



# The Jewish Veteran

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

## JWV Members Should Get a COVID-19 Vaccine

By Cara Rinkoff

At the time this edition of The Jewish Veteran went to press, more than 500,000 people had died from the coronavirus. So far, there are vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson approved to protect against COVID-19.

A poll taken in February by the Associated Press and NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that approximately one-third of Americans either definitely or probably will not get the COVID-19 vaccine. Those who did not want to receive the vaccine were concerned about side effects, the overall safety of the vaccine, and others simply don't trust the government.

To stop the spread of coronavirus, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, estimates that between 70% and 85% of the U.S. population will need the vaccine. So far, the numbers of those who would get the vaccine are not high enough.

Due to the hesitancy of some individuals to get the vaccine, JWV member and Director of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System Dr. Steven Braverman spoke to participants at our National Executive Committee meeting in February.

Braverman urged JWV members to get the vaccine as soon as possible. He also wanted to

reassure members about some of the myths they might have heard about the vaccine.

The one Braverman hears most often is that the federal government approved the vaccine too quickly to ensure its safety. Braverman said this is untrue. "These are the most scrutinized vaccines of any vaccines in history," Braverman said. "The reason it happened so quickly was because it was funded by the government and so folks didn't have to pause in between all of the different phase(s)." Braverman noted that no shortcuts were taken when it came to scientific oversight of the vaccine production.

Some individuals have also expressed concerns about the long-term risk of the vaccine. Braverman said "anybody who tells you they know the long-term risk of these vaccines, they're lying, because nobody's had one for more than five months." However, Braverman said it is extremely unusual for any vaccine to have long-term side effects. The greatest chance for side effects always comes from "the implementation of the vaccine on people's autoimmune response which in some folks get turned on more than the body should have an autoimmune response turned on." But Braverman said this is not something that doctors are seeing with this vaccine in a greater proportion than any other vaccine. He also noted



**Dr. Steven Braverman**

that anyone worried about the long-term effects of the vaccine should be more concerned with the unknown long-term effects of the coronavirus itself.

Braverman also contradicted another theory he's heard about the coronavirus vaccine, saying there are no small microchips or nanochips in them that can allow the government to track the movements of those who get the shot.

Braverman said he participated in the phase three trial for the Moderna vaccine. He said that he did not experience any severe side effects from either shot, simply a sore arm and mild fever with

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## A Jewish Soldier's Latin Cross Headstone Replaced with Star of David

By Larry Jasper

During the opening days of World War II in the Pacific Theater, on December 29, 1941, the Japanese lay siege to Corregidor Island in the Philippines. The Japanese bombed the island and destroyed everything they could, including the hospital, barracks, and fuel depot. On that day Corporal Sam Cordova was killed in action.

Cordova enlisted on September 21, 1940, and served with the 60th Coast Artillery Regiment at Fort Mills on Corregidor. Cordova is now buried in Plot D, Row 2, Grave 69, at the Manila American Cemetery, located in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, within the boundaries of the former Fort William McKinley, along with 17,058 fellow service members.

Cordova received the World War II Victory Medal, Purple Heart, American Campaign Medal,



**Manila American Cemetery, Philippines.  
Photo Courtesy: Operation Benjamin**

Army Presidential Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal, and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.

For 79 years Corporal Cordova had a Latin Cross as his marker. He was Jewish.

Finally, Corporal Cordova has a Star of David as his marker.

This was accomplished thanks to an organization known as Operation Benjamin.

Operation Benjamin began in 2016 as the Normandy Heritage Project and changed its name as the project expanded to other cemeteries managed by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC).

ABMC regulations require any request for changes to headstones come from a relative of the deceased.

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# D'verei HaShomrim

## Passover: The Holiday of Rebirth and Renewal

By Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz

Like many Jews, Passover is my favorite holiday. The Seder is a fun family night filled with great food and lively conversation. Preparations for Passover force me to do a good spring cleaning. Though I dislike the process, I love the result. The weeklong celebration, bookended with holy days, gives me time to reflect on the meaning of Passover and the values embedded within it.

Our Celebration of Spring, one of the alternate names of Passover, is aligned with the seasons of the year. The connection between Passover and springtime is further reinforced with this blessing that can first be recited during the month of Nisan, the month in which Passover falls, upon seeing fruit trees blossom. "Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, who has made nothing lacking in this world, and created in it goodly creatures and goodly trees for humans to enjoy."

Also, through the exodus from Egypt, the Passover story, the Israelites become reborn as a free people.

I find the connection between Passover and rebirth inspiring. It encourages me to look around and identify other places where this rejuvenation is taking place. Luckily, in my position as Director of Operations at JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, I don't have to look far to find Jewish life in the military constantly in a state of renewal and rededication. I will share just a few examples of the new buds of Jewish life popping up around the globe at military installations.

- Every Jewish community knows that educating the next generation through Hebrew schools is a must. Yet service member families expect that dedication to country comes at the cost of Jewish education for their children. JWB is at the forefront of changing this reality. This year, we piloted five Hebrew school classrooms, with a hybrid of in-person and remote learning. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and an expansion to more installations is planned for this fall. Soon, every Jewish child growing up in an active-duty military family will have access to their Jewish history, culture, and values.

- Military Jewish lay leaders take on the responsibility of leading the Jewish community in the absence of a local Jewish chaplain. While there are more than 60 lay leaders serving around the globe, the recruitment of lay leaders has been sporadic. This spring, two JWB Chaplain candidates, Ensigns Stefanie Gedan and Alex



Hamilton, are facilitating a Lay Leadership Training Course. Over 20 new lay leaders are participating. This is the largest influx of JWB lay leaders at one time, since World War II.

- JWB chaplains remain the number one facilitators of meaningful Jewish life throughout the military. As we enter our second year of a COVID Passover, JWB chaplains are reaching out and creating spiritual Passover celebrations for more Jewish service members and their families than in-person gatherings could ever reach. Through video conferencing and recorded Seders, no Jewish military family will miss out on Passover this year.

At each Passover Seder table we place a filled cup for Elijah, in the hope that the prophet will visit our homes, heralding the coming of a brighter tomorrow. At JWB, while we too anticipate Elijah's visit, we know that JWB chaplains and lay leaders, along with our Hebrew School teachers, are bringing forth the blossoms of Jewish life today.

*Rabbi Tracy J. Kaplowitz, Ph.D., is the director of operations of JWB Jewish Chaplains Council®, a signature program of JCC Association of North America. Rabbi Kaplowitz served nine years as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. She was attached to Dover AFB, DE, where she supported the Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs in caring for our country's fallen heroes during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Kaplowitz was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and holds a doctorate in sociology of education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.*

## COVID-19 and Holding Safe Seders


By Dr. Itzhak Brook, Infectious Diseases, Adjunct Professor of Pediatric Medicine, Georgetown University

Passover creates challenges for those who want to celebrate the Seder with their family and friends. The availability of COVID-19 vaccines makes it easier to resume in-person Seders, but in some cases, there is still a high risk of acquiring the virus.

The Center for Disease Control's Interim Public Health Recommendations for those who are fully vaccinated provide useful guidelines which can help plan a safe Seder and avoid risky scenarios that would allow the COVID-19 virus to spread.

The CDC says to be considered fully vaccinated, people need to wait two weeks after receiving their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna shot or two weeks after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Fully vaccinated people could hold a Seder indoors with other fully vaccinated people or unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease without wearing masks or physical distancing.

Wearing masks, practicing physical distancing, and adhering to other prevention measures is required when celebrating the Seder with unvacci-



### THE JEWISH VETERAN

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National Commander Jeffrey Sacks  
National Editor Larry Jasper  
Managing Editor Cara Rinkoff  
Graphics/Production Editor Christy Turner

**EDITORIAL OFFICE**  
1811 R Street, NW • Washington, D.C. 20009

Telephone (202) 265-6280 x413  
Fax (202) 234-5662  
E-mail [jwv@jwv.org](mailto:jwv@jwv.org)  
Web Site [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org)

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Interested in writing an article about veterans' issues? Want to let everyone know what your post or department is doing? Send your articles and photographs to Managing Editor Cara Rinkoff at [editor@jwv.org](mailto:editor@jwv.org).

You can find more information about guidelines for article and photo submissions on [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org). The deadline for the next issue of The Jewish Veteran is June 2.



# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Jeffrey Sacks

As I sit down and write this article, it is Erev Purim. I remember that last year at this time my synagogue canceled our annual Purim Spiel. Other closures soon followed due to the coronavirus pandemic. This has been a particularly hard winter. Four of my comrades from Post 800 have been summoned to the post eternal – two were COVID-19 related deaths. Two of my former police co-workers also turned in their stars for good – one from COVID-19. Several days ago, I requested the flag at National Headquarters be lowered to half-staff as the nation marked 500,000 dead from this pandemic. As I prepare to testify before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, I won't be traveling to Washington DC. Instead, I will present JWV's concerns to the committee via WebEx. I look forward to a better summer for both JWV and the nation as vaccines become more readily available. I urge you to get vaccinated as soon as you qualify and be persistent about trying to get inoculated. I have taken my first dose and can report that my reaction was similar to the flu shot I received last fall. Hopefully by the time you read this I will have my second vaccination dose. Getting vaccinated and encouraging our friends and family to do the same is what we each can do to battle this pandemic.

By the time you read my printed thoughts, March 15th will have come and gone so let's mark the moment with a modified Shehecheyanu. Blessed are you G-d who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to the 125th Anniversary of our beloved organization. Amen.

In these hard times our leadership at the Department and Council levels is more important than ever. I would like to spotlight a few of those leaders.

## Steve Markman



Department Commander Steve Markman is in his fourth year of heading up the Department of Ohio. He also serves as the Department Quartermaster and Vice Commander of Post 587 in Dayton. He also served as Post 587 Commander for 15 years. He is an Air Force veteran, with two years active duty and 20 years in the active reserves. Markman also worked for 32 years as a civilian aerospace engineer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He enjoys many pastimes, including writing, model ship building, and woodworking. He has a restored player piano with a collection of nearly 600 paper

music rolls, including over 70 rare rolls of Hebrew and Yiddish songs. When not preoccupied with these other activities, Markman is either driving or tinkering with his 1950 MGTD roadster.

## Lou Michaels



Lou Michaels is the Department Commander of Minnesota and a Navy veteran. He is also our National Historian. He enjoys working with the Post Commanders and members of Posts 162, 331, and 354, and compares working with his Department to completing a puzzle fitting people in where they will do their best. Michaels' nickname is "Lou the Photo Guy," as he has been a professional photographer for 55 years. He likes to say that he covers all angles and is a member of the National Press Club. He has his own website [www.louthephotoguy.com](http://www.louthephotoguy.com) and can be reached via email at [louthephotoguy@gmail.com](mailto:louthephotoguy@gmail.com). Please forward any significant events and photos your post, council or department would like to see included in the 2020-2021 historical report to him.

## Jeffrey Blonder



Jeffrey Blonder is the Commander of the Department of Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Naval Reserves in 1986 under the Advanced Pay Grade program. During his 28 years of service, Blonder was associated with the Naval Reserve Intelligence Program. Blonder held several key positions including Chief of Information Technology, Commander Navy Intelligence Program, Anti-terrorist Training officer, Senior Enlisted Leader of two Navy Reserve units, and Command Career Counselor to seven Navy Reserve units on the East Coast. In 2008 Commander Blonder mobi-

lized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for a period of 15 months where he served as a Combat Advisor to the Afghanistan National Army. He also served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to all Naval personnel in Northern Afghanistan. Commander Blonder retired on the USS Constitution in 2013 after 28 years of service. Blonder joined the JWV in 2010 and he served as Post Commander in North Shore Post 220 for four years before becoming the Commander of the Department of Massachusetts in 2019.

## Larry Jasper



Larry Jasper is the Department Commander of Florida and serves as our National Editor. Larry served 30 years in the Army with Special Forces and saw combat action in Vietnam, Panama, and the Gulf War. He has received three awards for valor and two for wounds. He has also received the Legion of Merit. Jasper first joined JWV while in service in 1970 but did not become an active member until joining Post 373 in Tampa. Elected as Post Commander in 2018, he still holds that post. He added command of the Department of Florida in 2019. He serves on multiple JWV committees. He has coached little league, donates blood regularly, and does volunteer service. He is a member of Temple Beth David in Spring Hill and attends services weekly. If all the above wasn't enough, he has been married for 22 years with four children ranging in age from 15 to 21. He takes pride in the Department of Florida's quarterly email newsletter and the Department of Florida website. He has assisted the entire department in maintaining communications and meetings via the internet in the age of COVID-19. He is also proud that his Department is still able to safely provide Honor Guards for deceased veterans in these trying times.

I am very proud to say I know these distinguished comrades in arms.





# THOUGHTS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## A Tribute to PNC David Hymes

Past National Commander David Hymes was one of my heroes. As a combat veteran in World War II, he received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in France. Hymes was a member of the Greatest Generation.

According to the U.S. Army Registry, in September of 1941, about three months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hymes entered the U.S. Army as a private at Ft. Warren, Wyoming. In January of 1942 he was assigned to Panama, serving there for ten months, and receiving promotions to both Corporal and then Sergeant. After going through a 90-day intensive Officer Candidate School, he received a commission as Second Lieutenant.

He was first assigned to an all-black transportation company in Shelbyville, Illinois, until black officers replaced the white ones. Then Hymes transferred to the Adjutant's General Corps and traveled to England. Due to his prior civilian experiences, Hymes was assigned as the Postal Finance Officer for Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy. Bonded for \$500,000 and with nine men assigned to him, he landed at Omaha Beach in neck deep water, where he was strafed by German aircraft waiting to clear the beachhead. He set up operations in a 20-foot by 20-foot steel bar cage with the base post office in Cherbourg, France. While in France, Hymes was promoted to First Lieutenant.

Near the end of February 1945, Hymes was wounded. He was airlifted to England and placed in traction for 30 days. In England he was fit-

ted with a special cast and transported back to the United States where he recuperated at Hines Hospital near Chicago. He was honorably discharged in February 1946.

Hymes was an enthusiastic supporter of JWV. Over the decades, he served in many positions on the local, state, and national levels. He always came to convention and to National Executive Committee meetings. He was always proud of the Department of Illinois and of Post 800 in Chicago. He was very, very proud of our current National Commander Jeff Sacks, who is from Chicago.



PNC David Hymes

Hymes was a devoted, dedicated member of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. He served on the Board of Directors and continually donated to the museum. He also would offer to match the donations of others, often significant amounts.

I remember going to Chicago some years ago for a meeting with Jewish organizations. Hymes was a wonderful host. He took me around to historical sites to meet with the Department Commander and with members of his post. Once we sat together on a bench in the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. We talked and laughed with each other for a long time while he told me a lot about his family and his life.

Hymes was 103 and it is my understanding that he was in good health. But COVID-19 got him. That awful virus is too much, especially for someone over 100.

Hymes was always a happy person. A generous, kind, wonderful person. As sad as we are that he passed away, we must all remember that he would have wanted us to enjoy this day, to socialize with each other, and to think good thoughts. That is how I most remember David Hymes.



COL Herb Rosenbleeth,  
USA (Ret)  
National Executive Director

## Virtual Meeting with Biden-Harris Defense Transition Agency Review Team

By PNC Harvey Weiner

JWV and other veterans' organizations were invited to a virtual meeting with the Biden-Harris Defense Transition Agency Review Team on January 11, 2021. The purpose was to share JWV's top priorities, issues, concerns, and recommendations with the transition team. This is the first time that anyone at JWV National recalled such a request coming from a presidential transition team. Since there would presumably be no equivalent meeting with a veterans transition team, if one existed at all, National decided to focus on veterans' issues, rather than defense issues. This would be our only chance to have input.

I requested input from various JWV individuals, and ultimately, we decided on two issues. As JWV's National Liaison Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs, here is what I presented:

"Good afternoon, everyone, I am Harvey Weiner, a Vietnam War combat veteran, and immediate Past National Commander and National Liaison Officer of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, America's oldest active veterans' organization. We, the JWV, will celebrate our 125th anniversary in just over two months – March 15th.

I am going to focus on veterans', rather than on defense issues, because this seems to be our one chance to say something.

Our first concern is the conduct of the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He must make a

public pledge that his primary loyalty will be to veterans and not to the Administration. As you may know, this may not have been true for the present Secretary, because when a female veteran [who was Jewish and a JWV member] was recently sexually harassed at a VA facility, she, and not the sexual harasser, was initially investigated by the Secretary because this female veteran worked for a Democrat. Many of the veterans' groups you are hearing from today, including some who rarely, if ever, take public positions, called for President Trump to fire the Secretary or for the Secretary to resign.

The proposed new Secretary is neither a veteran nor a healthcare expert, even though he will oversee the largest healthcare network in the United States. He is a lifelong political operative and a bureaucrat. He must make a public pledge that his primary loyalties are with veterans and that he will act accordingly during his stewardship.

A second concern is for this new Administration to do nothing, directly or indirectly, to privatize and emasculate VA healthcare, but rather to act to reinvigorate it. The VA healthcare system has the expertise and experience to treat veterans, a unique group of patients, whereas private healthcare does not. If you read Dr. David Shulkin's book, "It Shouldn't be this Hard to Serve Your Country," you will learn from a former Secretary of Veterans Affairs that the prior Administration had a not-so-secret plan to privatize VA healthcare and to

weaken it. It did so solely for ideological reasons and not to help veterans. We insist that the present trend towards privatization, some of which is under the guise of so-called consolidation be reversed and that the present public VA healthcare system be strengthened [veterans are not the waste of war to be sacrificed on the altar of politics and ideology.]

Thank you very much for this opportunity and stay safe. I would be glad to answer any questions."

There were no questions from the transition team, but I did receive a call to ask if JWV had any other issues it wanted to raise. I mentioned the removal of the remaining Nazi gravestone in Utah and the hope that the new President would reinstitute the prior practice of hosting a breakfast on Veterans Day in the White House with the National Commanders of the various veterans' organizations.

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## BUDGET COMMITTEE

*By NVC Alan Paley*

Robert Nussbaum served as the chairman of the Budget Committee, but unfortunately, he passed away in late December 2020. Since I had previously been the chairman of this committee, I worked with the rest of the committee members to complete the budget for the 2022 Fiscal Year.

On December 17, we received the financial information from JWV's Accounting Coordinator Julia Lasher for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020, as well as the cash basis numbers for the current five months of this year (July 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020). The committee looked at the audited results for the prior three years (2017, 2018, and 2019), as well as the cash basis numbers for 2020. We also looked at the trend for the first five months of the current year.

Questions on budget line items were prepared and sent to Julia for investigation and response. We also asked all the committee chairs if they had any financial requests for the coming year.

Feedback from the committee chairs as well as the answers to our questions from Julia were incorporated into the budget for next year. Each member of the budget committee submitted their suggested budget numbers, and that information is put together.

At NEC, participants were shown the audited results for 2017, 2018, and 2019, as well as the cash basis numbers for 2020 and the first five months of 2021. We also showed members the budget for FY2021 and proposed budget for 2022, which was subsequently approved.

## HOLOCAUST EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*By Committee Member Hannah Deutch*

Right after National Convention there was not much happening as it was close to all the Jewish Holidays. I am connected with many Speakers Bureaus, but the one that keeps me the busiest and is my favorite is the HHREC (Holocaust Human Rights Education Center) in White Plains, New York. They keep me busy both in and outside of the state. They make the arrangements for my speaking engagements and provide a car service for me.

I spoke at the German International School, which is for children of diplomats, German children ages 8-11. They are so advanced in their knowledge about the Holocaust that they could have told my story. In most U.S. schools, I usually speak to junior high school students. I was one of five survivors who spoke to the children on different days. The students put together drawings and letters for us that they made into a book for a contest held by the German government.

I also spoke at Beth Torah Congregation, and will return there next season. I also got to speak with 500 high school students at Riverdale Country School in the Bronx.

January 27 is the United Nations Annual Holocaust Memorial Day and in connection with that I attended several functions via Zoom.

This is just to give you an idea of what is going on in New York State, but it is not everything.

Quite a few years ago I was Chairman of this Committee and in that capacity, I got in touch with

all the committee members. This is what I heard from them: "I am on the Committee?" "I have to write a report and send it to the Chairman, I can't."

But I keep sending my reports for New York. Now that our Chairman has passed away, I continue sending my reports, but it seems no one cares. They even took this report out of "The Jewish Veteran." It seems very dark for this Committee to remain alive, and in truth for us Jews, it is the most important Committee there is.

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

*By Chairman Howard Goldstein*

Our committee has held a virtual meeting every other week for the past year.

We gave a comprehensive presentation on the membership survey at National Convention in August. Since that time, we have given the presentation to multiple Departments and Committees. If you would like your Department or Post to view a presentation of the survey results, please let me know.

The resource center has been designed, an input document developed, and the initial system concept worked on. At NEC's Marketing Committee meeting we further introduced this valuable resource and are looking for documents, ads, presentations, brochures, and other items to fill it. If you have something that you think would be of interest to others in JWV, please contact any of the committee members for the input form.

We have previously mentioned creating a brand awareness program. We recently signed a contract with an outside vendor to help with this effort and will have results in a few months. This will include templates showing how our logo should be used in various means of communications, including flyers, tri-fold brochures, webpages, and ads. This will include acceptable colors, fonts, and layouts. There will be training materials that go along with this for those who need them. We will be encouraging the use of these templates after existing materials are used up. We will also be conducting a brand audit to identify the materials we already have, both for this project and to put in the resource center.

With the completion of the marketing survey, we can also start work on target marketing. We have identified six target groups, including active-duty personnel and people nearly or newly retired. For each of these we need to find out their drives, the media where they get their information, and begin going after them.

We plan to keep meeting every other week.

At the next National Convention, through "The Jewish Veteran," and other means of communication, we plan to roll out the resource center, continue to assure the membership study results are being implemented, and begin rolling out the graphics standards.

## POST-9/11 COMMITTEE

*By Chairman Matthew Weinburke*

The Post-9/11 Committee has held four additional meetings since its first virtual gathering on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. The Post-9/11 Committee held a joint meeting with the Gulf War Committee at NEC 2021 on January 28.

During the meeting, both committees outlined their six-month plans, including a speaker series, the JWV Vet Network, and the National Convention.

The Post-9/11 Committee will continue to implement their goals during the 2020-2021 year, which includes increasing our social media presence, incorporating social networking, having virtual socials, providing support to veterans and active-duty service persons, and delivering presentations on a variety of topics during future meetings. The topics will relate to current issues affecting the members of the Post-9/11 committee and JWV members. The Post-9/11 Committee will continue to hold monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm EDT.

Please contact our committee at [jwvpost911veteranscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:jwvpost911veteranscommittee@gmail.com) if you have any questions, ideas, or if you want to join the committee.

## VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

*By Chairman Bob Jacobs*

To say the least, our committee meeting during NEC 2021 was unusual. I would first like to thank Harrison Heller for running the virtual meeting and keeping us connected. We also observed a moment of silence to mourn the passing of committee member Joel Fabrikant.

We are currently working on several projects. The Gulf War and Post-9/11 Committees have asked us to work with them on a joint event for our National Convention this summer in New Orleans. When there are more details, I'll keep you informed. I am working with the National Museum of American Jewish Military History's Mike Rugel and Sheldon Goldberg to organize a webinar focused on Vietnam service. The tentative date is April 8. More information will be available soon.

Jerry Alperstein and I have been working with Pam Elbe of the museum to create the Vietnam exhibit. We are gathering both money to fund the exhibit and items to go on display. Please look through your home for items related to your service. Since we want to focus on the Jewish experience in the military, your items may be of use even if your service between 1959-1975 was not actually in Vietnam. If you wish to help fund the exhibit, you can send a check the NMAJMH with a notation that it is for the Vietnam Exhibit.

An earlier project, the disc book of 90 Jewish personnel who served during the Vietnam War was completed last summer and we are awaiting final copyright approval before we give them to the museum to sell.

Nelson Mellitz, our liaison to the Department of Veterans Affairs, reported that the VA budget for 2021 has passed. He discussed the burn pit issue and likened the challenges to that of fighting for Agent Orange protection for exposed veterans. He also reported that every VA hospital seems to have different policies for administering COVID-19 vaccines and that everyone should go to the website to sign up for it. Members of the committee then discussed the experiences they've had regarding vaccines and the VA, and it showed how the experience varied depending on location.

National Commander Jeff Sacks reported that

*Continued on page 17*



# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

On behalf of the Membership Committee, I would like to take this opportunity and wish all our members, past and present, a happy 125th anniversary. As we continue to honor the legacy put forward by our forefathers in 1896, our secret ingredient lies with our membership. From JWV New York Post 1, to our most recent JWV Maryland Post 360 chartered in 2019, the dedication and continued support provided by our membership at all echelons are second to none.

Since March 17, 2020, with the COVID-19 limitations placed on our JWV Departments and Posts, we continue to serve our veterans, their families, and our local community partners, while maintaining strict safety precautions.

Some of our JWV initiatives while maintaining full safety precautions include the following: a memorial color guard provided by JWV TALO Post 757; a wreath laying ceremony conducted by JWV New Jersey Post 125; grave site flagging by JWV Georgia Post 320 and JWV TALO 256; a drive-by-salute to honor veterans and health care providers organized by JWV New York Post 41; a food drive distribution by JWV California

Post 603; a Holocaust recognition conducted by JWV Department of Wisconsin; honoring JWV Maryland and JWV Florida Post 373 for their recognition of Centenarian Members; and virtual meetings of Posts and Departments. There are many more JWV Departments and Posts performing incredible undertakings as illustrated in this edition of "The Jewish Veteran."

With that said, for JWV to remain as a veterans service organization, we must ensure that our membership continues to grow, while maintaining the current membership. Since the national pandemic, our focus has shifted to retention. While most of our posts continue to maintain contact with their members through the use of virtual conferencing, a small percentage need assistance with technology. Department leaders need to identify which of their posts need assistance.

A solution to this situation is the involvement of all JWV echelons to reach out to our membership and continue to perform wellness checks. At the start of the pandemic in March 2020 our National Leadership took the lead and contacted all Department Commanders and all Post

Commanders not affiliated with a Department. The purpose of each telephone contact was to check the status of our members. This is a highly successful program and is still ongoing.

Today, a year later, we must ensure all our members are contacted. Our Membership Committee is constantly reviewing similar wellness check concepts utilized by the various allied veteran organizations. We are reviewing their current practices and adapting their best practices to fit the needs of JWV. We need your help to continue to reach out to our members. Together, we are responsible to protect our most important asset, our members. Stay healthy, stay safe and please reach out to someone that has served.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky  
Membership Chairman

## Redefining Transition - Jews and the Military in the Last Frontier

By Nona Safra

As a child of Philadelphia's Jewish community in the 1950s, I was surrounded by Jewish World War II veterans, Holocaust survivors, and immigrants from all over Europe. These people were survivors, had 'shell shock,' and needed jobs and opportunities.

My Dad, Meyer Safra, served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps and became a member of JWV's Milton Kelkey Post #575. As treasurer of the local credit union, evenings in our home were filled with post members coming over for loans, payments, etc. I listened intently to their stories about the war, their lives, and sometimes their struggles following WWII and Korea. What I didn't realize was the impact those heroes would have on my life some six decades later when I retired to Alaska and found myself as the Jewish

godmother to a group of amazing veterans living in the Last Frontier.

My love for Alaska began when I was eight. I was always excited to get the third grade's "My Weekly Reader" in school and the January 1959 issue had a story about the 49th state, Alaska. I came home and suggested that we move to Alaska. My father was appalled and cried out, "what would we do there? There are not Jews there! Are you crazy!" That was that – or was it?

Jews had lived in Alaska for 200 years and the largest groups were merchants and men who arrived due to military service. On October 1, 1867, the day of the formal transfer of Alaska to the United States, the American soldier who is credited with lowering the Russian flag and raising the first American flag in Sitka was a Jew named Benjamin Levy.

Among the many furriers who moved to Alaska was David Green, a man who helped Anchorage survive the Great Depression and WWII by making muskrat liners and parkas for U.S. service members who were monitoring the Aleutian Islands for Japanese activity. The hundreds of Jews who came to Anchorage during the war were welcomed by both the Green family and the rest of the Jewish community.

Green's son, Perry, came of age during World War II. His father's work making military parkas helped Perry understand support for our troops and he served in the U.S. Army for three years. Alaskan Senator Dan Sullivan honored Perry Green's enduring patriotism in 2020 saying, "I would say that Perry Green is the most patriotic American I know, and we have a lot of patriots in Alaska!"

The military bases in Alaska saw the arrival of hundreds of Jewish GI's. Families, like the Greens in Anchorage and the Bloom family in Fairbanks, joined others in the Jewish community to host activities and organize Jewish holiday

celebrations.

Among those Jewish GI's was Private Joseph Sharp of Philadelphia. He was the first American killed in action on the North American continent in World War II. He died manning an anti-aircraft gun during an attack at Dutch Harbor in 1942 and posthumously received the Purple Heart for "meritorious acts."

Another Jewish veteran who served in Alaska during WWII was Monroe B. Goldberg who was stationed in Alaska at Fort Richardson and Adak from 1943 to 1945. His archives comprise the Monroe B. Goldberg Collection at the Anchorage Museum in Anchorage.

It is reported that from the 1940s through the 1970s, Jewish military personnel outnumbered Jewish civilians in Alaska.

Jewish Chaplains at Elmendorf Air Base near Anchorage rotated every two years between Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox leaders, and often ended up serving the entire Jewish community throughout Alaska. They would travel for bar mitzvahs and offered other learning opportunities. The Fairbanks Chaplain, Seymour Gitin, inspired the community to organize a Jewish Sunday school. In 2016, Captain Michael Bram became the first Jewish chaplain at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in 25 years.

This was the Alaska that called out to me. I am the daughter of a veteran, married two men who served our country, and had a daughter who graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. My parents even named me after my father's best friend who died during the Battle of the Bulge. So, in 2011, I retired to Alaska and a new chapter of my life began. I became honorary Godmother to the greatest group of veterans – the ones who are part of a transition program called VIPER.

VIPER provides a seamless transition into the civilian workforce and meaningful long-term

*Continued on page 16*



Operation Combat Pike

# Member Spotlight: Murray Zolkower – One of Our Own Turns 100

By Larry Jasper

On February 6, Murray Zolkower turned 100-years-old. Two months ahead of the celebration, his daughter Francine decided to see if she could get people to send 100 birthday cards to him as a surprise. Between the efforts of National and the Department of Florida, as well as many Department and Post members, Zolkower received more than 500 cards. He also got letters from former President George W. Bush, Sen. Marco Rubio, Rep. Gus Bilirakis, and two former U.S. Surgeons General.

Mission BBQ, Zolkower’s favorite restaurant, hosted a surprise lunch for their special customer, as well as his children, friends, and three members of JWV. Two active-duty Army recruiters also made a surprise appearance along with a bag of goodies. During lunch, Department of Florida Commander Larry Jasper, assisted by Post 373 members Jack Rudowsky and Jim Marenus presented him with a JWV Centenarian Certificate.

On his actual birthday, February 6, Suncoast Region Veterans Village USA organized a parade in front of his home in Dunedin, Florida. The parade included restored military vehicles, a vehicle from Mission Barbecue, and other cars and trucks displaying congratulatory signs and American flags. The Dunedin Fire Department, Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office, Honor Flight of West Central Florida, and a retired Air Force Colonel who serves as an aide to Congressman Bilirakis also participated in the parade.



At Mission BBQ in Tampa, Murray Zolkower shows off the Centenarian Certificate from the JWV presented by the Department of Florida Commander Larry Jasper along with Jim Marenus and Jack Rudowsky of Post 373 in Tampa, FL.



Murray Zolkower

Zolkower joined JWV in 1946 when he returned home from World War II and is still co-commander of Post 409. He is one of the longest serving volunteers at Bay Pines VA Hospital in St. Petersburg.

Zolkower was surprised so many people came out and sent things to him for his birthday. He said it was the “greatest moment of my life.”

While attending Columbia College of Pharmacy in New York in 1938, a recruiter for the New York National Guard came on campus. He promised \$15 a month for anyone who signed up and attended twice a month. That was a lot of money at the time, so Zolkower signed up. One year later, he was surprised when he had to report for active duty and disrupt his studies for one year. He spent that year at Camp Dix (now Fort Dix) in New Jersey. After being released he returned to Columbia only to have his studies again disrupted in 1943 when the Army called him back to active duty.

The Army had no need for a pharmacist, so they sent him to Colorado to train as a dental tech. Later the military sent him to Texas to train as a medic.

Zolkower found himself on Omaha Beach six weeks after D-Day. He said the beach was all cleaned up and very busy with supplies and personnel coming in. He was sent to an area near St. Lo, France, assigned to the 7th Convalescent Hospital, where they used large tents to treat troops who could return to duty.

In August 1944 he was in Paris assigned to a clearing company of the 45th Division as a Dental Tech, where he was evaluating soldiers with facial injuries.

Zolkower then moved to Etampes, France, where the Division set up in a captured German Hospital. The Army decided they did not need a Dental Tech there, so he became a medic assigned to the 92nd Mechanized Cavalry, 14th Division, sent to look for trouble close to the front.

Zolkower then got assigned to the 120th Medical Battalion in the 45th Infantry Division.

His unit fought their way through Nuremburg and Munich where they were billeted in a former SS barrack.

On April 29, 1945, his unit was ordered to liberate Dachau. Zolkower said he didn’t want to go with the unit and see his fellow Jews dead or dying but was not given a choice. Zolkower said, “it was the worst thing I ever saw in my life.” He added that nice homes, like those in suburban Long Island, were lining the street leading to the front gate of the camp. He felt there was no way those living in those homes did not know the horrors taking place in the camp.

The war ended nine days later, but Zolkower could not return home right away. He remained with the military in Gars, Germany, where he helped set up a clinic to treat farmers who had sustained injuries. After two months, he returned to the United States.

Zolkower’s girlfriend, Lillian, wrote him every other day during his deployment. They were married in 1946 until her death in 2014. Zolkower returned to school and became a pharmacist in 1948. He still works as a pharmacist part-time.



Col. Gerry Custin, aide to Rep. Gus Bilirakis, Murray Zolkower, Francine Wolf, and two friends.

## NEW MEMBERS

- DEPARTMENT AT LARGE**  
Brenner, David - Post 77  
Carroll, Davis V. - Post 100  
Hunt, Aiden - Post 77  
Kramer, Rebekah D. - Post 343  
Martyn, Ari M. - Post 77
- DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**  
Futterman, Sarah R. - Post 786  
Golberg, Leon M. - Post 185  
Gruber, Daniel D. - Post 603  
Haines, Sheri L. - Post 385
- DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**  
Cohen, Stanley - Post 172  
Wilson, Marc B. - Post 373
- DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS**  
Aplebaum, Barton - Post 29  
Fischman, Irwn - Post 29

- Samuel, Ralph D. - Post 29
- DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND**  
Abraham, Max I. - Post 380  
Salob, Howard S. - Post 380
- DEPT OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
Freedman, Robert - Post 211
- DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**  
Cooperman, Mark I. - Post 474
- DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST**  
Tepper, Arnold S. - Post 644
- DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA**  
Wallace, Clay - Post 354
- DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY**  
Kaplinsky, Glenn - Post 972  
Seidman, George - Post 126

- DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK**  
Flaschner, Josef - Post 648  
Glassman, Jeremy - Post 425  
Merlis, Richard - Post 80  
Shilling, Henry - Post 425  
Tenenbaum, Marc H. - Post 652
- DEPARTMENT OF OHIO**  
Pfleaidermahnn, Erich - Post 14
- DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST**  
Moosey, Matthew - Post 320  
Rosenberg, Stanley C. - Post 320
- DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST**  
Ashmore, Joshua - Post 210
- DEPARTMENT OF TALO**  
Coster, Julie A. - Post 755  
Henning, Brian Z. - Post 755

- Hulme, Braeden - Post 755  
Johary, Isaac - Post 574  
Packler, Marc - Post 753  
Rubin, Matthew - Post 757  
Saizar, Faustino - Post 749  
Ticatach, Harlan I., - Post 574  
Yisrael, Erela T. - Post 753
- DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC**  
Baker, Bernard D. - Post 765  
Cohen, Michael B. - Post 299  
Samuels, Seymour - Post 095
- DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**  
Abramson, Elliott M. - Post 145  
Aldridge, James D. - Post 145  
O'Hara, Judy A. - Post 487  
Sand, Benjamin E. - Post 701  
Zemel, Randy S. - Post 145



# Jewish Hatred and Anti-Israel Bias Continues to Spread

By Colonel Nelson L Mellitz, USAF, Ret.

This is the second in a continuing series of articles in “The Jewish Veteran” on the ever-increasing anti-Semitism in the United States and overseas.

The U.S. State Department has joined with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), a 31-member nation-state organization which met in Bucharest during 2016, and adopted a non-legally binding “working definition” of anti-Semitism:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individual(s) and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Examples of anti-Semitism given in the 2016 IHRA Plenary meeting notes include:

- The targeting of the State of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity.
- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective....
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters....
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.

## Will having a definition for anti-Semitism stop anti-Semitism?

Anti-Semitism is an ancient hatred of our peo-

ple. In the 21st century, the internet is used to communicate lies and falsehoods about Jewish people at the speed of light. In the past, that would have taken weeks or even months. We already know the possible consequences of allowing anti-Semitism to spread unimpeded.

There are two major battlegrounds in the fight against anti-Semitism: social media and college campuses.

The far left, far right, and Muslim extremist groups have formed an alliance to spread their anti-Semitic lies and falsehoods. These groups use social media and the internet to delegitimize the State of Israel and its right to exist. An example of this approach is the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement with the help of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). SJP uses the internet to push lies and falsehoods against not only Israel but the Jewish people. SJP states that anyone who supports Israel is against justice for all minorities. A study published by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported 4.2 million anti-Semitic tweets from three million unique handles in 2017, and the number is increasing. That means on average there were 81,400 anti-Semitic tweets per week in 2017.

College campuses have become a major communications hub for hate groups. These hate groups use the campus internet and in-person platforms to promote anti-Semitism to impressionable young people – both Jewish and non-Jewish. The organization StandWithUs is a leading pro-Israel organization that investigates anti-Semitism and other types of discrimination on college campuses. StandWithUs says freedom of speech for Jewish students who support Israel is often violated on campuses. The group claims that at major U.S. colleges, Jewish students are branded as either sup-

porting or not supporting Israel. If the student is a supporter of Israel, they have been physically and verbally attacked as a person that opposes social justice. Jewish and non-Jewish students that support Israel are continuously excluded from campus councils and social organizations.

Anti-Semitism is growing in the United States and throughout the world. The Jewish War Veterans has joined a coalition of over 145 major Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, and we have jointly endorsed a recent publication “The New Antisemites: How the Delegitimization Campaign Against Israel Drives Hatred and Violence in America.” JWV has responded to anti-Semitism with a renewed commitment to battle and counter anti-Semitism wherever it shows its ugly head. In the 1930s, Jewish War Veterans who served in World War I marched in the streets of New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, and elsewhere with our partner Veterans Service Organizations against Hitler’s fascism and hatred of Jews. The Jewish War Veterans still has that commitment against anti-Semitism. Perhaps we need marches in 2021 to prove to the world we are still actively fighting anti-Semitism.

JWV was formed in 1896 to counter anti-Semitism statements that we did not fight for the United States during the Civil War. Now in our 125th year, we are still fighting against anti-Semitism, perhaps a different form, but still anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitism is increasing throughout the United States with hate speech and actions on college campuses, in government, and in social organizations. Join with your fellow JWV’ers to increase our efforts to fight this hatred and secure the future of the Jewish people in the United States, in Israel, and around the world.

## JWV SEEKS FULL-TIME NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) seeks a full time National Executive Director (NED) in the Washington DC Area for immediate employment.

The National Executive Director is the full-time administrative director of the JWV and its national headquarters staff and the staff of the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJMH). The primary duty is to perform day-to-day direction of all official business of the organization, on behalf of the elected national leadership of the JWV and NMAJMH. The NED shall provide advice and counsel to the elected officials and general membership as necessary.

The JWV National Executive Director is responsible for all legislative liaison activities related to Congress, its various committees and activities. The NED will also act as liaison to various government administrative organizations, agencies and non-government associations. The NED will develop a professional symbiotic relationship with other Jewish organizations. The NED will also serve on The Military Coalition (TMC) a consortium of over 30 military and Veterans service organizations (MSOs and VSOs), collectively representing more than 5.5 million service members, Veterans, survivors and their families.

The NED will oversee the production and content of the JWV Veteran Newspaper and JWV media outlets.

The NED reports directly to the (1) Chair

of the Personnel Committee, (2) JWV National Commander and the (3) JWV National Executive Committee.

### Major Duties/Responsibilities:

- Create/update and review all official correspondence on behalf of the JWV such as membership letters and emails, fundraising materials, and letters to Congress and other government officials
- In coordination with the elected Officers, prepare annual JWV focus areas and develop legislative objectives and strategies; write, staff, and publish JWV Annual Legislative Resolutions document
- Attend all monthly general session meetings of TMC and separately, all meetings conducted by TMC committees on which JWV sits
- Attend pertinent meetings, press conferences, events, bill signings, and other events on Capitol Hill, on behalf of both JWV and TMC
- Serve as member, ex-officio and otherwise, of all national-level committees of the JWV and NMAJMH
- Develop, coordinate, and maintain all corporate partnerships, other financial relationships, and fundraising activities on behalf of the JWV.

### Education and knowledge requirements

- Position requires a minimum of a bachelor’s degree, Masters preferred, in management, administration or business, and/or related ex-

perience, as relates to government affairs and organizational management/leadership skills. The following are also highly desired in a successful candidate:

- Military experience as a Field Grade Officer• Knowledge and understanding of Jewish culture, history, holidays, observances and practices
- Familiarity with the structure and functional mission of the JWV
- Previous experience working for an NGO helpful
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and a flexible, collaborative, and congenial work style
- Working knowledge of social media and computer technology
- Working knowledge of finance
- Ability to work and write independently
- Experience in autonomously managing multiple efforts and achieving stated goals and requirements
- Knowledge and skill in applying analytical and evaluative methods and techniques to complex projects
- Ability to use interpersonal techniques to meet and deal effectively and personably with others at all levels of authority

Responses must be received by April 30, 2021. Send resumes and vitas to: NED Search Committee Chair, Dr. Barry J. Schneider at dr\_barrys@yahoo.com



In my view, the job of the National Editor, in addition to reviewing articles for accuracy, spelling, punctuation, etc., is to make sure members are aware of and think about current issues. One thing I always do, whether it was as a Post Commander, Department Commander, an Active-Duty Command Sergeant Major, or a Synagogue President, is to leave my personal feelings at the door and do what is right. I have often made decisions contrary to my personal opinions because it is the right thing to do at the time.

Two issues ago I wrote an editorial and an article, both pertaining to what was going on in this nation at the time. There were riots in many cities and a number of people were killed – both civilians and those in uniform. There was a political controversy over the naming of 10 military installations. Some disagree it was political because members of both sides of the aisle agreed on the bill. But not all did, and former President Donald Trump refused to allow it to go forward. In my opinion, that made it political. You may disagree and that is okay.

There were several Letters to the Editor, some agreeing and some disagreeing. We published all of them because all our members are entitled to their opinions. One letter quoted something I said and disagreed with it – unfortunately, the context was incorrect. I stated that, “We fought over our differences and we all came together.” I was referring to the states, not individuals. Clearly after the war many members of both sides did not come back together. What was important was that the Union was preserved.

In my article I wrote about all 10 individuals

with military installations named after them that are now in question. My original article was about four times longer the version we published and included much more information about each person. We had to reduce it, or it would have taken up most of the paper. We cut multiple sections of the article, while still leaving enough information about each person to educate those who did not know about them. Please go back and re-read my introductory paragraphs, specifically the second paragraph where I clearly stated, “Read and decide for yourself if they are worthy of having an installation named for them.” I was not taking a position – I was trying to educate our readers so they could make an informed decision. You should also know how those installations were named. Most were hastily assembled due to a war and the U.S. Government left the naming to those living in the area at the time. There is a lot of debate as to why those individuals were allowed to name the facilities, but that is not something for discussion at this time.

You should also re-read the third paragraph comments written in 2015 by then-Brigadier General Malcolm Frost who said, “Every Army installation is named for a soldier who holds a place in our military history” ... names chosen “represent individuals, not causes or ideologies...” and that “it was done in the spirit of reconciliation not division.” You are free to disagree with his assessment.

I stand by both pieces I wrote even though some people disagree with me. Everyone is entitled to

their opinion and I am glad that it has sparked some conversation. If anyone would like to discuss this directly with me, I welcome your call – as long the conversation is respectful.

In my editorial in our last issue, I stated that we did not yet know the outcome of the Presidential election. There is still debate about the legitimacy of the vote count but that is now a moot point. I feel our country is more divided than ever and within the JWV there are strong feelings about the outcome. I hope that as an organization we can leave our personal feelings at the door and work together for the benefit of the greater good. Many of us shed our blood to protect this nation and we cannot let it be torn apart because of differences of opinion.

Finally, I know we have lost members to the COVID-19 pandemic. My sincere condolences to the families of those who have passed away. I hope all of you will get a vaccine when it is available to you. In the meantime, please take precautions and stay safe. May we all be able to get back to some semblance of normal soon.



Larry Jasper, National Editor

## VA Is Dedicated to Supporting Veterans Who Experienced MST

By Chris Skidmore, PhD  
Associate Director, Veterans Health Administration Military Sexual Trauma Support

Every April, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) amplifies its year-round outreach during Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a special campaign to show its support for a particular population of veterans: survivors of military sexual trauma (MST).

The VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. MST can occur at any time or place, whether on or off duty or on or off base. The perpetrator(s) may or may not be someone known to the survivor and may be a fellow service member or a civilian. Veterans of all service eras, branches, backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, and physical sizes have experienced MST.

For MST survivors, just learning that someone believes they were traumatized and understands the many different ways MST can affect survivors can be tremendously healing. That's why this year, VA's message for Sexual Assault Awareness Month focuses on supporting MST survivors and demonstrates VA's confidence in their strength and resilience: “We believe you — and we believe in you.”

The VA also wants to make sure that all veterans who experienced MST understand that healing is possible., MST is never their fault, they are not alone, and VA is ready to help. The VA

is reaching out to survivors and their families, friends, and supporters for help in spreading the word. Everyone has a role in letting veterans know that VA offers free services for mental and physical health difficulties related to MST. You can help by sharing information about MST with veterans and veteran supporters.

Show your support by telling MST survivors about what's available at VA.

Some veterans recover from MST without significant long-term difficulties, but many others are fighting quiet battles all around us as they cope with MST's lingering effects on their mental and physical health, work, relationships, or everyday life — even many years after the experience.

Veterans' reactions vary based on age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, life experiences, and other background factors. Symptoms also vary, and they may include experiencing strong emotions, sleep disturbances, relationship and trust issues, unsafe coping behaviors, and physical health effects.

Many MST survivors do not want to tell others about their experiences. Some stay silent because they worry about being judged or not being believed, while others can't imagine how treatment could truly help them heal. As a result, many survivors can find it hard to access care even when they need it.



WE BELIEVE  
YOU AND  
WE BELIEVE  
IN YOU

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, VA redoubles its efforts to raise awareness about VA's free services to support survivors' healing and recovery. Eligibility for VA's MST-related care is expansive. No documentation of the MST experience is required. Veterans do not need to have reported the MST experience at the time, to have sought care within a certain time frame, or to have applied for service connection for an MST-related condition to get care.

To learn more, veterans may contact a local VA medical center and ask to speak with the MST Coordinator, a professional at every VA health care facility who specializes in connecting survivors with the MST-related care and services that are right for them. Veterans can also speak with a VA health care provider.

Find more resources and materials about Sexual Assault Awareness Month at <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/mst>.



# Welcome to the Big Easy!

The 126th JWV annual convention will be held this year in New Orleans. Come join us to look back on the last year and to the future of our organization in a unique and historic city.

As is the case with most territories of the "New World," New Orleans was not in the hands of one country for its entire existence. French colonialists founded New Orleans in 1718. The city gained prominence shortly after its founding due to its role as an international trade hub. New Orleans remained in French possession until it was given to Spain in 1772. It returned to French ownership in 1800, but Napoleon Bonaparte sold it to the United States as part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Shortly thereafter, the population spiked with visitors and immigrants arriving from all over the world. Some arrivals were not brought willingly, as its location in the Deep South meant it soon became a critical hub for the slave trade. Its importance made it an early target during the Civil War, and it was captured by the union in 1862. It remained in Northern possession for the remainder of the conflict, which spared it from the damage caused in most of the other Confederate states towards the end of the war.

Systemic racism remained a problem in the post-war south, and New Orleans was not an exception. However, that did not prevent New Orleans from becoming a world-renowned tourist destination.



tion. The fusion of French, West African, Spanish, and American culture established the city as one truly unlike any other. It was surpassed in size by other southern cities over time but has never lost its luster even after the terrible natural disasters it experienced over the last 100 years.

There are several places in New Orleans that every visitor should see. Foodies, partygoers, and history buffs are among the many who will find no shortage of things to do. Visiting the French

Quarter, including the famous Bourbon Street, is a must, and you would be remiss to skip the famous National World War II museum. Tours of all kinds are held in New Orleans, from food tours to cemetery tours, and they can help you see even more of the city. We know there will be something for everyone in New Orleans, and we are very excited to see you there during our national convention August 15- 20, 2021.

## ● ● ● ● ● Things to see and do in New Orleans ● ● ● ● ●



### Audubon Aquarium of the Americas

Ranked as one of the top five aquariums in America, the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas is home to nearly 4,000 animals, including endangered and rare animals like African penguins and white alligators. Currently, the prominent exhibit is the penguin colony exhibit, featuring over 20 African penguins of all ages.



### Woldenberg Park

Connecting Canal Street and the Aquarium of the Americas all the way to Jackson Square, this park allows visitors to relax by the Mississippi Riverfront, take in the views, and see several well-known art installations. Art installations include a Holocaust Memorial with a Star of David and a menorah, and the Monument to the Immigrant installation.



### Jackson Square

This Square is where the 1803 ceremonial transfer of ownership from France to the United States occurred. It is home to several landmarks, including the famous Pontalba buildings, which house restaurants, shops, and the oldest continuously rented apartments in North America. Also on the square is the renowned Café Du Monde, an open-air café which is part of the historic French Market and has been operating since the Civil War.



### National World War II Museum

First opened on June 6, 2000, the museum has become an essential attraction for all visiting history buffs. The museum provides an in-depth exploration of the Pacific and European theaters of World War II, and features a wide variety of artifacts including howitzers, air raid shelters, a Sherman tank, and an enigma machine.



### New Orleans Museum of Art

The New Orleans Museum of Art is the oldest fine arts institution in the city. The NOMA boasts an impressive collection of over 40,000 objects, special exhibitions, and a sculpture garden. It is the perfect place to spend a few hours exploring the collection, a collection that includes French and American art, glassworks, and African and Japanese works.



### New Orleans Jazz Museum

New Orleans is the birthplace of Jazz, so you would be remiss not to visit the museum celebrating its history. Beautifully venerating the musicians who have brought the world the unique musical art form of jazz, the museum brings guests through the world of jazz in its entirety, from its earliest days through contemporary times.





# Annual National Convention

August 15-20, 2021 • New Orleans, LA

Omni Royal Orleans Hotel • 621 St. Louis Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

www.omnihotels.com/hotels/new-orleans-royal-orleans



**Here's a quick look at some of this year's Convention meetings and events!**

## Sunday, August 15

National Museum of American Jewish Military History Event

## Monday, August 16

NEC Meeting  
Convention Opening  
Partners Club  
JWVA Pound Auction

## Tuesday, August 17

JWVA National President's Reception and Banquet

## Wed., August 18

JWVA Double Chai Breakfast

Vietnam Veterans Night Out

## Thurs., August 19

NMAJMH Meeting  
Elections  
National Commander's Banquet

*\* Schedule subject to change*

Hotel registration deadline is **Wed., July 15**

A one night (\$165/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations.

A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Hotel reservations must be made through JWV.

**There is a \$175 Convention surcharge for JWV + JWVA members not staying at the hotel.**

Local members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

**JWVA events are open to everyone!**

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

**JWV Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Post #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**JWVA Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Aux. #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dept.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Room will be shared with:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Arriving on:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Departing on:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Total nights:** \_\_\_\_\_

Registration for both JWV + JWVA	Cost	QTY.	Amount
<b>Rooms</b> Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds <i>Please note that handicap rooms will be assigned by JWV on an as needed priority.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I need a Handicap room.	\$165.00 per night		
<b>JWV Member Convention Registration Fee</b>	\$50.00		
<b>Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel</b>	\$175.00 per member		
<b>National Commander's Banquet • Thurs, Aug. 19</b> _____ Beef/Chicken _____ Fish _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$50.00 per person		
<b>National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee</b>	\$50.00 per member		
<b>Partners' Club (\$50 new members / \$25 renewal) • Mon, Aug. 16</b>	\$50.00 \$25.00		
<b>National President's Reception and Banquet • Tues, Aug. 17</b> _____ Beef/Chicken _____ Fish _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$50.00 per person		
<b>Double Chai Club Breakfast • Wed, Aug 18</b> _____ This is my first Double Chai Breakfast _____ I already have 15 stones on my pin _____ I am happy with the Double Chai Pin I have now I have _____ on my pin and will need one more (15 stones max)	\$36.00 per person <i>You don't need to belong to the Ladies Auxiliary to attend our Double Chai Breakfast. Everyone is welcome! You will have a great time!</i>		
<b>Raffle Tickets \$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00</b>	JWVA		
<b>Raffle Tickets \$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00</b>	JWV		
<b>Total</b>			
<b>All events must be pre-paid in full</b>		<b>Amount paying now:</b>	
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No. _____		Exp. _____ / _____	
Signature _____			



## Voting Eligibility at the 2021 National Convention

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

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

## Food • Fun • Friends

### Vietnam Veterans Night Out!

Wednesday, August 18 • 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**Everyone is Welcome**

This dinner is an annual event when we come together to share good food and great fun with old and new friends.

\$50 per person (includes tax and tip) if your check is received by August 12.

\$60/cash per person if you pay at the convention.

Contact Jerry Alperstein at 212-477-3131 or 646-825-1694 or go to jwv.org for more details.

**Attendance is limited to the first 75 reservations received!**

## Make a Difference!

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

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

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

Need help writing a resolution? Go to: [www.jwv.org/communications/national\\_resolutions](http://www.jwv.org/communications/national_resolutions)



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of **Post 105** in **Albany, New York** joined with the First Reformed Church of Schenectady to honor Albany County Health Commissioner Dr. Elizabeth Whalen with the 2021 Four Chaplains' Brotherhood Award. "Our honoree, Dr. Elizabeth Whalen, has answered the call, not only in her own capacity as the Albany County Commissioner of Health, but also by her example as a most fitting representative of all the frontline healthcare providers in this war against the (COVID-19) virus," said Post Commander Fred Altman. From Left: JWV Capital District Council Commander Richard Goldenberg, Whalen, and Altman.



Past Commander of **Post 54** in **Lombard, Illinois**, Bruce Mayor, presented Renee Rouse of Volunteer Services at the Edward Hines VA Hospital with 70 gift cards on February 25. The Post provided the funds to purchase the gift cards, which are on the list of annual items that Volunteer Services asks to have for its veterans.

## ***JWV is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary!***

You can be part of the celebration by ordering your 125<sup>th</sup> 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.



On December 21, Rabbi Yaakov Bindell received a promotion from Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel and a new assignment to the Pentagon. This is the first time a full-time, Jewish New Jersey National Guard Chaplain received this promotion. Bindell is a member of **Post 126** of **Cherry Hill, New Jersey**.



For the first time since it opened in 1958, the Wisconsin War Memorial Center (WMC) in Milwaukee has a menorah on display for the holiday season. The Lubavitch House of Wisconsin and the JWV **Department of Wisconsin** coordinated this effort, which will now become an annual event. From Left: Ron Laux, Rabbi Yisroel Lein of Lubavitch, President and CEO of the WMC Dan Buttery, Kim Queen, and Judy O'Hara.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



**Maryland Free State Post 167 in Owings Mills** donated \$3,733 to the Baltimore VA Medical Center to purchase a recumbent cross trainer for the Physical Therapy Clinic. "The generosity and continued support from the Maryland Free State Post 167 of the JWV makes it possible for us to enhance the services and programs we provide to our veteran patients," said Jonathan Eckman, Director of the VA Maryland Health Care System. "Furthermore, it sends an important message to our veterans that they are appreciated and that their service in the armed forces has not been forgotten."

From Left: VA Maryland Health Care System Rehabilitation Clinical Manager Lori Rosenzweig, Andrew Wolkstein, Dr. Charles Sandler, and VA Maryland Health Care System Chief of Public and Community Relations R. David Edwards.



Thanks to a donation from Ted and Miriam Fleser, **San Fernando Valley Post 603** brought the 'Gift for a Yank' Christmas Day gift bags to hospitalized veterans in Sepulveda VA Building 99. The Fleser's children and families helped pack the bags for the program. From Left: Frank Lewin, Holly Fleser Seery, Robin Fleser Sales, April Fleser Bender, Jennifer Seery, Ashley Seery, and David Seery.



Members of **Post 41 of Rochester**, including Lou Babin who is pictured here, visited the Four Chaplains memorial at the White Haven Cemetery near Rochester, New York on February 3.



Hans Weinmann of **Post 135** received the **Department of Michigan's** Medal of Merit (Bronze) for his work as Chaplain. He joined JWV in 1995.



Art Fishman of **Post 510 in West Bloomfield, Michigan** received the Department's Medal of Merit (Bronze with Gold Emblem) from DC Ed Hirsch for his service as the Department of Michigan's Senior Vice Commander and Commander of his post.



Mark Weiss received the **Department of Michigan's** Medal of Merit (Bronze) from Senior Vice Commander Art Fishman for his exceptional meritorious achievement during the period of April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020 as the Department adjusted to operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Normally **Post 256** in **Dallas, Texas** delivers gift bags to hospital patients at nearby VA hospitals during the holiday season. However, due to COVID-19, this year it donated water, snacks, underwear, t-shirts, shorts, and sweatsuits to the Garland VA Medical Center. From Left: Allan Cantor, a Garland VA Nurse, Volunteer Services Representative Cami Rutledge, Jo Reingold, Garland VA security guards, and PNP Sandra Cantor (seated in front).



Commander Ron Markowitz and Presiding Officer Rob Rubin **Post 625** in **Poughkeepsie, New York** dropped off donations to the food pantry at the Castle Point VA on March 10.



On March 3, **Post 135** in **West Bloomfield, Michigan** presented a certificate to member Albert Zack on the occasion of his 100th birthday. The Post thanked Zack for his service in the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII and his dedicated service on behalf of his JWV post. From Left: Zack and Steven Haas.

## Showcasing Veterans' Stories

During interviews for the Purdue University Northwest Veteran Acts Awareness Project, veteran Bob Carnegy stated, "People don't understand the meaning of the word veteran. Each one is special, yet connected. No matter what branch they serve, each veteran had to raise their right hand and pledge their life to this country. That pledge is what connects us all." Going off of his words, the primary goal of this project is to increase awareness for the great acts of service our veterans perform, not just overseas, but also when they return home to the community.

To accomplish this, we have created an online forum called Dog Tags to showcase veterans' stories all over the country. This online forum will also link veteran support organizations to help all viewers connect with resources they might need. If you are interested in sharing your story, please email [kvasilko@pnw.edu](mailto:kvasilko@pnw.edu). Please keep the following questions in mind as you share:

1. What made you or your loved one want to serve in the U.S. military?
2. When and where did you or they serve?
3. What was your or their biggest takeaway from your time serving?
4. What were your or their goals when you returned home?
5. What roles in the community, with family and friends, and professionally did you or they fill upon returning?

Thank you for your service to this country, and your time and consideration.

## 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 and jackets!**



**Post Banners 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](mailto:pat@asb-va.com)



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

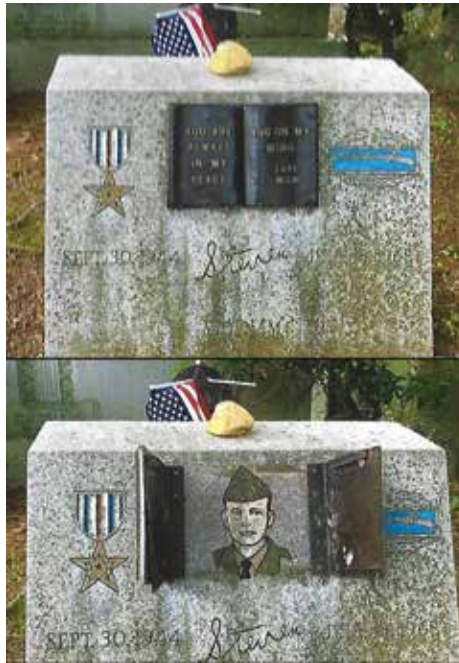
## PFC. STEVEN A. GERSHNOW – MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

By Eric Spinner

Fifty-one years after being killed in action in Vietnam, members of JWV's Nassau-Suffolk District found the neglected headstone of Steven Gershnow at New Montefiore Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York. They found the headstone on June 11, 2018, but it took until September 17, 2020 to complete the restoration.

Like so many others in his generation, Gershnow enlisted in the United States Army and went to Vietnam. Just three weeks after his deployment in June of 1968, he died after coming under attack in Bin Duong Province. The Woodmere, New York native served with 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, D Company. Gershnow was just 23 years old.

Our JWV team, consisting of Department of New York Commander Jack Holzman and Ensign Lawrence D. Solowey Post 652 Commander Gary Glick contacted the cemetery's groundskeeper Thomas Whelan after finding the neglected grave-



stone. It turns out that getting a gravestone re-

stored is not such a simple procedure, and it took 27 months to get through all the red tape.



The town supervisor of Brighton, New York presented **Post 41 of Rochester** with a proclamation declaring March 15, 2021 Jewish War Veterans Day in the town. Town Supervisor William Moehle and Gary Ginsburg.



On January 19, members of **Post 735 in Sharon, Massachusetts** donated \$2,250, 250 pairs of Bombas socks, and shampoo, soap, and lotion to VA Brockton Voluntary Services. From Left: Warren Anastasia, Sherman Palan, Program Manager for Voluntary Services at the Brockton VA Lana Otis, Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, and Paul Triber.



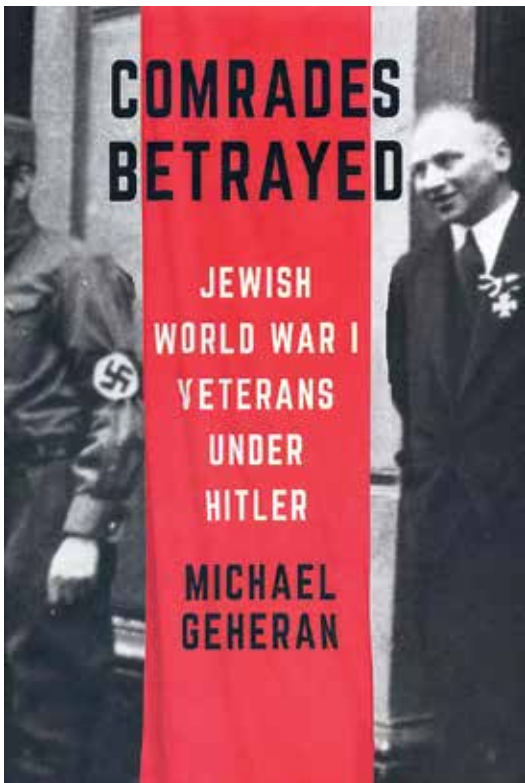
**Post 112 in Atlanta** usually holds bingo parties at the Atlanta VA hospital, but those had to stop because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, they sent gift cards and pizza for the day and night shift workers.

On March 15, at Baltimore's historic War Memorial Building, **Maryland Free State Post 167** conducted an event commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans. Department of Maryland Commander Colonel Erwin Burtnick spoke about the history of JWV and presented a proclamation from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. Post 167 commander Charles Sandler spoke about Sgt. Isadore S. Jachman, Medal of Honor recipient from Baltimore, and Commodore Uriah P. Levy for whom the Jewish chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis is named. Rabbi Chesky Tenenbaum, Department of Maryland Chaplain, pictured here, delivered an inspiring benediction.





## Comrades Betrayed: Jewish World War I Veterans Under Hitler



By Sheldon Goldberg, PhD

Between 1914 and 1918, 100,000 German Jews wore the field grey uniform of the Kaiser's army to fight for Germany. Eighty-thousand served in combat and 12,000 died during the war. They served as enlisted men and officers and many of them were highly decorated. Three aviators were "Aces" and one, Wilhelm Frankl, received the Pour-le-mérite (Blue Max), which is the equivalent to our Medal of Honor. Many others received the Iron Cross 1st or 2nd class and the Wound Badge. The bonds created in the trenches between them

and their Gentile comrades lasted for many years after the war.

Michael Geheran, Deputy Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the U.S. Military Academy has written more than simply another history book about the Holocaust. Using diaries and letters of Jewish World War I Frontkämpfer, those who served in the front lines, and some who survived the Holocaust, he has constructed a social and psychological study of those veterans and how they lived, thought, and survived until virtually all of them were consumed in the Final Solution.

What Geheran underscores is that despite having lost the war, the Jewish veterans did not return disillusioned by the loss and embittered by the anti-Semitism some found, as is conventionally believed. Many returned with their heads held high, believing what they had done in service to the Fatherland would prove their patriotism and see them fully accepted into German society. They were accepted as full members of many of veterans' organizations formed after the war. Many of them fought with these organizations, such as the right-wing Stahlhelm, against the communists and other revolutionaries attempting to overthrow the Weimar Republic. Jewish veterans, especially those with combat decorations, were held in high esteem.

As the Nazi hold on Germany increased after 1933 and racial laws were implemented, the respect Jewish veterans earned became a double-edged sword. On one hand, it gave them certain privileges not afforded to Jews who had not served. Ordinary Germans would intervene and chastise German police and even the SS for ha-

assing or arresting veterans, especially those who were wounded. They took no stand when it came to actions taken against the other Jews, especially after Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, in November 1938. On the other hand, resistance and interference from ordinary Germans and, ironically, support for Jewish veterans from highly placed officers in the new German army and government forced the Nazi hierarchy to make compromises that delayed full implementation of the Final Solution. For example, orders were given that exempted decorated and wounded veterans from being transported to the east and death in the concentration camps. This allowed those privileged veterans to maintain their belief that what was happening in Germany would all go away.

However, one by one laws were passed that slowly stripped the veterans of their privileges and reduced them to the level of the other Jews. Then came the establishment of Theresienstadt in 1942 as the destination for decorated and wounded Jewish veterans. Billed as a model ghetto for the privileged veterans, it was a ruse, but one that assured German citizens that the veterans would be in good hands. But it also removed them from society, thus allowing the Final Solution to proceed.

Professor Geheran has written an extremely readable and well-researched book. It makes you proud to read about how these Jewish veterans maintained their sense of honor and military values which allowed them to defy the Nazis in the face of the discriminatory action taken against them. But it's also sad that so many of those veterans failed to see until it was too late, that under the Nazis, and despite the sacrifices they had made for the Fatherland, they would never be accepted.

## Jews and the Military in the Last Frontier

*Continued from page 6*

employment opportunities for exiting active-duty service members and their spouses. VIPER approaches an end to veteran suicide by tackling its primary causes of veteran underemployment, unemployment, and homelessness.

I must confess I have a favorite Godson among my VIPER veterans, Kyle Kaiser. While listening to him one morning, I thought about how I could help and what I could do. I remembered Rabbi Hillel's saying that "he who saves one life saves the world." And, the teaching of my great-grandfather, a Rebbe, that the only mitzvah greater than celebrating Shabbat is to save a life. I thought of my Dad and his cousins who had served in WWII and all of those men of the Milton Kelkey Post who I heard tell their stories. It all came together. VIPER was a fit!

As Alaskans, we know all good plans involve the outdoors. VIPER has outreach programs that create quality connections between participants and mentors in their Operation Combat Pike program. These mentors assess and clearly understand participants' career goals while providing an opportunity to answer questions and concerns they may have about the transition from the military.

Alaska has more veterans per capita than

any other state, a connection with a long-standing military history, and an understanding that Alaska stands ready around the clock as the United States' arctic defense. With a focus on Alaska's unique military history, VIPER has a division aptly named the Alaska Military Heritage Museum. This division's objective is to identify, collect, preserve, and interpret Alaska's rich military history from the remote Aleutians to interior locations in Alaska.

I am also involved with the Alaska Jewish Museum. It is an amazing place to learn about the role of Alaska during WWII, the Jews who wanted to leave Europe, and former Army Air Corps members who were part of Operation Magic Carpet which brought Yemini Jews to Israel. The Museum is collecting stories of veterans and their families who were stationed in Alaska. If you, your relatives, or friends have lived in Alaska, were stationed in Alaska, or were involved with military projects that affected the state, we invite you to submit your written stories directly by email or contact us to record your oral histories.

You can contact the Alaska Jewish Museum at [www.alaskajewishmuseum.com](http://www.alaskajewishmuseum.com).

## Headstone Replaced

*Continued from page 1*

Cordova's brother Harry, now 99, made a request through Operation Benjamin and finally succeeded in getting his brother a Star of David.

The ceremony to change the headstone took place on December 29, 2020, the 79th anniversary of Cordova's death. In attendance were representatives of the Embassy of Israel, ABMC, the U.S. Embassy, Operation Benjamin, and members of Manila's Jewish community.

While he could not make it to the ceremony, Cordova's brother recorded a video message played during the ceremony. In it he said, "I never imagined in my 100th year that I would be able to honor my brother by ensuring that the proper headstone graced his grave. I didn't know why he was buried under the Latin Cross, but I do know that he belongs for all eternity under the symbol and heritage of his birth, the Star of David."

"That I could do this for him 79 years after his death, is a wonderful gift," Harry Cordova added.

Corporal Cordova is the ninth U.S. Jewish Servicemember whose headstone has been changed to a Star of David due to Operation Benjamin's research and advocacy. There are five more scheduled for change in 2021, and another 25 in advanced stages of research. Hundreds more cases are still waiting to be examined.



# COVID-19 And Your Life Today: Mental Health Guidance for Veterans Dealing with The Pandemic Crisis

By Col. James L. Greenstone, Ed.D., J.D., DABECI, LPC, LMFT

We have been dealing with the pandemic and its consequences for a long time now. Masks, social distancing, and handwashing seem to dominate the airways and our lives. Now there are vaccines starting to go into our arms. Even after all this time and with the promises for the future, there are still issues we continue to deal with daily. Depression and suicidal behavior continue to plague both adults and children. We must continue to cope in the best ways we can.

## Dealing with the Pandemic Crisis

What can you do to manage during these difficult times?

1. Make Yourself a Routine and Keep It.
  - Just because you are at home or not where you are accustomed to being, that doesn't mean you can't have a routine. Routines promote time management and can help decrease anxiety and worry.
2. Exercise at your own pace.
  - Staying physically active will help decrease depression and anxiety.
  - Find a routine for you that matches your needs, abilities, and physical condition.
3. Spend time doing an activity you love.
4. Stay involved in your community.
  - Utilize video chat as well as texting. Skype, Facetime, Zoom, and other apps can be used for this.
5. Discuss uncomfortable or unusual feelings that you might have with another vet, a mental health professional, or a family member.
6. Be observant. Notice changes in those closest to you. If you notice a change in attitude, behavior, feelings, no matter how minor, quietly inquire and be willing to listen. If you are approached for similar reasons, avoid being defensive and realize they must care about you, otherwise they would not have bothered. You cannot be everyone's shrink, but you can show you care and allow them to respond if they want. Sometimes this helps more than you may think.

## At Home

1. Make a to-do list for each day of realistic and attainable goals.
2. Schedule time for projects and tasks and stick to it as much as possible.
3. Take small breaks throughout your day. Do something different during these breaks. The break itself may not be enough. Doing something different during the break can bring the needed relief.
4. Create realistic due dates for yourself and stick to them as much as possible.
5. Get your news from the most reliable sources that are available. Check at least two sources when trying to glean the facts. Trust, then verify.
6. Do not overwhelm yourself with news all the time. Limit your exposure and get on with other things in your life and the life of your family.
7. Take a walk on a regular basis. If you cannot get outside, walk inside.
8. Be careful about excesses of any kind. Too much news, too much TV, too much coffee, etc., should be avoided. Find other activities and occupy yourself doing them, while trying to have fun at the same time. When faced with difficulties, it is often hard to justify such behaviors to ourselves.
9. If you have a little extra time, see about learning a new skill.
10. Under the circumstances, you may need to establish new routines. Make them realistic and where children or grandchildren are concerned, child friendly. Routines should be predictable and structured to help deal with the uncertainties and stress surrounding the current crisis.
11. Sleep on a regular basis at established times.
12. If you have routine trouble getting restful sleep, consult your doctor.
13. Remember that sometimes sleep patterns

are disturbed by stress, stressful situations, and changes in routine. As you adjust to both internal and external changes you may find your sleep pattern will also adjust and become more restful and rejuvenating.

14. Look for ways to do fun things by yourself, with your significant other, and with other family members.

## Preparation for this time and the next

1. Develop a personal and family plan to obtain what you need now and will likely need in the future to survive this disaster situation and those we know will occur in the future.
2. Preparation at all levels, food, water, necessities, toiletries, etc. should be an on-going, year-round process, in order to avoid panic buying or hoarding that often occurs during man-made or natural crises.
3. Develop a mind-set of survival rather than adopting the attitudes that it probably won't happen to me, it won't be that bad, or even if it is that bad, there is nothing that I can do about it anyway. That is simply not true even though it's a prevalent way of thinking.
4. Put together a go-bag. Include those things that you may need for yourself and for those close to you in the event of a disaster. Plan both for incidents that require you to leave your normal residence as well as those that may require you to shelter-in-place. Plan a bag for each member of your family and keep it stocked and up to date.
5. For specific guidance, see "Dr. Greenstone's Elements of Disaster Psychology," and "Emotional First Aid: A Field Guide to Crisis Intervention and Psychological Survival." These are available on Amazon.

*Greenstone is a member of Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755 in Fort Worth, Texas, an Operational Behavioral Health Specialist and Professor of Disaster and Emergency Management at Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine.*

## Get a COVID-19 Vaccine

*Continued from page 1*

the second injection.

When it comes to how the Department of Veterans Affairs is handling distribution of the vaccine, Braverman said it depends on where you live. He said most VA facilities are reserving second doses so people can get it in a timely manner. The policies about who can receive a shot at a VA medical center also varies depending on the state. In most cases, you can only get a shot if you are already receiving care from the VA.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Continued from page 5*

he has sent letters to two major computer companies requesting the donation of computers for the future Vietnam exhibit. The companies have not yet responded.

Jerry Alperstein said he is investigating locations in New Orleans for our Night Out. This has become a major event at convention in recent years and I am looking forward to breaking bread with all of you this summer.

## WOMEN IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

*By Chairwoman Sheila Berg*

Rep. Susan Wild of Pennsylvania says female veterans have challenges the Department of Veterans Affairs is not equipped to handle. She is sponsoring a bill to help remedy that deficiency. She is focusing on unmet needs, including childcare, dental care, legal assistance for child support issues, and

eviction and foreclosure prevention. The bill would require the VA to partner with at least one nongovernmental organization (NGO) to provide legal services specifically to female veterans. According to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), 30,000 women have been deployed since 9/11. The number of women seeking care at the VA has increased 80%.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has ordered the Pentagon to consider significant revisions to the way sexual assault is prosecuted in the military. One possible change would take the cases out of the chain of command and assign it to a military prosecutor with no connection to the victim or the accused. This change would require congressional approval. Secretary Austin has also reviewed a report on the culture at Fort Hood where a female soldier was killed.

Our committee is also continuing to work on our Facebook presence.

Stay in touch with JWV!





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



## NATIONAL PRESIDENT NATALIE BLANK

Dear Sisters,

Firstly and slightly late, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes for a Happy New Year to all our Sisters and Comrades; hopefully 2021 will be a better and happier year than 2020 and I pray that all our loved ones are healthy and remain healthy.

Although the COVID pandemic is upon us, I have remained occupied and busy with JWVA activities. I visited virtually with the Dallas Auxiliary #256 for their annual installation of officers. It was my pleasure to meet and greet all the Sisters and congratulated Jo Reingold their new President, and her staff.

As I spoke to several Auxiliaries around the country, I learned that even though this virus dominates a part of our lives many Sisters remain committed to the goals of JWVA, participating in our programs, sometimes in person with masks and maintaining social distancing or virtually when necessary. Thank you, let's keep up this wonderful work!

In January I attended our virtual NEC and several other meetings. It was wonderful to see so many of my JWVA Sisters and had the pleasure of greeting several new members as well. Much was accomplished during this gathering, but much remains to be done also. So many programs have been curtailed to some degree; we hope for a light at the end of this pandemic tunnel.

I would like to remind our Auxiliaries, once again, that now would be the perfect time for our Auxiliaries to participate in our Adopt-A-Hospital Program since our activities are not and cannot be in person. This program "adopts" a VA Hospital in a location where no Auxiliary is in existence. For further information contact NJVP Shirley Zak or our National Office regarding which facilities need to be adopted.

Just to remind you, our Museum, the National

Museum of American Jewish Military History, is open and fully operational, although visiting in person is not necessary since it can be accessed virtually. Our Museum has a broad range of

exciting exhibits and discussion groups. We would like to see our Museum membership grow as it is an important part of our legacy and a great genealogical tool for the future. We remind you that your membership in JWVA does not include the Museum membership automatically – please join!

I know that many of you are experiencing difficulties and frustration in your attempt to arrange vaccine appointments – please persevere. Vaccines are available to older groups (if you are lucky) and I am hoping that by the summer enough people will have been vaccinated to allow us to return to a state of "normalcy" and we can meet "in person" at our National Convention in New Orleans.

With Passover 2021 on the horizon I look forward, as do all of you, to spending special time with family and friends, even if virtually. Hopefully, like last year, Elijah will return for his goblet of wine. At this time, I would like to extend my best wishes for a sweet and healthy holiday.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank our office staff, Sharon and Margie, for all their efforts on our behalf, keeping the office functioning during these difficult times.

G-d bless our Auxiliaries and Posts and G-d bless America.

Loyally,  
Natalie Blank



## THANK YOU!

By PNP Iris Goldwasser, Editor

Although Spring is the season of change and growth in our gardens, it is also the season of change in JWVA as elections and installations of new officers take place in our Auxiliaries. We anticipate changes in our Department echelons in June and look forward to our National Convention in August. Hopefully, 2021 will present more happily than the past year and we can gather in person once again.

As I reflect on the tumultuous year of 2020 and anticipate a rosier future I am reminded of an old poem that compliments all of you who overcame the difficulties that the COVID-19 pandemic presented. We applaud all of you for your tenacity and spirit as you continued your efforts on behalf of the needy and under-privileged population in your communities as well as our veterans and serviced them as a safety as possible for you and them.

## THE MAGIC OF A COMPLIMENT

There's magic in a compliment  
And little words of praise  
Are sure to lift our spirits  
And brighten up our days,  
It's great to be applauded  
For an honor we have won  
Or accept congratulations  
For a job that's been well done.

But maybe we forget  
That other folks deserve a few  
Appreciative comments  
And are eager for them, too.

Perhaps we pass up chances  
That are right before our eyes  
To make somebody else's face  
Light up in glad surprise –  
At an unexpected tribute,  
A word or two of praise,  
That would bolster up their spirits  
And brighten up their days.

It really isn't difficult  
To cultivate the knack  
Of making others happy  
With a pat upon the back.

And once we get the habit  
We won't find it any chore  
To say nice things to people—  
We'll enjoy it more and more.

For every time we add  
To someone's confidence and pride  
We ourselves are bound to feel  
A pleasant glow inside.

That's why we say there's magic  
In those little words of praise  
And beauty in a compliment –  
Because it works both ways!

*Author Unknown*

## Student Awards

By PNP Joanne Blum, Chairman

Do you have grandchildren or great-grandchildren heading for college next year? If so, you will want to pay special attention to this opportunity!

The National Ladies Auxiliary, JWVA presents three types of Student Awards annually:

- The **Raoul Wallenberg Student Award** is one that can help the winning student reach their goal in their college endeavor; most years we present several of these awards although the stipends depend on your generosity.
- The **Evelyn Wegman Student Award** is presented to a student majoring in Music, or the Arts; this funded award is \$500.
- Thanks to the generosity of her family and friends, the **PNP Ethyle K. Bornstein Memorial Student Award** was established; this is a \$1000 award presented to an applicant majoring in academics.

Your grandchildren or great-grandchildren may apply for all three student awards; according to the guidelines, however, the winner will only be awarded one if they are selected.

To continue these important Student Award programs we need your donations. Please forward your checks to the National Office earmarked for the Wallenberg Award. Remember our children need our help so be as generous as you can!

## HELPING HANDS ACROSS JWVA



**JWVA**  
**National President's Banquet**

honoring

**National President**  
**Natalie Blank**

**Tuesday, August 17**

Reception 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

**Everyone is welcome to join us  
for a delicious meal and  
delightful celebration!**

**You will have a FESTIVE evening!**

**\$50 per person**



**Rita Panitz Memorial  
Teddy Bear Program**

Bears here, Bears there,  
big bears, small bears!

**Bears bring big smiles and happy faces!**

The children of our country are our most important asset and we need to provide for them. We live in a world that is constantly changing and it is sometimes difficult for them to cope. Each day children may be subjected to violent or emotional situations through no fault of their own. The Rita Panitz Teddy Bear Program was established to help children deal with these unfortunate events. Our donations of Teddy Bears or Stuffed Animals during our National Convention to the local Fire Department, Police Department, Children's Hospital, and Ronald McDonald House has made a difference in these communities. Providing a new friend for a child to hug can put a smile on their face and is a true mitzvah.

Each item that is donated to the first responders and other organizations has a tag attached to it recognizing JWVA as a donor. We need the support of all our members to continue putting smiles on children's faces.

If you would like to make a donation for the Bear Program, send your check to PNP Elaine Bernstein, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872.



**Let's make this the BEST  
Bear Convention ever!**



**DOUBLE CHAI CLUB**  
**Join Us For Breakfast!**

**Wednesday, August 18**

The Double Chai Club has a special meaning for all of us. We rededicate ourselves annually to our purpose -- service to the veteran and his/her family.

Become a member of  
our "Double Chai Circle."

**This breakfast is open to everyone.**  
**We look forward to seeing you there!**  
**\$36 per person**

# Join us in New Orleans!

## August 15-20, 2021

Hospitality is at the heart of New Orleans and the pandemic has done little to change that. They are in a "phased" reopening which permits many of their famous restaurants, attractions, hotels and shops to welcome back their customers and tourists. Whether this is your first time to New Orleans or if you are a frequent visitor, the city is full of fun, educational, musical, and interesting sites and activities. If you are a lover of Jazz, Jackson Square with its many impromptu and scheduled musical events is for you. If you love the "high-life" take a stroll through the French Quarter where you will enjoy the amazing architecture as well as a large variety of eateries, antique shops, and of course, souvenir shops.

For the foodies, there are a wide range of restaurants and cafes where you can enjoy everything from a simple Po'Boy to a full course fish/seafood dinner. And don't dare miss out on the beignets at the Café du Monde or a dessert of Bananas Foster, just two of the sweet dessert offerings of the city. For the history buffs, there are many historic homes, churches, synagogues and world-class museums such as the National World War II Museum. You can also take a ride on a street car or take a horse & buggy ride to get an overview of what the city has to offer.

Make your plans now. New Orleans is calling you for a well-deserved chance to revisit, not just the city, but each other. Some mask precautions may still be in effect, but that's a small price to pay to see the delight in each other's eyes when we finally are able to get together.



## Partners Club

**Please join us at the Convention for  
a wine and cheese get-together.**

The purpose of this program is to help our administration function. The funds collected help keep our Washington office operating. Remember, anyone can be a partner member. If you know people who would like to support our cause, please ask them to join.

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

## Let's do it again!

Our Pound Auction is always a popular event at the convention. Everyone has such a great time and so we are going to do it again.

Please bring a pound of anything, and put it in a brown lunch bag. If you don't have a brown bag, we'll have extras.



Start looking now!  
Examples are candy,  
erasers, popcorn, etc.  
Use your imagination. As  
long as it weighs a pound.  
You won't know what you  
are bidding on. Follow the  
clues of the auctioneer.

See Joanne Blum at the  
convention or call her  
at 860-869-2982, and  
give her your item for the  
auction.

Admission is \$2 • Snacks will be served  
*It will be an evening of fun and laughter!*

## Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower For Pregnant Military Women Monday, August 16

We're holding a baby shower for pregnant military women during our National Convention in New Orleans on Monday, August 16. It is one way that we can say "Thank You" to these women for serving our country.

We would like to fill baskets for each pregnant mom-to-be with items needed for a newborn, such as: diapers, bath towels, wash cloths, bibs, onesies, bottles, baby lotion, pacifiers, burp cloths, crib sheets, receiving blankets, night clothes, etc. Each basket averages at least \$100.00 and we plan on presenting 12. If you would like to purchase these items yourself, you may do so.

If you would like to make a donation for the baby shower to purchase any items for the Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower Program, send a check payable to PNP Elaine Bernstein, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872.



Please send your items and donations for the Baby Shower and/or the Teddy Bear Program directly to the hotel, between August 11 and August 13.

Address packages to: Omni Royal Orleans, 621 St. Louis Street, New Orleans, LA 70130. Attention: PNP Elaine Bernstein, Convention Chairman JWVA.

## HELPING HANDS ACROSS JWVA



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Oh, what a day. Or so goes the song. Who would have even thought that we would still be locked down in our homes 12 months later?

The museum is open, but no one seems to know. But fear not - there is life behind the door. Our upcoming exhibit, Jewish Experience during the Vietnam Era, is moving forward at a rapid pace. This is due to the efforts of JWV and Vietnam Veterans Committee member Bob Jacobs working very closely and under the tutorage of our Collections, Archives, and Exhibitions Coordinator Pam Elbe. We hoped to have it ready for a grand opening on Veterans Day 2021. That now seems too ambitious. However, Memorial Day 2022 looks quite doable. Our second upcoming exhibit, Jewish Women in the Military, is moving a bit slower. It does not have the individuals moving forward with it in the same way as the Vietnam exhibit. We need to find someone to really head up work on that exhibit (Volunteers needed - hint!). In the meantime,

a possible partnership with the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia on a joint virtual exhibit is progressing nicely, thanks to the efforts of our Museum Program and Contents Coordinator, Mike Rugel.

Without being impolite or disrespectful, we ask that you not send artifacts and memorabilia to the museum before completing a form available online and with the approval of the museum staff. We have many duplicate medals and awards and have very limited climate-controlled storage space. We do not want the medals and ribbons ruined because we cannot safely preserve them. Our museum does not accept artifacts that it cannot reasonably expect to use in the present or future. Although an item may be from a time of conflict, we accept only those items we believe will fulfill our mission. We do not place artifacts on permanent display nor can we accept long-term loans. We cannot guarantee any item donated will ever be displayed. Our

collection is catalogued and may be used for exhibition purposes, or by researchers and educators for a number of reasons. If we place your donation on exhibit, we will notify you.

Our next meeting will be toward the end of April or the beginning of May. We look forward to hearing reports from the various Committee Chairs on Personnel, Fundraising, Exhibits and Programs, and others. All are invited but members of the Board of Directors should make it a priority to attend.



**PNC Michael B. Berman**

## By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

We closed the building to visitors once again on December 22 in accordance with guidance from the D.C. government. It has been one year since we have been able to hold group events and programs in the building. We're now able to have visitors, but still no groups or public programs.

We missed our annual celebration of Hanukkah at the museum. As the Jewish holiday most connected to the military, it has always been a great event with a full house, delicious latkes, and sufganiyot. We did our best to replace the in-person event by creating a video that shared some of the same history that we usually discuss at the party. From the Revolution to the present there have been Hanukkah celebrations that were powerful and moving experiences for the service members participating.

The video describes Hanukkah celebrations in the Revolutionary War, World War I, World War II, and Iraq. We premiered the video on both Facebook and YouTube on the first day of Hanukkah and received a lot of positive feedback. Thanks to Museum President Michael Berman, National Commander Jeffrey Sacks, and David Lemmon for participating.

The video is still available to watch on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NMAJMH/videos/>. Of course, a 10-minute video cannot replace the feelings elicited

from gathering to celebrate together, but we will continue to take advantage of people's new tendency to look for and expect online content.

In January, on the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, we published a series of first-person accounts of experiences of Jews who served around the world during the Gulf War. These showed the huge variety of experiences during the war. They range from combat roles to family services to the recovery of precious cultural artifacts. Jewish men and women served in Kuwait and Iraq, Asia, and at home. Thanks to JWV's Gulf War committee for collecting these stories. Steven Fixler, Jeffrey Sacks, and Rochel Hayman all put in a lot of work to get these together. You can view them on the website at <https://nmajmh.org/stories/american-jewish-service-members-in-the-gulf-war-2/>. It's not too late to add more stories. Send a written account of your Gulf War experiences to [mrugel@nmajmh.org](mailto:mrugel@nmajmh.org) to be included in the project.

On February 4, Michael Geheran joined us for a talk on his new book, "Comrades Betrayed: Jewish World War I Veterans Under Hitler." Geheran is a professor at West Point's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The book describes the journey of Jewish World War I veterans who went from being considered German heroes to having to escape their home country or being sent to concentration camps under Nazi rule. Jewish veterans were initially exempted from many of the Nuremberg laws which institutionalized Nazi racial policy. Once Kristallnacht came in 1938, many of the privileges afforded to Jewish veterans began disappearing. Eventually many of the veterans were transported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp where conditions were superior to other camps. But Theresienstadt served as a waystation to Auschwitz and many of the Jewish veterans ended up there.

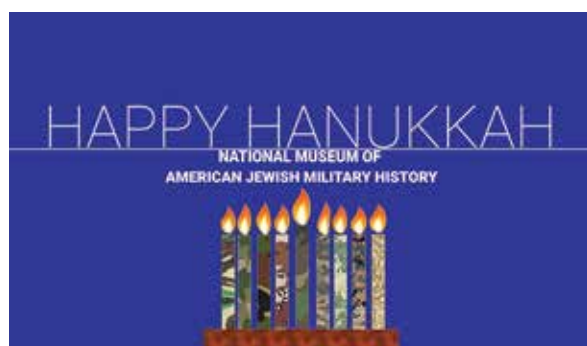
Through the 1920s, there are some interesting parallels to the experiences of American Jewish World War I veterans. This includes forming



**Michael Geheran spoke about his book Comrades Betrayed: Jewish World War I Veterans Under Hitler.**

Jewish veterans' organizations. In the U.S., several organizations came together to form the modern JWV. In Germany, there were also multiple Jewish veterans' organizations. The largest was the Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten, the Reich Association of Jewish Front-Line Soldiers (RJF). Like JWV, RJF grew rapidly in the 1920s and was dedicated to fighting anti-Semitic attacks and promoting the record of Jewish war service to the general population. Of course, the path of American and German Jewish veterans diverges in what would have been an unthinkable way once Nazi rule began in Germany in 1933.

The cover of Geheran's book features a photo of German WWI veteran Richard Stern confronting a Nazi stormtrooper in front of his store in Cologne in 1933. Stern wears the Iron Cross he earned in the war. Stern eventually left Germany for the U.S. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in World War II. In 1944, 45-year-old Sergeant Stern, earned the Silver Star for gallantry in action fighting Germans in Italy. Look for more on Stern in some of our upcoming programs.



**Our Hanukkah observance moved online this year. Watch the video on YouTube or Facebook.**



By Pam Elbe • Collections, Archives, & Exhibits Coordinator

## How to Contribute to the Museum and Archives

A topic that came up at the most recent Board of Directors meeting was the protocol for donating to the museum. Many people are asked by family, friends, and post members how they can contribute something to the NMAJMH. The quick answer is to contact me at [pelbe@jwv.org](mailto:pelbe@jwv.org). The more detailed answer, with the various ways you can contribute, is listed below.

The collections and archives of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History have been built on the donations of JWV members. Nearly all the objects in the museum's collection have been acquired through the generosity of veterans and their families. The museum's collection is made up of over 5,000 artifacts, including objects from nearly every American military conflict, with the bulk of the collection from World War II. Our archives contain substantial materials related to American Jewish military history from the Civil War to the present. The collection includes original photographs, letters, diaries, military documents, newspapers, and manuscripts related to Jewish-American military history. The archives also contain materials relating to the history of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

The acceptance of materials offered to the museum is based on several priorities. Does the material fill a gap within the collection? For example, the museum has no original material in the collection pertaining to Jewish service in the War of 1812. Anything offered from that period would most likely be accepted. Does the artifact broaden the base of already-established collection areas or immediately adjacent to a previously established one? While the museum already has many items related to Jewish service during the Vietnam War, we are still collecting materials from that period to better document the era. Does the material supplement objects of lesser quality? In this case the museum may already have an artifact but would accept another very similar one that was in better condition. Is the material of a general nature within the broad interests of the museum? Books like unit histories are a good example of this category.

### The following are the sort of materials that the NMAJMH is currently accepting:

- Photographs, letters, and journals. We will accept digital or good copies of photographs (though we prefer originals). Photographs must be captioned or in some way identified (who, where, when, etc.). Photocopies, low-quality copies, and internet printouts are generally not suitable donations on their own—only as backup personal information.
- As each scrapbook is unique, they are evaluated for acquisition individually. We do not collect scrapbooks full of newspaper clippings not directly related to you or your veteran. We might disassemble scrapbooks in a manner consistent with preservation methods; the original structure will be preserved through photocopies. Please do not assemble archival materials into a scrapbook before donating.
- Service Documents. We will accept copies or



**Flintlock rifle dated 1770 with socket bayonet, donated by the Barr family in 1988. This is the only item in the NMAJMH's collection that dates from the Revolutionary War period.**

original discharge papers, along with any other military records.

- Uniforms (Korean War and later, or pre-World War I). We are seeking a limited selection of uniforms worn while in performance of one's service, not necessarily uniforms only worn while on leave or issued upon discharge. Please send us a photo and service information.
- Yearbooks, unit histories, and newsletters.

There are a number of reasons that the museum would decline an offer. The most likely reason is that the donation is too similar to items already in the collection. The NMAJMH has a very large collection of WWII materials, so we generally decline offers of things like uniforms and medals as they would be duplicates of items already in the collection. We also normally do not accept restricted donations (e.g., requirements that items be placed on permanent exhibit or only as a long-term loan). In cases where we must decline a donation, we have a list of other organizations with missions similar to ours that may be interested the materials.

### Here is a brief list of the sort of materials that we are currently unable to accept:

- World War II artifacts (uniforms, medals, axis weapons, flags, etc.). The museum has a substantial collection of WWII artifacts and we are not seeking any additional artifacts from the WWII era at this time.
- Uncaptioned photographs. It is very difficult to use photos without basic information on who or what is in the photo, along with when and where it was taken.
- Medals. Though exceptions may be made in the case of particularly rare medals, the museum is generally not able to accept medals.
- Models (tanks, ships, or airplanes). The museum is unable to accept manufactured models or models built from kits.
- American flags (burial or presentation).

To offer items to the museum, please contact me at [pelbe@jwv.org](mailto:pelbe@jwv.org). Include as much information about the materials as possible, along with photos or scans. If the material is something that would fit in our collection, you will be asked to send it to the museum. A formal letter of acknowledgement will be sent by the museum to the donor. Enclosed will be a Deed of Gift form which needs to be signed and returned to complete our records and to make the donation a legal transaction. When an item is

accepted into our permanent collection, it becomes available for study by researchers, historians, writers, and other interested parties. The museum does not accept any item with the stipulation that it must be exhibited. The NMAJMH uses our collection for exhibits organized and displayed in the museum, short-term loan to other museums, and for research by historians, authors, documentary film producers, and students.

There are a few things to keep in mind when considering a donation to the NMAJMH. If you plan to take a tax deduction for the donation, you will need to have it appraised prior to donating as we cannot provide appraisals. Only the legal owners of an item (or their legally designated representative) can donate (transfer title to) items. Please do not obtain items from friends or post members with the intention of donating them. Instead, provide the owner with my contact info so that they can offer the donation themselves.

The museum is always happy to take photocopies of things like military records and correspondence. While we can't display them in exhibitions, we can use the information contained in them in articles and for research purposes. You do not need to contact the museum before submitting photocopies.

You can also contribute your story even if you do not have materials to donate. Visit our website (<https://nmajmh.org/stories/service-around-the-world-submit-your-story/>) to contribute your information, or contact me at [pelbe@jwv.org](mailto:pelbe@jwv.org) to request a veteran questionnaire. This information will be added to our archives to document your service. One of our goals at the NMAJMH is to document as many American Jewish veterans as possible, and we need you help to do that!

### → → Attention ← ←

#### All Posts, Councils, and Departments

Please send a copy of the most current version of your constitution and bylaws to the archives. Digital copies can be emailed to [pelbe@jwv.org](mailto:pelbe@jwv.org). Hard copies can be mailed to:

Pamela Elbe  
NMAJMH  
1811 R St NW  
Washington DC 20009

If your echelon does not have a separate constitution and bylaws from National, please send a quick line stating that so that it can be noted in our files.



# In Memoriam



**PNC Jack Litz**

The JWV community is sad to report that Past National Commander Jack Litz passed away on December 30 at the age of 92. Litz served as the National Commander from 1987-1988.

Litz held the positions of National Judge Advocate, Judge Advocate for both the Philadelphia Council and the Department of Pennsylvania, and served on the National Board of Inquiry before serving as National Commander. As a PNC, Litz took special interest in the JWV Descendants program and served as its Chairman. He also sat on the Board of Directors for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

Litz joined the U.S. Air Force during World War II and attained the rank of Corporal in the 8th Bomber Group.

Litz is survived by two of his children and one granddaughter.



**PNC David Hymes**

The JWV community is sad to report that Past National Commander David Hymes passed away on February 10 at the age of 103. Hymes served as the National Commander from 1994-1995.

Hymes joined JWV in 1963 and left his first post to help found Post 800 in 1967. He served as the Department Commander of Illinois in 1976. On the national level, Hymes served as an NEC member, the NEC Secretary, National Civil Rights Officer, and National Public Affairs Officer. He also sat on the National Museum of American Jewish Military History's Board of Directors.

Hymes served in the military during World War II, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant and receiving a Purple Heart.

He is survived by his two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## TAPS

### DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Orenstein, Marcus D. - Post 100  
Rosenberg, Irving - Post 100

### DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Berg, Wilbert L. - Post 603  
Gelman, Robert L. - Post 752  
Gittelsohn, Arnold - Post 138  
Kauderer, Bernard M. - Post 385  
Krasner, Harvey - Post 603  
Lazar, Samuel - Post 385  
Ostiller, James Allan - Post 118  
Potsdam, Daniel - Post 385

### DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Brumer, Samuel - Post 142  
Camhi, Philip - Post 142  
Domm, Bernard - Post 142  
Ente, Jack - Post 142  
Gammer, Ernest - Post 142  
Gelman, Meyer - Post 142  
Greenwald, Seymour A. - Post 142  
Herman, Harris R. - Post 142  
Isaacs, Morris - Post 142  
Knepler, Simon - Post 142  
Levine, Harry - Post 142  
Simmons, Bernard - Post 142  
Steinhardt, Herbert H. - Post 142  
Wiener, Benjamin D. - Post 142

### DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Arden, Stanley - Post 459  
Aronoff, Stanley E. - Post 459  
Barr, Richard L. - Post 202  
Berzon, Irving L. - Post 202  
Boorstin, James - Post 202  
Brooks, Leon M. - Post 459  
Fistel, Henry - Post 459  
Friedman, Seymour - Post 459  
Goodman, Sheldon J. - Post 459  
Goods, Pincus - Post 459

Klein, Martin G. - Post 606  
Lipson, Herman - Post 459  
Moss, Irwin - Post 459  
Silver, Robert - Post 352  
Sokol, Abraham - Post 459  
Victor, Martin I. - Post 639  
Werner, Henry H. - Post 941  
Zahler, Morton - Post 459  
Zucker, Alfred - Post 606

### DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Axelrod, Leslie - Post 29  
Azriel, Marvin - Post 89  
Berns, Jerome M. - Post 800  
Blumberg, John H. - Post 29  
Fabrikant, Joel J. - Post 800  
Halperin, Meyer A. - Post 89  
Hasak, Nehemiah - Post 29  
Hymes, David - Post 800  
Nussbaum, Robert F. - Post 800  
Rockwell, Martin - Post 89

### DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Adler, Milton - Post 605  
Dolgo, Jacques - Post 260  
Goldman, Charles - Post 644  
Korn, Marvin F. - Post 605

### DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Benesch, Henry - Post 117  
Goodman, David H. - Post 692  
Marcus, Philip S. - Post 167  
Monias, Michael B. - Post 380

### DEPT. OF MASSACHUSETTS

Atkins, Bernard - Post 161  
Cushinsky, David - Post 74  
Gordenstein, Walter H. - Post 26  
Karlin, Samuel J. - Post 140  
Kaufman, Morton I. - Post 735  
Sandrof, Morris - Post 638

Swartz, Elliot - Post 161  
Wolk, Milton Joseph - Post 193

### DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Bernick, Herbert J. - Post 354

### DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Bachman, Alan H. - Post 64  
Kapel, David Edward - Post 65  
Warren, Walter O. - Post 65

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Bloom, Sheldon - Post 609  
Conway, Mary D. - Post 76  
Epstein, Seymour - Post 125  
Fisher, Herbert H. - Post 651  
Fuchs, Lawrence M. - Post 125  
Greenspan, Harold - Post 125  
Kaye, Samuel D. - Post 125  
Penchansky, Albert A. - Post 18  
Rogers, Marvin A. - Post 695  
Rothenberg, Bernard - Post 972  
Schneider, Sol - Post 125  
Stern, Jack I. - Post 47

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Blank, Sidney - Post 1  
Dubner, Martin - Post 425  
Engel, William H. - Post 415  
Epstein, Edward P. - Post 1  
Feigenbaum, Arthur G. - Post 6  
Hirsch, Howard A. - Post 36  
Iskowitz, Robert - Post 1  
Lilie, Harold H. - Post 336  
Lutvak, Samuel - Post 131  
Ofner, Herbert I. - Post 191  
Rapps, Martin - Post 1  
Selevan, Irving - Post 1  
Storch, Bernhard - Post 756  
Waldmann, Otto - Post 655  
Weber, Rhoda B. - Post 1  
Wolf, Jack - Post 1

### DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Bordman, Morris - Post 44  
Howard, Hugo - Post 44  
Jacobs, Herbert L. - Post 222  
Lancz, Robert - Post 44

### DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Gendler, Arthur - Post 98  
Goldberg, Isadore - Post 98  
Goldstein, Gerald P. - Post 697  
Hirsch, Syman N. - Post 239  
Hollenberg, Herbert - Post 165  
Litz, Jack - Post 98  
Marcus, William - Post 499

### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Dolin, Aaron M. - Post 619  
Harris, Burton I. - Post 201  
Mintz, Melvyn B. - Post 619  
Sabin, Rubin - Post 210  
Strum, Myron - Post 619

### DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Alter, George - Post 753  
Barath, Irwin A. - Post 753  
Barnett, Louis - Post 755  
Bressert, James R. - Post 755  
Charter, David - Post 749  
Goldberg, Robert - Post 256  
Kogutt, Samuel M. - Post 256  
Lethe, Richard - Post 256  
Miller, Michael H. - Post 256  
Mishkin, MD, David - Post 755  
Pollock, Harlan - Post 256  
Saul, Charlie - Post 749  
Raffel, Irwin - Post 755  
Schulman, Lee I. - Post 755

### DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Fine, Paul R. - Post 701





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**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*

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

**PNC Mike Berman & PNP Elaine Bernstein**  
*Remember PNC Paul Bernstein & PAP 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*

**Drizin-Weiss Post 215 75th Anniversary**  
*Post 215 members wish JVW Zisn Pesach*

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

**In Honor of all who have served!**

**In Recognition of My Election**  
*as National Commander in 1978*

**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.*

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

**Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health**  
*Happy Holiday!*

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

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

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

**Corporal Shepard S. Kopp, USA 1917-19**

**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*

**The Paley Family**  
*In loving memory of Jayne Wasserman*

**In Loving Memory of my wife, Virginia**  
*Queens County Commander Ron Peters*

**Dr. Jack Porter**  
*In Memory of My Wife Rayisa*

**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**  
**Chaplain Dov Cohen & Pink Lady**

**Stephen & Helen Sax**  
*Live long and prosper*

**Irv Schildkraut**  
*USMC USNR USA*

**Good Health - To Life!**

**Best Wishes to all JWV & JWVA**  
*Members PNC Barry & Charwynne 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*

**In Memory of Harriet Tarnofsky**  
**Norma & PNC Paul Warner, Ph.D.**  
*Health & Happiness to All*

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

**In Memory of Julia & Joan Weinstein**  
*In Memory of Philip & Jolin Weinstein*

**Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute**  
*www.msawi.org*

**Shirley Zak NJVP**  
*In Loving Memory of Jon Zak DC*

**In memory of my mother, Adele Zucker, PNP**  
**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**

**Good Health & Happiness to All!**

**Mazel Tov Army Staff Sgt. Robert Maran**  
*97 years young•JWV Post 112 is prouf of you!*

**Send a greeting or message to family and friends in the next issue of **The Jewish Veteran!****

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