



The Jewish Veteran

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

Facing Aging And Covid, Jewish Veterans Stay The Course, As They Did During Wartime

By Heather Robinson, Jewish News Syndicate

When they were young, some stormed the beaches, taking the fight to the enemy; some liberated Nazi concentration camps in Western Europe and forever bear the scars of having witnessed man's worst inhumanity to man. Still others sailed ships, sent radio signals, fixed machines and trained their fellow service members at home or overseas.

This Veterans Day, Jewish soldiers, sailors and Marines who served in World War II and Korea are, if they are still alive, in their late 80s, 90s and 100s, which makes them statistically at the highest risk of complications from COVID-19. With this in mind, JNS spoke with some Jewish veterans to hear stories of their service and how they are coping with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Having reached the winter of their lives, some are living with family and others in assisted-living facilities. Some still have surviving wives; others are alone. One recently died, but only after having beaten COVID-19.

All pride themselves on their ability to cope with the rigors of life, including the virus that has made the past seven months difficult and kept them from activities and family members.

Warren Dolny, 92, of Boynton Beach, Fla., a past national commander of Jewish War Veterans of America—the oldest continuously operating veteran service organization in the country—lives with his wife of 71 years, Violet, in a retirement community.

A former Marine, he served as a radio operator during the Korean War, communicating with



Department of Minnesota 75th Anniversary Celebration. From Left: JWV Chief of Staff Robert Nussbaum, Major General of the Minnesota National Guard Shawn Menke, JWV National Commander Jeffrey Sacks, and Department Commander of Wisconsin Kim Queen.

other Marines in combat overseas from his base at USMC Camp Lejeune, N.C. Dolny says he is dealing with the pandemic by “listening to what scientists have to say. I’m not completely quarantined, but we’re wearing masks and distancing.”

Thanks to their daughter, who decamped to their apartment from New York City and has stayed with the couple since March, Dolny doesn’t have to grocery shop, but says the threat of COVID-19 coupled with difficulty walking “doesn’t stop me from getting around”—by scooter. “If I have to go

out, I go out,” he says.

Dolny, who has three children, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, praised the racial integration of America’s armed forces when he served active duty in 1952 and 1953, in addition to the sense of camaraderie that Marines feel.

“We did the most to give our lives to our country, and unfortunately, some do give their lives,” he says.

Irving Rosenblum, 91, former JWV department commander for Minnesota, and his wife of 63 years, Toby, live independently in a condominium in Saint Louis Park, a suburb of Minneapolis. Retired from the furniture business, Rosenblum, who served in the National Guard and then the Army during the Korean War, regrets not being able to attend synagogue during these trying times.

“I have always gone to synagogue,” he shares, but because seniors are more vulnerable to the virus, “the rabbi told me to stay home.”

He and his wife have three children, five grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren scattered around the world, mostly in Israel.

Rosenblum hasn’t let COVID-19 stop him from getting out; in particular, he enjoyed last month’s Jewish War Veterans Department of Minnesota 75th annual membership dinner at Mancini’s Char House in Saint Paul, where he said attendees distanced, wore masks and had a blast.

“We invited everyone,” he said. “We sat not too close together, and as far as I know, everyone is healthy.”

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JWV Disaster Relief Makes A Difference

By Greg Lee

The evening of September 8, 2020 started out fairly routine here in the mountains of Northern California. We even checked the status of the wildfires in our area by visiting the local Fire Chief at the Station.

The fire was miles away and three crews were on it, so we figured there wasn’t much chance of it reaching my location anytime soon. So, we went

home, made dinner, and turned in early when the sun set at 8:30 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m. what sounded like a jet aircraft making low flybys disrupted my light sleep. I went outside to check things out. There were no aircraft, but the winds were whipping up. Soon I heard the sound of loud explosions.

I’m not a stranger to the sounds of exploding propane tanks, vehicle gas tanks, and power trans-

formers. I quickly jumped on my motorcycle and did a local recon. Everything seemed fine.

The only fire I could see was miles away and not an immediate threat.

But I didn’t know that officials were igniting back fires in our community. I’m not sure why they would light fires in high winds, and naturally, they soon got out of control.

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D'verei HaShomrim

A CONCERT OF UNITY

By Chaplain Rabbi (CPT) David Becker, USARCENT
Jewish Theater Chaplain

On a recent trip in the skies over Iraq and Kuwait, I had the opportunity to become well acquainted with the flight crew of the C-130 I was traveling on. As a chaplain I find it natural to connect to service members, so upon landing at a waypoint where we were stuck for several hours, I took the opportunity to get to know the crew. For his part, the Captain parked the C-130 on the tarmac, lowered the ramp, and there we laid (all 10 of us) sunbathing beneath the Iraqi sun.

A C-130 is basically the military's bus and workhorse of the sky. It has a long track record of safety and mission success. Six crewmembers are required to fly and navigate a C-130. The flight deck crew consists of the Captain, First Officer, Crew Chief, and the Navigator. In the back of the aircraft there are two Loadmasters who manage cargo, weight distribution, safety systems, and passengers. I inserted myself on a bench at the back of the flight deck and had a clear view ahead and to the sides of the plane. The experience did not disappoint. Once the plane took off, I could walk the deck. From the cockpit, when the plane banks and turns, the line where the ground meets the sky becomes alarmingly horizontal. Skirting around clouds and weather systems with the sun's rays peeking through is just about one of the most beautiful natural scenes I have ever seen, if not bumpy. Combat diving, a reality in a combat zone, takes you on a spinning and plunging trajectory towards the ground in an accelerated way! Leveling out at a scant few hundred feet and landing on a short runway, one wonders what just happened!

As I watched these outstanding professionals operate this aircraft with ease and a comradery that was both serious and yet warm, spirituality set in and a concert of unity played out before my eyes.

Let me explain what I was feeling. The most beautiful music springs forth from a unified effort. On the C-130 the Captain is the head of this aircraft. He relies on all other departments to feed him information so he can command, much like a conductor who directs music in an orchestra. The First Officer functions as a secondary back-up for the Captain. He also monitors essential flight systems, radar, communications, and countermeasures. In a real way, this officer is the concertmaster responsible for musical quality at the concert. There is a navigator, who inputs direction which he feeds into a computer allowing the Captain to fly along a highway in the sky. The navigator is much like an orchestrator, who transposes the composer's music into a coherent flow for play. Next is the crew chief. As a senior enlisted airman, his role is to troubleshoot, inspect, calibrate, mix fuel, perform engine run-ups, and adhere to checklists. The crew chief is the ultimate stage manager concerned with the overall health of the orchestra. Every properly run orchestra requires a symphony manager. These people are charged with making sure the math makes sense, and the business of the orchestra is healthy. In a C-130 the symphony master and his assistant are called Loadmasters. The entire Raison d'être of the flight is to deliver cargo and personnel to an intended destination. Loadmasters ensure the cargo and people are safe and secure. Lastly,



there is the plane, the seventh entity in this equation, so obviously akin to the orchestral sections. The plane is roaring to fly, it just needs the other six entities to give it direction. Observing from the flight deck, I was indeed witnessing something remarkable in its seamless purpose. The components were indeed a concert of unity!

This evolved into the subsequent thought. As Chanukah is upon us, my thoughts turned to the Holy Menorah! It occurred to me that I was riding on a Menorah! Not necessarily the Chanukiyot that we will light in our homes, but the Menorah created mikshah achas, formed (or beaten) of one piece. The one Moses our Beloved Teacher formed out of one massive chunk of gold. This original Menorah stood in the Mishkan, the Tabernacle, and the first great Temple as a testament of G-d's, balance, unity, beneficent kindness, and ever giving nature. We were meant, as we are today on Chanukah, to light that Menorah and bringing G-d's perfection of unified light into the world. Six perfect yet separated golden lamps on each side of a center stalk, mirroring each other in sublime beauty and decoration! The center stalk rising above the rest. Shining forth from a position just outside the Kodesh Ha'kadoshim (Holy of Holies) the Menorah was meant to remind us of the seven days of creation. Six days of creation, one day of perfect rest... seven. Six crew members and one plane... seven. Balance!

Inside that cockpit, I got to wondering, why do we celebrate Chanukah? We are often told that the great miracle of Chanukah is that when the Maccabees re-entered the Temple after a prolonged war with the Seleucid Greeks, they could not locate a supply of oil to rekindle the Menorah, save one jug. Miraculously, the jug lasted eight days until additional supplies could be restocked. Yes, this is a miracle, but is it really worthy of celebrating for time immemorial? If such a miracle was so magnanimous, then perhaps we should celebrate in perpetuity the Well of Miriam or the falling of the walls of Jericho. Clearly, we do not. We are also told that the more important miracle of Chanukah is the outstanding and unlikely military victory of Matisyahu and his sons who with the strength of character, wisdom, courage, military tactics, and a lot of divine assistance, overcame an empire in just three years. Both are certainly viable explanations for our celebration.



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photos and articles submitted to *The Jewish Veteran*
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opinions expressed in signed articles and letters in this
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Advertising information and rates available from the
Editorial Office. JWV assumes no responsibility for
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NPA#112285 • ISSN 047-2019.

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For your consideration, I would like to submit to you a deeper perspective. Chanukah is the ultimate holiday of unity and its essence is a restoration of balance. The Menorah, a perpetual holy instrument of divine unity, was rekindled and lasted those eight days specifically because balance was restored to the Jewish people. Finally, after many years of war, internal division, ethnic hatred, and religious intolerance Judaism was restored and freed from the Hellenistic grasp. The cry of Judah the Maccabee, Me La'Hashem Ay'li (who is for G-d rally to me), was a call for re-unity, and when he and the Jewish people united and overcame the enemy, when the spirituality and safety of our people was restored, the Menorah became that symbol of G-d's light once again. Balance was restored. This is why we celebrate Chanukah - because of this restoration of balance that resulted in a celebration of the concert of G-d's unity.

I write these words to you from far away and with no small degree of longing for my family and prayers for what I am sure will be better times. While we acknowledge that Chanukah 2020 comes on the heels of a year that has been just ghastly, let us not forget why we light this Menorah. As Chanukah did for our Jewish ancestors, may this Chanukah bring us a restoration of balance. May we bring G-d's light into the world, dispelling darkness. And may we all merit to see the ultimate act of unification, the coming of Mashiach and peace for all.

Now that is a concert worth celebrating!
Chanukah Sameach!
Happy Hannukah!

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Jeffrey Sacks

The Anniversaries of 2021

We find ourselves limited in what we can do during the current COVID-19 pandemic, but we will be able to reflect on several significant anniversaries that will occur in 2021. There is the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, the 125th anniversary of JWV, the 20th anniversary of 9/11, and the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Captain Jeffrey Sacks (right) near KKM in Saudi Arabia in 1991.

For all JWV members, including myself, who served in the Gulf War, January of 2021 evokes strong memories. The combat phase of the war by coalition forces comprised of 35 nations started on January 17, 1991. Operation Desert Shield, the buildup of troops and defense of Saudi Arabia, started in August of 1990 in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait due to disputes over oil production and pricing. Operation Desert Storm began with a five-week aerial and naval bombardment to expel the Iraqis from Kuwait. On February 24, 1991, a massive ground assault started. It took only 100 hours for coalition forces to liberate Kuwait and occupy part of southern Iraq. The rest was clean up, so to speak, also known as Operation Desert Farewell.

Living the experience was life changing for me and for many of the more than 400,000 U.S. armed forces members and civilians I served alongside. On the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m., the City of Chicago tests its emergency sirens. For a quick moment I remember the SCUD missile attacks that occurred while I was assigned to base defense in Dhahran. I remember donning my MOPP (chemical suit) gear at the sound of the sirens, I remember the way we stuck 100 mph tape on our windows to prevent glass fragmentation, I remember the nearby Patriot missile battery firing, I remember the loud explosion and how the ground shook on February 25, 1991 when one of those SCUDs landed near us and killed 28 Army reservists from Pennsylvania, and the FUBAR aftermath, which included listening to what I had

partially witnessed on the BBC several hours later. With all the men and women serving under me accounted for, zero dark thirty found me calling back to the United States from a bank of satellite phones to the family support group to let them know we were okay. Yup, all that from the monthly test. I've recently learned that when the sirens go off at other times you also might get hit by a tornado, which really hasn't helped me from a PTSD abatement point of view. The most recent test on election day caught me off guard, as my mind was on other things. My point here is that it was an intense time, even in the rear with the gear, which is where most of the company I commanded was at that moment.

In our Constitution's preamble, one of the reasons we associate ourselves together is to honor the memory of our heroic dead. The Department of Veterans Affairs denotes 148 Gulf War battle



(Courtesy: NDSWM.org)

deaths and 235 other deaths in theater. Currently, the United States lacks a national memorial dedicated to the courage and sacrifice of its armed forces who honorably fought in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. A National Desert Storm War Memorial (NDSWM) is planned within the shadows of the Lincoln and Vietnam Veterans Memorials abutting the National Mall. Just as they were for the Vietnam, Korean War, and WWII Memorials, private funds are needed to build this memorial. I have personally donated to this project as I did to the WWII Memorial. Support for this memorial was affirmed at our last convention and is a project of the JWV Gulf War Committee. Should an echelon or individual be so moved to help build the memorial, checks made payable to the NDSWM can be sent to P.O. Box 29091, Washington, DC 20017 or at www.ndswm.org/donate. The NDSWM is a federally recognized non-profit, 501(c)(3). I must remind all echelons that donations in excess of



Location of the future National Desert Storm War Memorial (Courtesy: NDSWM.org)

\$200.00 are subject to matching funds, but every small donation helps.

In order to develop meaningful programming and attend to the needs of all our members and their families, JWV formed the Gulf War Veterans Committee in 2018. For the 30th anniversary of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the committee has renewed efforts to reach all JWV members who served in those two operations, as well as supporting and successor operations worldwide. The committee is identifying liaison officers for the Gulf War Committee at the Department and Post levels to serve as the channel of communication to and from the committee. If you want to serve as a liaison, or want to get involved, please don't hesitate to contact the committee at jwvgwc@gmail.com.

In 1860, there were approximately 150,000 Jews living in the USA, which had a population of about 31 million people. It is estimated that between 7,000 and 8,000 Jews joined the armed forces of the Union and between 2,500 and 3,000 Jews joined the armed forces of the Confederacy. Four Medals of Honor were awarded to Jews of the Union Army.

Fast forward to the 1890s. The Jews who fought in the Civil War went back to their communities and helped rebuild the country. They joined the ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans. Now almost 30 years after that great conflict, and for the first time in American history, an old libel attacking Jewish patriotism appeared. In 1894, Harper's Weekly magazine printed remarks from a former army officer that in his travels throughout the country he had never seen nor heard of any Jew who had served under the Union banner. Another periodical, The North American Review, published an article saying the Jew was an unpatriotic parasite whose only participation in American wars was as a camp follower, canteen merchant, or bounty jumper. This characterization of us was picked up on by the famous writer and humorist of the time, Mark Twain, who wrote in a later Harper's article that the Jew "is charged with a disinclination patriotically to stand by the flag as a soldier - like the Christian Quaker." Years later when War Department figures revealed Jewish Americans were actually represented in the nation's military in a larger percentage than their share of the population, Twain issued a retraction and an apology, entitled "Postscript - the Jew as a Soldier".

To counter this libel, 63 Jewish Union veterans came together on March 15, 1896 at the Lexington Opera House in New York City to form the Hebrew Union Veterans Association. We trace our beginning to this meeting. They were primarily concerned with establishing in the public mind the service record of the American Jew. Their very existence as an organization of Jewish veterans

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One of my all-time heroes, Rep. Sam Johnson, passed away a few months ago (not related to the COVID-19 pandemic). I will always remember Colonel Johnson as a heroic Air Force pilot during Korea, a courageous prisoner of war during Vietnam, and for his statement, "I proudly stand with Israel." For sure, one of my heroes!

Johnson served 14 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, from 1991-2019. When he retired last year, Rep. Johnson was the oldest member of Congress and had served nearly 28 years. As a member of Congress, Johnson always showed strong support for the military.

Johnson was born in San Antonio, a proud Texan from the beginning. He graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he had joined in the Air Force ROTC. After graduating in 1951, he soon became involved in the fighting in Korea. During the Korean War, Johnson was a superb fighter pilot who flew 62 combat missions. Later, he joined the elite Air Force Thunderbirds aerobatic team. Only the very best pilots become one of the Thunderbirds.

In Vietnam, on April 16, 1966, Johnson was on his 25th mission over North Vietnam when his F-4 Phantom fighter-bomber was shot down. Badly injured, he was taken to the Hanoi Hoa Lo, called the Hanoi Hilton by U.S. prisoners. For more than seven years, he remained in prison under sub-human conditions, including 42 months in solitary confinement. It took two years before his wife and family found out he was still alive. During that time and to this day, I participate in events and activities of the National League of Families on be-



Congressman, Colonel Sam Johnson, USAF (Ret).

half of JWV. When participating, I often think of PNC Mike Berman, who is JWV's representative at the Vietnam Wall and one of our strongest advocates for the prisoners and the missing.

I first learned of Johnson and Navy pilots Everett Alvarez, George Day, Jeremiah Denton, and others through my involvement for JWV with the National League of Families and its phenomenal Executive Director Ann Mills Griffiths. Those men were all heroes before, during, and after their captivity.

During the last 18 months of his captivity,

Johnson shared a cell with John McCain, a Navy pilot shot down in 1967. When Johnson and the other POWs were released on February 12, 1973, he weighed only 120 pounds. His right hand was permanently disabled, and he walked with a limp for the rest of his life. During his outstanding military career, Colonel Johnson's military decorations included two Silver Stars, two awards of the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, and two Purple Hearts.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1979, Johnson settled in Plano, Texas, where he was elected to the state legislature in 1984. In 1991, he won his seat in the U.S. Congress. He served as a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee. He helped pass the Military Tax Relief Act of 2003, which reduced taxes and increased death benefits for the families of our military personnel. He gained political and moral authority from his experiences as a combat veteran of two wars and as a long-time prisoner subjected to extremely brutal treatment.

I dedicate this column to Congressman, Colonel Sam Johnson, USAF(Ret).



**COL Herb Rosenbleeth, USA (Ret)
National Executive Director**

Expansion for the Family Caregivers Program

By Raiana Berman, JWV National Service Officer

As of October 1, 2020, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) opened its eligibility to include World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans into its caregiver program. Previously, the program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) only paid family members and friends who provided care to those who were severely injured on or after September 11, 2001. The program's expansion includes veterans who served on or before May 7, 1975 and have a single or combined service-connected disability rating of 70 percent or higher.

As part of the assessment, the VA will examine the level of activity veterans can do themselves each day, taking into account whether they can dress themselves, bathe, groom themselves, adjust a prosthetic or orthotic device on their own, go to the bathroom without assistance, feed themselves, or need help moving around their homes. Monthly payments are set by a federal rate assigned by the VA based on the severity of an illness and how much it decreases a veteran's overall health and ability to function.

Primary and secondary family caregivers who are eligible under the program's expansion can receive many new benefits, including:

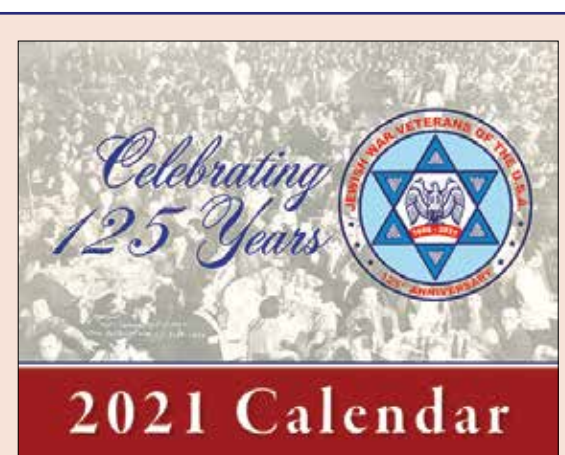
- Caregiver education and training
- Mental health counseling

- Travel, lodging, and financial assistance when traveling with the Veteran to receive care
- A monthly stipend
- Access to health care benefits through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)
- At least 30 days per year of respite care for the Veteran

The Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act, which was signed into law in June 2018, prompted the benefit's expansion. Under the Mission Act, the program will undergo another expansion on Oct. 1, 2022, to include combat veterans who served between May 7, 1975 and September 11, 2001.

You can start the application process and determine eligibility online at <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10CG.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at rberman@jwv.org, or call (202) 265-6280.



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.

Stay in touch with JWV!



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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GULF WAR COMMITTEE REPORT

By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman

The Gulf War Committee is working well as a growing cohesive group with creativity and follow up actions. We were very pleased to host Marketing Committee Chairman Howard Goldstein this quarter with a specialized presentation from the recent national survey.

This being the 30-year anniversary of Desert Shield/Desert Storm there are a couple of plans in the works, one of which being GWC member Steven Fixler spearheading an inclusive Gulf War history project with the museum. Interspersed within the history of the conflict will be our members' experiences, so we are putting the call out now for JWV members with time in service during the Gulf War timeframe, to please email the committee at JWVGWC@gmail.com. While this project may be expanded upon at a later date, we would appreciate your story as soon as possible. We are also working to arrange a guest speaker with Gulf War ties for the virtual NEC meeting at the end of January.

The GWC is currently meeting the first Wednesday of each month and working on the creation of sub-committees and other goals. We have solidified an updated mission statement and are continuing to explore development of a virtual community for networking and information distribution. As many of our needs, wants, and desires are in sync with the Post 9/11 Committee, we are discussing how our committees can work and do activities together. We encourage you to join us, especially if you served during the Gulf War era, by sending us an email introducing yourself to JWVGWC@gmail.com.

NATIONAL MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

The National Marketing Committee continues to meet every two weeks via Zoom.

Since our last report, the member and former member research study has been completed. Results were presented at the NEC meeting and

subsequently to several other committees. A full written report and all details of the study have been shared with National staff, the leadership team, committee chairs, and Department Commanders who have asked for the results. If anyone is interested in having a presentation made to their committee, Department, or Post, please let me know at howard@jwvpost54.org. Implementation of some of the recommendations has taken place and data coming from the study is being used elsewhere.

The development of the Resource Center continues to be a work in process. The committee has agreed to have a password protected, member only section on the JWV website. We have created an input form, and some materials are already coming into the center. We are currently finalizing the best method to search for materials.

Our current focus is now on designing the best methods to increase awareness of JWV. After much discussion we have started looking into the feasibility of advertising and the creation of templates for brochures and other externally focused materials. A proposed advertising plan is under review. Tied closely to this effort is the fourth area of emphasis, target marketing. Where possible, we plan to tailor our communications activities to reach our targeted audiences such as current members, active duty personnel, veterans who are newly retired or nearing retirement, and other target markets.

In addition to the above, we are working with the Membership Committee to design an updated membership application, supporting the development of an updated renewal letter, and creating a tri-fold brochure.

If you have ideas on how to best use the research findings, have materials to fill the Resource Center, or suggestions on how to best reach our intended audiences, please feel free to contact me.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Bob Jacobs

It's been three months since our virtual meeting and even longer since we have been together. Several of you have been working with me on

committee projects and progress has been made.

As most of you know, the long-running literary project, as PNC Barry Schneider lovingly called it, was completed over the summer. We planned to present 200 copies of the disc with mailing envelopes to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History at the national convention. As we know, that meeting went virtual, and NEC will be as well. I am optimistic that we can present the project to the museum in New Orleans next summer. We have not yet decided on a price for the discs. There is the possibility of having a hard copy printed and sold by Amazon. Once the copyright is complete, Jerry Alperstein and I are planning to enter the project in a number of military and Jewish book contests.

Now, on to the proposed Vietnam exhibit at the NMAJMH. I recently took part in a Zoom conference with the top leadership of both JWV and the NMAJMH to present my ideas for the exhibit. I presented plans that were developed by myself, Jerry Alperstein, and PNC Harvey Weiner. Pam Elbe and Mike Rugel gave us additional parameters for the exhibit after the meeting and sent me information about past exhibits to help move our project along. They also told us about certain financial responsibilities we would have regarding the exhibit that were previously unknown. While we have received many generous donations for the exhibit from JWV, we cannot keep going to the same well too many times. Mike Rugel volunteered to use the museum's expanded e-mail list to solicit donations from outside our organization. Additionally, NC Jeff Sacks will be sending letters to two major computer companies to secure donations of two computers we will use as part of the exhibit. PNC Weiner and I have items from our Vietnam service that will be used in the exhibit. Look around your house, you may have something that we can use as well.

So, as you can see, the Covid-19 pandemic has not slowed down our efforts and we hope to be putting it all together soon.

Anti-Semitism Did Not End with the Second World War

By Colonel Nelson L Mellitz, USAF, Ret.

In their 2020 annual report, the Anti-Defamation League found that the "American Jewish Community experienced the highest level of anti-Semitic incidents last year (2019) since tracking began in 1979." There were more than 2,100 acts of assault, vandalism, and harassment reported across the United States. This record number of incidents comes as we continue to grapple with attacks against Jewish people in Poway, Jersey City, Monsey, and Brooklyn.

According to the American Jewish Committee (AJC) "State of Antisemitism in America" report from October 26, 2020, there is deep anxiety among American Jews and a disturbing lack of awareness among the general public about the severity of anti-Semitism in the United States. The AJC survey found that 88% of American Jewish

men and women say anti-Semitism remains a problem, yet 21% of the American public says they have never heard the term anti-Semitism.

The reports are clear that it is not only a case of anti-Semitism getting worse on the political right or left, but the majority of Jews and Americans believe that anti-Semitism is growing both in the Republican Party and Democratic Party. In addition, nearly half of American Jewish men and women feel the extremists in both political parties pose a very serious anti-Semitic threat.

We, as members of the Jewish War Veterans, have an urgent responsibility to do everything we can to overcome the scourge of anti-Semitism that is growing and spreading. JWV members in all echelons must be leaders in educating the public that anti-Semitism is here and growing, explain why anti-Semitism harms not just the Jewish

people but all Americans, and identify where anti-Semitism is taking place and steps to stop it.

Jewish Civil War veterans created our organization to fight the anti-Semitic lie that Jews did not fight during the Civil War. For 125 years we have remained the leading voice of Jewish military members and veterans fighting anti-Semitism in the United States. As an organization we must raise our collective voice louder, and tell both our Jewish and non-Jewish friends and family that anti-Semitism did not die at the end of World War II, and that the Jewish War Veterans will increase its community leadership in identifying and fighting anti-Semitism in the United States. United as a Jewish family, we will secure a brighter and more hopeful future for the Jewish people by not accepting the hatred known as anti-Semitism.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

On behalf of the JWV Membership Committee I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and healthy New Year.

Since the last edition of “The Jewish Veteran,” a JWV Membership Sub-Committee along with the JWV Fulltime Support Force (FTSF) has worked diligently to improve the JWV Alpha Roster process. From data collection to the distribution process, 2021 will bring improvements.

The request for process improvement came from several of our JWV Post Commanders and their staff. Several members raised questions about the Alpha Roster ranging from the importance, the distribution process, the maintenance of data, and how the data is used.

Importance and data usage:

The JWV Alpha Roster is second only to your JWV Charter and is considered the most important membership document in your possession. The Alpha Roster gives JWV National an actual account by Department, by Post, and by name, of the members who belong to the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. The total number of JWV members plays a critical role when testifying before the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committees. The Alpha Roster also determines your voting strength. The more members in your echelon, the greater voting strength that your echelon represents. Your post per capita tax and the liability insurance is calculated based on the membership count on your Post Alpha Roster. This is where we need your help. The data posted to the JWV Alpha Roster is only as good as what is provided. It is the Commander’s responsibility to ensure that the information on the Alpha

Roster is accurate and timely. In 2021, the JWV Membership Committee along with the JWV FTSF will be conducting a pilot program. We will ask each Department Commander to select a single post within their Department and together, we will scrub the Alpha Roster and bring it up to 100% accuracy. This process will continue throughout the year. Once again, to achieve 100% accuracy, the data provided must be accurate.

Distribution:

Currently the JWV Alpha Roster is distributed twice a year. Starting in 2021, the Alpha Roster will be distributed quarterly. The increase in distribution will give all echelon commanders a better picture of their membership. All echelons will receive the JWV Alpha Roster in a PDF format. If an echelon commander would like to have their PDF format converted to an Excel format, this can be accomplished on a case-by-case basis by directing your request to JWV Membership Coordinator, Harrison Heller. An Excel conversion will allow all echelon commanders the flexibility to sort and organize the data based on the specific needs of their organization. However, changes to your Excel format will not automatically be transposed to your PDF format.

Maintenance:

During each echelon change of command, it is the responsibility of the incoming commander to submit an updated Echelon Installation Form to the JWV National Membership Coordinator. The Installation Form will identify who within the echelon is authorized by the commander to receive the JWV Alpha Roster.

In order to achieve accuracy, updating your Alpha Roster is an ongoing process. When posting changes to the Alpha Roster, please submit them to both the JWV Membership Coordinator and your Department

Adjutant or Quartermaster. Once you receive the next quarterly Alpha Roster, please verify that all your requested changes are properly posted. Do not assume that all your requested changes to your Alpha Roster are correctly posted.

As stated in the past, the best analogy of the JWV Alpha Roster is your personal bank statement. The data you provide from one statement to the next must be reconciled and balanced. Information provided on the Alpha Roster should be treated with accuracy and sensitivity. As leaders we owe it to our members to respect the privacy of our membership.

Since the start of the pandemic all echelon commanders were asked to maintain contact with their members. Direct contact can help reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation. At the same time, take this opportunity to verify the accuracy of their information on the Alpha Roster.

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



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

Remarks in Honor of a Veterans Shabbat

Captain Aaron Brumbaugh is a member of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Michigan and of Charles Shapiro-MG Maurice Rose Post 510. He is a decorated U.S. Army Infantry Officer with two combat tours in Afghanistan. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 2010 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and recipient of the George C. Marshall Leadership Award. He expects to complete his professional degree work at Wayne State University in December. He presented the following remarks at Congregation Shaarey Zedek’s annual Veterans Shabbat on November 7, which this year commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

I am a former Captain in the United States Army. I deployed as an Infantry Platoon Leader on two deployments during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with the “Blue Spaders,” the 1st Battalion of the 26th Infantry Regiment.

So, what is the significance of that affiliation?

In World War I, the “Blue Spaders” fought across France, winning more campaign streamers than any other unit in that war.

In World War II we were part of Operation Torch, assaulting and ultimately taking North Africa before crossing the Mediterranean and participating in the taking of Sicily during Operation Husky.



Captain Aaron Brumbaugh

When it was time for the Allies to storm the Beaches of Normandy, the “Blue Spaders” were there as well, in the very first wave of the assault. They fought on from there, laying siege to the German city of Aachen, taking part in the Battle of the Bulge, and fighting into Czechoslovakia before the end of the war, earning the unit motto “Relentless Pursuit.”

We were there in Vietnam, and in the Balkan Wars deploying to Bosnia, Macedonia, and

Kosovo. We were in Iraq in Samarra in the Sunni Triangle, and then in Baghdad, and then deployed multiple times to Afghanistan including the now infamous Korengal Valley, some of the hottest fighting of the Afghan war.

And on another note, according to Marvel Comics, Captain America himself was originally a “Blue Spader.” If you don’t believe me, feel free to Google it.

So why am I telling you all this? And why use the term “we” when, as some of you may already suspect, I was not personally at any of these battles of World War II?

Well, in the U.S. military and particularly in the U.S. Army, we understand the importance of our history. The institutions of today’s military were created and shaped by the heroes of the World Wars and the conflicts since then. We feel the echoes of their contribution through everything we do, every tradition, and every lesson learned through hard warfare. We train in tactics and procedures that were formed in the time of the World War. At times, we are even quartered for training in facilities that don’t appear to have been updated since World War II. But all this connects us to our units’ lineages and lets us feel the weight of trying to fill the footsteps of giants who came before us. All Jews are commanded to re-

Continued on page 16

Member: Matthew Weinburke

Post: JWV Post 692 (Rockville, MD)

Military Service: U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Army

Member Since: 2017

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

I served in the U.S. Navy between 1986 and 1997 at National Hospital in San Diego, California, NAS Moffett Field, NAS Alameda, CA and on the USS Carl Vinson. I served in the U.S. Army in the National Guard, Reserves, and on active duty between 1997 and 2009, and worked for the U.S. Public Health Service from 1999 to 2020.

2. Why did you join the military?

I joined the uniformed services initially because I wanted to serve my country. I also needed structure and a sense of purpose in my life. Back in 1986, I was living and working in London, England. After some thought, I decided I wanted to return to the U.S. and serve in the military, so I enlisted the U.S. Navy while I was in London at the U.S. Embassy.

Before living in England, I was in Israel. I lived on a Moshav in Israel called Moshav Tsofar and learned Hebrew while working and studying Hebrew on the Kibbutz, Mishmar HaNegev. Before going to Israel, I had completed two years of university and then dropped out of college to travel and go to Israel. I traveled outside of the U.S. for two years before moving to London. That's where both my parents were born, and we lived there when I was a kid.

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

My Jewish faith definitely impacted my time in the service. While I was in the U.S. Navy, I served as a Jewish Lay Leader aboard the USS Carl Vinson from July of 1993 to January of 1997. During my time in the U.S. Army (Active/Reserves/Guard), I attended religious services and served as an informal Jewish Lay Leader. During my time in the U.S. Public Health Service from March 2009 to May 2020 I served as an informal Jewish Lay Leader. I led a Passover service during my deployment to Liberia in April of 2015.



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

Yes. Most of the anti-Semitism I experienced involved remarks or comments, and what we would call micro aggression. Since I was outspoken about my Jewish identity and religious identity I was exposed more to anti-Semitic comments. However, I also received praise and people would come up to me and ask me about being Jewish. I also experienced a U.S. military and uniformed service that was and is Christian-centric. As a Jew and a member of a minority religion, I feel we struggle to make sure the Christian-centric U.S. Military and uniformed service doesn't over influence our lives and practices. Whenever, Christmas would come around it was always a struggle to make sure those



that celebrated the holiday didn't dominate the conversation and the focus. When I was in Liberia, I conducted Jewish services. The Christians who led the services would tell me what they knew about Judaism even though they didn't ask me why I am waiting for the messiah when he has already come. This type of conversation was not just typical in the Public Health Service but with practicing Christians in the Army and Navy. I don't think these types of experiences are anti-Semitic, but they are biased and culturally insensitive.

5. Why did you join JWV?

I didn't know about JWV before 2017. I found out about it from Anna Selman while stationed at the USPHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. I was attending a Jewish Learning class at the local Jewish Community Center. After that, I went to a picnic for the local JWV post. When Selman then asked me to speak to children from a local Jewish school at the National Museum of Jewish American Military History, I was hooked.

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

My goal is to be actively involved. I am currently the Chairman of the JWV Post-9/11 committee and an active member of the Rockville, Maryland post. I want to encourage, engage, and bring in more Jews into JWV; including Jews from all the uniformed services including the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) and United States Public Health Service (USPHS).

7. What is your favorite Jewish food?

Falafel. I love falafel. However, I grew up eating fresh bagels, fresh cream cheese, lox, and Kosher pickles. That is Jewish soul food!!!

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Brenner, David - Post 77
Hoffman, Barry D. - Post 99
Hunt, Aiden - Post 77
Polchinski, Jason E. - Post 77
Stussman, Howard - Post 100
Vinogradov, Brian A. - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Miller, Lawrence - Post 118
Naughton, Gunnar I. - Post 760
Wiener, Bruce A. - Post 138

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Feinland, Ray - Post 142
Guttman, Edward I. - Post 142

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Silberman, Allen - Post 525

DEPARTMENT OF DC

Kleinman, Jessica N. - Post 589

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Miller, Robert L. - Post 352
Montag, Barry M. - Post 243

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Aplebaum, Barton - Post 29
Grossman, Yaakov - Post 800
Nussbaum, Henry - Post 800

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

McHugh, Thomas A. - Post 644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Rirkin, Alan M. - Post 167

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Cooperman, Mark - Post 474
Hechler, Mark J. - Post 474
Israel, Nicholas - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Lewicki-Long, Ann - Post 354
Salter, Earl - Post 354
Ward, Dick - Post 162

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Fishman, Howard A. - Post 2
Futterman, Josef - Post 786
Shilling, Henry - Post 425

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Rubin, Cynthia-Baihlah - Post 757
Schwed, Henry A. - Post 256
Sendejas, Eric - Post 757
Wander, Gabriel - Post 757

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Bernstein, Corey - Post 158
Rubinfeld, Michaela P. - Post 299
Weinstein, Samuel - Post 765

Display your JWV Membership Proudly!

The JWV supply store isn't just for pins and poppies! You can also purchase JWV branded badges, caps and jackets!

**Shirts,
baseball caps
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and Flags!**



Pins!



Poppies!

Visit the online store at the JWV website or contact Pat Ennis at 703-753-3733 or by email: pat@asb-va.com

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Continued from page 3



Earliest known group photograph of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association.

was a living rebuttal of the libel.

I know exactly where I was on the morning of September 11, 2001 when the American Airlines Boeing 767 hit the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. I had just dropped off my son at his school and heard about it on the radio. I hurried home to catch more of the news on television just in time to watch the second Boeing 767 strike the south tower. Less than an hour later another American Airlines plane hit



**9/11 Memorial in New York City
(Courtesy: Jeff Sacks)**

the west side of the Pentagon. Soon thereafter, I received a call to report to work early for my job as Sergeant of Police for the Chicago Police Department. I still remember being dispatched for the report of a suspicious aircraft flying overhead after all planes were grounded. A total of 2,996 people lost their lives on 9/11, and for a short time we were a unified nation and all the homes and businesses in my neighborhood were proudly displaying the flag.

On March 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of an unidentified American Soldier from World War I in the plaza of Arlington National Cemetery's new Memorial Amphitheater. The military selected an unknown soldier in France and transported his body to the U.S. on the Navy cruiser USS Olympia. The soldier's body arrived on November 9, 1921 and lay in state at the Capitol Rotunda. On Armistice Day, November 11, 1921, representatives of the Army, Navy, and Marines transported the casket to a caisson for a large ceremonial procession to Arlington National Cemetery. President Warren Harding officiated at a ceremony attended by 5,000 people and placed a Medal of Honor on the casket. The casket was lowered into the crypt and a battery of cannon rendered a 21-gun salute. In the years that followed the tomb became a tour-

ist destination. In 1926, Congress established a military guard to protect the tomb during daylight hours. In 1937, the guard duty switched to protect the tomb non-stop. The Old Guard of the U.S. Army, the 3rd Infantry, assumed these duties in 1948 and maintain a constant vigil no matter the weather. In 1958, unknown soldiers from WWII and Korea were interred beside their WWI comrade on Memorial Day. An unknown soldier from the Vietnam War was interred on Memorial Day in 1984, but DNA testing identified the remains almost 14 years later as U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Blassie who was shot down and killed in 1972. Acting on the wishes of the family, Blassie was reinterred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, MO. We all hope COVID-19 will be under control by the fall of 2021 as JWV will be hosting the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day 2021 recognizing our 125 years as an organization and the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Burial of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 1921 (Courtesy: U.S. Army)

JWV Disaster Relief Makes A Difference

Continued from page 1

And then a soldier's nightmare became reality. We were flanked by a wall of flames which was in effect, friendly fire, and the fire was racing through the crowns of the trees moving very fast.

I quickly gathered my dogs, computer, and firearms. I loaded my truck and practically drove through flames to a neighbor's place to offer some assistance. I spent a few minutes there helping load up. As we drove down the mountain with the flames in hot pursuit, we were lucky not to have the road blocked by falling trees or power lines.

When disaster hits quickly, government agencies are ill equipped or prepared for an immediate response. In the first few hours neighbors were helping neighbors in our makeshift encampment in a large parking lot in town.

Churches, rescue missions, and the Salvation Army were the first to respond with water, food, gasoline cards, and clothing.

Eventually, government agencies set up a resource center for the victims to use. Most of the agencies were there, but getting that assistance can be a long and time consuming process.

In many cases it can take weeks because housing and hotel rooms are hard to find. The

current coronavirus pandemic also made for an extra challenge in this situation.

There exists a huge void in the assistance process. How does a victim get needed help in the space between the major aid providers and the immediate need?

I learned that one of the greatest resources available is from Veteran Service Organizations. When the Jewish War Veterans became aware of my dilemma, they were the first to respond and provide aid.

JWV has a dedicated Disaster Relief Program. They immediately approved my request for assistance and provided me with much needed funding for immediate needs. I am so grateful for the generosity and commitment my VSO has demonstrated.

My local Post 603 was also instrumental in providing aid. The members of the Post created a special fund, and I cannot begin to express how much it helped.

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the Jewish War Veterans at all levels, my tragedy has been significantly mitigated. I am forever appreciative to my comrades in arms for their unwavering support and actions to facilitate my challenges

during these trying conditions.

When spring comes in a few months, thanks to JWV, I am prepared to go back to the mountain and rebuild.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to be associated with the greatest Veterans Service Organization in the nation, the Jewish War Veterans.



As I write this editorial, we still do not know the official outcome of the Presidential election. By the time you read this we should. We do know, that based on the number of votes cast, the country is about equally divided between the two candidates. And so is the JWV.

When the count is official and all the challenges and recounts are done, half of us will be happy and half will not. But that is OK. I hope all of you voted. What is important for all of us in the JWV to remember is that we are a veteran service organization and not a political organization. We all have our opinions, and it is okay to express them and discuss them with family, friends, and at local establishments - but not at JWV meetings and in JWV publications.

Our bylaws require us, for good reason, to be politically neutral. Every year we go to Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle. We go there to ask for their support for legislation involving veterans. If we publicly take sides, we will alienate half of the legislators we seek support from. Additionally, we run the risk of alienating half of our membership.

In the past there were opinions published in the name of JWV which many felt were political

in nature and did not speak for the membership. A number of members threatened to quit because of this. I asked those who contacted me to take a deep breath, and not make any rash decisions. I have asked the National Commander to reinforce this neutral position and I am pleased that he agreed.

The JWV was founded to dispel rumors that Jews did not serve their country. The truth is we served in significant numbers even before we were a country. We unfortunately continue to dispel those rumors to this day, and we must continue to fight anti-Semitism that still exists in our country. We also exist to help fellow veterans and our community members, regardless of religion.

Many of our members also belong to other veteran service organizations, me included. But there is something significant about JWV – most of the members of these other organizations cannot belong to JWV. We are both a veteran and religious organization.

We all took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. This same Constitution gives us the right to our opinion, the right to vote for the candidate of our choice, and the right to speak our opinion. But as I previously stated, we need to be selective where and how we express our opinions.

One thing we cannot do is run the risk of losing members because of political differences. We can have our differences, but we need to keep them out of the JWV.

When all the counting and challenges are over, we need to unite under whichever candidate prevails. Regardless of party. We don't have to like it, but we need to accept the results and pull together for the common good. We cannot have a country divided.

May the best candidate win and take this great country forward to bigger and better things. May the JWV continue to grow as not only the oldest but the greatest veteran's organization in the country!



Larry Jasper, National Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Thank you for writing [your] column in Volume 74 of "The Jewish Veteran." I found your comments to be like a breath of fresh air. The common-sense comments you made about the JWV's detour into politics were long overdue. Your observations of Antifa and Black Lives Matter are spot-on. Likewise, your decision to present some basic facts about the naming of military bases for Confederate officers is commendable and an overdue recognition that yes, we veterans can make our own decisions.

For reasons not entirely clear to me the JWV has, over the last several years, often taken positions with which I strongly disagreed, regarding veterans issues, supporting our military, foreign policy and the like. I've found many of these positions to be so disagreeable that I've allowed my membership to lapse, as I no longer wanted to be associated with a group which supported positions which, in my opinion, weakened our military, served somebody's political agenda, or struck me as fundamentally un-American. Nonetheless, we need an organization like the JWV and I hope you can bring it back from the brink. Please keep up your good work.

Sincerely,
Andy Goldin

Dear Editor,

I read your excellent story about Dr. Mel Lederman by Harvey Weiner in the current issue of "The Jewish Veteran." There is one error. He writes that Mel was the only U.S. Navy doctor killed in Vietnam. Not correct. My friend, Lt. Bruce Charles Farrell, died on October 8, 1963. He was a Navy Flight Surgeon assigned to the Marines at Da Nang. He was the medical commander on a

mission to locate and possibly, rescue a crew lost the previous day. Both rescue choppers were shot down and we lost 12 men. It was the largest loss of life in the Vietnam War to that point. Farrell is on the 30th line of the first Panel of The Wall. He is buried at Arlington.

Leonard Kirschner MD, MPH
Colonel USAF (Retired)

Dear Editor

I am writing in response to your column in Volume 74 Number 3. I would like to take this opportunity to challenge some of the assertions made in that article.

In the article, you stated that the JWV taking a position on the renaming of bases named after Confederate officers was a partisan political move which the JWV should avoid. I fail to see how this is the case. This is not a Republican or Democratic issue. In fact, both houses of Congress, one controlled by Democrats and one by Republicans have passed bills mandating this, and both bills have strong bipartisan support. The recognition that bases named after officers who betrayed their country and violated their oaths (Rucker didn't violate his oath as he was never in the U.S. Army) is a historic error that should be corrected, and is not owned by either party.

The article also contains something that is a grave historic inaccuracy and in fact does a great disservice to the 180,000 Black soldiers who fought for their freedom in the Union Army. You stated, "We fought over our differences and we all came back together." That just isn't what happened. Slavery did end when the 13th Amendment was passed and the Confederacy was defeated, though forms of slavery through convict leasing continued up until the 1940s, and Reconstruction

began in an effort to establish black Americans as full citizens. Some gains were initially made. Blacks were even elected to the House and Senate but white Southerners resisted with a campaign of terror, often led by former soldiers and officers of the Confederacy, in an effort to preserve white supremacy despite the loss of the war. This terror campaign was successful and the Compromise of 1877 which made Rutherford B. Hayes president, ended Reconstruction. In addition to the 13th Amendment, the United States ratified the 14th Amendment guaranteeing the right to due process of law and the 15th Amendment guaranteeing the right to vote. It would be another century before these rights, which Union soldiers had fought and died for by the hundreds of thousands, would mean anything for the country's black citizens. It might be said that whites from the North and whites from the South buried the hatchet, but they buried it in the back of Black Americans.

I agree that it is indeed "vital that we preserve our culture, heritage, and history if we as a nation are to endure." Ask my kids about my trips dragging them to Civil War battlefields or to the National Archives to see the actual Emancipation Proclamation in Lincoln's own hand. All Americans should read more, study more, learn more about our nation's amazing history, both the good and the bad. This is why we have archives and museums; we write books and make films and preserve historic sites so that we might pass on this knowledge to future generations. They should know where they came from.

But naming bases, or streets, or erecting statues serves a different purpose. We do this to honor men and women worthy of admiration. We do this to say that this person is worthy of respect, that they did

Continued on page 17

His advice for younger people? “I don’t think we have to fear. The answer is to stay away from crowds and wear the mask.”

“I’m not scared”

World War II veteran Harold Levine, 97, lives in an assisted-living facility in Wellington, Fla., with his wife Sylvia. Trained as a Navy radio operator, he was stationed at Pearl Harbor and on a ship in the South Pacific, where he was a radioman 1st class, communicating with ships in the Pacific theater. He remembers making a bad cup of coffee for a young John F. Kennedy when he and the future president were stationed together in the same naval company in Miami.

Levine, who has four children, nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, celebrated his 78th wedding anniversary with family before the pandemic hit.

Regarding the pandemic, Levine says that he and Sylvia are quarantined in their apartment. He knows how to take “each day one at a time” because he’s “been married for 79 years!”

Judah Samet, 82, who was recently profiled by JNS as a survivor of the Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha Synagogue mass shooting on Oct. 27, 2018, is a former IDF paratrooper. Also a Holocaust survivor, Samet, who is widowed and lives independently, says he’s coping with the pandemic by mostly staying in, although occasionally he goes out to lunch with a friend.

Because his housekeeper comes once a week, he could theoretically be exposed to the virus, but he doesn’t worry about it.

“Maybe my background as a soldier helps me,” he said. “I’m not scared.” He misses going to synagogue, but deals with it by reading, talking on the phone with his daughter and attending Zoom synagogue services.

“I’ve seen many tomorrows, and I’m not concerned”

David Hymes, 103, of Chicago, a retired public accountant and former national commander of the Jewish War Veterans, is a veteran of World War II who lives independently.

A lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Hymes was in charge of postal finance for the European Theater of Occupation. He was shot in the arm by a German sniper.

“I got to France five or six days after

the invasion of Normandy,” he recalled this week in a phone interview. “I was hit by German fire, but it wasn’t my time to die. ... The bullet hit my left bicep. If it had been a few inches away, you’d be talking to a ghost.”

Hymes was widowed in his early 80s and retired at age 90.

“I didn’t want to be the richest man in the cemetery,” he quips.

He reads two newspapers a day (The Chicago Tribune and The Wall Street Journal), drives the short distance to the grocery store where he does his own shopping, and talks on the phone daily with at least one family member—either a child (he has two daughters) or one of his four grandchildren (with two great-grandchildren on the way). “It is a wellness call to make sure their grandfather is still alive,” he says. “The body gets tired, but I’m happy my mind is still functioning as well as ever.”

As far as the pandemic goes, Hymes isn’t worried.

“I’ve seen many tomorrows, and I’m not concerned,” he said. “At 103, the world won’t miss me. My children and grandchildren might miss me. I will die one of these days. I hope for one thing. I want to die in my own bed. Not in a hospital.”

He fondly remembers traveling with his wife, including to Europe and Hawaii when he was national commander of Jewish War Veterans. He continues to be active with the organization, al-



David Hymes at a Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony in 2015

though they “can’t meet in person because of the pandemic.” Hymes serves on the board of directors of his building and says that when his term ends, he “won’t run for re-election.”

He adds that his “old geezer” advice would be: “Live right, eat a balanced diet, try to help, keep up with current events,” and above all, “do not hide.”

Postscript: Sam Nilva, a veteran of the Navy



Samuel Nilva on his 101st birthday (Courtesy of April Eilers, Minneapolis VA Health Care System)

and the Army Air Corps (which became the Air Force) and former Commander of Jewish War Veterans for Minnesota, died of old age at 101 just weeks after winning his battle with the coronavirus last April.

“Sam beat COVID, and two weeks afterwards, he departed us,” says Peter Nickitas of the JWV.

Known for his courage, he wanted it remembered that he “beat the plague,” adds Nickitas. “He was sharp until the very end, and when they discharged him from the VA medical center in Minneapolis, he was still flirting with the nurses.”

A story about Nilva his peers like to tell: At a national convention of the Jewish War Veterans in 1971 that took place at the Leamington Hotel in Minneapolis, the speaker was Hubert Humphrey, former vice president to U.S. President Lyndon Johnson. Someone handed a note to Humphrey, and he told the men that “someone just phoned in a bomb threat.”

There was a moment of uncertainty, recalls Nickitas, then Sam stood up, told everyone to stay put and said, “We’re gonna keep listening.”

Reprinted with permission from www.JNS.org.

Post 41 Commander Visits the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at Syracuse University

by Gary Ginsburg

Syracuse University has supported America’s veterans for more than 100 years. It started with military training conducted on campus for 1,000 men in 1918 during World War I. During the 1940s, Syracuse University President and Chancellor William Tolley provided critical input to create the original GI Bill legislation, which provided enormous educational opportunities for returning veterans following World War II. More recently, during his inaugural address to the university community in 2014, the current university president and chancellor Kent Syverud stated, “I believe Syracuse University must once again become the best place for Veterans. We have the capacity; we have the opportunity to be the best in the world at providing

opportunity and empowerment to the veterans of our armed forces and their families.”

In 2020, the “Military Times” ranked Syracuse University number one among privately endowed universities in the country for its support of veterans and fifth among all institutions of higher education including public or state sponsored colleges. One of the reasons Syracuse University is known as a veteran-friendly or veteran-centric school is the National Veterans Resource Center which opened several months ago. The ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for April 2020 will now take place in May of 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Syracuse University has about 1,100 military-connected students out of a total student population of 21,000. These students fall into five groups, in-



National Veterans Resource Center at Syracuse University

cluding active-duty military personnel, U.S. Army

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Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. National Executive Committee Meeting

January 28-29, 2021 • Via WebEx



All registered participants will be provided with instructions for using WebEx and meeting access information closer to the first meeting date.

The semi-annual meeting of the National Executive Committee will be virtual this year. We will gather online to conduct business and to participate in national committee meetings.

All JWV members are welcome to attend the NEC and all committee meetings, but only members of the committees are eligible to vote. You must be registered in order to participate. You may register online at www.jwv.org or you can fill out the form below and send it along with your payment to the address below.

JWV Member Name: _____

Post Name and #: _____

Address: _____

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

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Registration fee: \$18.00 I am paying by: ☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Card No. _____ **Exp.** _____ / _____

Signature _____

Sign and mail this completed form, along with your payment to:



Jewish War Veterans
Attn: NEC
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

We look forward to seeing you!

Schedule • subject to change

Thursday 1/28

11:00am - Noon..... Marketing Committee Meeting
11:00 - 11:30am..... Budget Committee Meeting
11:00 - 11:30am..... Convention Committee Meeting
11:30 - Noon..... Personnel Committee Meeting
11:30 - Noon..... Finance Board Meeting
Noon - 1:00pm Gulf War Veterans Committee Meeting
Noon - 1:00pm Post 9/11 Committee Meeting

1:00 - 2:00pm Women in the Military Committee Meeting
1:00 - 2:00pm Vietnam Veterans Committee Meeting
2:00 - 3:30pm Membership Committee Meeting
3:30 - 4:30pm Department Commanders Meeting
4:30 - 6:00pm Policy Committee Meeting

Friday 1/29

11:00am - 1:00pm NEC Meeting
2:00 - 4:00pm NMAJMH Board of Directors Meeting

Honoring Jewish Veterans

By Deborah L. Coltin

“Having the younger generation interact with the older generation is the best way to learn and preserve history,” said Kim Dietel. Dietel’s daughter Ariel was one of six student panelists at a community program honoring Jewish Veterans on Veterans Day. The program was organized by Temple Tiferet Shalom of Peabody, MA and Lappin Foundation of Salem, MA.

One of the assignments of the Foundation’s Inspirational Jewish Leadership Seminar for Young Adults was to interview a Jewish veteran to learn how being a veteran is a special form of leadership. The collection of interviews and pictures of veterans is posted on the Foundation’s website (LappinFoundation.org), and serves as a resource for the community.

The idea to interview veterans was inspired by the Foundation’s founder Robert Israel Lappin (1922-2020), a proud Navy veteran who served during WWII and saw action in the Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Lappin credits his military experience for instilling a sense of responsibility and leadership in him.

Eric Adelman, retired Captain of the U.S. Army Reserves Medical Corps and member of Temple Tiferet Shalom, suggested the idea for the program to Lappin Foundation. The temple and the Foundation worked together to assemble an intergenerational panel of veterans and young adults who interviewed them. The result was a deeply meaningful and moving Veterans Day program for the community. “Our entire family gathered to watch, and it gave me a chance to talk to our kids about their grandfather, who was a Captain in the U.S. army in World War II,” said Stuart Saginor.

The program was a huge success. More than 100 people of all ages attended the virtual program to hear veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq share what Veterans Day means to them. Jeffrey Blonder, Commander of the Department of Massachusetts Jewish War Veterans, told the group that for him being a veteran means he was the guardian of all the freedoms we enjoy as an American.

Retired Lt. Col. Army Social Work Officer Jack Romo found it inspiring to hear fellow veter-

ans discuss what it meant to them to have served their country. “Their sense of service to our country, the sacrifice(s) that they and their comrades made, particularly those veterans who were in a combat zone, and the pride they felt in being on active duty and a veteran was something I shared myself and appreciated,” Romo said.

Perhaps most inspiring was hearing from young people about lessons they learned from interviewing veterans. Ariel Greenberg learned from Harvey Weiner, National JWV Commander, that leadership comes from those who make mistakes, risk their lives and train. “Those who put themselves in risky situations are leaders because they are stepping in front of their fears and rising up.”

For more information about replicating this program in other communities or for contributing an interview of a veteran to the Foundation’s online exhibit, contact Deborah Coltin, Executive Director, at 978-740-4428 or email dcoltin@lappinfoundation.org. Lappin Foundation, whose mission is enhancing Jewish identity across generations, is headquartered in Salem, Massachusetts.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Veterans Day, November 11, began as a perfect fall morning. A light breeze unfurled the stars and stripes just above the Texas and Israeli flags on the three flagpoles at the Jewish Community Center in Austin, Texas.

The Color Guard, Commander, Chaplain, and guests of **Post 757** gathered in person for the first time, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Color Guard was anchored by announcer Mike London, Bugler Gregg Philipson, Flag Holders/Raisers Alana Pompa and Bob Kaplan, and Rifleman Chuck Mandlebaum. Rabbi Dan Millner delivered the blessing, and Commander Charlie Rosenblum offered the closing remarks.

It was heart-warming to see a class of very young children of the Austin Jewish Academy, all sitting quietly, taking it all in behind their masks.

Commander Rosenblum thanked all those attending, including the JCC team who helped to make the event happen.



Six members of **Post 41 of Rochester, New York** attended a Veterans Day ceremony in the town of Brighton. From Left: Stuart Blume, Gary Ginsburg, Morrey Goldman, Louis Babin, Saul Rasnick, and Larry Schulman. They are pictured with Brighton Town Supervisor William Moehle.



In order to comply with the new normal under COVID-19 and still hold their traditional encampment, 19 members attended the **Department of Massachusetts' 90th Annual Encampment** as a virtual event on September 27.



Post 603 Patron Roz Benjamin coordinates a food drive with her post, the Sova Jewish Food Bank of Los Angeles, and the community. Contributions are made each week and total approximately 1,000 pounds.



Post 536 Covered Bridge, Manalapan, New Jersey installed a new flagpole at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery on September 18. The post received a grant of \$900 from the Home Depot Foundation to help pay for the flagpole. The local store sent out associates to help install it. The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 also assisted with this project. The dedication of the new flagpole took place on October 14. From Left: Al Brown, Carol Adler, Leo Rosenzweig, Rabbi Nathan W. Langer, and Al Adler.



Members of **Post 215** served food to approximately 60 detectives from the NorthEast Division in Philadelphia on November 18. From Left: Ed Mutchnick, Joel Grubman, Det. Samuals, Capt. William Thrush, and Lt. Dennis Rosenbaum.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On November 8, 2020, **Dr. Harvey J Bloom Post 256 in Dallas, Texas** and its Auxiliary placed flags on graves in four different cemeteries, including Shearith Israel, Sparkman/Hillcrest, Temple Emanu-El, and Agudas Achim/Tiferet Israel. The flagging took place after a ceremony at a monument in Shearith Israel that Post 256 purchased.



North County Post 385 held an installation for its new officers on September 13. The new officers include Commander Marsha Schjolberg, Senior Vice Commander Marc Poland, and Junior Vice Commander Hershel Sakulsky.



JWV National Commander Jeff Sacks was one of the 25 people who attended this year's annual Veterans Day event at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery.



Jersey Shore Post 125 participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the City Hall of Long Branch, New Jersey on November 11 for Veterans Day. From Left: Marty Guberman and Gerry Levine.



Long Island, New York's Three Villages Post 336 honored Stan Feltman at its outdoor meeting on October 4. Feltman is a veteran of World War II. From Left: Mel Cohen, Stan Feltman, Barry Kopeloff, Marty Kupferbe, Bob Sandberg, Ed Brandes, James Atkinson, Norm Weitz, Ed Bram, and Steve Steinbaum.



On November 11, Four members of **Post 41 of Rochester, New York** participated in a drive-by salute to veterans, staff, and other residents of the Jewish Senior Life Campus. From Left: Stuart Blume, Louis Babin, Mort Stein, and Gary Ginsburg.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

Female WWII Veteran's Military Cap Project

By Barbara Leap

During the final throes of World War II, when May Brill was 20, she decided to follow her two brothers into the military.

Her reasoning: "What about me? It's my

country, too."

While her brothers were in the Army and Coast Guard, Brill thought the Navy might be a good fit for her. But there was a problem. The year was 1944 and the Navy wouldn't accept women for another four years. It did have a women's auxiliary called the WAVES, and that's what Brill joined.

Now 96, Brill is engaged in a new battle. She wants to make sure the world knows that women in all branches of the military have served, fought, and died for their country.

"Women veterans are invisible," Brill says. Now she's spearheading a project encouraging female veterans to order a cap designed with their military branch, and to wear it daily like their male counterparts.

The longtime resident of Cherry

Hill, New Jersey launched her project with a single cap, her own, designed with the U.S. Navy insignia. She has arranged for the Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation in Philadelphia to produce them for other veterans for \$45.

Three of Brill's friends, Air Force veterans Selina Kanowitz, Julia Coker, and Army veteran Constance Cotton, are helping her to promote this effort.

Despite approaching the century mark, Brill, energetically continues her involvement in volunteer activities, including serving as honorary commander of JWV Post 126 of Southern New Jersey. Last year she established the Norman and May Brill Memorial Legacy to permanently provide public forums at the JCC each Friday in May in honor of all veterans.

Brill is so busy, she jokes that her four daughters, 11 granddaughters, and four great-granddaughters, "have to make an appointment to see me."



May Brill and Selina Kanowitz



Two members of **Post 755 in Fort Worth, Texas**, Post Commander Nana Atkins and Will Kutler, took time to spruce up the World War I memorial outside Congregation Ahavath Shalom.

Post 692 in Maryland held a virtual Veterans Day program from the American Jewish Veterans Memorial at the Jewish Community Center in Rockville. From Left: Paul Becker, Program Coordinator for the Bender Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, Marcie Blackman, and Sheldon Goldberg.



Dr. Harvey J Bloom Post 256 in Dallas, Texas and its Auxiliary delivered underwear, T-shirts, and athletic shorts to the Bonham VA hospital on Friday, October 30. From Left: Roz Kaplan, Art Kaplan, Allan Cantor, and Sandra Cantor.



The JWV **Department of Maryland** held a virtual Veterans Day ceremony from the Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery in Owings Mills, Maryland. The ceremony featured member Sam Ruddie, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Standing behind Ruddie, from Left: Charles "Chuck" Sandler, Charley Jay, Erwin Burtnick, and Rabbi Chesky Tenanbaum.



On Sunday, November 8, members of **Post 320 in Savannah, Georgia** placed flags on graves at Bonaventure Cemetery in advance of Veterans Day. From Left: Richard Halperin, Frank Katz, Ed Wexler, A.J. Haysman, Carol Greenberg, and Rabbi Robert Haas.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On October 25, the **Department of Wisconsin** honored the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC) for its support of Jewish veterans and their activities. From Left: Ron Laux, Judy O'Hara, Arleen Peltz, and Kim Queen.



JWV and the South Jersey Men's Club continued its 30-year tradition of sending Hanukkah cards to Jewish men and women in the military. Michael Perloff and Nelson Mellitz are holding some of the 400 cards they sent U.S. service members and the Israeli Defense Forces as part of Operation Maccabee. Since 1990, JWV and the SJMC have sent more than 10,000 cards as part of this project.



Members of **Sharon, Massachusetts Post 735** attended a Veterans Day event in their town. Special markers were unveiled and dedicated to all branches of the U.S. Armed Services. From Left: Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, Sherman Palan, Paul Maltzman, and Warren Anastasia.

Department of Minnesota Celebrates 75th Anniversary



Members of the 2020 Class of the Senior Royalty of the Saint Paul Winter Carnival at the Knighting of National Commander Jeff Sacks and Chief of Staff Robert Nussbaum (Courtesy: Lou Michaels)

By Lou Michaels

The Department of Minnesota celebrated its 75th anniversary with a dinner at Mancini's Steakhouse in St. Paul, Minnesota on Wednesday, October 28. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, strict CDC guidelines were followed, including a restriction on the number of guests who attended in person. There were 85 people who attended the dinner in the main room, 25 in an outside room, and many more via Zoom.

JWV National Judge Advocate Peter Nickitas served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event which Department of Minnesota Commander Lou Michaels organized. The Department Chaplain Irving Rosenbloom offered opening and closing prayers.

A number of distinguished guests were pres-

ent in person, including National Commander Jeff Sacks, National Chief of Staff Robert Nussbaum, Department of Wisconsin Commander Kim Queen, Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General Shaun Menke, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke, DAV National Commander Stephen Whitehead, AMVETS State of Minnesota Commander John Flores, American Legion State of Minnesota Commander Mark Dovrak, Minnesota State Senator Sandy Pappas, and Prime Minister of the Winter Carnival Royal House of Spire Joe Johnston.

During the event, the Department received proclamations in honor of its 75th anniversary from St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and Governor Tim Walz.

Royalty from the St. Paul Winter Carnival,

established in 1886, bestowed honors on some of the distinguished guests by "knighting" Sacks and Nussbaum. Sacks is the third consecutive National Commander to attend the annual dinner and receive this honor.

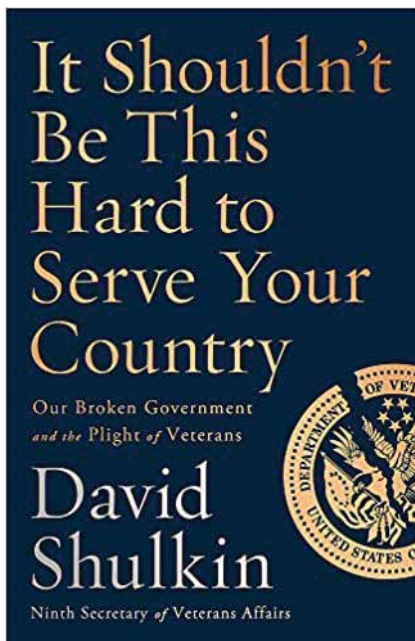
The day also happened to be Sacks' birthday and we celebrated by presenting him with a large cake at the close of dinner.



National Commander Jeff Sacks Cuts the first piece of his birthday cake. (Courtesy: Lou Michaels)

BOOK REVIEW

It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Serve Your Country by David Shulkin



By Peter Nickitas, JWV National Judge Advocate

“It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Serve Your Country” describes the public service of the first Jewish-American Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David Shulkin. Shulkin served as Undersecretary of the VA from 2015 to 2017 and Secretary from 2017 to 2018. Shulkin served as the first chief

medical officer of the University of Pennsylvania Health System and CEO of New York's Beth Israel Medical Center before entering public service.

This book makes outstanding reading, as Secretary Shulkin describes his encounters with entrenched officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in his work to bring more accountability, veteran-focused care, accessible service, and timely appointments. His accomplishments included updating electronic health records (EHR) systems and expanding Agent Orange treatment to Blue Water Navy veterans who served on ships off the shore of Vietnam and suffered diseases induced by the Agent Orange clouds that blew offshore. In his words, he found himself with the choice between continued neglect of veterans based on dwindling scientific evidence as veterans died, or the moral choice, and treat Blue Water Navy veterans. He took the moral choice.

He spent a great deal of energy bringing the 2014 Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act up to date in 2017 and 2018, culminating in the Mission Act. At all times, he fought to ensure quality and coordinate the delegation of some care to private providers without eviscerating the core Veterans Affairs budget for VA medical center

care. During his time at Secretary, he even saw patients himself at surprise appointments at VA Medical Centers.

Shulkin says his vision for the future of the VA is “a new model of governance, complete with its own board composed of health care experts, veterans, and business leaders. It should remain a government entity but with a structure that allows it to develop strategies free of political influence.... This new governance structure would mean the end of political appointees. People who serve our veterans should be chosen not on the basis of political ideology or their commitment to a particular elected individual but rather because of relevant experience, competence, and commitment to the mission.”

“It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Serve Your Country” provides an example of a Jewish-American who as the founders of JWV would say, “redeems the good name of the Jew.” Shulkin took the opportunity for service and made the most of it, to show that we Jewish-Americans are capable of fulfilling acts of Torah-Mitzvot and our civic obligations to our nation, our neighbors, and our fellow veterans and servicemembers, with equal fervor and merit.

Remarks in Honor of a Veterans Shabbat

Continued from page 6

gard themselves as if they were personally brought forth out of the land of Egypt. Similarly, Soldiers feel a direct connection to their individual unit history. I am privileged to be part of the continuing story of the “Blue Spaders,” and all of today's veterans in numerous battalions throughout the U.S. Army get to be part of similar stories. In all of these stories, the Second World War holds a place of special distinction. It forms the cornerstone of military education and training to this day. As young soldiers, when we learn about our unit histories, there is a very real sense of what incredibly big shoes we have to fill. So, I am here to express my gratitude as a soldier, for fighting a campaign the magnitude of which is almost unimaginable to me, even as it paved the way for the modern institution of the military which made me what I am today.

But as Jews, the significance of this war is even greater. The heroes of World War II are responsible for overturning a true existential threat to the Jewish people and stopping the greatest act of mass murder in modern history. American soldiers liberated five of the concentration camps and the American war effort was necessary for the liberation of the rest. The debt of gratitude of the Jewish people cannot ever be fully expressed or repaid. So again, I am here to try to convey my gratitude, this time as a Jew, for the gift of life given back to so many of our people.

And in addition to all this, there is another special significance of the Greatest Generation that I feel as an American. In the times we live in, it is almost unimaginable to think of society coming together and taking on such a herculean task as they took on. This generation emerged directly from the Great Depression and marched into one of the greatest wars ever fought. There was no excuse of hard times, just the country coming together and

doing what needed to be done. Some of that sense of unity can be seen in the humble title “GI,” shorthand for “General Issue” or “Government Issue.” The Soldiers of World War II embraced the term GI, carrying connotations of being a small part of something much bigger. So again, I am here to express my gratitude, now as an everyday American, for showing us the way to put aside individual egos and do what you were called to do as part of something much greater, and for laying the template for the ideal of what it means to be an American.

National Veterans Resource Center

Continued from page 10

ROTC and Air Force ROTC, reserve component personnel service in the U.S. armed forces, veterans from all branches of the military, and immediate family members of the other groups.

Dan Bateman, an operations officer at the University's Office of Veterans and Military Affairs said, “the military-connected students and veterans are granted priority for early class or course registration ahead of most students and following only the scholarship athletes on campus.”

On November 30, I took a special tour of the brand-new building known as the National Veterans Resource Center on the Syracuse University campus. The building is not yet open to the public due to COVID-19. While the university donated the land, the cost of the \$60 million, 115,000 square-foot building came from private sector donations. There is a parade field for Army and Air Force ROTC cadet drill and ceremony (military marching) preparation as well as other possible outdoor activities. There are also classrooms, a large auditorium, and a multimedia center within the NVRC. The main tenants of the building are the Institute of Veterans

and Military Families, Syracuse University Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, U.S. Army ROTC, U.S. Air Force ROTC, the university and regional student Veterans Resource Center, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Success on Campus program, Center of Excellence for Veteran Entrepreneurship, and a Veterans Business Outreach Center and Accelerator.

There are many programs using the NVRC as a hub and laser-focused in support of the 1,100 military connected students including, a business bootcamp for veterans with disabilities, female veterans and entrepreneurship, veteran career transition, skills training, and economic development engagement targeting advanced manufacturing skills with companies such as General Electric, Alcoa, Lockheed Martin and community colleges.

Ronald Novak, the executive director of the Syracuse University Office of Veteran and Military Affairs and a retired colonel U.S. Army said, “the new building and the programs here will help ensure this school continues to be the best place for veterans and family members today and for the next 100 years into the future.”



Ginsburg and Novak with a plaque dedicated to Jewish Medal of Honor Winner and Syracuse University graduate William Shemin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 9

something worth emulating. When the bases were named for Confederate officers or statues erected to honor them this was in fact an effort to erase history. Part of the so called "Lost Cause" narrative asserted that somehow the war wasn't about slavery and that these men fought for a worthy cause. Nothing could be further from the truth, and the time to tell the truth and honor men and women who truly served our country for noble purposes is long overdue. I have been to Germany and nowhere are there statues erected to German officers from World War II, and yet the Germans are well versed in the role their country played in that conflict and the crimes that were committed in its name. They remember their past, they study it, and learn from it so that it might teach them something important to their future. But they do not honor those who fought for an evil cause.

Yes, we have monuments to Washington and Jefferson, and they did indeed own slaves and we should not shy away from that. We do not honor them because of their slaveholding but in spite of it. They played important roles in the formation of our country. If not for their battle to preserve slavery, the officers of the Confederacy would be largely unknown. The misguided effort to honor them was an attempt to alter history and transform something evil into something good. It also was designed to send a not so subtle message to black citizens about who was really still in charge.

The Jewish War Veterans was formed by Jewish veterans of the Civil War to counter anti-Semitic notions that somehow Jews didn't fight for their country. In essence our organization, which my grandfather, my father, and I are all proudly part of, was born to fight bigotry. We should take enormous pride in that and in the incredible role the American Jewish community has played in fighting bigotry in all its forms. The rabbi I grew up with, H. David Teitelbaum, himself a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, answered another call of duty and flew from California to march with Dr. King at Selma.

No diaspora community in all of our people's long and often tragic history has been as blessed as we have been in America. Members of the JWV have given much to this country as has the larger Jewish Community and this country in turn has blessed its Jews. You are right that freedom isn't free, but our freedom in this country is only as good as the freedom of our neighbor. If bigotry, prejudice, and discrimination are tolerated against any American, then our freedom is not truly secure. If they can come for them, we know all too well, they will come for us.

We've come a long way as a nation and overcome much to be in the better place we are today than we were in the past but to paraphrase Robert Frost, we have miles to go before we sleep. The JWV's stance on the base names was a step along that path and I for one am very proud of it.

Robert Levinson
Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)

Dear Editor,

I was encouraged when I noticed in the last edition of "The Jewish Veteran" a discussion of a current veterans-related political issue -- the possible re-

naming of 10 United States Army forts currently named for Confederate Army leaders. A JWV press release inspired the discussion.

However I was saddened when I read the apparently misdirected, illogical, and confused attempts to discuss this issue by attacking the JWV press release and National Commander Harvey Weiner without specifically addressing the position made by the press release which quoted Commander Weiner. That position was those 10 Confederate military leaders who committed treason against the United States should no longer be honored by the United States Army by changing the names of those 10 Army forts.

Let's look at five points from what did appear in The Jewish Veteran.

1. There appeared to be an attempt to justify the current names of the 10 Army forts by deflecting onto vaguely tangential subjects as follows:

"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. . . ."

"12 of the first 14 Presidents owned slaves. It was not illegal at that time. Do we change the name of our nation's capital? Do we tear down the Washington Monument? Jefferson Memorial? . . . Or do we preserve our history . . ."

As then National Commander Weiner pointed out in the press release of July 2, 2020, the issue was centered on whether those who committed treason against the United States should be honored by the United States Army? The Jewish Veteran never addressed this question.

The issue raised by Commander Weiner was not slavery nor was the issue the rejection of heritage or the rejection of history. In fact, history is not being ignored or rejected. In this case, history is being recognized.

Those 10 individuals either committed treason by leading an armed insurrection against the United States or they were leaders in another country's army [of the Confederate States of America] making war against the United States. The question is should they continue to be honored by the United States Army?

2. Roughly half of the "Notes to the Editor" is devoted to subjects that have nothing to do with renaming Army forts including defaced statues, violence associated with peaceful protests, ANTIFA, criticism of Black Lives Matter for not protesting black-on-black murders, and support for the vast majority of good cops in this country.

That is why my criticism included "illogical and confused efforts."

There are logical ways to defend not renaming the 10 forts. One way that comes to mind is through the national political issues prior to the Civil War which led 11 states to leave the United States: high tariffs, unrestricted immigration, higher bank interest rates, and the spread of slavery; and how those issues intertwined with the United States Constitution. Notice that the elimination of slavery was not one of the political issues which led to the Civil War.

3. The naming of those 10 forts as stated in 2015 by General Malcomb Frost "was done in the spirit of reconciliation, not division."

Those 10 forts were opened and named around World War I or World War II. The War Department allowed the local municipalities to name the installations. Was reconciliation a priority below the Mason-Dixon Line during the height of Jim Crow in the 20th Century? If those forts had been named in the aftermath of the Civil War, then a reconciliation argument could be legitimate.

4. "When I first read it, I was outraged JWV should make a statement . . . I felt . . . [it] was political and JWV should refrain from engaging in partisan politics . . ."

Political is okay. Any JWV resolution urging Congress to pass a law is political. Partisan politics is not okay and it is prohibited by JWV's Constitution & By-Laws. A check of the facts would have discovered that the issue had been approved by the Republican-controlled Senate Armed Services Committee and it had received support from then Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. The full Senate had not yet voted on this bill to fund the Department of Defense.

While people may differ on the issue, it cuts across political party lines and is not a partisan-political issue.

5. ". . . I was outraged . . . when no one asked for the opinion of the members."

That is the difference between direct democracy and representative democracy. Our organization elects its leaders to lead and not to follow; which includes acting in the name of JWV between meetings. National Commander Weiner acted in a timely manner within his legitimate powers.

Also our national organization sends out numerous press releases on various topics each year without polling membership. It is the normal situation that not all members support every position of JWV. Why is this press release the only one being objected to for not consulting membership?

Jerry Alperstein
Post I-NY

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 March 2.

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT NATALIE BLANK

Dear Sisters,

When I wake up each morning I think about each and every Sister and Comrade and pray that all of you are doing well. We are living in a different and difficult time in our lives and some of us have had to struggle more than others. We do not know how long this virus is going to stay with us but, as I speak to the Sisters throughout our JWVA organization, I am encouraged to learn that our Auxiliaries are functioning, albeit as best they can under the circumstances. The only sad part is that we cannot meet in person and for now, we have had to put a stop on much of the valuable in-person work we do. However, I have learned that some VA facilities do have virtual volunteer activities, so check with your local Voluntary Service Office to determine what options they may have available.

I am happy to report that I had a virtual visit with South Philadelphia Auxiliary 98 in November which was successfully arranged by its president. It was a great visit with President Barbara Steiner and the Sisters and I learned about all the excellent work they have accomplished. It was my pleasure to “meet” each of the ladies as they introduced themselves to me. I am anxious to visit with other Auxiliaries virtually or, in the future in person. If any Auxiliary or Sister would like to meet with me, I would gladly arrange a time with you to discuss any questions you may have or to give you the opportunity to share all that your Auxiliary has

accomplished despite the restrictions of this pandemic.

As of this writing, I am sad to inform you that our NEC, which was scheduled to take place in Orlando, Florida in January 2021, will be a virtual NEC. Like most of you, I was looking forward to meeting with everyone “face to face” after this long period of isolation. Hopefully, we will be able to see each other at our National Convention in New Orleans in August 2021 and finally break bread together in person, along with sharing lots of safe hugs and kisses.

In the meanwhile, I pray that everyone remains healthy, that life gets better and back to normal, and that our successful programs will continue as they have in the past.

I extend my best wishes to you and your families for a happy and sweet Chanukah.

Lastly, I want to wish all of you a very happy and healthy New Year and share my hope that the days ahead will be better for all of us.

Loyally,

Natalie Blank



HA! HA!

By PNP Iris Goldwasser, Editor

According to Webster’s Dictionary, a Lexophile is an individual who relates to words or the vocabulary of a language distinguished or different from its grammar and construction. Lexophile is a word used to describe those who have a love for words, such as “you can tune a piano but you can’t tuna fish”, or “to write with a broken point is pointless”. A competition to see which Lexophile can come up with the best expressions is held every year. What follows are some of the funniest responses – *ENJOY!*

- When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- The batteries were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married but fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, a bride got a new name and a dress.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- When you’ve seen one shopping center, you’ve seen a mall.
- Police were summoned to a day care center where a three year old was resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He’s all right now.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back for seconds.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she’d dye.
- Acupuncture is a job well done; that’s the point of it.
- And the cream of the twisted crop:
Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

There has been little to smile or laugh about during this COVID-19 pandemic, yet I enjoyed these and they lightened my day. I hope these little jokes do the same for you. Remember – ***ALWAYS LAUGH WHEN YOU CAN – IT IS CHEAP MEDICINE.***

LEADERSHIP / MEMBERSHIP / ORGANIZING

By PNP Charlene Ehrlich, Chairman

In this time of self-isolation please do not forget to keep in contact with your Auxiliary Sisters. A phone call during this pandemic is so very important as it shows that you care and it brings a whole new meaning to the word LEADERSHIP.

Looking at the letters L/M/O we notice alphabetically there is a letter missing – the letter “N” for NEW. Remember that the aim of JWVA is to invite new MEMBERSHIP.

While at home you can call your friends and neighbors who are not members and describe

the wonderful and rewarding work done by our Sisters – perhaps they will join. It is a great opportunity for a membership drive while at home.

Remember, although ORGANIZING new Auxiliaries is a worthy goal, we must keep our current membership in mind as well.

Membership forms are available in the office. Sharon Williams, our executive director, will be happy to forward them to you.

Until we can meet again, take care and stay well.

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS

By PNP Sandra Cantor, Chairman

During this time of COVID-19 quarantine, it is even more important get our name, Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, out into the community. Let your local news outlets, Jewish or not, know that we exist, and we are here. An example cited in a previous Jewish Veteran Newspaper and in my local Texas Jewish Post showed various JWV Posts and Auxiliaries placing flags on veteran’s graves

for Memorial Day (of course wearing masks and social distancing).

Another thought.....sponsor an essay contest under Americanism or Citizenship at either a Jewish Day School or Synagogue Religious School. This way the contest would be publicized through their communication networks. We MUST think “out of the box”, especially now. We cannot let our good works go unnoticed!

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that have forwarded their newsletters or bulletins to me (as Editor of the JWVA pages of the Jewish Veteran). They are informative, interesting and describes the programs in which you are involved. If your Auxiliary participates in an innovative activity we would like to pass it on to others. I look forward to receiving future issues.

HELPING HANDS ACROSS JWVA

PDP Lillian Rovner of Illinois wrote this poem honoring the NMAJMH shortly before she passed away several years ago. May she rest in peace.

NMAJMH

At 1811 R Street in Washington DC
Stands a red brick building filled with history
A source of pride for you and me
And for the veterans in JWV.

Even before our country's Revolution
Jews like Asser Levy strived to do their part
For they longed for freedom
With every beat of their heart.

Every time our forefathers had to go to war
The patriotism of Jews came to the fore
Despite war's brutality and its gore
The bravery of Jewish heroes truly did soar.

To show the world what we have done
Oh, how proud we all will be
If everyone becomes a member
And thus insures our legacy.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By PDP Gloria Abramson, Chairman

Community Relations has been an active program in the Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary for many years. However, since the onset of COVID-19, service to our local communities is more relevant than ever.

We miss our friends, neighbors and relatives; our social relationships have been turned upside down. Our veterans, especially those isolated in hospitals, miss our visits. Let's keep connected by telephone, be someone's pen pal and organize virtual meetings.

If you drive, be a shopper for someone who can't! Perhaps you can help them telephone for necessities and arrange for a home delivery. Inquire if someone is in need of food, prescriptions or doctor's visits which can be done virtually as well as in person.

Welcome new neighbors into your community and, if possible, invite them to your next virtual JWVA meeting.

ADOPT-A HOSPITAL

By NJVP Shirley Zak, Chairman

Your continued service at the many VA Medical Centers close to your Auxiliaries has been amazing and we cannot thank you enough for your many visits and gifts to the veterans recovering or residing in these facilities. However, there are those facilities that are too far away from any of our Auxiliaries but still are in need of our helping hands. Our Adopt-A-Hospital is a program specifically designed for your service even though you are many miles away.

Contributions to those distant medical centers are much needed and could be canteen books, lap robes, combs, brushes and other hygiene necessities. These donations are usually made with the assistance of Director of Volunteers at the various facilities.

A release has been forwarded to your Auxiliary President with further information and includes a listing of VA Medical Centers around the U.S. Please urge your Auxiliary to choose a hospital far from you that does not have a JWV Ladies Auxiliary nearby. Remember, our hospitalized veterans need our support and our gifts remind them that we are thinking of them.

MENTAL HEALTH

By PNP Barbara Steiner, Chairman

The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful for everyone and has disrupted our lives in many ways. Fear and anxiety regarding this new disease and how it could impact our lives can be overwhelming for some people. It has caused strong emotions to surface in some adults and children.

This stress has caused fear and worry about our health and that of our families, about our financial situation and about the possible loss of support services upon which we rely. Worry can change our eating or sleeping patterns and, for some, has increased the use of tobacco, alcohol and other substances. Sometimes we do not even see or recognize the connection or change in ourselves.

Public health recommendations such as masks

and social distancing have made people feel isolated, lonely or anxious. However, these actions are necessary to reduce the spread of this virus and help protect those of us who are most vulnerable.

How we respond to this stress depends on ourselves – social support from family and friends is imperative so keep in touch with everyone by phone or computer, listen to the experts who can help you protect yourselves. Keep busy with chores around your house, read books that can be informative and interesting and above all **W**ear a mask, **W**ash you hands and **W**atch your space.

The three **W**'s will help keep you safe. REMEMBER you are not alone!

PROGRAMMING

By PNP Sandra Cantor, Chairman

Since many of us are still not going out into the community while adhering to social distancing guidelines, it makes it difficult to figure out how to function and facilitate our programs. We can, however, still make donations of canteen books, phone cards, and bus passes to our local or adopted VA. We can donate school supplies for Child Welfare. Some of us know how to sew masks. These can be donated in the name of an Auxiliary, or may possibly be used as a fundraiser. We can and should meet virtually for meetings. What we should not be is stagnant! Most important is to keep in touch with each other. If you cannot meet virtually, make use of a "phone tree" to call all members of your Auxiliary to check-in. Let us all think "outside the box" and keep our various Auxiliaries current and active!

SENIOR CITIZENS

By DP Verna Rosenzweig, Chairman

MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES SHOULD BE WARY OF COVID-19 FRAUD

Dishonest people have been making unsolicited calls, using fear and uncertainty from the COVID-19 pandemic to prey on Medicare beneficiaries.

HOW TO SPOT A SCAM OR FRAUD

Be wary if you receive an unsolicited phone call offering:

- To send you covid-19 testing kits, vaccines, prescriptions, supplies such as masks, creams, hand sanitizers, or even a covid-19 treatment package.
- A new medicare card and covid supplies in exchange for a medicare number. Medicare will not call you to offer a new card or request information in order to issue a new card.
- More medicare insurance coverage; insurance companies with whom you are not enrolled cannot initiate a call.
- Other examples of potential covid-19 fraud that have been reported are health care providers improperly diagnosing patients with covid-19, in order to receive higher

payment; people going door to door at senior housing to perform covid-19 tests; and hospitals attempting to charge for covid-19 antibody tests.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Contact your own doctor if you are experiencing potential symptoms of COVID-19.
- Do not give out your Medicare number, Social Security number, or personal information in response to unsolicited calls, texts, or home visits.
- Be suspicious of anyone going door to door offering free COVID-19 testing, supplies, or treatments.
- Carefully review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB), looking for claims for products or services that were not received.

CHILD WELFARE

By Rosalind Kaplan, Chairman

Our Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary Child Welfare Program focuses on making a difference in the lives of the children in our communities. Each local Auxiliary can participate in programs that assist organizations in their cities and counties. Whether you are supporting a group of Scouts, volunteering in a children's hospital, serving a Ronald McDonald House, assisting at a Special Olympics event, providing snacks to children of Veterans at a VA Hospital or Fisher House, reading, tutoring, or telling a story at your local public school, you are making an impact on the lives of our children. Children are our future and we need to provide the services that will help them to become successful citizens in the ever changing world in which we live. Set a new goal for your Auxiliary this year to create a NEW Child Welfare Program that will make a difference in the lives of the children in your community.

HELPING HANDS ACROSS JWVA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was the best of times and the worst of times. Who could have ever predicted a pandemic? At the museum, we had to close the building for a time and now have little activity that is obvious to the outsider. We have had a series of outstanding speakers with some compelling topics. Check our website for more on the speakers and their subject matters.

Recently we listened to a speaker discussing where ones' duty to the command violates ones' ethics. Which should win out? Do I follow orders and duty, or do I follow my conscience? There are serious consequences either way. Clearly, this was a challenging lecture followed by a terrific question and answer session. I ask you to reflect upon the issues presented and challenge you to think about how you would address this moral dilemma.

We are actively working on two new exhibits that I hope will open during my term as President, "The Jewish Experience during the Vietnam Era," and a renewed and updated, "Women in the Military." If you have anything to contribute to either proposed exhibit, please contact Mike Rugel at the museum, Carol Berman, Chair of our Exhibits Committee, or Kim Queen, Chair of our Programs Committee. To donate money to the exhibits, please make sure you make a note on your check so we know which exhibit should receive your contribution.

The museum has established working committees and appointed chairs. We anticipate that some, if not all, will have a virtual committee meeting by the time we hold our next museum

meeting on December 13, 2020 at noon. Everyone is invited to that meeting of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Remember: **IT IS OUR NATIONAL MUSEUM!**



PNC Michael B. Berman

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

It was a pleasure to host writer George E. Johnson on November 5 for an online talk on his Vietnam experiences and the way his military experiences set his path for life. Johnson's talk was very personal, reflecting the often-difficult combination of his anti-war sentiment with his dedication to his duty. The conflict between believing that the U.S. should not be in Southeast Asia and knowing that the Viet Cong was the enemy. A portion of Johnson's memoir had been published in Moment Magazine. It was great to have a significant number of Vietnam veterans who contributed to the online chat and Q&A with their own experiences. The recording of the talk is available on our YouTube channel.



George E. Johnson discussed how his service in Vietnam set him on a lifelong moral journey.

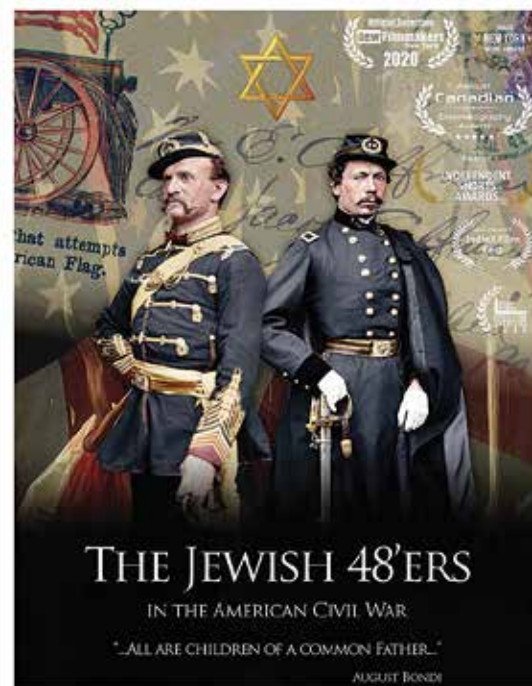
On November 19, Eugene Fidell joined us to discuss current issues in military justice. Amongst many other projects, Fidell runs the Orders Project, which provides volunteer lawyers to military per-



Eugene Fidell discussed current issues in military justice. Video recording of the talk is available on our YouTube channel.

sonnel who question the legality of orders. Fidell's books and work on these issues have made him a national leader on these issues. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1969 to 1972 as a judge advocate.

On November 24, we sponsored an online screening of "The Jewish 48'ers: In the American Civil War." The documentary tells the story of Jewish participation in the European revolutions of 1848. Many of those Jewish 48'ers came to the U.S. and participated in the Civil War. The revolutions aimed to end monarchies in Europe and replace them with democracies. Coming to the United States was a natural step for many after the revolutions failed. 1848 gave these men military experience and allowed many of these immigrants to achieve high ranks in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. This includes Brevet Brigadier General



The Jewish 48'ers tells the story of how the veterans of European revolutions affected the American Civil War.

Frederick Knefler, and the fascinating and controversial Frederick George D'Utassy. There are a lot of great documentaries we hope to continue presenting.

We plan to keep our programming online for the near future. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages to make sure you know what's going on. As always, we need you to spread the word. Tell your friends, family, and everyone else about the museum!

Follow us on social media:

facebook.com/NMAJMH

twitter.com/nmajmh

Instagram.com/nmajmh

youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg

Honor your hero and support the museum with "Our Heroes" photos. Each 4" x 6" picture of your hero, preferably in uniform, has a plaque underneath it listing name and rank, the conflict in which he or she served, branch of service, years in service, and JWV Post and Department if applicable.

Order on the website or mail a check for the discounted \$100 donation with photo and information to National Museum of American Jewish Military History, 1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009



Sgt. Edward Goldwasser
U.S. Army - Korea 1955-1957 Post 126 Miami, FL

By Pam Elbe • Collections, Archives, & Exhibits Coordinator

Exhibit Updates

Vietnam War

Even in this time of COVID-19 and working from home, the NMAJMH continues to plan for future exhibitions. We are currently in the planning stages for two new exhibits that would go on the B level of the museum. One is all about Jewish service in the Vietnam War and the other is an updated, less World War II centric version of our popular Women in the Military: A Jewish Perspective exhibit that was up for many years.

The Vietnam Veterans Committee is hard at work putting together the plans for a future Vietnam exhibit. This is the first time in the history of the NMAJMH that a committee or outside group has put together an exhibit for the museum, so it is a learning process for all involved. Museum leadership and staff members are working closely with the Vietnam Veterans Committee to provide guidance and oversight along the way. Everything is still in the early stages, and the committee, led by Bob Jacobs and Jerry Alperstein, is currently fundraising for the exhibit. They are also gathering information about what sort of artifacts and other materials are available for use in the exhibit.

If you are a Vietnam veteran or know of a Vietnam veteran who should be included in the exhibit, you can contact either Bob Jacobs at conrailbob2003@yahoo.com or myself at pelbe@jwv.org. Please do not send any original materials without being asked to do so by the museum. If you do not have memorabilia to share but would like to potentially have your story included, another option is to submit your information online at <https://nmajmh.org/stories/service-around-the-world-submit-your-story/>.

Submitting your story online helps us in two ways. First, we will have your information for the future Vietnam exhibit, and second, we can add your story to our current Service Around the World interactive exhibit.

Women in the Military

The NMAJMH is also gathering information for an exhibit on women in the military. 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. Whether you served in Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, or during peacetime, we need your help to show that Jewish women have served and continue to serve in the American military.

You do not need to be a member of JWV to be included (though we would love to have you as a member). We have created an online form to make it easy for you to submit your information for potential use in the exhibit. Visit <https://nmajmh.org/stories/women-in-the-military-submit-your-story/> to complete the form online. The information you provide will be added to the NMAJMH's archives and could be used in this or other future exhibits. Additionally, if you have other materials or memorabilia that you would be willing to contribute to the exhibit, you can note it in the online form or email me at pelbe@jwv.org.

Vietnam Veteran Michael Rosenfeld

One story that may be told in the Vietnam exhibit is that of Michael Rosenfeld. A small collection of his military records and photographs was donated to the museum by his mother.

Michael David Rosenfeld was born in 1945 in Philadelphia to Bernard and Sarah Rosenfeld. He grew up in Philadelphia, where he graduated from high school and went on to attend Temple University. Rosenfeld was only at Temple for one year before opting to enlisting in the Marine Corps. He completed basic training in January of 1967 and was sent to Vietnam. While in Vietnam he served with the 3rd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division and completed Land Mine Warfare and Demolitions course at the Mine Warfare and Demolitions School.

His records do not shed much light on what he did while in Vietnam, but we do know that



Michael Rosenfeld (right) and fellow Marine in Vietnam.

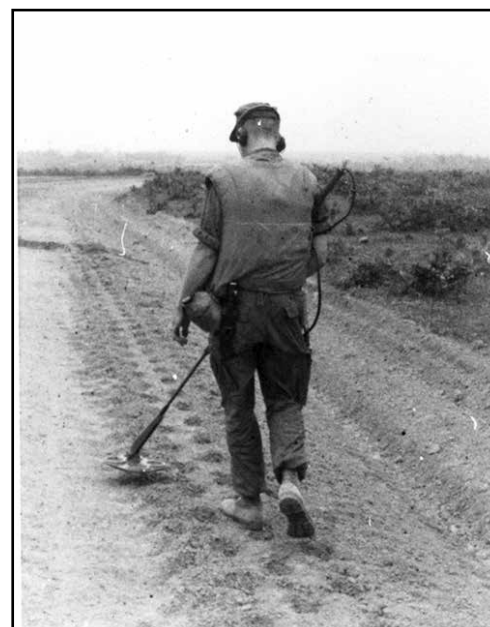
patrols and ambushes to company-sized search and destroy operations, were conducted in both the coastal rice lands and the mountainous jungle inland.

Rosenfeld was honorably discharged as a corporal from the Marine Corps in late 1968. He returned to the U.S. and settled in Miami Beach, Florida, where his family had relocated. It was in Miami that Rosenfeld was able to combine the skills he acquired in the Marine Corps with his love of the water. In a news article his mother described him as a water-baby and said he started scuba diving in the early 1960s. He loved how tranquil the seafloor was and how good it made him feel. He first worked as the chief diver in charge of diving operations at the Miami Seaquarium before moving on to work for a government contractor, Tracor Marine, as a professional diver. At Tracor, he found himself working in far off places like Iran. In 1974 he was in Iran for eight weeks during a period of increased hostilities in the Middle East, doing confidential work involving buoys and electronic detection gear that sometimes required him to dive as deep as 150 feet. He had been back from Iran for only 10 days when he went diving for lobster in Port Everglades and suffered an embolism shortly after entering the water. His diving companion found his body on the seafloor. He was just 29-years-old when he died.



Michael Rosenfeld carrying his gear in the jungle.

his unit received a Presidential Unit Citation. Lydon B. Johnson cited the Third Marine Division (Reinforced) on October 31, 1967, "For extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action against the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 8 March 1965 to 15 September 1967." While operating in the five northernmost provinces of the Republic of Vietnam, his division successfully executed its mission of occupying and defending key terrain, seeking out and destroying the enemy, and conducting an intensive pacification program. The division successfully executed 80 major combat operations, carrying the battle to the enemy, destroying many of its forces, and capturing thousands of tons of weapons and material. In addition to these major operations, more than 125,000 offensive counter guerrilla actions, ranging from squad



Marine, possibly Rosenfeld, scanning for mines in Vietnam

Colonel Aaron Bank – The Founder of the Green Berets

By Marc Liebman

As a young man, Aaron Bank, who was born in 1902, traveled extensively through Europe and became fluent in German and French. At the outbreak of World War II, he was 37 and volunteered to serve. Initially, the military rejected him due to his age, but Bank persevered. He went through Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Because of his language proficiency, Bank was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

After training in the U.S. and U.K. on how to conduct clandestine operations, he parachuted into the Vosges region of France on July 31, 1944 as the leader of the three-man Jedburgh team, code named Packard. Each team consisted of an officer, a demolitions expert, and a radio-operator. Bank, as well as his other team members, knew if they were captured, the Gestapo would torture and kill them. His team, aided by French partisans, harassed the Germans until he was pulled out in late 1944.

Bank's next assignment came directly from the head of the OSS, General William Donovan, who told one of his subordinates, "Tell Bank to get Hitler." For this mission, Bank recruited a team of anti-Nazis and former German soldiers who would parachute into Germany and kill Adolph Hitler if/when he fled to his redoubt in Berchtesgaden. The OSS scrubbed the mission just after the team boarded an airplane to fly into Bavaria in late April 1945.

With the war over in Germany, Bank went to French Indochina to lead teams rescuing French and other Europeans held prisoner by the Japanese. While there, Bank worked with Ho Chi Minh, who was fighting the Vietnamese. Impressed with Minh and his popularity, he suggested to the OSS and the State Department that Minh was extremely popular and would win a free election.

Bank recommended Minh be allowed to form a government after the war. He encouraged the Vietnamese leader to contact the State Department for support for a Vietnam free from the French as part of Roosevelt's vision of a post-war world in which the British and French colonies would be given their independence. Minh tried several times in the late 1940s and early fifties, but each time his appeal was either ignored or rejected because the Truman and later Eisenhower administrations viewed Ho Chi Minh as a dedicated Communist. By then, the Cold War was underway.



Colonel Aaron Bank (Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Special Operations Forces Command)

After the war, Bank remained in the Army and served in intelligence billets in Europe before being sent to Korea as the executive officer of the 187th Regimental Combat Team.

Back in the U.S., Bank became the Chief of the Special Operations Branch of the Army's Office of Psychological Warfare. His task was to "staff and gain approval for an OSS Jedburgh style team." In 1952, the Army approved and funded a 2,500-man unit. Its mission was "to infiltrate by land, sea or air deep into enemy occupied territory and organize the resistance guerrilla potential to conduct Special Forces operations with the emphasis on guerrilla training."

Bank and seven others started the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) on June 19, 1952 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Within two years, the 10th was manned and operational. After the Berlin Uprising in 1953, the 10th was split into two units, the 10th and the 77th, and both were expanded in size. The structure, training, tactics, and employment of Green Beret A teams that Bank outlined in 1952 are still used today. Colonel Bank retired in 1958.

After Bank left the Army, President Kennedy authorized the wearing of the "beret, man's, wool, rifle green, Army shade 297." Since then, the Army Special Forces have been known as the Green Berets.

This quiet warrior didn't stop serving his country after he left the army. Horrified at the lack of se-

curity at the San Onofre nuclear plant in Southern California near where he lived, Bank lobbied for change. Twice he had to publicly expose the vulnerability of the plant to sabotage. Finally, in 1974, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission acted on his recommendations for all nuclear power plants in the U.S.

Aaron Bank wrote two books. One, "From OSS to Green Berets: The Birth of Special Forces," describes his life and career. The other, co-written by Erwin Nathanson, is a novel titled "Operation Iron Cross," which is a fictionalized account of the mission to kill Hitler. The book became the basis for the movie "The Dirty Dozen."

Bank died in 2004 at the age of 101.

This year JWV is celebrating its 125th anniversary!

You can be part of the celebration by ordering your 125th anniversary commemorative pin.



The pins are \$5 each, with a minimum purchase of 5. If you just want to order a single pin, please contact your post or department commander, who will bundle your order with others.

We hope you join us all year for this special celebration!

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Crystal, David S. - Post 100
Sealfon, Michael Stephen - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Green, Daniel - Post 385
Mittler, Leo - Post 385
Press, Louis M. - Post 385

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Gershman, Alexander - Post 45
Goldfarb, Burton H. - Post 45
Kotler, Alvin - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Rubin, Charles - Post 265
Tauben, Sheldon F. - Post 321
Simon, Benjamin - Post 606

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Rockwell, Marty - Post 89
Wolkow, Leo - Post 407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Rose, Edward S. - Post 605
Silverman, Sidney - Post 644
Surrey, Larry F. - Post 644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Gold, Walter L. - Post 692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Cramer, Allen A. - Post 32
Lamb, Hyman - Post 735

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Meer, Edward M. - Post 474
Rosner, Saul - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Friedman, Morris - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Epstein, Sanford - Post 64

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Sieradski, Philip - Post 76
Karasic, Bernard - Post 125
Terris, Harry - Post 125
Hersh, Harvey J. - Post 126
Horwitz, Irving - Post 126
Kaufman, Ernest - Post 126
Simons, Edward - Post 126
Snyder, David - Post 178
Sternin, Seymour - Post 311
Bardin, Irwin - Post 444
Morgenbesser, Theodore - Post 536
Bergman, David - Post 609
Foladare, Eugene - Post 609
Herschbein, Ira - Post 609
Kapit, Albert - Post 609
Pritchep, Jack - Post 609
Salomon, Robert E. - Post 651

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Axelrod, George - Post 1
Storch, Bernard - Post 756
Cherches, Mark L. - Post 336
Golnick, Arthur - Post 336
Greenspan, Julian - Post 1
Kleinberg, Martin - Post 425
Schiff, Arthur - Post 69

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Borovetz, Harold N. - Post 122
Katz, Norman - Post 122

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Smooke, Allen - Post 499

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Applebaum, Abram M. - Post 320
Lamhut, Morris H. - Post 320

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Wishing You and Yours Health & Prosperity In The New Year!

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

Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

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

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw
Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
USF Austria/USASETAF Italy

PNC Mike Berman & PNP Elaine Bernstein
Remember PNC Paul Bernstein & PNP Shelly Berman

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

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

PNC Warren & Violet Dolny
In Memory of our daughter, Denise

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

75th Anniv. Drizin-Weiss Post 215
Happy 100th Joe Shrager and many more!

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

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

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

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

In Honor of all who have served!
In Honor of our Wedding Anniversary
PNC/PNP Edwin & Iris Goldwasser
We salute those who serve

In Memory of Art Goodman • Post 222
By Jim Gross

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

Herbert L. & Beth Gopman
Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69
National Adjutant • 2016-2019

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Saluting the Veterans of Heritage Hills
Mazel Tov!

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

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

Corporal Shepard S. Kopp, USA 1917-19

In Memory of All Korean War Veterans
MA PDC Stanley R. Light
In Memory of my son, Joshua A. Light

PNC Sheldon Ohren
L'Chaim - To Life

MAJ GEN Pierre David Lax (RET) & Jhonna Lax
We Wish All Health, Strength & a Happy Life

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

Dr. Jack Porter
In Memory of My Wife Raya

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays

In Memory of Howard Rosenthal
Sgt. Marine Corps • Korean War

In Memory of Michael Rubin • Post 712-OH
In Memory of Tibor Rubin MOH #786
Chaplain Dov Cohen & Pink Lady
Stephen & Helen Sax
Live long and prosper

Norman Schnitzer, PDC
In memory of Harriett

Irv Schildkraut • JWV Post 440

Good Health - To Life!
From Strength to Strength
PNC Dr. Barry J. Schneider

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

Good Health & Best Wishes
to all Veterans and their Families

Have a good year!
Gloria & Mike Shapiro

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

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

The Tarnofsky Family
In memory of Len Klanit - Post 440

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

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

In Memorial of Joan & Louise Weinstein
In Memory of Philip & Jolin Weinstein
Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute
www.msawi.org

National Chaplain Shirley Zak
In Memory of PDC Jon Zak

Jeri Zweiman
In loving memory of PNC Robert Zweiman

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

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

In Honor of WWII, Korea, VVW JWV Vets
Brookline-Newton MA Post 211
Good Health & Happiness to All!

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Washington, DC-20009