@jwv.org

Greg Byrne is Director of Operations for both JWV and the museum.

He was born in northern New Jersey and graduated from Villanova University outside of Philadelphia. Following college, Greg moved to Washington, D.C., and now lives in Silver Spring, Maryland with his wife and two young daughters. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his kids, cooking, fishing, and following college football and basketball.

Greg joined the staff of JWV in 2005. As



Director of Operations, he is responsible for overseeing all activities of the staff at National Headquarters and ensuring they have the resources needed to complete their work. Greg works closely with NED Herb Rosenbleeth to execute the directives of JWV and museum leadership and keep them apprised of the daily work of the staff. He previously worked as JWV's Membership Coordinator and in the Programs Department, and has experience planning National Conventions and operating JWV's development programs. He also provides direct oversight to our headquarters building's maintenance, Accounting, Development, the editing of “The Jewish Veteran,” the Convention, the NEC meetings, insurance policies, contracts, and Veteran Service issues. Greg can be contacted with any questions or comments about the performance of the National Headquarters Staff. He is also the point of contact for questions regarding planned giving to JWV or the museum. He can be emailed at gbyrne@jwv.org or at ext.408.



Christy Turner is the Executive Assistant to the National Commander and National Executive Director. She is also our Graphic Designer. She drafts leadership's correspondence and maintains records

of correspondence, biographies, and pictures. She coordinates scheduling for leadership and event attendance. She assists the NC in preparation of congressional testimony. She is the initial contact for incoming calls and correspondence for the NED. She handles information requests, complaints, problems, and JWV issues. She serves as the point of contact for Past National Commanders and National Officers. Other projects that Christy works on are the yearly Post Liability insurance program, the annual Fidelity Bond insurance, and the Allied Mission trip to Israel. Aside from everything previously mentioned, she handles design and layout of production, marketing, and information materials for both JWV and the museum. Finally, she is our photographer. In her off time she captures images of nature that are a joy to behold. She can be reached at cturner@jwv.org, or at ext. 417.

Melody Jackson is the Assistant to the Director of Operations. She is the proud mother to Janae and proud aunt of Journee and Richie. The military is very dear to her, as her father and all his brothers served. She loves to learn about different cultures and religions, and how they make us similar in some areas and different in others. She also loves to watch documentaries and cooking shows, her favorite is “The Great British Bake Off.”



She started at JWV 20 years ago in the mailroom. After working in the mailroom, she was promoted to accounts payable clerk, and eventually the Assistant to the Director of Operations. In her role she supports many daily functions at headquarters. She assists Byrne to ensure we have a functioning work environment. Members can contact her with any issues involving supply orders, cap orders, or other general questions. Her email address is mjackson@jwv.org and she is at ext. 410.



Cara Rinkoff has worked as our Programs and Public Relations Coordinator for the past year. She was born and raised in the suburbs of Milwaukee, Wisconsin before heading to Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa for college.

She graduated in 2003 with a BA in Journalism and Mass Communications, majoring in both Broadcast News and History. She worked as a television news producer and then a newswire reporter in Ohio, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C. Rinkoff received a master's degree in Communications for Public Affairs and Advocacy (also from Drake University) in 2019. She currently lives in Maryland with her husband and six-year-old daughter.

As Programs and Public Relations Coordinator she serves as the Managing Editor of “The Jewish Veteran.” She is also responsible for all direct mail you receive, including holiday cards and calendars. Rinkoff manages all of JWV's social media accounts, and puts together national press releases and the biweekly email newsletter. She plans NEC and the National Convention, oversees the scholarship program, Kiddush cups for Jewish graduates of military academies, and can be contacted about making donations to JWV at crinkoff@jwv.org or ext. 413.

Ben Kane is the Programs Assistant. He was born and raised in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He moved to the D.C. area in 2017 to begin working for JWV. In this capacity, he handles a variety of program and administrative tasks, and

can be contacted for matters relating to donations, JROTC awards, and Eagle Scout congratulatory certificates. He helps establish interested members as VAVS representatives at VA medical centers across the country as well as helping with “The Jewish Veteran.” Kane also works in tandem with



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JWV Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee is one of JWV's most important committees. This committee provides significant input for our National Commander's testimony to Congress and sets goals and objectives for the coming year's work. At this convention, I heard almost every minute of each of its three sessions.

This was the first time Resolutions Committee Chairman, PNC Mike Berman, had the challenge of conducting each session as a virtual meetings. Chairman Berman handled this challenge magnificently, keeping the discussions moving right along, quickly counting the votes, and keeping everything interesting throughout the three sessions. Most of the proposed resolutions are submitted by the Departments and are usually developed at the Department Conventions. Additional resolutions may come from the national office and still others may be written by the chairman himself.

The three sessions averaged around 60 attendees, with about half of those actually being members of the committee. Only committee members are allowed to vote on the resolutions.

Two of the resolutions the committee members felt very strongly about were repeats. These were resolutions concerning homeless veterans and suicide prevention. There continues to be a serious problem of too many veterans throughout the country being homeless. The Resolutions Committee supported efforts to have homeless veterans designated as a special needs population so they would receive a larger portion of the funding allocation.

Veteran suicide continues to be a significant and tragic problem. Male veterans are about 30 percent more likely to commit suicide than their

civilian counterparts. Female veterans are committing suicide at a rate almost double their civilian counterparts. The Jewish War Veterans of the USA has long called upon Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase funding and psychological testing for every veteran to ensure they are not at risk for suicide.

The Committee seeks more healthcare support in general for female veterans. There are approximately two million female veterans across the United States. Female veterans may require gender-specific medical equipment, medical specialists, space, and care. Not all VA medical centers and Community Based Outreach Centers are able to provide the gender-specific necessities to ensure an adequate level of care. The committee's resolution demands the VA immediately rectify its deficiencies in the care and treatment of the increasing number of female veterans.

Of particular interest to our remaining World War II veterans is a resolution to eliminate the means test for them. In 1996, Congress passed the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act which established a means test for some veterans. The legislation exempted veterans of the Spanish-American War and World War I. Today the veterans of World War II are in the same age bracket and deserve the same courtesy as was extended to previous generations of veterans.

The committee passed a resolution concerning staffing shortages within the VA. The VA currently has thousands of vacancies throughout the nation, especially health care professionals and administrators. The VA is facing numerous retirements over the next few years. It is losing staff faster than re-

placements are hired. The civilian communities will not fully address this looming crisis as many communities are underserved by health-care professionals. The committee urges Congress to pass legislation allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs to utilize targeted hiring bonuses and student loan repayment programs to attract future employees for the VA.

The subject of substance abuse and mental health problems among veterans was of high importance to the committee. A recent Rand Corporation study found that veterans are at a high risk for simultaneously suffering substance abuse and mental health problems. The study found a nexus between substance abuse and mental health problems (including post-traumatic stress disorder) within the veterans' population. The study further found that these veterans have poor relationships and difficulty obtaining the health they need. The committee demands the VA provide treatment to all veterans who are confronting mental health and substance abuse.

The committee members put in a lot of time and effort preparing these resolutions and I have covered only some of them. Our thanks and appreciation to the members of the resolutions committee and especially to Chairman Michael Berman for a job well done.



COL Herb Rosenbleeth, USA (Ret)
National Executive Director

Jewish Cemeteries In Distress

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vice to family and the community in many forms.

Our respect for our faith honorably distinguishes Jews as a guiding force during life and in repose. Over the millennia, the Jewish religion has codified customs and practices which we strive to live by out of respect for each other, the contributions each person has provided, no matter how small or far reaching. When our time on this earth ends, we as family, friends, or simply as strangers show a common dignity to provide a lasting resting place as a sign of remembrance for life.

According to the Family Research Organization, as of 2018 there were approximately 22,000 known dedicated Jewish Cemeteries, of the more than 145,000 graveyards and marked cemeteries in the United States, Territories and foreign U.S. managed sites.

With the aging population within America, there is also the aging of Jewish Cemeteries. More often in recent years, cemetery owners and operators are facing higher maintenance costs. Grounds appearance and paid perpetual care of individual and community grave sites are not maintained by a small percentage of operators.

Each of us, when visiting a deceased member or observing natural or wanton degradation, lack of maintenance, vandalism, or visible Anti-Semitic acts, have a duty and moral obligation to be vigi-



Har Nebo Cemetery in Philadelphia, PA

lant, to say something, and to act to maintain the grounds of fellow Jews for the greater good of the whole community.

What do we look for in a Jewish Cemetery?

Different Jewish groups have different traditions about gravestones. Historically Ashkenazi Jews often have vertical gravestones and Sephardic Jews have horizontal stones. Sephardic stones often have angelic figures and biblical images, while images were not permitted on Ashkenazi stones.

In the modern era, both groups make frequent use of classic Jewish symbols: the Star of David, the Menorah, Tree of Life, the Book of Life, or a candle.

Historically, families that belonged to the

priestly class (Kohanim), were forbidden to go inside the gates of a cemetery because that would violate laws of ritual purity. According to Arthur Kurzweil's "From Generation to Generation," their gravestones usually bear the symbol of two hands with thumbs touching and fingers spread out in a priestly blessing.

With a request, and at no charge to the applicant, the Department of Veterans Affairs furnishes a government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

When purchasing a grave site, ensure the cemetery owner is bonded or provides proof of operating insurance. Upon research of the grave site to be chosen, look at the overall appearance, and the look of maintained graves and entry.

When purchasing perpetual care, determine if the people in charge of the perpetual fund are bonded or insured, which almost every state requires.

A perpetual fund is a separate bank account and/or lawful saving instrument, that is used as the principal fund for maintaining the property. Owners or operators may and often do use the interest earned from the perpetual fund to operate the overall function and appearance of the entire Jewish Cemetery while maintaining the appearance of individual grave sites paid for that eternity.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET COMMITTEE

By Alan Paley

More than 40 people joined the Budget Committee's virtual meeting on Sunday during the convention.

Before the meeting, the members of the budget committee, Robert Nussbaum, Irwin Magid, Larry Rosenthal, Barry Lischinsky, Elliot Donn, David Zwerin, and Stanley Rolnick, received cash basis numbers through the end of the Fiscal Year (06/30/2020) from Julia Lasher at headquarters. This is a line by line listing of every revenue and expense category for both JWV and the museum. We compared these numbers against the budget for the 2020 Fiscal Year and noted any positive or negative variances.

Once we identified significant variances, we asked Julia to provide explanations as to why we earned more revenue or spent more money than we anticipated. These explanations are kept on file in case a member has questions when the numbers are reviewed at both the NEC and museum meetings.

If you have any questions about the budget or actual cash basis numbers, please reach out to me at adpaley@aol.com.

GULF WAR COMMITTEE

By Rochel Hayman

Many people, including some members from Israel, attended the Gulf War Committee meeting at JWV's virtual convention. We are working to attract members to leadership positions as well as to the emerging JWV Gulf War Vet Network.

In general, our committee is attempting to work with a group that in most cases is still in the workforce and may have young or youngish children at home. In addition to working with a wide range of schedules, we need to work harder at making people aware of the fact we exist. Short term goals include filling subcommittee leadership positions, recruiting, discussing what members of our committee's era can contribute to JWV as a whole, and the JWV Gulf War Vet Network's development. The committee currently has its own email, closed Facebook group, and is exploring more options.

We would like to encourage every department to have a Gulf War Committee Liaison. Michigan Chief of Staff Donald Schenk will begin speaking with Department Commanders.

A lot of the Gulf War period overlaps with other service eras, even in the database of members at National Headquarters, so our committee might not know you are out there. If your service time included the Gulf War, please contact us at JWVGWC@gmail.com or RochelHaymanJWV@gmail.com.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

The Marketing Committee, along with approximately 50 other members, met during the virtual National Convention in August.

At this convention the committee introduced the Central Repository and gave results of the membership survey.

Committee Member Kim Queen of the Department of Wisconsin introduced the Central Repository, which will now be called the Resource

Center (RC). Its main purpose will be to provide access to ideas for programs, templates for brochures, and other best practices in all areas of JWV operations for members around the country. The next steps on this program is to develop the technical specifications for inputting and accessing materials in the RC, creating a marketing plan to make sure members know about the resources, and hopefully launch the RC before NEC in January of 2021.

I presented the results of our marketing survey. Those results will be available soon for everyone to take a look at. The committee also plans to meet with other JWV committees, Departments, or anyone else who wants more details and insight on the findings.

The Marketing Committee's next projects include developing a brand awareness strategy and coming up with the tools to implement the strategy. There are a number of different audiences who need to know about JWV and what we do, including legislators, prospective members, other veterans groups, and even our own members who may not be aware of all that JWV offers, as well as the public at large.

The committee will also start developing target marketing programs, incorporating focused messaging with specific strategies on how to find and reach specific audiences and sub-sets of audiences within each group.

SCOUTING/JROTC COMMITTEE

By Robert Nussbaum

JWV has three new ROTC achievement medals. Each includes a drape medal and bar ribbon. The bronze is for JROTC, the silver for the first two years of ROTC, and gold for the final two years of ROTC. The color scheme of the ribbon is unique to JWV.

The committee discussed its affiliation with the National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCoS). It is a replacement organization that is affiliated but still distinctly separate from Scouting USA. NJCoS is in the process of developing its governing documents and defining its mission or role in providing support for and guidance to Jewish Scouts.

According to the 2020 statistics, there are no units, Cub Packs, Scout Troops, nor Venture Crews, sponsored by any echelon of JWV. Five other Veteran Service Organizations sponsor more than 3,500 units. The American Legion and VFW account for nearly 98 percent of those. A few JWV echelons support units but are not sponsors. In addition to presenting Certificates of Achievement to Boy Scouts earning the rank of Eagle or Gold for Girl Scouts, sponsoring a scout unit is an excellent way to engage in community activities.



It was suggested a number of years ago that JWV should sponsor two patches that could be worn on the scout uniform, not just on a patch vest. These patches would honor two Jewish Medal of Honor Recipients, the Ben Kaufman patch for Cub Scouts and the Tibor Rubin patch for Scouts USA. These patches would have to be earned much like the Ner Tamid Award. The committee asked National staff to develop the design and requirements for each patch, but this fell through the cracks. Right now there are no designs, and the first attempt at developing requirements is sketchy at best. The committee is now looking for suggestions from all JWV members for patch designs and appropriate requirements.

POST-9/11 COMMITTEE

By Chairman Matthew Weinburke

The virtual meeting during JWV's convention last month marked my first meeting as chairman of the Post-9/11 Committee. Jeffrey Blonder and Jennifer Brande volunteered to be our committee co-chairs. At the meeting we discussed our committee's priorities and goals, including increasing our social media presence, holding virtual socials, and having presentations on various topics at our future meetings. The committee plans to hold monthly meetings starting in October. If you are interested in joining the committee, or having any questions or comments, please email jwvpost911veteranscommittee@gmail.com.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

The strategic planning committee has met multiple times since NEC 2020 in February. We are rewriting JWV's mission statement, vision statement, and coming up with goals that have measurable results for the next year, three years, and five years.

Here are the results of our work thus far.

The proposed new mission statement:

The Jewish War Veterans (JWV) is the premiere voice for Jewish military and veterans in the United States. The JWV affirms that Jewish men and women served honorably and heroically in the military forces of the United States of America during peacetime and war. The JWV defends the rights and benefits of all service members and veterans, fights anti-Semitism, and supports the State of Israel.

The proposed new vision statement:

The Jewish War Veterans will continue to be a leading Veterans Service Organization in the United States, supporting and advocating for all military members, veterans, and their families.

The proposed slogan:

A Jewish Voice for Veterans. A Veteran's Voice for Jews.

None of these items are set in stone at this time. We plan to put together goals after a meeting with the Marketing Committee about their survey, which will take place in October.

We are also looking for member input on the work above, as well as possible goals for the organization. You can contribute your suggestions to this committee by emailing suggestionbox@jwv.org.

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MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The Membership Committee would like to take this opportunity and thank the J WV Convention Committee, as well as Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth and the full-time staff for hosting our first virtual J WV National Convention. This year's convention, despite being faced with the challenges of a global pandemic, was outstanding! The virtual concept proved meetings don't have to be held in a traditional facility at the same location month after month. With video conferencing, meetings can be held to accommodate the needs of our membership. Members from across the nation can meet within the comfort of their homes and at the ease of their monitor screen. The convention also gave us the opportunity to listen, learn, and participate in an exchange of ideas. If you were unable to attend, please ask your Department's J WV National Convention attendees to update your membership at your next virtual meeting.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, PNC Harvey Weiner and a select group of his leadership team made a series of wellness checks every two weeks to all J WV Department Commanders and the lone Post Commanders that are not affiliated with a Department. The purpose of the calls was to check on the health and safety of our membership. The goal was to have each J WV Department Commander check on their J WV Post Commanders, and J WV Post Commanders checking on their members.

After about 12 weeks, the J WV Membership Committee continued the wellness checks, but asked an additional question. The committee asked Commanders of all echelons the following question: "Focusing on the membership process, what can J WV National do for your Post?" Their feedback gave us the theme for our Membership Committee presentation for the convention. The majority of Commanders were concerned about our inability to recruit the current generation of Jewish veterans

and a shortage of Jewish veterans. First, let me say there is no shortage in finding Jewish veterans. To increase our J WV membership base, we have to introduce ourselves to a lot of Jewish veterans. The good news is, there are a lot of new Jewish veterans we can meet.

The Membership Committee has identified 12 different organizations to help supplement your existing recruiting plan. These are organizations where the current generation of Jewish veterans gather. We must remind our membership that recruiting begins at the local Post level. The Membership Committee's recommendation is that local posts visit these 12 groups and tell your post's story, as well as the benefits of joining the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. With today's virtual meeting concept, each organization also has the potential of becoming an additional J WV Post within your Department. If you did not attend our virtual convention, you can view the different groups on the J WV website under the membership tab. With your help we are hoping to expand on this concept. Your thoughts are always welcome.

Since the last National Executive Committee meeting in February 2020, our J WV Posts have made significant contributions to the overall J WV strength maintenance as of this reporting period, despite the restrictions

caused by the global pandemic. Retention of our most important asset, our members, continues to be as important as recruiting the future generation of Jewish veterans. Commanders of all echelons are reminded to continue to perform wellness checks on your members.

Stay healthy, stay safe, and please reach out to someone who has served.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

The screenshot shows the J WV website's 'Recruit Members & Patrons' section. It includes links for 'Recruitment Material, Flyers and Applications', 'Why You Should Join J WV', 'Membership Application', 'Patron Application', and 'Where to Find the Current Generation of Jewish Veterans'. A sidebar on the right lists 'Types of Membership', 'Benefits of Membership', 'Find a Post in Your Area!', and 'Member Resources'.

A Special Service Dog to Honor J WV's Rochel Hayman

By Cara Rinkoff

The staff of Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) met J WV Post 210 member Rochel Hayman during NEC in February. After spending time with Hayman and her daughter, WCC decided to name a dog after her from one of its litters. WCC chose a dog from its Commitment Litter to carry the name Rochel. "WCC names all its puppies after Service

Members and Veterans who have made significant contributions to our nation," said Alyssa Malaspina, who coordinates WCC's namesake program. "Learning from our living namesakes... is a rich tradition that honors their military services and helps keep their legacies alive."

WCC uses the concept of warriors helping warriors in their program. Veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, or other challenges, to train the dogs in their litters. Once training is complete, the dogs are then given to a veteran injured in combat.

Hayman said, "I know Warrior Canine Connection, and I know the critical impact they have with what they do. When I heard they wanted to name one of their dogs after me, I was speechless and overwhelmed." She added, "I trust WCC Rochel will serve with love and kindness and to the best of her abilities."

You can follow along with WCC's Rochel as she grows up and becomes a certified service dog for a wounded warrior on a special Facebook page, www.facebook.com/wccscommitmentlitter/. For more about Warrior Canine Connection, you can visit their website at www.warriorcanineconnection.org.



A Reminder about Alpha Rosters

By Robert Nussbaum

Alpha lists are only as useful as the information they contain. For various reasons, much of the data in the master file is no longer valid. Contact information is critical for echelon commanders and committee chairpersons. All post commanders and/or quartermasters should, at their next meeting, even if virtual, ask each attendee to verify their alpha list information and make corrections as necessary. For those members not in attendance, the post commander or his appointed delegate should call to verify the information and make the necessary corrections. The post quartermaster should compile all of the corrections including new information and forward it to National Headquarters.

Stay in touch with J WV!



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

Member: Paula Steinbach
Post: North County Post 385
Military Service: U.S. Navy
Member Since: 1974

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

I enlisted in the Navy in my hometown of Chicago under the delayed entry program in 1973 and reported to Naval Recruit Training Center in Orlando in May of 1974.

After boot camp, I was assigned to Naval Air Station, Memphis.

In Boot Camp, the detailer asked me what I wanted to do in the Navy. I thumbed through the ratings handbook and chose Torpedoman's Mate. The detailer said angrily, "That's not open to women yet, but I'll send you to a base that has a torpedo shop where you learn on the job."

So he sent me to a naval air station where there wasn't a torpedo.

While at Memphis, I applied three times for Torpedo School. Twice my request came back, "Request Denied - Rating not open to women."

Undiscouraged, I applied again and the third time was the charm. The woman Personnel man who had become my friend called me at the barracks. "Paula, you have orders," she said excitedly, "You're going to basic electricity school at Great Lakes and then TM school in Orlando."

I became the third female Torpedoman's Mate in the Navy.

After finishing my schools, I was sent to the Mark 37 wire guided submarine torpedo shop in Groton, Connecticut.

I stayed there until I re-enlisted for SUBROC school, becoming the first woman to receive this training and finished my enlistment as a TM2 (E5) at Naval Magazine, Guam.

Women were not on ships in my day. My assignments were at shore torpedo intermediate maintenance facilities.

I was always the only woman TM, so I constantly had to prove myself, but I was determined to earn the respect of my male peers. I worked hard and studied diligently for the advancement tests.



Finally, when I made E4, I felt I was accepted and had proven to myself and the Navy that women could do anything!

2. Why did you join the military?

I loved military and naval history. The first non-fiction book I read was in 4th grade. It was "The Longest Day" about the D-Day Invasion. From then on, I was hooked. I knew I wanted to be sailor!

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

At Boot Camp, I attended Friday night Shabbat Services. A JWV member was there and signed us all up.

Upon orders to each new base, I contacted the local Jewish community center to find a rabbi and services. I kept Kosher as often as I could. The Jewish Welfare Board provided me with canned kosher food and anything I needed.

Two Jewish Chaplains crossed my paths, Rabbi Bruce Kahn at NAS Memphis and Rabbi Botnick at Great Lakes. They nurtured me, inspired me, and left an indelible spiritual treasury in my life.

4. Have you ever experienced anti-Semitism at

home or abroad?

While in the Navy, a thief used to break into my locker and steal my kosher food, but that could have been a statement about my gender, not my ethnicity.

After the Navy, while attending New Mexico State University on the GI Bill, I formed a Hillel group to change the name of the yearbook, which was called Swastika, a supposed reference to Native Americans of the era, but totally unacceptable to us. Our local synagogue, JDL in Denver, and JWV joined us in our fight to change the name. I wrote an article for JWV about the struggle for an issue of "The Jewish Veteran."

Several times throughout my 30 years of teaching high school history, students have written ethnic slurs and drawn swastikas in their notebooks. I designed a Holocaust course in my district to address this ignorance.

5. Why did you join JWV?

It was a safe and loving place to be Jewish!

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

I have no idea which members of my shul in Pomona, CA are veterans. I would like to be able to swap sea stories. Maybe recruiting at synagogues would be good project. I would like to connect nationwide with other female JWV members.

7. What is your favorite Jewish food?

Challah. I am never without it on Shabbat!

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Becker, Jeremy R. - Post 100
 Milberg, Ronald P. - Post 100
 Millner, Daniel J. - Post 100
 Weingarten, Bruce - Post 100
 Yates, James Michael F., - Post 100
 Yosfan, Benjamin R. - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Abelkop, Guy S. - Post 385
 Barraza, Albert - Post 385
 Cohen, Heftsibah J. - Post 185
 Cohen, Jason - Post 680
 Cohn, Ahron - Post 680
 Comrov, Brian - Post 680
 Danyiel, Shaul - Post 680
 David, Orel - Post 680
 Egert, Dovid - Post 680
 Eyal, Mark - Post 680
 Finsley, Asher - Post 680
 Goldman, Danny - Post 680
 Hochman, Yitzchak - Post 680
 Jones, Jerrod L. - Post 185
 Kamzen, Daniel A. - Post 680

Kreisler, Neal R. - Post 680
 Laffer, Sam - Post 680
 Levy, Robert L. - Post 603
 Morales, Nelson - Post 680
 Narowe, Joshua A. - Post 680
 Paquin, Yishai - Post 680
 Rizel, Shlomo - Post 680
 Rodriguez, Yirmiyahu - Post 680
 Rosenberg, Isaac - Post 680
 Schlesinger, David - Post 680
 Todd, Einat A. - Post 680
 Zagdanski Yoni, - Post 680

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Cohn, Aharon V. - Post 681
 Fernandez, David - Post 243
 Kutter, Hans C. - Post 819
 Reiner, Robert L. - Post 631

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Simon, Theodore H. - Post 710

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Blum, Bernard - Post 567
 Krause, Israel S. - Post 567

Lichter, Lester M. - Post 567

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Reynolds, Gary K. - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Offutt, Lee - Post 354
 Wireman-Offutt, Margret - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Schwab, Meyer D. - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

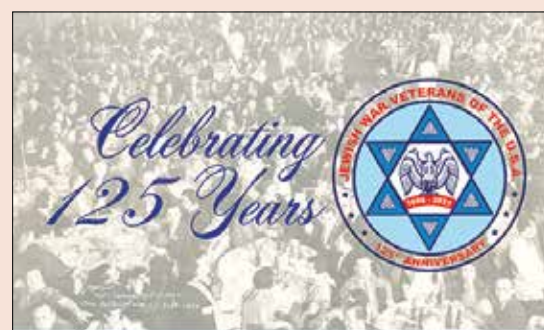
Perry, Bernard - Post 425

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Beal, Ervin - Post 256
 Benjamin, Jack A. - Post 256
 De La Concepcion, Jr. Luis, - Post 757
 Kruger, Adam - Post 757
 Marne, Jonah A. - Post 753
 Miller, Allen - Post 757

DEPARTMENT OF VA - POST NC

Gerhardt, Eric M. - Post 765



2021 Calendar

JWV 2021 Calendars Have Arrived!

If you have not already received one, please contact the Programs Department at 202-265-6280.

For a suggested donation of \$18, we will send you a calendar while supplies last.

For JWV caps, call Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation

Phone: 215-821-3434 • Fax: 215-821-3438
www.keystoneuniformcap.com/Jewish-War-Veteran-Caps.html



Message from the Commander

Continued from page 3

the National Museum of American Jewish Military History by providing tours to museum guests and helping coordinate educational trips that veterans make to schools throughout the country. Kane's family is a Gold Star Family that knows the price of war. He can be reached at bkane@jwv.org.



Harrison Heller is the Membership Coordinator. He was born and raised in Palm Beach County, Florida. He has traveled all across the United States, Canada, Western Europe, Israel, Cuba, Ethiopia, and most recently, Rwanda. Professionally, he interned in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Embassy of Greece. He teaches 5th grade Judaic Studies at a local synagogue. He is currently studying at the University of Oklahoma to obtain a Masters in Global Affairs.

At JWV, he ensures all posts are in good standing with National and turn in all documents. Heller also distributes alpha rosters twice a year. He puts together membership renewal notices, answers questions as they come in, ensures your contact information is up-to-date, and distributes post and department dues reimbursements. Heller can be reached at ext. 414, or by email at hheller@jwv.org.

Julia Lasher is the Accounting Coordinator. She was born in England, but has lived in Maryland for 50 years. She is a proud U.S. Air Force dependent who lived in many different countries. Her father worked for the Strategic Air Command in a top secret capacity so she knew very little about what he did. After graduating from a high school in Ankara, Turkey, the Air Force awarded her a four-year scholarship to the University of Maryland. She joined the JWV in December 2000 and considers the job her way of paying back the veterans who took good care of her and her family over the years.



She tracks all financial transactions relating to JWV, its foundation, and the museum. She reconciles all cash accounts, prepares reports relating to investments, and analyzes the cash activity of all major programs. You can reach her at jlasher@jwv.org



Andria Clarke is JWV's Membership & Accounting Assistant. She is the proud mother of two beautiful girls, Adia and Alana. She loves spending time with family and friends - they mean everything to her. She is a devoted Christian and loves studying the word of G-d. Clarke

also enjoy cooking and taking walks with her girls.

She started her career at JWV 20 years ago as a Data Entry Clerk in the Membership Department. Her current job includes sorting and depositing all in-house checks and credit cards and distributing background copies to each department head. She also enters all new members into the database and updates and processes all in-house renewals. She makes adjustments and does all inquiries for checks and credit card payments for the membership department. You can contact her at aclark@jwv.org.

Iryna Apple is our Communications Coordinator. She was born in Kyiv, Ukraine in 1969 and has a Master's Degree in hydrogeology from National Taras Shevchenko University. She



worked as a hydrogeologist for the Ukrainian government, assessing underground water reserves. She moved to the United States in 2002 and became a U.S. citizen in 2007. Apple started working for JWV in 2005. In her spare time she enjoys going for long walks, visiting new places, and laughing with her friends.

As Communications Coordinator, she maintains, updates, and coordinates changes for JWV's website and the JWV Foundation website. She is the one to contact if you have any questions about those sites. She also monitors the websites that JWV provides hosting services for, including the Department of California and several posts. Apple also is responsible for maintaining our marketing software for email campaigns. You can reach her at iapple@jwv.org.



Vincent Edwards is the Assistant Communications Coordinator. He joined the staff three years ago. He handles mail receipts and distribution. He also handles banking deposits, printing, building maintenance,

electrical issues, lighting, set up for special events, garden maintenance, repairs, painting, back-up security, and snow removal. His email is vedwards@jwv.org.

Raiana Berman is our National Veterans Service Officer. After completing her Bachelors in Sociology from Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, she moved back to her home state of New Jersey to finish a degree in Criminal Justice. A year later, she moved to Washington, D.C. to work in our headquarters. When Raiana is not working, she enjoys traveling, eating Chinese food, and hanging out with her



grandpa (who is longtime JWV member and current museum president PNC Michael Berman).

As a Veterans Service Officer, Berman assists veterans and their families with filling out claim forms, filing for service-connected disability benefits, assisting with military burials, and much more. Her email is rberman@jwv.org

The National Museum of American Military Jewish History (NMAJMH) Staff

Michael Rugel is the museum's Programs & Content Coordinator. Prior to that he served on the museum's collections management staff. Rugel has frequently written about Jews in the American military and produced a series of



videos featuring Jews in the military including American Jewish liberators of concentration camps describing their World War II experiences. He regularly speaks about the history of Jews in the American Military at museum programs as well as to local schools, synagogues, community centers, and veterans groups. In addition to his work at the museum, Rugel hosts and produces the "Uncensored History of the Blues" podcast for the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He lives with his wife and nine-year-old daughter in Dunn Loring, Virginia.

Mike manages all of the museum public programs. He creates contents for the website, social media, and other online platforms. He designed, built, and maintains the museum website. He manages visitor services. He creates educational materials for students. He coordinates all of the museum's development and membership programs. Contact him if you have any questions about museum donations, membership, public programs, or a tour at mrugel@jwv.org.



Pamela Elbe is the Collections, Archives and Exhibitions Coordinator. She is originally from Wisconsin and has a BA in History from the University of Wisconsin and an MA in Museum Studies from George Washington University.

She lives in Baltimore County with her husband Matt and dog Ralphie.

She has worked at the museum since 2002. She is responsible for anything that has to do with the museum's collections, including artifacts, photographs, and archival materials, as well as the exhibits. She handles potential donations and new acquisitions, cataloging and housing the collections, incoming and outgoing loans, conducting research, and helping staff, scholars, and the public with their inquiries. She also maintains the archives for both JWV and the museum. Contact her at pelbe@jwv.org if you have something you are interested in donating to the Museum or if you have historic research related question.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

By the time you read this JWV's press release about renaming U.S. Military bases will be history, having been sent out on July 2. But the message I am about to convey is relevant, pertinent, and needs to be addressed.

When I first read it, I was outraged JWV should make a statement when no one asked for the opinion of the members. No one asked my opinion, and to the best of my knowledge, that of any other department commander, post commander, or member. As a result, I trashed it and moved on for two reasons. Number one, because whether or not I agreed with the issue, I felt it was political and JWV should refrain from engaging in partisan politics, and two, because I felt members were not consulted on such a sensitive issue before a statement was issued from the organization.

Then I started getting emails and phone calls from members who were equally outraged. Many told me they were resigning from JWV over it. Some suggested they wanted to close their post and open an independent veteran organization in place of the current JWV post. I implored them to hold off taking such actions. That prompted me to write this editorial. I also did extensive research into the backgrounds of the people the 10 posts are named for. An article on those individuals appears in this issue of "The Jewish Veteran."

The name changes are a political issue and as previously stated, the JWV should not, and cannot, engage in partisan politics. We are an organization of members with diverse opinions, we should all respect those opinions, and we are free to express them as long as they are respectfully presented as an individual opinion and not that of the greater organization.

There are many monuments, memorials, cities, airports, military installations, and other places dedicated to those who fought on both sides of the Civil War. We fought over our differences and we all came back together. It is vital that we preserve our culture, heritage, and history if we as a nation are to endure. If we erase our past, good or bad, and fail to learn from our mistakes, we are doomed to repeat them.

Racism exists today in this country. However, contrary to some popular beliefs, the vast majority of non-black people are not racists. We as a nation need to work toward fixing the racial divides that do exist for the future of this great nation.

Matthias Baldwin was an early abolitionist and argued in 1837 for African Americans to have the right to vote. A statue of Matthias Baldwin in Philadelphia was defaced.

An attempt was made in Washington, D.C. to destroy a statue of Lincoln dedicated to his freeing the slaves.

Many war memorials have been defaced. Some people are taking it upon themselves to destroy our history without knowing what these monuments and memorials are about. And probably not caring.

Everyone, except perhaps White Nationalists, deplores the killing of George Floyd and feels those responsible should be punished as the law allows. Peaceful protests are a right guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. But some radical anarchist groups disgraced these peaceful protests by engaging in acts of violence, burning, looting, and destroying our historical artifacts. Out of this came the demand to rename these 10 military installations. If the people they are named for do not deserve this honor, then it should go to others who are more deserving and more honorable.

This current movement to erase our history began with radical anarchist groups, some financed by foreign entities, with the express purpose of destroying this nation. The Antifa and Black Lives Matter groups were at the forefront after the murder of George Floyd. We know what Antifa stands for. If groups like BLM are so concerned about black lives, where were they when retired 77-year-old black police Captain David Dorn was murdered on June 2. Police say his killer was a 24-year-old black man. The suspect took cell phone video of Dorn bleeding to death on the street and posted it on Facebook. Where were they when Black owned businesses were destroyed in Minneapolis and other cities? What about the black on black killings in Chicago and other cities? According to the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun Times, as

of June 22, 1,508 people in Chicago were shot, resulting in 491 deaths. This included many children, including a one-year-old boy and a three-year-old girl. 75 percent of those killed were black and 71 percent of the suspected shooters were black. Blacks comprise only 33 percent of Chicago's population. Over the past decade over 5,200 people were killed in Chicago. But we have not heard a peep from these concerned organizations.

There are over 800,000 law enforcement personnel in this country. There are a few bad apples but well over 99 percent are decent, hard-working people willing to lay down their lives for those they are sworn to protect.

12 of the first 14 Presidents owned slaves. It was not illegal at the time. Do we change the name of our nation's capital? Do we tear down the Washington Monument? Jefferson Memorial? How about Arlington National Cemetery? And we should remember that some slaves were captured and sold by other black Africans.

Or, do we preserve our history and let future generations learn from it.

Remember, the first line of the preamble to the U.S. Constitution states "...in order to form a more perfect union..." The United States is a work in progress and if we forget our past, we are doomed to repeat our failures.

Always remember that freedom is not free. As veterans, most of us know of someone who has paid the heavy price. Let us continue the great work of the JWV in a unified manner and avoid things that try to divide us.



Larry Jasper, National Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor,

At Operation Benjamin we discover the graves of WWII Jewish-American soldiers who were mistakenly buried under crosses, and work in cooperation with the great people at the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to correct those errors.

We were taken aback by a well-intentioned letter by one of your readers, who wrote, "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."

This is a serious misunderstanding of what we do and was likely prompted by an offhand remark about how we begin the process of identifying

Jewish soldiers. To suggest that we find a "Jewish sounding name" and on such a flimsy basis request a headstone change is to make a mockery of the holy work with which we are engaged.

Every soldier we identify as a possible candidate for a headstone replacement takes months and months of intense research through primary and secondary sources by professional genealogists. We require a high bar of evidence in our research, which often runs to well over 50 pages of the highest quality genealogical research and evidence gathering. In the end, no matter the quality of our research, we could never replace a headstone unless the family requests it following the presentation of our research to them. It is the family of the soldier who must advocate for the change, not Operation Benjamin. And then the request and all of the accompanying evidence is reviewed by historians of the ABMC, where the ultimate decision is made.

Everything we do is geared towards "getting it right." If our research concludes that the soldier is properly buried under a cross, then that is a victory as well. It's a great honor and heavy responsibility to work to correct errors of the past and bring these Jewish War Veterans back home to the fold of their heritage, where they rightly belong.

Shalom Lamm, Operation Benjamin CEO

Dear Editor,

Volume 74 arrived today, and I enjoyed it. Particularly, the story from your archives about the 1944 Seder aboard the IOWA, brought back memories of my own 1944 Seder which was quite a different story. The IOWA Seder might be the first shipboard Seder in WWII but since Seder comes at the same time everywhere – and definitely so in the Pacific – the one I attended had to be simultaneous. I was stationed in a Ship Repair unit on Adak in the

Continued on page 13

The Story Behind The Military Installations Named For Confederate Officers

By Larry Jaser

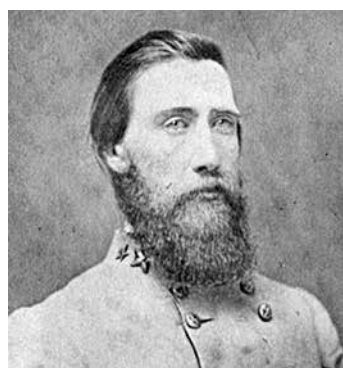
The controversy over 10 military installations in the South being named after Confederate Officers continues to rage. The stories behind the people differ widely. Before the Civil War, most of the officers served valiantly in the U.S. Army and were decorated for bravery.

Some owned slaves and some did not. Read and decide for yourself if they are worthy of having an installation named for them.

In 2015 Brigadier General Malcolm Frost said, "Every Army installation is named for a soldier who holds a place in our military history." He further explained that the historic names chosen "represent individuals, not causes or ideologies," and that "it was done in the spirit of reconciliation, not division."

1. Fort Hood, Texas

The official opening of Camp Hood took place on September 18, 1942. It is named for the commander of the Confederate Texas Brigade, General John Bell Hood. It was renamed Fort Hood in 1950. Today it is the largest Armored



Post in the U.S. Army.

Gen. John Bell Hood was a Kentucky native and graduated from West Point in 1853.

In 1855, he served with the Second United States Cavalry in Jefferson Banks, Missouri. Hood received a citation for bravery and promotion to first lieutenant after an injury during a fight with Native Americans.

Hood resigned from the U.S. Army in April 1861 and became a first lieutenant of cavalry in the Confederate Army. He trained cavalry in Virginia before his promotion to Colonel. When his unit in Texas expanded to brigade strength, he received a promotion to brigadier general in 1862.

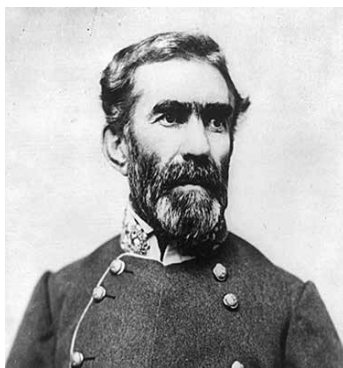
Hood fought in the Peninsula Campaign, the Second Battle of Bull Run, and after the Battle of Antietam he became the youngest major general in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. His division also played a significant role in the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 where he suffered injuries. Hood eventually rejoined his unit to lead a charge during the Battle of Chickamauga, after which he became a lieutenant general for his bravery.

Despite having his leg amputated, he returned to the battlefield in 1864 to try to stop U.S. General Sherman's march toward Atlanta. By July, Hood had become commander of the Army of Tennessee and fought Sherman's forces under a temporary promotion to full general.

Hood was the youngest officer on either side of the Civil War to independently lead an army. He thought of himself as a career military man and did not personally hold slaves but admitted slavery was the main cause of the war.

2. Fort Benning, Georgia

At the request of the Columbus Rotary Club, the Army honored Brig. Gen. Henry Benning when it opened Camp Benning in 1918. It was renamed Fort Benning in 1922. In 2005, Fort Benning became the home of the U.S. Army



Armor Center and School.

Benning led troops at the Second Battle of Bull Run, the Battle of Antietam, and the Battle of Gettysburg. Prior to the Civil War he practiced law and never served in the military.

Benning served as one of Georgia's delegates to a convention of nine slaveholding states to determine the South's course of action if slavery were banned in the western territories. While the resolutions of the convention helped lead to the Compromise of 1850, Benning introduced resolutions in Nashville that strongly defended slavery and supported a state's right to secede.

At the 1861 secession convention, Benning said, "What was the reason that induced Georgia to take the step of secession? This reason may be summed up in one single proposition. It was a conviction, a deep conviction on the part of Georgia, that a separation from the North was the only thing that could prevent the abolition of her slavery... If things are allowed to go on as they are, it is certain that slavery is to be abolished. By the time the North shall have attained the power, the black race will be in a large majority, and then we will have black governors, black legislatures, black juries, black everything. Is it to be supposed that the white race will stand for that?"

After the war he returned to Columbus, Georgia, and his law practice.

3. Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Fort Bragg opened in 1918. The local chamber of commerce named the Fort after General Braxton Bragg, the only general from North Carolina during the Civil War. Since the U.S. Army was concerned with mobilizing troops for World War I, they just let locals choose the name. It is now home to the U.S. Army Forces Command, XVIII Airborne Corps, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, 82nd Airborne Division, and many other commands.

Bragg graduated 5th in a class of 50 at West Point in 1837 and served in the U.S. Army until 1856. Bragg was an American army officer during the Second Seminole War and Mexican American War, where his success made him a national hero.



He was also a slave owner before the start of the Civil War and owned a sugar plantation in Louisiana.

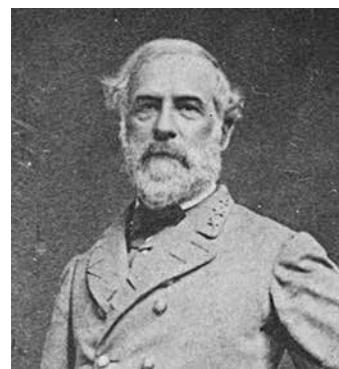
He joined the Confederacy and served as a general in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

He was not popular with the Confederate troops and ended the war as a military adviser to Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Historians generally rate Bragg as one of the worst tacticians on either side during the war, and his losses were major contributors to the Confederate States of America's (CSA) defeat.

4. Fort Lee, Virginia

General Robert E. Lee was a West Point graduate and the leader of the Confederate Army. The U.S. Army named Camp Lee after him on July 15, 1917 during the mobilization for World War I. In 1950 it was renamed Fort Lee.



Today Fort Lee is home to the Combined Arms Support Command.

Lee served the U.S. Army for 32 years, distinguishing himself during the Mexican American War and as Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy.

He was President Abraham Lincoln's first choice to lead the U.S. in the Civil War.

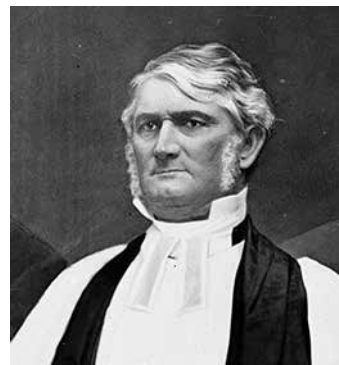
Instead, Lee joined the Confederacy when his home state, Virginia, seceded from the Union.

Lee took command of the Army of Northern Virginia in June 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign.

Historians generally agree that Lee was less enthusiastic about the cause than many of his fellow Southerners, but he did take command of the Confederate army. After the defeat, he spoke out in opposition to Confederate monuments, writing in 1869 that it is better, "not to keep open the sores of war but to follow the examples of those nations who endeavored to obliterate the marks of civil strife."

5. Fort Polk, Louisiana

Camp Polk opened in 1941 and was named for Leonidas Polk, a West Point graduate, planter, slave owner, and Episcopal bishop who began the Civil War as a major general in the Confederate Army. It was renamed Fort Polk in 1955 and is now home to the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center.



Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk was a North Carolina

native. He had no previous military experience, other than his West Point education before the war. He died in action during the Battle of Atlanta in 1864.

Shortly after graduating West Point, Polk resigned his commission in the artillery to enter the Virginia Theological Seminary. Polk was the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana when the Civil War started. He resigned that position to become a major general for the Confederacy.

Polk commanded troops in the Battle of Shiloh, the Battle of Perryville, the Battle of Stones River, the Tullahoma Campaign, the Battle of Chickamauga, the Chattanooga Campaign, and the Atlanta Campaign.

6. Fort Gordon, Georgia

Camp Gordon, named for Lt. Gen. John Brown Gordon, a native Georgian, soldier, legislator, and businessman, opened in July 1941 as a World War II training camp for the 4th and 26th Infantry Divisions, and the 10th Armored Division. It became Fort Gordon in 1956. The facility is now home to the U.S. Army Signal Corps and Cyber Corps.

Gordon had zero military experience before the war. He became one of Robert E. Lee's most trusted generals over the course of the war.

At the start of the war Gordon was elected captain of a company of mountaineers and displayed remarkable capabilities. He quickly climbed to brigadier general in 1862, major general in 1864, and lieutenant general in 1865.

A hero to Georgians at the age of just 33, Gordon returned to his home state and began to practice law. There are rumors that Gordon served as a Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, but that was a different Gordon, George Washington Gordon, of Tennessee, who also served in the Confederate Army.

When the United Confederate Veterans organization formed in 1890, Gordon was made commander in chief, a position he occupied until his death. In his memoirs "Reminiscences of the Civil War," published in 1903, Gordon admits slavery was the true spark that ignited the war.

7. Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia

Fort A.P. Hill is a training center which opened in 1941. All branches of the U.S. Armed Forces train there. It is named for Gen. Ambrose Powell Hill.

Ambrose Powell Hill graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1847. He served with an artillery unit during the Mexican American War as well

as the Third Seminole War. In 1851 he was promoted to First Lieutenant. In 1855 he transferred to the U.S. Coastal Survey to work in the D.C. area while still holding a commission.

On March 1, 1861, Hill resigned from the U.S. Army and became the colonel of the 13th Virginia Infantry, commanding a unit at the Battle of First Manassas. On February 26, 1862, Hill received a promotion to brigadier general. Following the promotion, Hill served at the Battle of Williamsburg and during the Peninsula Campaign.

Hill was promoted to major general on May 26, 1862 and took command of the Third Corps after a promotion to Lieutenant General.

On April 2, 1865, Hill was killed during the Breakthrough at Petersburg.

8. Camp Beauregard, Louisiana

Camp Beauregard, named for Confederate Brigadier General Pierre Gustave Toutant-Beauregard, opened in 1917 and today serves as a training facility for the Louisiana National Guard. Beauregard was trained in military and civil engineering at West Point and served with distinction as an engineer officer in the Mexican American War.

Following a brief appointment as superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy in 1861, and after Louisiana seceded, he resigned from the United States Army and became the first brigadier general in the Confederate Army.

He is best known for his defense of the industrial city of Petersburg, Virginia from Union troops in June 1864.

Following his military career Beauregard returned to Louisiana. In the early days after the war, Beauregard displayed the same antipathy toward freed slaves that most of his fellow Confederate leaders had embraced, but by 1873 he'd had a change of heart and advocated for black civil and voting rights.

At a meeting between white and black leaders in Louisiana, Beauregard made a rousing speech in support of racial cooperation.

9. Fort Pickett, Virginia

Fort Pickett is a Virginia Army National Guard installation which first opened in 1941 as Camp Pickett and renamed Fort Pickett in 1974. Maj. Gen. George Pickett was a Virginia native.

After studying law in Illinois, he attended West Point, graduating in 1846. Pickett finished last in his class of 59.

He entered the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant and served during the Mexican American

War. He returned from the war a hero after raising the American flag over a captured castle during the Battle of Chapultepec. Pickett also served on the Texas frontier, where he was promoted to captain.

Pickett resigned from the army shortly after Virginia seceded from the Union in April 1861 and started his Confederate service as a colonel in command of defenses on the Lower Rappahannock River.

By 1862, Pickett had earned a promotion to a brigade command under General James Longstreet. He served during the Peninsula Campaign until a severe injury forced him to leave the battlefield in June of that year.

After a promotion to major general, Pickett served in the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. He is best known for Pickett's Charge, a massive frontal assault that ultimately failed.

At the end of the war, upon learning that he was being investigated for war crimes in North Carolina over the hanging of 22 former Confederate soldiers who shifted their allegiance to the Union, Pickett and his family fled to Canada. They returned to Virginia in 1866 after a letter of support from General Grant ended the investigation.

10. Fort Rucker, Alabama

Fort Rucker, named for Col. Edmund Rucker, opened in 1942, and serves as the primary training base for Army Aviation. He is the only Confederate below the rank of general officer with an Army facility named after him.

After a basic education Rucker moved to Nashville in 1853, working as railroad surveyor before becoming an engineer. He was the city engineer of Memphis during the late 1850s.

When the Civil War broke out Rucker enlisted in the Confederate States Army as a private in Pickett's Tennessee Company of Sappers and Miners. Sent to Kentucky, he was promoted to lieutenant. On May 10, 1862 he was transferred and promoted to captain of Company C, 1st Tennessee Heavy Artillery.

Rucker was transferred to the cavalry with the rank of major and assigned to enforce conscription laws in East Tennessee.

In early 1863 Rucker was promoted to colonel and given command of the newly created 1st East Tennessee Legion.

In November Rucker was appointed acting brigadier general, but his commission was never confirmed by the Confederate Congress.

Rucker became far better known after the war as an Alabama industrialist who helped build the state's substantial coal and steel industries.



JWV's First Virtual National Convention

Continued from page 1

think working with Israel is very important.”

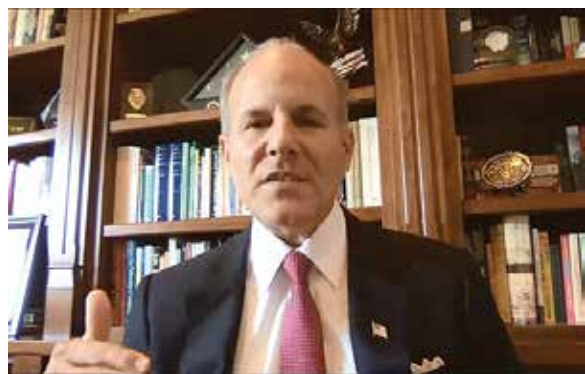
Dermer also spoke about how Israel is dealing with the current coronavirus pandemic. He and PNC Harvey Weiner made a friendly bet about which country will develop the first vaccine for COVID-19. If Israel develops it first, Weiner owes Dermer dinner, but if any other country has the first vaccine, Dermer will treat Weiner to dinner.

Our second business session featured attorney Amy Van Fossen. She discussed aid and attendance benefits, which is important because it “is tax free and can be used for a variety of purposes... the intent of the benefit is for medical expenses.” Fossen said a common misconception is that you cannot receive Medicaid and the aid and attendance benefit. You can find her slide presentation with more information on VA benefits and Fossen’s contact information in the convention section of our website at www.jwv.org/programs/building-membership/national-convention.

Approximately 100 members also joined our third business session to hear a discussion on anti-Semitism with American Zionist Movement President Richard Heideman and U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Elan Carr.

Heideman spoke about the rampant anti-Semitism Jews are experiencing around the world and right here in the United States. He said, “We have seen a reemergence of such hatred, such intolerance, such bigotry, such anti-Semitism, anti-Zionist, and Holocaust denial that we must go back and reanalyze where we went wrong. What did we miss in training our young people? What did we miss in sending messages to our community and I mean the community at large... How is it possible that anti-Semitism has become all too acceptable?”

The two men answered several questions from members, and Carr discussed the importance of the



Elan Carr, U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and the importance of having countries accept the group’s definition of anti-Semitism. But in addition to just defining anti-Semitism, Carr said, “It [IHRA] goes on to provide examples, 11 of them to be precise, with an overarching additional example that provides a window into the contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism.” He added, “One of my top diplomatic asks when I go overseas is that a country that hasn’t adopted it formally, adopt it. And we’ve had great successes as more and more countries are lining up to embrace the IHRA definition.”

Carr also noted that while it’s obvious the internet and social media did not cause today’s anti-Semitism, “It is carrying this contagion further and faster than we’ve ever seen before and it is one of the chief reasons we’re seeing anti-Semitism rise today.”



Jeffrey Sacks is sworn in as National Commander.

During the convention members also attended important committee meetings and participated in a leadership workshop. You can find information on what happened at those meetings in the Committee Reports section of this issue.

Finally, on Thursday, JWV elected its new National Commander and first-ever National Vice Commander. NC Jeffrey Sacks and NVC Alan Paley both addressed the more than 100 members who attended the session which included their election. Sacks announced his new appointees for positions including Chief of Staff and National Adjutant.



Alan Paley, National Vice Commander

We hope to welcome all of you to our next convention in-person, which will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 15-20.

NATIONAL VETERAN ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Robert M. Zweiman Memorial Award -\$5,000
Ethan Leventhal

Sidney Lieppe Memorial Grant -\$5,000
Nick Israel

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grants -\$2,500
Avrohom Yormark

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grants -\$1,000
Julia McCrory

Max R. & Irene Rubenstein Memorial -\$1,500
Kanaan Goldstein

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant - \$1,000
Nicholas Costigan

NATIONAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMS

Clifford Lee Kristal Education Grant -\$1,250
Justin Speaker

Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant -\$1,000
Matthew Kroscher

Edith, Louis and Max S. Millen Memorial Athletic Grant -\$1,000
Justin Speaker

Congratulations to All Award Winners

Murray L. Rosen Award
Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz

Feureisen-I. T. Rockman Award
Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256-TALO

Ben Kaufman Award
Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256-TALO

Wolfson Award
Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256-TALO

National Commander's Award
Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein-Florence
Greenwald Post 1-NY

Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award
PNC Ira Novoselsky-MA

Joseph Demiany Memorial Award
Dept. of Massachusetts

Post-9/11 Veteran Support Award
Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein-Florence
Greenwald Post 1-NY

Recruiter of the Year Award
PNC Maxwell Colon-CA

Honorable Mention
Rabbi Ari Montana-CA

Edward D. Blatt Award
Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126-NJ

Brenner – Jaffee Memorial Awards
Best Monthly Publication
Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256-TALO

Best Quarterly Publication
Dept. of Florida – The Florida Veteran

Best Weekly E-newsletter
Dept. of Mass. - Shabbat Shalom

Outstanding Email Newsletter Award
Martin Hochster Memorial 755-TALO

Honorable Mention
Albert S. Aronovitz Post 373-FL

Most Improved Online Engagement Award
Facebook - Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256-TALO
Website - Dept. of Florida

Post Growth Award
Small Posts - Fort Hood Post 795-TALO

Medium Posts-
Marsack-Feldman Post 145-WI

Large Posts - Major Gary Grant Post 680-CA

Bountiful Posts-
Atlanta Bicentennial Post 112-SE

Museum Awards

Post with the greatest number of museum members
South Philadelphia Post 98-PA

Post with the highest percentage of museum members
Milton L. Finel Post 389-NY

Department with the greatest number of museum members
Dept. of TALO

Department with the highest percentage of museum members
Dept. of TALO

ANOTHER VETERAN HELPED BY JWV

By Harvey Weiner

Veterans appear in family court slightly more than non-veterans do because a military career is not as conducive to domestic tranquility as a civilian career. Deployment causes lengthy separations, and people change during the absence. Post-traumatic stress disorder can destroy a marriage. Moving from base to base every three years can disrupt family stability. Homelessness and incarceration are other veterans' issues that can negatively affect a marriage. Also, some spouses are not cut out for military life.

After serving five years in the U.S. Navy, Joshua Grullon, a partially disabled post-9/11 veteran, became divorced and fell behind in his child support payments. At the time, he was attending a tractor-trailer training program, which was paid for by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and his child also received some assistance through the VA. His wife took him to family court to collect the overdue child support payments.

In this type of litigation, the Massachusetts Family Court has a state attorney from the Department of Revenue represent the individual that is owed the money. The other is not provided counsel by the state. Family Court judges use the threat of imprisonment to purge funds from the defaulting ex-spouse. According to the transcript, the following took place in court between the judge and Grullon, who was not represented by counsel:

"You need to get a job, sir, and I want to see

when you come back here. I am going to order, I'm not going to incarcerate you today. I need to see that you have a job and that you are doing something."

Grullon attempted to explain he had been in touch with the municipal veterans' agent and his child received funds.

"She is fine," he said, but the judge cut him off and said "Well sir, if that's your attitude, then maybe I'll be rethinking what I am going to do today, sir."

Grullon continued "Your Honor, I just wanted to say that she [the child] is well taken care of. I've been assured by Jaime Melendez, who is the Lawrence Veterans....", but the judge cut him off again and said "Sir, you do understand you have a child and this is your obligation." He said he did, but the judge continued "So telling me she's fine and it's not a big deal, now I'm rethinking what I ought to do. Because that's a really poor attitude to come in here. I was giving you a break today." Grullon said "Yeah, I just stepped on my own." The judge responded "You did. \$500. Ten days in jail." "I just shot myself," he said. "Yeah, you did, sir," replied the judge.

Grullon immediately went to jail and served a ten-day sentence.

Thereafter, Veterans Legal Services (VLS) appealed his incarceration to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, but VLS only received the case after Grullon served the jail sentence. If he had counsel, there is little doubt Grullon would have

been spared jail time. Since this involved a veteran, since this is an issue applied somewhat disproportionately to veterans, and since this potentially involves significant constitutional issues, VLS asked if JWV would file an amicus brief. JWV National agreed and since it was a Massachusetts case, my firm and I agreed to write the brief pro bono.

After arguments, the SJC issued a 19-page opinion that said Grullon was deprived of his constitutional rights when the trial judge jailed him without regard to his ability to pay and without providing him required procedural safeguards. The contempt finding was expunged by the SJC, but Grullon could not get back his ten days in jail. The SJC said it did not need to reach the right to counsel issue and decided the case on these other grounds.

The Chief Justice, in a nine page concurring opinion, stated that unless the Family Court and the Department of Revenue faithfully provided sufficient protections to future defendants, a right to counsel, under both the federal and state constitutions, would be required to ensure these procedural safeguards would be faithfully applied.

Grullon completed his trucking program in spite of his ten days in jail, and is now employed in the trucking business without a record of contempt. JWV has helped another veteran, and likely helped keep other veterans out of jail in the future. The case is entitled Department of Revenue Child Support Enforcement v. Joshua Grullon, 2020 WL 3467417 (Mass.).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 9

Aleutians, and I dare say that was the first Seder ever held there!

I wrote about it in my book, "Making Sense of My Century." I am enclosing the story and if you are to use it you have my full permission.

"I spent about ten months in the ship repair unit, and part of the time I was the only Jew in the shop. We never had more than three. The third Jew arrived just in time for Pesach. We got word that a Seder would be held in Army Town, on the other side of the island. So we got the necessary permission and proceeded to put on our dress blues – a uniform we almost never wore in the Aleutians, spending all our time there in dungarees – and the three of us hitchhiked to Army Town: David, Sam (the new arrival) and I. The Seder was held in in [sic] elephant Quonset lined with long tables. All the benches were full. A chaplain from Seattle stood at the head table and conducted the Seder, with the enthusiastic support of a whole lot of guys who were suddenly feeling exceptionally far from home. We did our best to enjoy it anyway. Except for our new arrival, who was sitting next to me. By the time we got ready for the matzo balls, he was still sitting there with a long face, staring around in silence.

"Come on, Sam" I said. "What's the matter with you? You look like you lost your last friend."

"I'm just looking for a familiar face. Isn't there anyone here from the Bronx?"

"You from the Bronx, mate?" This from a beefy baldheaded Navy Storekeeper seated across the table.

Sam brightened. "Yeah."

"What street?" Sam gave him the numbered street.

"What number?"

More and more excited now, Sam gave him the building address.

"Really? What apartment?" Almost smiling, Sam told him.

The Storekeeper thrust out his hand. "Put it there, pal. I'm from Alabama!"

The laughter that exploded all around him, and the good-natured handshake he got broke the ice. And I had reason to hang onto the memory of that scene. Two years later in Cincinnati, my father returned from a lecture tour in the South, and he told me he met a man who served where I did, in the Navy in the Aleutians. When he described him, and mentioned that they met in Dothan, Alabama, I said that could only be one man. I told him the story. And my father laughed just as heartily as the men at the Seder table.

*Sincerely,
Baruch Cohon
Post 118*

Dear Editor,
In reading The Jewish Veteran Vol. 74, No. 2 of 2020, I came across an interesting article written by Rebecca Bender about her father Capt. Kenneth Bender, a decorated Army WWII veteran. What interested me the most was the fact that Capt. Bender along with his men walked away from changing their dog tags from Hebrew to either Protestant or Catholic, when given the opportunity to do so.

In Desert Storm of 1991, a similar thing hap-

pened to me. I was told by an Army doctor to change my dog tags from Jewish to non-denominational, because Saddam Hussein hates Jews. To me, that word "non-denominational" disguises the word "Judaism," and why should my religion be "sanitized" for the sake of convenience in the military? For that reason, I was deadly opposed to the dog tag change (Where does the "stigma" lie? Why change them?)

Some people might disagree with me and argue that the Army was trying to save my life. Others might say that the dog tag episode was a "wake up call" to always keep the faith and never to sell your religion down the river, no matter how harsh the realities of war are.

As the saying goes, "fight to the death, if necessary!"

*Thank you,
Stanley Shallett,
Post 220, Peabody, MA*

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**Shopping on Amazon via
Amazon Smile helps the JWV.**

Amazon will donate 0.5 % of the price of
your eligible Amazon Smile
purchase to the JWV Foundation.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



A special parade of cars in the parking lot of the Jewish Community Center helped celebrate the 100th birthday of **Kansas Post 605** member and former Department Commander Mike Katzman.



Post 41 Commander Gary Ginsburg delivered meals to several families in need on July 17, as part of a partnership with Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Federation of Rochester, New York.



JWV **Post 603** and **Post 138** in California team up with the Sepulveda VA Social Welfare Department and the Glendale Elks lodge to buy food, and then pack and deliver lunches to veterans with food insecurity in the San Fernando Valley every week. From Left: Earl Roth and Marc Thurston.



Post 757 in Austin, Texas donated 12 wheelchairs to the Austin Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic. The wheelchairs were donated by someone living in Coral Springs, Florida who wishes to remain anonymous, but has since become a Patron of this post. From Left: VA Volunteer Services Specialist Mike Wittrock, Mike Miller, VA Center Volunteer Greeter Steven Mueller, Post Commander Charlie Rosenblum, and Volunteer Service Assistant Joshua Hope.



Post 373 members picked up lunch at Hooters and then delivered the meals to 60 residents of the James A. Haley VA Center's SCI unit on July 2. From Left: Supervisor of Recreational Therapy Geoff Hopkins, Bruce Shur, Jack Rudowsky, Boris Stern, Larry Jasper, Jim Marenus, and Steve Falkowitz.



JWV's **Nassau-Suffolk Council** donated 15 pizzas to the Northport VAMC on August 25. From Left: Eric Spinner, Ed Bram, Gary Glick, Steve Steinbaum, VA Director of Volunteer Services Rich Kitson, and Mel Cohen.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On July 17, Post 41 Commander Gary Ginsberg donated a check on behalf of the post to the Veterans Outreach Center in Rochester, New York. The money will support efforts to reduce veteran suicide and reduce veteran homelessness in the greater Rochester community. From Left: Veteran Outreach Center Senior Staffer Robin Gore and Ginsberg.



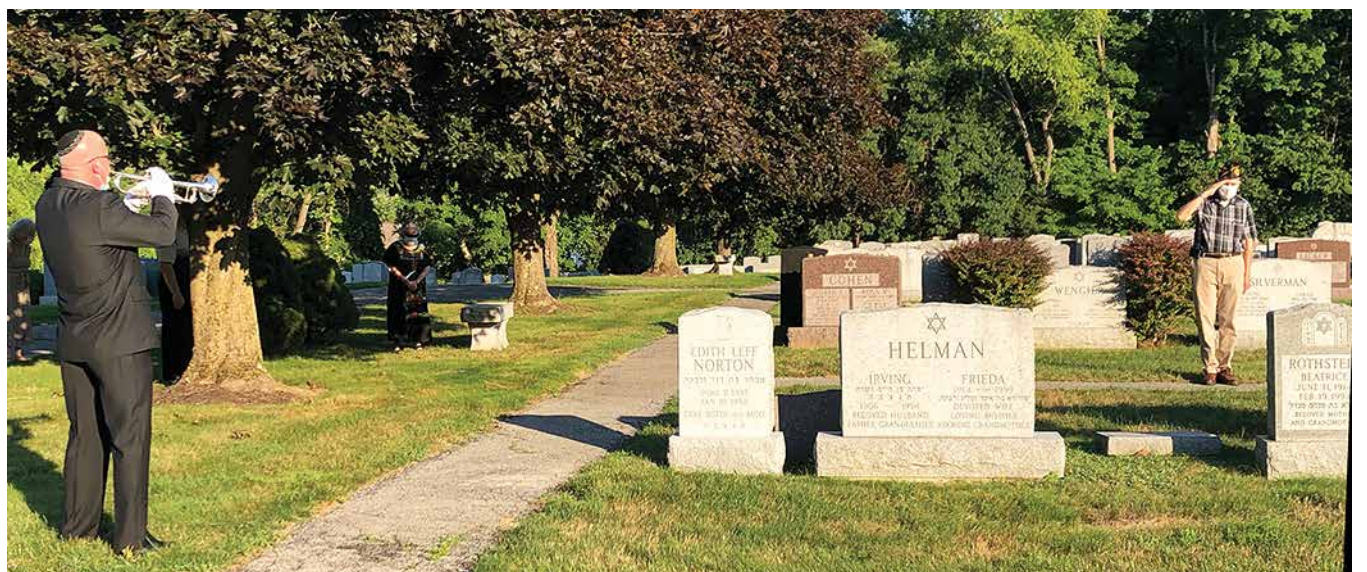
Members of Post 54, 89 and 800 in Illinois attended an honor guard ceremony at Fort Sheridan in Highland Park, IL in memory of World War II veteran Melvin Levin. Congressman Brad Schneider presented Levin's family with medals he earned in service but never received. From Left: Jordan Baich, Mel Wolf, Irwin Magad, Department Commander Howard Goldstein, and NC Jeff Sacks.

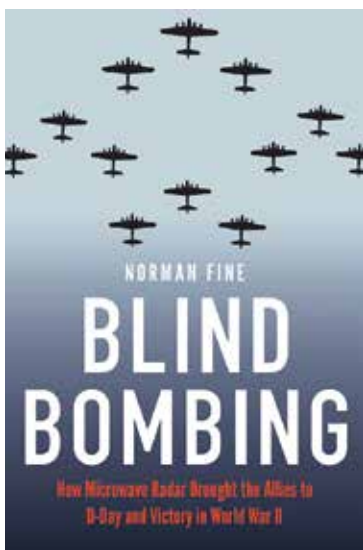


JWV Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126 of Cherry Hill, New Jersey donated protective eye shields for all 65 of the EMT's in their local fire department. From Left: William Roth, Sam Tilonky, Sterling Lightstone, and Cherry Hill Fire Department Chief Chris Callan.

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 December 2.

Post 625 in Poughkeepsie, New York celebrated the 75th anniversary of V-J Day with a special ceremony at the Temple Beth-El Cemetery on August 14. The post worked with Bugles Across America (BAA) to honor one of its veterans, PFC Eugene Moser who fought in the U.S. Army in the Battle of the Bulge and received a Bronze Star. From Left: BAA Bugler Oliver Mackson and Post 625 Chief of Staff Martin Hochhauser.





By Sheldon Goldberg, Ph.D.

Since the beginning of time, war has fostered technological innovation and inventions that changed the nature of combat: gunpowder in the ninth century; artillery and firearms in the 13th; the ironclad and the machine gun in the 19th; and the airplane, tank, radar, and atom bomb in the 20th. The marriage of the airplane and radar just prior to the British and U.S. involvement in World War II is the subject of this well-written history by Norman Fine.

This marriage, the result of a small British invention made on the eve of the war, the resonant cavity magnetron, an item so small it can be held in the palm of one's hand, was the key that unlocked the promise of the primitive radar of the time. The beginnings of radar in Britain go back to 1915 when Robert Watson-Watt, a recent electrical engineering graduate employed by the British Meteorological Office, found a way to use radio waves to detect storms in order to warn pilots of approaching bad weather. His next assignment involved investigating the feasibility of using radio waves to destroy an aircraft in flight, which he found not only impractical but dangerous to the operator, so he proposed focusing on aircraft detection. This led to the development of the "Chain Home" system of radars placed along the English Channel coast of Great Britain and used by the British throughout WWII to give ad-

Blind Bombing: How Microwave Radar Brought the Allies to D-Day and Victory in WWII

vanced warning of the approach of German aircraft. Fine explains how a series of mishaps on both the German and British side led to the failure of the Germans to figure out how it worked and possibly the RAF's victory in the Battle of Britain.

Fine's easy-to-read narrative describes the research in both Great Britain and the United States to seek ways to move to higher frequencies although the American efforts were stymied without the new British invention. Scientists knew that higher frequencies produced a shorter wavelength, thus requiring a smaller antenna and smaller, lighter, and more mobile equipment. Shorter wavelengths also could detect smaller targets with greater detail.

Fine's story continues on an afternoon in 1939, when two University of Birmingham scientists with no experience in generating high frequency power sketched out a new type of magnetron which would generate microwave frequencies at power levels never seen before. While American systems were limited to 20 watts of power at the 10-centimeter wavelength, tests on the new British magnetron generated 50,000 watts at the same 10-centimeter wavelength.

The Lend-Lease Act, signed in 1941, signaled greater cooperation between the then neutral U.S. and Great Britain. The British, under bombardment and anticipating a Nazi invasion from occupied northern France, decided to disclose to the U.S. a number of their highly secret technological advances, including jet engine technology and the resonant cavity magnetron. From this point on, the author ably describes the testing and development by physicists on both sides of the Atlantic to operationalize this powerful energy source, initially toward the successful detection of German U-boats from the air with 10-centimeter radar and then to develop a three-centimeter radar (H2X) used in United States Army Air Forces B-17 Pathfinders and the 10-centimeter radar (H2S)

used by the Royal Air Force. Each could continuously bomb German military and industrial targets day and night regardless of the weather. Fine notes however, that the H2X radar system was used primarily as a backup to visual bombing using the Norden bombsight by the U.S. Army Air Forces. On average, visual bombing was possible only nine days a month at best.

Interspersed throughout the book the author describes the wartime career of his uncle, Stanley Fine. Initially drafted into the Army, he applied for Aviation Cadets and subsequently became a U.S. Army Air Forces navigator. Stanley's nephew, the author, only serendipitously learned that his uncle was in the very first group of 10 navigators to be formally trained on the newly developed H2X radar system, nicknamed Mickey, and set out to interview him. As a result, the reader gets a first-hand insight into the training of these men and how they ran a radar, or pathfinder mission. The reader also learns of problems the initially uninterested Air Force leadership had in integrating both the men and the system, and the changing combat tactics needed to arrive at a place where they finally recognized the value. Lt. Stanley Fine, who brought the first production model of the H2X to Britain, carried out 32 missions, received two Distinguished Flying Crosses, and a promotion to Captain. He subsequently served as the Special Purpose Mickey Navigator for the 401st Bomb Group until the war in Europe ended.

As a former Vietnam/Cold War era navigator/bombardier, I was fascinated to learn the not well-known history and development of the system that eventually became what I was trained on and used with such precision during my Air Force career. "Blind Bombing" will be just as fascinating to military historians, historians of science and technology, aviation buffs, and those interested in history in general.

Jewish Cemeteries In Distress

Continued from page 4

Owners may not spend the actual perpetual fund without lawful order.

What to do if you see degraded conditions or other serious lack of maintenance?

Call the cemetery owner, operator, or superintendent and politely voice your concern with specifics. Ask for action and an approximate date when the problem will be resolved. If the date for resolution is longer than a few weeks, and you haven't seen any action taken, write a brief letter, addressed to the owner or operator confirming your earlier attempts and requesting reasonable action on their part. Anything placed in writing will serve as a dated proof of concern.

If no actions are observed and without a reasonable cause for the delay, your next step is to call your local appointed or elected Consumer Protection Representative, providing your details and documentation. If there is no Consumer

Representative, call your local politicians with the same details.

On serious matters of overall neglect, a call or photograph to the local news station, newspaper, or regional Federation may also be useful. Anti-Semitic postings or other vandalism requires a call and or photograph to local law enforcement.

How do you maintain the implied right to review and provide service within Jewish Cemeteries?

Jewish veterans often have standing, which is a legal term indicating members of a local or regional Post have the implied right to maintain the site of the graves of buried veterans and often the related family members. By observing various legal holidays and other publicized events, Post members often can establish a rapport and standing within each Jewish Cemetery.

Often a stone or other veteran memorial erected within the property of the cemetery allows for standing. An act of Congress set aside a date before

Memorial Day when individuals can place flags on veterans' gravesites.

Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Day, is set aside as a day to honor living veterans and their families. While not an official act, family members and persons representing families of deceased veterans often place flags upon the grave sites.

MLK Day of Service is a day to provide meaningful actions to improve each community and educate citizens, often utilized to educate children and young adults as to the service provided by veterans. As an option, veteran grave sites are often cleaned or U.S. flags are placed as a sign of respect by the community.

It is an honor and mitzvah for veterans to remember each other for the sacrifice and service provided to the general public and to the Nation, that no others experience. Together we served and should be reposed forever in peace.

ABOUT FACE: Jewish Refugees In The Armed Forces

By Ben Kane

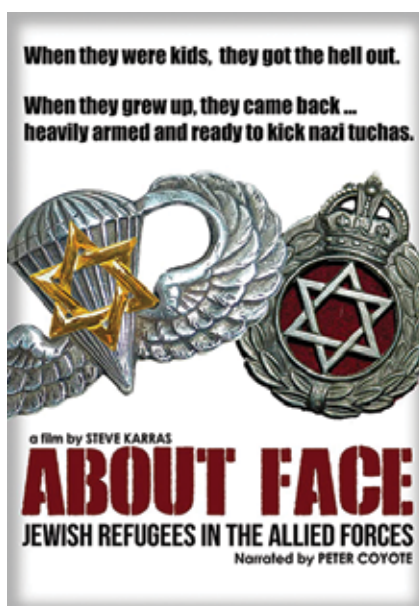
“About Face: Jewish Refugees in the Armed Forces,” is a documentary that tells the stories of Jewish men and women who left their homes and families to flee the persecution of the Nazi government. These immigrants then went on to join the military in their new homes, both to prove they could be good citizens to their new country, and to restore peace to their homelands.

The film begins by describing life for the average Jew under the Nazi regime. The film does an excellent job exploring life before the Holocaust. It shows that the number of dead was massive, but the dead were more than just a number. Those who were left behind were people. People like us, with fears, aspirations, and people who loved them. It explores how neighbors became enemies, and how the state used divisive rhetoric to split the country apart. Its usage of primary source documents including interviews with service members, recorded speeches from Holocaust survivors, as well as an interview with Holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum, makes it a solid educational resource.

One anecdote that stands out involves a Jewish family accosted by Nazi brownshirts at a park. The family told the inquiring Nazis they were Jewish, as was required, and so the family was harassed, brought to the Danube, told to face the river, and told that anyone who turned around would be shot. The Nazis then left. This mock execution, understandably, did a fairly good job convincing those caught up in them to leave Germany. But leaving was not so simple.

The film then briefly mentions the prerequisite in some countries that in order to relocate individuals needed a relative to vouch for their character and agree to take them in. Those who tried to leave also faced an exorbitant tax. Fleeing Germany would have meant they had to start life in their homeland nearly destitute. Those who were able to leave had to consider their futures carefully. Many chose to pursue professions that could be useful anywhere, like plumbers, cooks, and carpenters.

In November 1938, Kristallnacht took place, marking a turning point in Nazi policy towards Jews. Previously, the Germans mainly sent political prisoners to concentration camps, but that changed with the arrest and imprisonment of 30,000 Jews during Kristallnacht. Jews could only leave if their families began the paperwork to flee the country, leaving their money, their home, and their former lives behind. Many fled to



Israel, then British-owned Palestine, inspired by the possibility of creating their own country.

The documentary mentions the often overlooked, but historically interesting Evian Conference. The Evian Conference was a gathering of the future allied powers to determine which countries would agree to take in more Jewish refugees. Only the Dominican Republic agreed to raise their quota. The governments of the world knew of the plight of the Jews, but virtually none of them cared enough to act in any meaningful way in defense of the oppressed.

War broke out shortly thereafter and prevented many from fleeing the country. Those who fled Germany for a nearby country sometimes found themselves back in the Reich, as their new homes were invaded and captured within a matter of months or a few years.

“About Face” does not shy away from death, nor should it. It shows the corpses in concentration camps and an example of an execution of a group of Jews. It’s not detrimental, but it is something for educators to keep in mind when showing this to their students

The documentary goes on to explain how immigrants were labeled in their new countries as enemy aliens and possible spies. The United States interned many immigrants, including Jews who fled persecution.

Once the war broke out, immigrants were allowed to enlist. They looked forward to combat, to avenging their homelands, to be placed on the fast track towards citizenship, and to prove to their new homes they would be dedicated to their country. One interviewee made the poignant remark

that he joined the fight because he knew someone would take his place if he didn’t sign up, and that person could be married or otherwise important, and could be killed, and so shouldn’t go.

Joining the military did not free Jewish service members from anti-Semitism. Jews were often placed only in certain jobs, and received criticism when they tried to place themselves away from the so-called “Jewish Army”. Interestingly, a Captain who made a disparaging remark to a Jewish immigrant service member apologized for it that same day, a rare occurrence. One commanding officer, unaware of the misery of being a Jew in Germany, pulled aside one of the service members to ask for an honest answer to a “tough” question- “would they be willing to fight against the country of their birth?” The question was answered, to the CO’s surprise, with laughter.

Some immigrant service members were required to change their European identities to prevent needless harm if captured, especially if they were going to be dressed as Germans and sent behind enemy lines. Some would try and hold on to their family heritage in their own ways, but argued little against shedding the things that had and would continue to make them targets of persecution.

Towards the end, “About Face” recounts the heroic amphibious invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, in which Jewish immigrants fought alongside non-Jews, with many dying on the beaches on their way to liberate their homelands. Jewish immigrant service members made good use of their knowledge of the local languages, often providing invaluable information as translators, interrogators, and spies.

Lastly, the film explores the liberation of the concentration camps. Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissman Klein recounts the beautiful moment that unfolded between her and her liberator. Instinctively, she informed her rescuer that she was Jewish, expecting some form of hostility in return. To her surprise, he paused to collect his thoughts, then said “I am too.”

It’s these anecdotes that perfectly relay the crucial role Jewish immigrant service members played during World War II. This documentary can be enjoyed by any WWII buff, and would also serve as a good resource for educators to use to explore the impact of Jewish immigrant service members on the war effort.

“About Face” will be released later this year.

Committee Reports

Continued from page 5

Our goal is to have this work completed by NEC 2021 in January.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Bob Jacobs

The committee welcomed more than 40 attendees to its virtual meeting during the 2020 National Convention in August.

The committee discussed its disc project. The disc is finished and contains the stories of 90 Jewish military personnel who served during the Vietnam War. We paid for the project with profits

from our annual Night Out dinner. We will present the discs to the museum during the next in-person meeting, which will hopefully be in Orlando this January. The museum will sell them and keep the profit. As editor of the project, Jerry Alperstein has applied for a copyright and ownership will go to the museum.

We also discussed progress of our proposed Vietnam Exhibit in the museum. There are a couple of possible rooms but nothing is finalized. We have raised some money to build the exhibit but more is needed. Donations should go to Julia Lasher at National Headquarters and be specifical-

ly earmarked for the Vietnam Exhibit and not the general fund. So far only one person, PNC Harvey Weiner, has submitted a list of Vietnam-related items he would like to donate for the exhibit. If you have items you wish to donate, contact Bob Jacobs at conrailbob2003@yahoo.com.

Other discussion at the meeting included a proposed committee Facebook page, return of checks from the canceled Vietnam Night Out, and plans for next year’s dinner in New Orleans.

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT NATALIE BLANK

Dear Sisters,

Today we live in a different world, a COVID-19 world turned upside down that presents us with a way of life we never dreamed we would experience. For me, as I am sure for many of you, it is the inability to perform the daily tasks I normally accomplish in person that is most bothersome. But the telephone and the computer still function and if we can't visit in person, we will meet or talk virtually. If this is the case, the sisters of the Jewish War Veteran Ladies Auxiliary and I will still have the opportunity to meet and greet each other even though we are unable to attend our usual NECs and the National Conventions.

I am from a JWV/JWVA family, the youngest of three children, with a sister, brother, three nephews and one niece. My dad, Moe, was a Past County Commander and my mom, Celia, was a Past Auxiliary President. Both of my parents loved this organization and served locally for many years until their deaths.

In actuality I am a part of two families, the one in which I grew up and the one I chose to join as an adult, my JWVA family. Who knew I would have so many sisters, some older and some younger? During my years of service on the local, state and national echelons I was always told to listen and ask questions (and ask I did!). Most of my JWVA knowledge was gleaned from attending meetings,

NECs, conventions and from reading our Constitution and By-Laws.

You have honored me this year by electing me to serve as your National President; I appreciate your vote of confidence and I am privileged to represent you this year. I hope to meet you virtually this year, at least until it is safe to travel. Please remember, I am only a phone call away and I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding JWVA.

Hopefully during these trying times, your helping hands will safely continue to engage in the programs for which JWVA is known. Keep up your good work! Let's keep the love going to those in need; we will be richer in our hearts for it! My theme this year is "Helping hands across JWVA".

I would like to close this message with a quote from Danny Thomas:

"The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better".

Loyally,
Natalie Blank



CONVENTION REPORT

Dear Sisters,

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your wonderful and enthusiastic participation in our very first virtual convention. Despite all the Covid-19 restrictions, the Sisters of JWVA were not to be held back. We truly showed what we are made of. We were thrilled that so many Sisters participated in this virtual convention.

We successfully accomplished all that we set out to do; our business was officially conducted by our outgoing NP Sandra Cantor. We thank her for a wonderful year in spite of so many unusual challenges.

Our Memorial Service recognized all our Sisters who have passed away and PNP Arlene Lodgen's Memorial Address reminded us of their achievements and gave us hope for our future.

Our Partner's Virtual Happy Hour was a huge success and we thank all who participated.

The election and installation of our new National Officers was accomplished without problems; and our new National President Natalie Blank presented her Acceptance Speech which gave us an excellent view of her vision for the future. President Blank flawlessly guided us through the NEC, the election of Boards and the first business session of her administration. She closed the meeting with her best wishes to all for a healthy and Happy New Year and her hopes for our next NEC to take place in person.

A special thank you to AP Megan Bernstein who stepped in and helped with the computer when my computer was not cooperating with me. Also, a huge thank you to Tracey Adler who sat with me and watched the chat box and my phone to help with the calls and texts that kept popping up.

We congratulate President Natalie Blank and all her Officers and Staff and wish them a wonderful and productive year.

Loyally,
Elaine Bernstein, PNP - Convention Chairman
Petra C. Kaatz, PNP - Convention Co-Chairman

Thank You

As a result of the COVID-19 virus, the Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary had to cancel its in-person annual National Convention this year, which is the largest fundraiser for our organization, and conduct our convention sessions virtually. As a result an appeal letter was mailed requesting voluntary contributions to offset this major loss of revenue.

Our thanks to those who responded and forwarded their much appreciated contributions. We wish to acknowledge the following donors and thank them for their generosity.

Petra Kaatz, PNP
Rose Zucker Agrecio, Auxiliary 191, NY
Joanne Blum, PNP
Gladys Simon, PNP
Norma Warner, Auxiliary 69, NY
Elaine Bernstein, PNP
Charlene Ehrlich, PNP
Ethel Holiner, Auxiliary 256, TX
Sandy Kuntz, Auxiliary 256, TX
Harriet Epstein, Auxiliary 167, MD
Jean Tolmas, Auxiliary 256, TX
Arlene Lodgen, PNP
PNP Iris & PNC Edwin Goldwasser

Rosalyn Portnoy, Auxiliary 425, NY
Golde Math, Auxiliary 425, NY
South Philadelphia Auxiliary 98, PA
Natalie Blank, NSrVP
Rosalyn Rihm, Auxiliary 425, NY
Freda Rosenshein, PNP
Sandra Cantor, NP
Reina Greenbaum, Auxiliary 425, NY
Geri Zweiman, Auxiliary 695, NJ
Dallas Auxiliary 256, TX
Rosalind Kaplan, Auxiliary 256, TX
Auxiliary 631, FL
Judy Schulman, NY

MAJOR DONORS (\$1,000.00 or more)

Department of New York Ladies Auxiliary	\$3,000.00
Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary	\$1,500.00
PFC Fred Hecht Auxiliary 425, NY	\$1,000.00

VAVS

By PNP Petra C. Kaatz

Despite the fact that JWVA has lost its voting status due to a decrease in the number of volunteers, those who remain are doing a yeoman's job. I have received compliments from the staff of the Brooklyn VA for the wonderful job their three (3) new VAVS members are doing, as well as from St. Albans where we also have VAVS volunteers. They are serving as "Greeters", welcoming visitors and patients and directing them to the service area where they want to go. They wear bright red vests and are easy to spot. This is a nation-wide program so if you are interested, contact your local VA facility Voluntary Service Department and sign up. It is

Continued on page 19

HELPING HANDS ACROSS JWVA



DID YOU KNOW?

By: PNP Iris Goldwasser, Editor



Like most of you, the COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequent lock-down produced hours of “alone-time” and boredom which afforded me the opportunity to increase my reading interests and hours. One of the most surprising articles that came across my desk concerned President Lyndon Baines Johnson and his possible Jewish heritage. Needless to say I had to investigate this tidbit and find out more.

According to articles I found, it appears that President Johnson may have been of Jewish descent through his maternal ancestors, the Huffmans, who emigrated to the U.S. in the 18th century, John S. Huffman and Mary Elizabeth Perrin. Their marriage produced a daughter, Ruth Ament Huffman who married Joseph Baines and together they had a daughter, Rebekah Baines, Lyndon’s mother. The ancestors emigrated from Germany and the names Huffman and Perrin were common Jewish names in Germany.

Jewish law states that if a person’s mother is Jewish that person is automatically Jewish, regardless of the father’s ethnicity or religion. Therefore, with Jewish sounding names, it is possible that President Lyndon B. Johnson was Jewish!

How enlightening and explanatory that information was since it helped me understand Johnson’s actions on behalf of the Jewish people and Israel, both before and after his presidency. In fact, due to his efforts on behalf of Israel the Jerusalem Conference there honored him with the title “Righteous Gentile”.

As a boy, Johnson was influenced by his politically active grandfather Big Sam, and his own father, Little Sam. In addition his Aunt Jessie Johnson Hatcher was a major influence and she was an active member of the Zionist Organization of America. Johnson himself often cited Leo Frank’s lynching (a Jewish victim of blood libel) as the source of his opposition to anti-Semitism and isolationism.

History has revealed that Johnson, as a young

Congressman in 1938 and 1939, arranged visas for Warsaw Jews and oversaw the apparently illegal immigration of Jews through Galveston, Texas. Also in 1938 he was alerted that a young Jewish Austrian musician was about to be deported and, in secrecy, Johnson sent him to the Havana, Cuba Consulate to obtain a residency permit. That young man, Erich Leinsdorf, became a world famous musician and conductor who credited Johnson for saving his life.

Before WWII when Johnson was warned that European Jews faced annihilation he provided enough signed immigration papers to enable 42 Jews to leave Warsaw and subsequently used legal and sometimes illegal methods to smuggle hundreds of other Jews into Texas.

According to Louis Gomolak in his doctoral thesis, it was stated that Johnson accumulated sufficient funds to purchase false passports and fake visas in Cuba, Mexico and other Latin American countries and ultimately smuggled boat loads and plane loads of Jews into Texas, saving at least 400-500 Jews who might have been killed in the Holocaust.

During WWII Johnson and his Jewish friend Jim Novy not only sold war bonds for the U.S. but raised other funds for the Jewish underground fighters in Palestine. Some sources claimed that Johnson had been secretly shipping crates labeled “Texas Grapefruit” but containing arms to the Freedom Fighters in Palestine.

After the war Johnson and Lady Bird visited Dachau and returned home horrified, shaken, stunned, revolted and horrified at what they had seen.

Ten years later as a Senator, Johnson blocked Eisenhower’s attempt to sanction Israel after the 1956 Sinai Campaign. When he became majority leader Johnson consistently blocked anti-Israeli initiatives and was influenced by two pro-Israel advisors, Benjamin Cohen who himself had been the liaison between Supreme Court Justice

Brandeis and Chaim Weizmann as well as Abe Fortas, the legendary Washington “insider”.

Johnson’s concern for the Jewish people continued throughout his presidency and in 1963, shortly after taking office he remarked to an Israeli diplomat, “You have lost a very great friend (JFK), but you have found a better one”.

At a 1963 dedication of a synagogue in Austin, Texas which Johnson attended, his friend and member Jim Novy honored him by announcing, “We can’t thank him enough for all those Jews he got out of Germany in the days of Hitler”. Lady Bird later described how, after the commemoration, many people approached her and commented, “I wouldn’t be here today if it wasn’t for him”. She, herself, elaborated “Jews have been woven into the warp and woof of all Lyndon’s years”.

In 1967 Johnson blamed Egypt for starting a war with Israel by closing the Strait of Tiran to Israeli shipping and subsequently approved the sales of arms and tanks to Israel. He commented to the UN Ambassador in 1968, “I sure as hell want to be careful and not run out on little Israel”. When asked at the Glassboro Summit why he was so supportive of Israel, he responded “because it was the right thing to do”.

As Robert David Johnson, a Brooklyn College Professor wrote, and history seems to concur, that “President Johnson’s policies stemmed from his friendships with leading Zionists, his belief that the U.S. had a moral obligation to bolster Israeli security and his conception of Israel as a frontier land much like his home state of Texas...”

President Johnson definitely pointed American foreign policy in a pro-Israel direction. As history can recount, the American emergency airlift to Israel in 1973, the constant diplomatic support, the economic and military assistance and the strategic bonds between the two countries can all be credited to the seeds planted by LBJ.

AID TO ISRAEL

By PDP Marcia Jacobs, Chairman

The Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary has long supported the Chaim Sheba Medical Center in Israel. As a world leader in medical research, the Sheba Medical Center is partnering with the National Institute of Health in the U.S. to find a vaccine to fight the COVID-19. The Israeli medical center in Tel Hashomer, near Tel Aviv, signed an agreement with the Maryland NIH to conduct scientific treatments in an effort to end this global pandemic.

Sheba has pledged to supply the NIH Vaccine Research Center with blood samples of COVID-19 virus from infected patients in Israel. In addition, it will release other information from various other clinical trials conducted by their pharmaceutical companies as well as their own experimental treatments.

We encourage JWVA Departments and Auxiliaries to help support the Chaim Sheba Medical Center in their effort to stem the tide of this coronavirus.



AMERICANISM

By DP Carol Adler, Chairman

When we refer to Americanism or Patriotism what do we really mean? Americanism as we know it means allegiance to the traditions, interests or ideals of the U.S.; patriotism refers to our love and respect for our country. Both are important assets for a devoted citizenship.

During these trying times of COVID-19 many of us are finding it difficult to focus on our

Americanism, instead concentrating on our daily existence and remaining safe and healthy. We must remember that our country has gone through many crises during its history and has always come out strong; so shall we overcome this pandemic also.

To demonstrate our Patriotism today we must be creative! Use of technology for celebrations or National Holidays can be done more easily these days. I have participated, via video, in observances arranged by various Veteran organizations and placed on social media for viewing by the entire state. Car parades arranged on July 4th and on May Day were conducted throughout many communities.

Be creative; be an American; be a patriot but please remain safe!

VAVS

part-time volunteering and in most VA facilities you can select your time.

I am sure that there are other VA facilities where our JWVA members do an outstanding job. Please let me know so we can share that good news with all our members.

HELPING HANDS ACROSS JWVA

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for electing me the President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. We are a unique museum. We are the museum that memorializes the contributions of American Jews to the military history of the United States. Our history pre-dates the establishment of the United States and goes back to the refusal of Peter Stuyvesant to allow Jewish residents the right and duty to stand sentry and defend the colony. Clearly, we are the only museum that exhibits the deeds of the Jewish men that were awarded America's highest medal for bravery, the Medal of Honor. Researchers from around the country come to our museum to reference our archives. We are truly blessed to have

Mike Rugel and Pam Elbe on our staff.

As President of the museum and living in central New Jersey, I will make it my duty and pleasure to visit the museum regularly. I will try to attend the wonderful functions held in the building. While I know some of the history of the various exhibits, I will attempt to learn even more. As a former graduate student in American history at a Washington, D.C. university, I look forward to studying and learning more of our American Jewish military heritage.

Obviously, no museum can keep its doors open without adequate funding. I see one of my duties as President to help get donations. Therefore, I will try to go to functions and events where there is a fund-

raising opportunity. Simply call me and I will do my best to attend and speak about our museum.

Again, thank you for this vote of confidence.



PNC Michael B. Berman

We reopened the museum to visitors on July 6. We are doing everything possible to minimize contact and allow for distance. Masks and social distancing are required. It's good to have visitors in our exhibit, but without programs or groups coming in, we are still operating at a fraction of our capacity in the building. We continue to make efforts to move programming online and make more museum content available online. We are continuing with all our public programming virtually. Please continue to check our website and social media.

We've had three recent online talks. On June 11, we hosted researchers from the Shapell Manuscript Foundation Roster Project. They've been researching Jewish soldiers in the Civil War for years and presented some of their research on JWV progenitor, the Hebrew Union Veterans Association (HUVA). It was a fascinating look at the Civil War vets who formed the organization in 1896. The individuals had extraordinary connections to one another. Their camaraderie is clear even through centuries-old historic records. The research team has



The Shapell Manuscript Foundation Roster Project team joined us for a presentation on JWV progenitor organization, Hebrew Union Veterans Association.

uncovered a lot of information. We have discussed doing a second part of the program next year as JWV enters its 125th year as well as some potential field trips. Stay tuned!

On June 18, documentary filmmaker and journalism professor Boaz Dvir discussed his book,



Boaz Dvir spoke about his book, "Saving Israel" highlighting the role of WWII veterans in creating the first Israeli Air Force.

"Saving Israel." The book describes the American World War II veterans who created an air force in Israel in 1948. This played an important role in establishing Israeli independence. The World War II experiences of these men had shaped their attitude. They wanted to improve the world. They felt the need to ensure there would not be a second catastrophe that might destroy the Jewish people. Assisting Israel's first military was how they felt they could contribute.

Paul Darling joined us on July 30 to discuss his book, "Taliban Safari: One Day in the Surkhagan Valley," which describes a single day on the ground in Afghanistan in 2009. His mission was to track down and kill Taliban insurgents in the Zabul Province. Paul is a JWV member from Overland



Paul Darling discussed his book Taliban Safari: One Day in the Surkhagan Valley

Park, Kansas. He described the unique challenges as an Army officer on the ground in the war in Afghanistan. The book was written as a response to his wife's simple question over the phone: "What happened?" Darling described how his work in Afghanistan was too complicated for a simple answer. He had to deal not only with the Taliban, but complicated politics, cultural issues, and more.

At the JWV virtual convention, we showed the documentary film "The Jewish 48'ers in the American Civil War." Director Peter Rosenbluth joined us for a Q&A session. He described how many 48'ers had left Europe for America and brought the values of the 1848 revolutions with them when they served in the Civil War. Hopefully, we can do more with Peter and the film.

We also published the first of a planned series of short videos last month. It is a two-minute video about the Civil War Medal of Honor recipient Leopold Karpeles. You can watch it on YouTube or Facebook. As always, we rely on you to spread the word about the museum and our work. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors!

• Upcoming •

November 5th, 2:00 PM ET – George Johnson - When One's Duty and the Right Thing are not the Same: A Jewish Vietnam Veteran looks back 50 years on the moral journey that changed his life.

George E. Johnson, a retired Washington attorney and former research director of a Washington Jewish think-tank, currently is a senior editor at Moment Magazine.

Watch our short video

**Leopold Karpeles:
Medal of Honor**



on YouTube
or Facebook.



By Pam Elbe • Collections, Archives, & Exhibits Coordinator

We Want You! Jewish Women in the U.S. Military

The museum is working on an exhibition about women in the military, but we need your help. If you are a woman who has served in the U.S. armed forces in the post-WWII era, the NMAJMH wants your story and photos. You do not need to be a member of JWV to be included (though we would love to have you as a member). I have created a form to make it easy for you to submit your information for potential use in the exhibit. You can also visit the museum's website, www.NMAJMH.org, to complete the form online. Please help preserve the stories of Jewish women's service in the U.S. armed forces.

Women in the US Military				
	<i>The NMAJMH is working on an exhibition on Jewish women in the US military. We need your stories, photographs, and memorabilia to show that Jewish women have served and continue to serve in the American military. You do not need to be a member of JWV to be included (though we would love to have you as a member). Please help preserve the stories of Jewish women's service in the US armed forces.</i>			
Name: _____				
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Maiden Name	
Address: _____				
Street	City	State	Zip Code	
Phone: _____		Email: _____		
May we contact you for more info? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Date of Birth: _____		Place of birth: _____		
		City	State	
Occupation (if retired, list former occupation): _____				
Education: (Circle highest level of education) HS college master's doctorate other				
Schools attended (certificate or degree, school name, year awarded) _____				

Marriage(s): Married _____ on _____ at _____				
First Name Middle Name Last Name Date Place				
Death of spouse or divorced (circle which) on _____ at _____				
Date Place				
Children: (Indicate in birth order—son/daughter, name, date of birth, place of birth) _____				

Inclusive dates of military service: _____				
Branch of service _____		Highest rank _____		
Battalion, Regiment, Division, etc. _____				
Stationed at the following locations: _____				

Did you sustain any service-related injuries? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Did you experience any anti-Semitism while in the service? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Sexism? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Why did you join the military? How did your family react? _____				

Were you ever stationed in or near a combat zone? What were your experiences there? _____				

Military record: (You may want to answer this question on another sheet of paper. Tell about significant events in your service career, including battles, injuries, experience as a POW, or occurrences of anti-Semitism or sexism, etc.) _____				

Awards and certifications _____				
Are you a member of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Post # _____ Highest position held in the JWV _____				
I hereby declare that this information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this information could be provided to researchers or used in projects at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Current addresses and phone numbers will NOT be released to the public without express permission. I further understand that photographs and/or documents submitted with this form become the sole property of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and may be used to further the educational mission of the institution. I affirm I do own the submitted photographs and/or documents and to the best of my knowledge I have good and complete right, title, and interest to give.				
Signature: _____				
Print name: _____		Date: _____		
Please send this completed form to Pamela Elbe, NMAJMH, 1811 R Street NW, Washington DC 20009 or pelbe@jwv.org				

A Silver Star and a Monument for “Super Doc”

By Harvey Weiner

How does one tell the incredible story of a Jewish-American Vietnam War hero so that it is believable?

Melvin “Mel” Lederman was born in Brooklyn, New York and lived in Brookline, Massachusetts at the time of his death in Vietnam.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1948 in Alaska, where he contracted a virulent rash, leading to his being on partial disability. After his honorable discharge, he sought education under the G.I. Bill and earned a B.S. and a M.S. in Human Genetics from Michigan, an M.S. in physics from Yale, and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School. After a series of residencies and fellowships, including a chief residency in a VA hospital, he became Chief of Thoracic Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1968, he was offered a surgery partnership in California. He seemed to be every Jewish mother’s dream!

Alas – not every Jewish mother’s dream! He was unmarried. He was a skydiver and a hunter. And, he turned down that job offer in California to join the Navy at age 40 and to volunteer to go to Vietnam.

In one of the letters he wrote from Vietnam, Lederman said, “Someone has to do the job of taking care of the kids, and it is obvious that I am it, so by conscience, I have been doing the best I know.”

Although he already satisfied his military obligation and was too old to be drafted, he joined the hospital ship USS Repose as a Lieutenant Commander. Before deployment he earned his jump winds at Fort Bragg.

While treating the wounded on the ship, Lederman realized the men were returning too late for any effective medical treatment to make a difference. He instead decided the best course of

action was to treat the wounded on the battlefield. He started flying with the medivac helicopters and flew more than two dozen missions.

On at least one mission, he fought the enemy with his M-16. He was wounded on several occasions and received four Purple Hearts.

On one mission, he saved a wounded pilot’s life, but did not receive the Air Medal because he was not on flight status. I, along with many others in the Army, did not receive the Combat Infantry Badge because we were not assigned to an infantry position. However, there is now a Combat Action Badge for soldiers who engage in combat, but are not members of an infantry unit. Lederman was attached to HMM-364, known as the Purple Foxes, and he got nickname “Super Doc,” which he affixed to the naval identification tab on his flight jacket. He also went out on missions with the Navy Seals, but these unauthorized missions do not appear on his military record.

On November 29, 1969, shortly before his scheduled return to the U.S., Lederman was killed in action when his helicopter was shot down on a mission. It took 47 years for the Navy to award him a fourth Purple Heart, which they did in 2016. He was the only U.S. Navy doctor and the only Harvard Medical School graduate killed in Vietnam.

Two weeks before his death, Lederman was on a medivac mission in the Qui San mountain range northeast of Danang. A Cobra helicopter had been shot down and, under hostile fire, Lederman’s helicopter landed in an attempt to save the two pilots, who were believed to still be alive. Lederman and two others left their helicopter to search for the Cobra pilots, but found only their dead bodies. He helped bring them back to the helicopter, but then went back alone to the Cobra to retrieve their personal gear. The Cobra disintegrated moments after



Melvin “Mel” Lederman

he left it. Upon his return to base, Lederman immediately counseled and treated one of the two other soldiers on that mission, who was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

For that mission, Lederman and the two others were recommended for the Silver Star by the elite Squadron Awards Board. It appears this recommendation never reached the appropriate personnel at the Department of the Navy. As it has done in the past, will the JWV be of help?

Opposite the Massachusetts General Hospital is the Esplanade on the Charles River where the Boston Pops gives its annual Independence Day concert. The playing field there is named Lederman Park, where a monument in his memory is planned. However, more than \$400,000 must be raised to fund the monument.

You can read more about Lederman and the memorial project at www.ledermanmemorial.org.

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Good Health & Happiness to All

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Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

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Remember PNC Paul Bernstein & PNP Shelly Berman

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

PNC Jerry & PNP Joanne Blum
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PNC Warren & Violet Dolny
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In Honor of all who have served!

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We salute those who serve

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Saluting the Veterans of Heritage Hills
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In Memory of Morty Kessler
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In Memory of All Korean War Veterans

MA PDC Stanley R. Light
In Memory of my son, Joshua A. Light

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In Loving Memory of my wife, Virginia
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In Memory of My Wife Raya

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

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Live long and prosper

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In memory of Harriett

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Our Very Best Wishes to All

Good Health & Best Wishes
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Have a good year!
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