



The Jewish Veteran

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

Coast Guard Ship Named After Former Post Commander

by Jonathan Goldman

On March 12, the U.S. Coast Guard commissioned a ship in honor of former JWV member and Post 45 Commander Robert Goldman. The USCGC Robert Goldman is one of six Sentinel Class Cutters that will be stationed in Bahrain as part of the Coast Guard's Patrol Forces Southwest Asia.

I attended the commissioning ceremony in Key West, Florida along with my wife Eleanor and sister-in-law Gail Fresia, who were the ship's sponsors, as well as my brothers Yale and Scott, and my three sons.

The ship's motto, which appears on its blazon is "Beyond the call of duty." That is a quote from one of my father's shipmates and appears in the recommendation for the Bronze Star he received for his actions on November 12, 1944.

I consider my father a hero, but he didn't like to talk about himself. When asked about his involvement in World War II, he simply said he received injuries when an enemy plane hit his ship. However, thanks to a JWV-sponsored initiative to honor under-recognized minority veterans, we re-



USCGC Robert Goldman

cently learned about my father's actions, which led to having a ship named after him.

Robert Goldman grew up on a farm in rural Woodstock, Connecticut, and went to a one-room schoolhouse. Because the town was too small to have their own secondary school, high school students were sent to Woodstock Academy, a private high school. Depression times were tough, and in-town students were moved along, so Goldman graduated when he was 16. He thought he'd pluck

chickens and pump gas for the rest of his life. A gas station customer, a retired professor, saw that this young man was capable of more. He told Goldman to get into his car and then drove him to the University of Connecticut and helped him register for classes as an agriculture major. Goldman put himself through school by working in the chicken coops. His school was near the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Goldman thought if he ever joined the military, he'd want to wear the Coast Guard uniform.

In October of 1942, Goldman enlisted in the Coast Guard. He received medical training at the Columbia University's School of Pharmacy to become a pharmacist mate (medical corpsman). In July of 1944, he reported for duty on the United States Coast Guard (USCG) LST-66, headed for the Philippines. The LST (landing ship tank) was a naval workhorse, designed for transporting machinery and men, and able to approach and unload on shallow beachheads.

On November 12, 1944, the LST-66 was at Leyte Island. At 5:00 p.m., a Japanese Zero flew

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Honoring First Jewish Medal of Honor Recipient

By Richard Goldenberg

New York Army National Guard Soldiers associated with the Jewish War Veterans joined local Jewish leaders to recognize the first Jew to receive the Medal of Honor.

The short ceremony at Cypress Hill Cemetery in Brooklyn on May 21 honored Private Benjamin Levy, who was recognized for his heroic actions in combat on June 30, 1862.

New York Army National Guard Col. Richard Goldenberg, assigned to the state headquarters, Chaplain (Maj.) Raziell Amar, chaplain for the 501st Ordnance Battalion, and New York Guard Capt. Mark Getman, part of the state defense force, helped render honors to Levy.

Levy, who was a 17-year-old drummer boy, picked up the flag of the 1st New York Volunteer Infantry under a hail of enemy fire and rallied his regiment, preventing a retreat. He received the

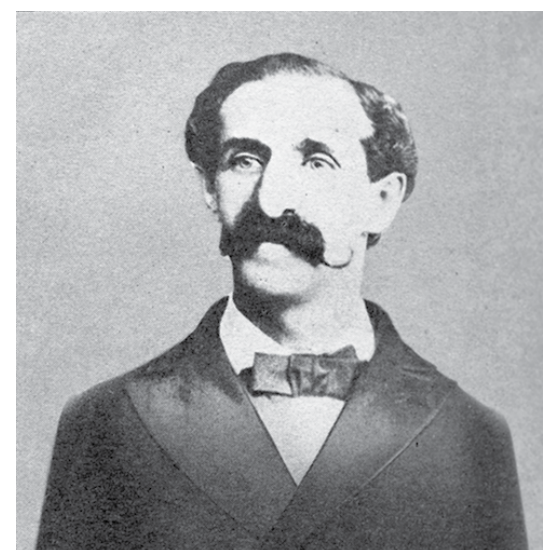
Medal of Honor in March 1865 and died at age 76 in July 1921.

The Jewish Community Centers Association of North America and the Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplains Council sponsored this commemoration.

"With Memorial Day coming upon us, we wanted to gather here at the site of one of New York's earliest Medal of Honor recipients, to recognize his bravery and the sacrifice of so many other American service members that followed," said Vice President and Director of the Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplains Council, retired U.S. Navy Chaplain (Capt.) Rabbi Irv Elson.

President and CEO of the JCC Association of North America Doron Krakow said Levy influenced future generations.

"Firsts matter a great deal, as without them we can never know those that follow," Krakow



Benjamin Levy

said. "Our presence today, here at the gravesite of Benjamin Levy, is an opportunity to remember all of the members of our community who have given

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D'verei HaShomrim

By Rabbi Elie Estrin

We are entering into a period known as the three weeks, which is the time between the anniversary of the breach of the walls of Jerusalem and the eventual destruction of the Temple. Our Sages tell us that the destruction of the Temple was the result of baseless hatred, and the history of the period bears that out. In short, there were several political camps at the time, pacifists, fanatic nationalists, and moderates. When the dialogue between them broke down, so did any chance of resolving the issues, and the result was disastrous.

But when considering that history, one may question why the Sages describe this as baseless hatred? After all, these were opinions based in clear views, each with their intellectual grounding. It would only make sense that all involved would be at odds, and even vehemently so, considering the desperate circumstances. Can that be considered baseless hatred?

As I reflect on this story and its eternal relevance to us, I think we have neglected the second word in the statement, hatred. Once the parties were split in hatred, they became completely dysfunctional. Vehemence, passion, and fiery dialogue is understandable, but when we descend into hatred of the other side of our own team, we're in big trouble. Ultimately, any such self-inflicted injury has no excuse. It is truly baseless. Blame who you want, but once the Temple is afire, all the finger-pointing is irrelevant.

It is clear our country needs to take the lessons of this history to heart, and fast. Even worse, our Jewish community and its leadership has allowed the circumstances to drive deep wedges be-



tween us. Left, right, and moderates are no longer on talking terms, and anti-Semites have crawled out of their holes to take advantage of the breaches. As veterans, we know we need to step up when the time calls for it. Now is the time for us to urgently repair those bridges and create unity despite differences of opinion. Let us stand up with Jewish pride and strength, and arm-in-arm declare openly and clearly: Am Yisrael Chai!

Rabbi Estrin is a chaplain with the rank of Captain-Promotable in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, attached to the 6th Air Refueling Wing at MacDill Air Force Base. In his civilian job, Estrin serves as the Military Personnel Liaison for the Aleph Institute, providing chaplains and Jewish service members with religious support, and is the editor of the Jewish-American Warrior magazine, as well as the author of a just-published book, "Of Medicine, Miracles and Mindsets," released by Mosaica Press.

A New Torah For New Times at Fort Bliss

After twenty years of using a much-worn Torah scroll, Fort Bliss now has a new set of scriptures to call its own. First Lt. Scott "Shalom" Klein, who is a mobilized Army Reservist from Chicago, arrived at Fort Bliss for a one-year tour and found, despite strong demand, there were no Jewish services. He stepped up and volunteered as the lay leader, and has dozens of attendees at his religious programs on a weekly basis.

The rededication ceremony took place on April 26 on the Field of Honor. During the ceremony, a procession took the new Torah scroll to its new home while the First Armored Division band

played traditional Jewish melodies.

"I'm grateful to have the opportunity to bring the community together for something so special, that represents an unbroken sign of Jewish tradition and survival," Klein said.

This historic scroll is on loan from the Jewish Chaplains Council. JWB's Jewish Chaplains Council Director Rabbi Irv Elson represented the organization during the ceremony. JWV Past National Commander Dr. Barry Schneider spoke at the ceremony and U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains Maj. Gen. Thomas Solhjem also attended.



From Left: Robert Mikyska, Ron Dubitsky, Allen Staley and Jerry Segal.



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Looking for Desert Storm Era Veterans

By Steve Fixler

As we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, we are looking for Desert Storm era veterans to write their personal stories from the conflict. Desert Storm is part of our American history, and we want everyone to know who in JWV was part of it, and what they did. I have written mine and received great feedback from non-JWV members that have read it.

We are also looking for JWV members who served in any capacity, in any component, in any service, and in any area of operations, regardless of duration between August 2, 1990 and September 10, 2001. Each of you is a vital and valued member of this cohort. We want to hear from you, and as importantly we want to hear from your spouses and other family members who provided essential services at home while you were deployed. Every story is important.

Send your personal story to Mike Rugel, mrugel@jwv.org, at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH). He is putting them on their website, and it will also go on the JWV website.

We need people to know that Jewish veterans are part of our American history and explaining what we did in Operation Desert Storm and the Gulf War era is one way to do that.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Jeffrey Sacks

It's Memorial Day as I start typing my final ramblings/article for The Jewish Veteran as National Commander. If the delivery of our last two issues of The Jewish Veteran is any indication of how well this issue will be handled by the U.S. Postal Service, let me be the first to wish you a Happy Hanukkah and a belated l'shana tova.

Even though our country shows signs of starting to come out of this pandemic which has plagued us for over a year now, this Memorial Day has still been mostly limited to outdoor activities and of course Zoom. The official wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery with President Biden went from no VSO guests to a last-minute invitation. Thank you to Sheldon Goldberg for representing JWV at the ceremony on a moment's notice.

Next week I will resume traveling for JWV by joining the Department of Florida's Convention. Obviously, most of my duties this year were performed via the miracle of modern technology. I have participated in international, national, and local programs, as well as various JWV meetings online. I pre-recorded remarks for Jewish Welfare Board programs, including the National Jewish Community Observance of Memorial Day which aired live on Facebook yesterday (May 30). My year as National Commander has not been what I had envisioned, but when life deals you lemons you make lemonade.

To give you an idea of what the National Commander does other than being the "shaina punim" of JWV, I estimate I spend more than two hours a day reading emails, writing responses and other emails, reading and approving contracts, reading and approving our support of legislation, attending meetings, attending programs, talking with our staff, and talking with members. In JWV the kvetch ends here (although it may bounce around headquarters a little). Sometimes I make suggestions to our other leaders. I asked Membership Committee Chairman Barry Lischinsky and several members of that committee to streamline our membership application. They did. You can find our new application online.

This brings me to my next point. To quote Barry, "Membership is our most important asset!" I wholeheartedly agree, but my non-scientific assessment is that two-thirds of us are above middle age.

It's not necessarily a bad thing, as we have more time to do things and we have more experience. Nonetheless, we don't want to be a footnote in history like the Grand Army of the Republic. If we believe that JWV combats anti-Semitism by the fact that we exist, and that with everything we do we show that Jews have served in the Armed Forces and are currently serving, then we must recruit members. We do this by personally asking people to join our ranks, so carry the membership application with you or email it to a prospective member. If your post is near a military installation that has a Jewish Chaplain, make that acquaintance. Jewish Chaplains tend the well of prospective members. I could dwell on how many people have passed away or failed to renew their memberships during this difficult time of masks and social distancing, but let's be more like Chabad

and put a positive spin on things. With half the country vaccinated and society opening back up, what a wonderful time to attract new members. If not now, when am I going to call or write the person who hasn't renewed and find out what's going on with them.

May 31 and June 1 also mark the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa race massacre, when mobs of white residents, many deputized and armed by authorities, attacked black residents, and burned businesses in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Only in the past few years have I really learned about this time of racial violence in American history. The attacks even involved aircraft. It pitted World War I veterans against each other. It is yet another reminder that bad things can and do happen in the United States.

Anti-Semitism has been on the rise during my tenure in office. Acts of physical violence occurred in the U.S. both during and shortly after the recent Hamas rocket attacks against Israel and IDF defensive actions. Personally, I maintain my situational awareness and I keep up my personal defensive skills. Some think we don't do enough to address anti-Semitism, but the organization does not need to send out a press release for every incident and sometimes it is redundant when larger Jewish organizations have already done so. Once again, what more can we do - ask someone to join us.

Finally, here are a few more Department Commanders we should all be proud of.

Howard Goldstein is the outgoing Commander of the Department of Illinois and also serves as Chairman of the Marketing Committee. He was a medic in Vietnam and a marketing executive for Zurich Insurance. He brings his expertise to us by determining our needs and how we can get our name out there. His work is helping us develop JWV as a brand.



Howard Goldstein and Sacks

Dr. Ed Hirsch served as the Commander of the Department of Michigan for the past two years and will continue for a third term. He is a retired Army Colonel who served as a Dentist and Special Forces Officer for 27 years. He served in Panama, Korea, Hawaii, and two tours in Vietnam. His tours in Panama and Vietnam were with Special Forces, the last one with Special Operations. As a member of JWV, he has also served in leadership positions of Post 474. Ed currently serves as a Trustee to the Michigan Veterans Affairs Trust Fund and is starting his fourth year representing JWV at a higher level in state government.

Floyd D. Williams is the Commander of the

Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma (TALO). His military service covered 29 years, from his enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps, to his time as a commissioned Military Police Officer in the U.S. Army. He served multiple assignments in the U.S., Europe, and Saudi Arabia. Since retiring from active-duty, Williams has served as the Deputy Chief of the Provost Marshal and Protection Division of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command in San Antonio, Texas. He is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and both the Defense and Army Meritorious Service Medals. He even has civilian awards for his continued service. Williams also has two children serving on active duty. Floyd has served as the Commander of Post 753 in San Antonio, and as the Commander, Department of TALO since June 2020.

In closing, I wish you my comrades health and happiness. Keep up the mitzvot in the good name of JWV.



Dr. Edward Hirsch



Floyd Williams

Gratitude

As my retirement approaches, there are many people to thank. I have been blessed to know so many truly wonderful people! I have lots and lots of good memories for and much gratitude to the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. Being a staff member of JWV has been a huge honor!

Each and every member of JWV since I started here has my highest thanks and appreciation. Every single one of you has been and remains vitally important. Both those who are active and those who are not.

My sincere thanks to each of the National Commanders under whom I have served. You have each been unique, yet you all had a few things in common. You cared deeply for all veterans, and you cared deeply for JWV and for our museum. Each one of you was dedicated to your position as NC. And a number of you have continued to serve JWV and the museum. My gratitude and pride to each of you!

To those who served, and to those who are serving as Post and Department Commanders, and to those who served in post and department staff positions, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation.

My very special thanks and appreciation to Congressman Ben Gilman, who served as JWV's Legislative Chairman for many years. The Honorable Mr. Gilman, a combat veteran of World War II, and his staff, always had their doors open for me. Other members of Congress whom JWV could always count on were Senators Arlen Specter and Joe Lieberman, and Congressmen Mike Bilirakis, Lane Evans, Tim Walz, and Bob Filner.

JWV's support for the head of the VA to be a cabinet level position and Rep. Ed Derwinski becoming the first Secretary of the VA will always be in my memory. We were involved!

Each annual national convention that I attended was a wonderful experience! I used to be able to name each city and the year and visualize something from each one. Now, although the various conventions run together in my mind, I have many, many fantastic memories from our conventions. My brother, Sam, a member of Post 373 in Tampa, has been with us for the last dozen or so conventions, which has meant the world to me. And, having our sister, Lea, an Auxiliary member, join Sam and I a few times, was icing on the cake!

To the 25 plus members of Congress whom we

honored at our extremely popular Congressional Receptions, beginning with Chairman Sonny Montgomery of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, we had an excellent array of congressional honorees. Many attendees from other veteran organizations and military associations enjoyed our lively receptions!

Along with our receptions, we started our Capitol Hill Action Days in the early 1990s. JWV members could be seen all over Capitol Hill! We wore our caps with great pride! Most of our Departments were solidly involved.

I am grateful for each Veterans Day and Memorial Day which I attended at Arlington National Cemetery. My favorite was the Veterans Day marking JWV's 100th Anniversary at which JWV was the host organization. NC Bob Zweiman gave a rousing speech, and the entire amphitheater gave Zweiman a standing ovation!

Knowing three recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor has been a special privilege. Jack Jacobs and I have a mutual friend, Major General Stanley Hyman, whom Jack knew from the Army and with whom I was friends during college. Stan got us together and knowing Jacobs has been a distinct honor and pleasure. Tibor Rubin was singularly honored at the first National Commander's banquet I ever attended. Seventeen years later, in 2005, Rubin was finally awarded the Medal of Honor he so rightly deserved for heroism in Korea. A wonderful guy! VFW Executive Director Bob Wallace introduced me to John Levitow, who immediately said, "I'm Jewish, my name is Levitow, I am a Levite."

The Military Coalition (TMC) holds a special place in my heart. Colonel (USAF, Ret) Paul Arcari, with whom I had served in the Pentagon, and Sergeant Major (USMC, Ret) Mack McKinney, brought JWV into the Coalition. I am grateful to have worked with a host of truly outstanding men and women, to have served on the Taxes and Social Security Committee, as a Co-Chair of the influential Membership and Nominations Committee, and very honored to have been elected a couple of times to be the President of the Coalition's Board of Directors. I am grateful to have been JWV's representative at the Coalition.

I will be forever grateful to four outstanding chaplains, Colonel (USA, Ret) Sandy Dresin, Captain (USN, Ret) Irv Elson, Colonel (USA, Ret)

Jacob Goldstein, and Captain (USN, Ret) Bruce Kahn. Each one is a longtime member of JWV and each one has helped us over the years. Four remarkable people!

Five trips to Israel will always stick in my memory - twice on my own and three times on trips with JWV. Each JWV Mission is especially embedded in my mind. I am thankful for the opportunities to visit Israel.

I am most grateful to our staff members, past and present, with whom I have served. Especially to our present staff! Each of our present staff stuck with us throughout the entire pandemic! The JWV office was covered and, when permitted by the DC government, the museum was open to the public. Very few organizations were able to maintain their personnel during the pandemic. Special recognition goes to Director of Operations Greg Byrne, Director of Accounting Julia Lasher, Executive Assistant Christy Turner, Assistant to the Director of Operations Melody Jackson, and Membership Assistant Andria Clarke, our longest serving staff members. Kudos also to our Director of Communications Iryna Apple, and to our museum staff Pam Elbe and Mike Rugel. And many, many thanks to each of the more recent members of the staff.

Special recognition goes to my mentor of many years, JWV icon PNC Bob Zweiman, and to my hero, PNC Norman Rosenshein, who faces and overcomes adversity while keeping his warm smile. Norman's creativity, excellent judgement, and steady determination make him a great leader! I salute Bob Zweiman and Norman Rosenshein!

Last, but most certainly not least, my appreciation, gratitude, and love go to my wife, Francie, for her 24 years of putting up with me and the Jewish War Veterans! Francie is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and participated with me at our conventions. Thank you, Francie!



COL Herb Rosenbleeth,
USA (Ret)
National Executive Director

Veterans' Record Requests Backlog

By Raiana Berman, JWV National Service Officer
On May 20, multiple Chairmen and Ranking Members sent a letter to Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III asking him to prioritize a National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) request for assistance with addressing the backlog of veterans' records requests at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC).

The NPRC facility holds over two million cubic feet of military personnel and medical records which only exist in paper form and cannot be accessed remotely. The NPRC responds to requests from veterans and their families who require copies of their military service records, primarily to claim a service-related benefit, including medical treatment, unemployment assistance, and home loans. In a typical year, the NPRC responds to more than

1.2 million requests for copies of those records, or over 20,000 requests each week, most of which are completed in under 10 days.

Since NARA implemented workplace restrictions last year in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the NPRC has been unable to process thousands of requests for veterans' records. As of May 10, the backlog now stands at over 500,000 delayed requests. In addition to these unprocessed records requests, the NPRC also has a backlog of 400,000 records to refile.

NARA has already taken several actions to expedite the processing of requests and mitigate the growth of the backlog without compromising the safety of their workforce. It has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has detailed VA employees to the NPRC, to expedite the processing of VA requests for records. In addition,

NARA has also deployed new technology to allow staff to remotely fulfill requests for the small volume of military records that are available electronically and to facilitate veteran self-service where possible. Unfortunately, we have few other options to mitigate the backlog without Congressional support. The NPRC is funded by the Records Center Revolving Fund, which is financed by payments from other Federal agencies.

The Biden Administration has included funding to recapitalize the Records Center Revolving Fund in its request for anomalies in the first Fiscal Year 2021 Continuing Resolution. Congress included funding for the Records Centers Revolving Fund in the Heroes Act (H.R. 925) and in the Coronavirus Response Additional Supplemental Appropriations Act (S. 4320).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GULF WAR VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman

The Gulf War Committee continues to meet monthly with good energy and creative discussions, with some of our goals being growing a networking community, communication across the board, and brainstorming membership opportunities. The Desert Storm Anniversary project under the leadership of Events Chair Steven Fixler continues to be open for collection. As a reminder, Department/Post Liaison Chair Don Schenk is reaching out to get a local contact person. Providing an avenue where folks of similar ages can interact, in addition to their general posts, will only make both stronger and more interactive. If you don't have a Gulf War Committee Liaison in your Post or Department, please reach out to Don Schenk at donald.schenk.2014@gmail.com.

The GWC is currently meeting the first Wednesday of each month and we encourage you to join us, especially if you've had time in service during the Gulf War era (or after), by sending an email to JWVGWC@gmail.com. We also have a closed Facebook group which we can give you information on by sending an email to me at rochelhaymanjwv@gmail.com

MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

Once again, the National Marketing Committee has a number of successes to report after meeting via Zoom every two weeks.

We continue to provide support to those who are using the results of the members' survey. The results continue to be instrumental in much of what you see coming out of the Marketing Committee, the Membership Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and elsewhere. The data and recommendations are being used by the leadership team and many of the echelons. If you would like a presentation of the results made to your Department, Post, or committee, please let me know.

We have designed the resource center, an input document, and work has started on the system itself. We have also recently updated the JWV server to accommodate the resource center and more.

As a committee we are moving forward with two focus areas which will go a long way towards helping JWV remain a viable organization. The brand awareness program we previously described is in full swing. After signing a contract with an outside vendor to help in these efforts, parts of the results are completed. A brand audit has identified numerous examples of the use of our logo and tag line. Most are in compliance with our current standards, but a number have taken liberties with its use. We now have the beginnings of a brand guide which outlines how, where, and when it is appropriate to use our logo. It includes templates showing how our logo should be used in various means of communications including flyers, trifold, webpages, ads, T-shirts, etc. This also includes acceptable colors, fonts, and layouts. We are still developing training materials that go along with this, including how to get an ad placed, and the best use of Facebook and other social media. We will be encouraging the use of these templates after existing

materials are used up. There will be no need to get approval for the use of these materials, but all echelons will be encouraged to be as professional as possible and to assure that, regardless of where someone is, they know that an ad, brochure, trifold, T-shirt, or wherever our logo is used, it represents the Jewish War Veterans.

As part of this, and in support of getting our name out there, we have designed a Jewish War Veterans booth. This will be displayed in New Orleans. The intent is to use this at national and large regional conventions involving Jewish and veteran's organizations. To learn more, contact any member of the Marketing Committee.

Our fourth focus, target marketing, has begun. As previously noted, we have identified six target groups, such as 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 our every other week schedule so as to keep moving forward.

At the next NEC, 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 branding material.

POST- 9/11 COMMITTEE

By Chairman Matthew Weinburke and Co-Chairman Jeffrey Blonder

The Post-9/11 Committee introduced a speaker series during its meetings and formalized this series during the March 2021 meeting. During the meeting on March 8, JWV's National Membership Director Harrison Heller spoke about his experience in Rwanda and briefly discussed the 1994 Genocide.

On April 12, LaShanta Petroski-Ackley discussed Preventing Suicide Amongst Servicemembers & Veterans. Petroski-Ackley began working for the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2009, and in 2014 she became the Lead Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the VA hospitals throughout New England. LaShanta works at the Lowell Vet Center in Massachusetts where she counsels combat veterans, survivors of military sexual trauma, and others. During this meeting National Commander Jeffrey Sacks also gave us updates on national issues, including the August convention.

On May 10, guest speaker Lt. Col. (Ret) Sheldon Goldberg, Ph.D., who also volunteers as a docent for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, talked about the history of the museum.

The Post 9/11 Committee will continue to implement its goals during the rest of this year, which includes increasing its social media presence, incorporating social networking, providing support to veterans and active-duty service personnel, and delivering presentations on a variety of topics during future meetings with a focus on mental health issues and burn pits.

Please contact Matt Weinburke at mweinburke@gmail.com or Jeff Blonder at jwv.of.massachusetts@gmail.com for any questions, ideas, or to join the committee.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Bob Jacobs

Last summer we completed our long-awaited disc project telling the stories of Jews who served during Vietnam and we will be presenting copies of the disc to the NMAJMH for sale when we are in New Orleans.

Last winter, Mike Rugel asked me to work with him and our museum docent Sheldon Goldberg to put together a webinar featuring Jewish military personnel who served in Vietnam. It evolved into a two-session program with Jewish vets from almost all services. I was honored to serve as host and one of the participants in the second segment. Goldberg moderated the programs and did a superb job of integrating the comments of panel members into the chronology of the war. Each panel member spoke of both their job in Vietnam as well as the way being Jewish entered into their service in the war. At least 100 people tuned in to each part of the webinar. The webinar program is a great way to keep both the museum and JWV in the public eye.

As many of you know, the committee has been hard at work with the museum staff to develop a new exhibit on Vietnam, at least partially focusing on the Jewish experience during the Vietnam War. Pam Elbe has been most helpful in guiding both Jerry Alperstein and me through the steps necessary to develop a professional museum exhibit. Mike Rugel has done a fantastic job of helping us raise funds, putting me in contact with various people who had items useful for the exhibit, and ideas regarding the exhibit. Alperstein and I will be in Washington on June 2, working with Elbe to lay out the basic plan for the exhibit. The museum had many items in storage that will be used, as well as items given to us by JWV members. A special thanks goes out to PNC Harvey Weiner who is contributing many items that should add special interest to visitors. Our goal is to open the exhibit on November 10, 2021, in conjunction with Veterans Day.

Project Maggid Storyteller Program



Interested in sharing the story of your military service with students and other groups? Join the JWV Project Maggid Storyteller program today and help fight the myth that Jews don't serve in the American armed forces. For information on how to be part of the program, including how to craft your story, contact JWV Programs Assistant Ben Kane at bkane@jwv.org or at 202-448-5410.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Since the last edition of The Jewish Veteran, the J WV Membership Committee has been busy trying to finalize several initiatives in preparation for our 126th Annual National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year, we were able to take advantage of virtual meetings to collaborate ideas at a faster pace than ever before. We found that many of our committee members dedicated portions of their personal time to help improve several membership agenda items for our organization. For this we are ever grateful. Listed below are three initiatives that J WV members asked the committee to review and improve.

1. The complexity of both our existing Membership Application and Patron Application.
2. Standardization of the J WV Alpha Roster. The previous Alpha Rosters were not standardized and lacked consistency.
3. Sending the J WV Renewal Notices out on a timely basis.

MEMBERSHIP/PATRON APPLICATION

The online J WV Membership/Patron Application process is still the submission of choice. However, we realize a paper application version is still needed for our potential members and patrons that do not utilize electronic messaging as a form of communication.

Thanks to a collaborative effort between the Membership Committee and the Marketing Committee we have made tremendous strides in improving our member and patron applications.

The design of the new Membership/Patron Application achieved many of the recommendations proposed by our members and stakeholders from across all echelons. The following objectives were achieved in the design of our new application form.

- To make the Membership/Patron Application user-friendly.
- To ensure that information mandated in our Constitution and By-Laws is posted on the new

Membership Application.

- Eliminate supplemental information that can be obtained at your post.
- Combine the Membership and Patron Applications into one standard form.
- Involve all stakeholders in the development process of the new application. The following J WV Committees and fulltime support personnel were involved in this process: Membership, Marketing, Technology, and Desktop Publishing.

To obtain a copy of the new Membership/Patron Application, please visit the following website: <https://www.jwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/JWV-Membership-Patron-Application-5-19-21.pdf>

J WV POST ALPHA ROSTER

Membership Committee member Scott Stevens has worked diligently with our database coordinators to improve and standardize the fields of your quarterly J WV Alpha Roster. Several of our members voiced their concerns with the consistency of data fields on our current J WV Alpha Roster. This initiative was also linked to our new J WV Membership/Patron Application.

The following objectives were achieved in the standardization of our J WV Alpha Roster.

- Eliminated data fields that have no added value to our data collection. (The same fields were removed for our J WV Membership/Patron Application.)
- Ensured that the same data fields remain consistent with each quarterly distribution of the J WV Alpha Roster.
- Standardization of the data fields to the sharing of data across our organization. Data fields will be consistent and easily available when needed.
- Future changes to the J WV Alpha Roster should be explained before implementation.

All posts will receive their J WV Alpha Roster

quarterly in a PDF Format. To obtain an excel version of the J WV Alpha Roster, please contact Membership

Director Harrison Heller at hheller@jwv.org. Please remember to submit all your data updates directly

to Heller. Changing the data on the excel version or submitting your changes to anyone other than Heller does not automatically change the J WV data base.

J WV MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

By now you should have received your J WV Renewal Notice. Special thanks to efforts of Heller to ensure that the distribution occurs on a timely basis. The Membership Committee has requested that Commanders of all echelons take a personal initiative and request all members remain active in our organization. Please expedite the submission of all open membership renewals to ensure our membership base is at maximum participation. Together our goal should be to achieve this objective prior to our National Convention.

This year J WV is celebrating our 125th Anniversary. Thanks to our members, we continue to be the premier voice for those of our faith who are in all branches of the service, uniformed service, and veterans. J WV members and their families continue to be our most important asset. With your continued support our organization will remain a driving force moving forward into the next century.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

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

By Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAF, Retired

The number of military members and veterans in the United States is made up of approximately 18 million men and women or 0.055% of the total U.S. population of 330 million. Estimates indicate there are 270,000 living Jewish men and women who are serving or have served in a U.S. military uniformed service since 1941. These are estimated numbers because military and veterans do not have to identify their religion to perform their duty or get services from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

While the current U.S. military population is roughly 84% male, the gender mix is quickly changing. According to recent U.S. Census Bureau information, the number of women in the military and female veterans will likely double in the next two decades. The Jewish military and veteran community are expected to follow this same growth pattern – just look at the J WV Gulf War and Post-9/11 committees' demographics, which have increasing numbers of Jewish women as members. All military members and veterans have shared needs and individual challenges that must be considered in making future J WV policy and program decisions.

Throughout the 125-year history of J WV, we have endorsed initiatives designed to improve the

lives of millions of Jewish and non-Jewish military members and veterans. For example, we have initiated and supported programs and legislation to improve the quality of healthcare for military members, veterans, and their families, addressed the challenges of homelessness and veterans' suicide, as well as veterans' exposure to toxins (i.e. Agent Orange, Burn Pits, radiation, contaminated drinking water).

Over many decades J WV members have originated, endorsed, and implemented a substantial number of initiatives that have improved the lives and families of Jewish and non-Jewish military members and veterans. In 2020, J WV started the process to modernize and update its commitment to the military and veteran communities by drafting a strategic plan for the future of J WV. This plan will serve as a comprehensive blueprint to strengthen support of all who have put on the U.S. military uniform and their families. As part of the strategic plan, we have committed to a number of initiatives that will make measurable contributions and improvements to our members and the organization's effectiveness. The strategic plan is a living document which we hope to present to members at our National Convention in August.

We trace our roots back to 1896 when Jewish

Civil War veterans met in New York City to form an organization to fight the anti-Semitic false and statement that Jews do not serve. In developing the strategic plan, we recognize that J WV must continuously adapt to better serve the changing needs of our communities. J WV leadership knows that our next 125 years are not guaranteed. If we unite to meet the challenges of the men and women who have and are serving, we will continue to prosper as the leading Jewish military and veteran service organization. All Jewish men and women who have served and sacrificed to preserve our freedom and way of life have earned our continued support. Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Jack Jacobs titled his book "If Not Now When?" Perhaps J WV can also say if we don't change now, when?

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You shop. Amazon gives.

**Shopping on Amazon via
Amazon Smile helps the J WV.**
Amazon will donate 0.5 % of the price of
your eligible Amazon Smile
purchase to the J WV Foundation.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Sheila Berg

By Larry Jasper

Sheila Berg. Female, black, and Jewish. Not only an unusual combination among Post Commanders, but one that requires unique drive and a refusal to give in to adversity.

As much as we choose not to believe it, anti-Semitism still exists in the military. Many of us have had to deal with anti-Semitism during our military and/or civilian careers. There is also bias.

Imagine for a moment how you'd feel if you had to deal with discrimination in JWV.

Treatment of Minorities During WWI and WWII
Berg's grandfather served in World War I, and her father served in World War II. Both were educated men assigned to the most menial tasks.

Her father, a college graduate in the medical field who spoke fluent German, would have been ideal for deployment to the European Theater. Instead, he was sent to Hawaii and treated like other black service members, who were all considered uneducated.

As it happened, the United States established some German POW camps in Hawaii. Her father's fluency in German and high-level of education must have been shocking to the members of the "master race."

Think of how Berg's father felt when that happened. It was undoubtedly a moment of dignity.

As a side note, Berg's father went to Israel four times after the war. As a consultant for the United Nations, he set up a rehabilitation unit for Hadassah Hospital in Israel.



Sheila Berg

Berg's Military Career
Berg joined the U.S. Air Force as an enlisted person in 1980. This is not unusual except that at that time she already had a master's degree and had a job as a licensed Clinical Social Worker. She chose not to be an officer, but to serve as a jet engine mechanic.

When first assigned to Dover Air Force Base, her supervisor told her she was better suited to be a typist. That did not deter her. She went on to serve for 29 years before retiring as a Sr. Master Sergeant (E8).

There were very few female jet mechanics when she began her career. She worked on the C-5

Galaxy for 14 years. She began the Family Support Program on her base with no official funding. Later as a First Sergeant she was simultaneously responsible for two squadrons.

During Desert Storm she also served with Memorial Affairs. Berg attended the Senior Enlisted Officers Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

At one time she organized a wing picnic, with food and entertainment for 5,000 service members and their families, all with donations from major corporations.

In 1974, Berg married a man who also converted to Judaism. Ironically, his family was Jewish prior to the 17th century and became Lutheran for safety reasons. While stationed at Dover Air Force Base, she raised her only son Jewish and became co-president of the Sisterhood at a local synagogue.

Berg joined JWV in the late 1980s, many years before she retired from the Air Force in 2009.

Unimaginable
When Berg joined JWV, she says a department member told her he did not talk to "darkies."

It is hard to believe that could happen in an organization dedicated to eradicating prejudice in the world. Fortunately, it did not deter Berg and she has now served admirably as Post Commander for six years.

Truly a person of distinction with a proud heritage, Berg is a valued asset to JWV and a role model for members of the future.

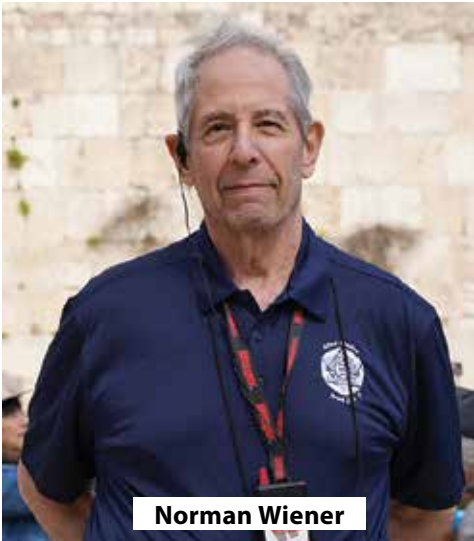
Take Care Of Our Members

By PNC Dr. Barry J. Schneider

I want to share with you an unfortunate situation concerning a fellow JWV member, Norm Wiener of Philadelphia. He lived alone in a Jewish Federation senior living unit and had no family or close friends. He was an active member of his post and had served as Post Commander. Some of you may remember him from when he joined us on the Israel trip during my time as National Commander. Dr. Michael Kapin of Fort Worth also went on that trip, and developed an ongoing friendship with Wiener which lasted until his death. The two communicated almost weekly, but that stopped abruptly after the first of the year. In the weeks leading up to Wiener's death, Kapin and I tried to find out why Wiener was not answering calls and then his phone was disconnected. We enlisted JWV members from Philadelphia to assist in figuring out

what was wrong. His housing unit, due to the privacy act, refused to provide any information. Lapin contacted the Philadelphia police and asked them to do a health and welfare check. This yielded no information. It turned out Wiener died alone on February 13. No one claimed his body and he was buried on March 29. This is unacceptable within JWV and the larger Jewish community. We have a responsibility to support our fellow veterans. I am asking you not to let this happen again. Let's all reach out to our fellow post members. To our Post Officers, I ask you to develop a call tree, not just for meetings, but to ensure our members are not forgotten in their time of need. It is our moral obligation to care for one another. To our active-duty members, I ask you every now and then, or at least once a year, send an email or call a post officer and let them know where you are.

May Wiener's memory be for a blessing and a reminder that we are Kol Israel, one people!



Norman Wiener

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE
Abramowitz, Jeffrey D. - Post 100
Boyarsky, Steven L. - Post 100
Brown, Ari - Post 100
Cohen, Ira S. - Post 100
Damme, Scarlett Van - Post 100
Friedman, Sidney L. - Post 100
Graves, Robert M. - Post 100
Leepson, Marc - Post 100
Levine, Paul S. - Post 100
Nolly, George E. - Post 344
Simon, Giustina H. - Post 77
Waller, William G. - Post 77

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
Amestoy, Paul - Post 60

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
Hirst, Joanne F. - Post 352

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
Cornet, Patrick D. - Post 29
Marx, Bernie M. - Post 29
Mikyska, Robert J. - Post 29

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
Gordon, Gary - Post 220

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
Reed, Mark - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
Cohen, Miles J. - Post 331
Gibson, Ken - Post 354
Legan, Bruce - Post 331
McKenna, Tom - Post 354

Pape, Richard - Post 354
Whitehead, Stephen - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY
Nacher, Stuart - Post 740
Pape, Michael - Post 311

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
Chajet, Leon - Post 652
Stumacher, Martin - Post 717

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST
Cohen, Meredith - Post 112
Portman, Bernard M. - Post 320

DEPARTMENT OF TALO
Abels, Jacob A. - Post 755
Anthony, Michael A. - Post 749
Fogel, Baruch - Post 256

Friedman, Andrew C. - Post 753
Giller, Alexander - Post 749
Herszkowitz, Daniel H. - Post 580
Kaufman, Benjamin M. - Post 749
Meyerson, Morton H. - Post 755
Rosen, David B. - Post 256
Sering, James Max - Post 749
Taylor, Mary E. - Post 749

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC
Eskenazi, Michael Moises - Post 158
Wasserman, Alek J. - Post 765

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
Bach, Daniel - Post 145

Circle of Heroes Scuba Dive

By Larry Jasper

About 11 miles off the coast of Clearwater, Florida in the Gulf of Mexico sits 12, six-foot-high concrete depictions of our military. Each represents a different war, a different role, and a different hero. Each weigh 1,200 pounds, assuring it will stay where intended. It is called the Circle of Heroes (The Circle).

Dedicated on August 5, 2019, The Circle is the first underwater military memorial in the U.S. While it serves as a recreational dive site with a depth of 40 – 45 feet, the vision is to use the site for adaptive sports therapy programs for disabled veteran divers. This would provide physical and mental health therapy for veterans who participate in scuba diving rehabilitation.

The statues are placed in a circle with a center monument of five bronze emblems representing each of the U.S. Armed Forces.

At the 2019 convention in Richmond, Virginia, the idea to dive The Circle first came up in conversation between myself and Director of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) Chaplains Council, Rabbi Irv Elson, who is also a retired Navy Captain with service in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The dive plan also included Elson's longtime friend and Gulf War Veteran, Rabbi Ammos Chorny from Naples, Florida. All three of us have over 45 years of diving experience.

While planning this dive, Elson said he was, "always in search of new and meaningful ways to honor our Veterans and remember those who have paid the ultimate price in defense of our country." He felt a dive to this most sacred place would be a unique opportunity.

After two unsuccessful attempts due to storms, we were finally able to dive on May 6, 2021. During the dive, a wreath of shells and JWB coin were placed at the foot of one of the statues.

A simple scuba dive helped cement a relationship between two organizations.

The JWB, which is 104-years-old, considers itself to be JWV's younger sibling. Elson has worked to grow and strengthen the bonds between



Wreath and JWB coin placed at underwater memorial

the two organizations by promoting joint ceremonies, combined advocacy on issues, and joint programming.

"While JWB Jewish Chaplains Council works with our Jewish service members, we proudly hand them off to JWV as they transition to civilian lives, officially becoming veterans," said Elson.

We hope to make this dive an annual event. If you are a certified diver and interested in participating in the future, please contact Larry Jasper at lmjasper@reagan.com. For more information about the memorial, visit <https://brighterfuture-florida.org>.



Chorny, Jasper, and Elson before the dive

Coast Guard Ship

Continued from page 1

over the horizon and intentionally headed for the LST-66. Four people were killed and seven were wounded. My father was on deck when the crash occurred. The man standing next to him died instantly. Although he suffered shrapnel wounds and severe burns to his back, my father's priorities were clear. Despite the flames surrounding him, he jumped into a gun turret to administer morphine to a suffering shipmate. At the same time, he saw leaking aviation fuel and live ammunition near his feet. He was the last on his ship to get medical attention. He refused to even sit down to be examined until all the wounded were treated.



Pharmacist Mate Robert Goldman

In 2016, Coast Guard historian Dr. William Thiesen began looking into Goldman's service record. Thiesen's research ultimately resulted in the ship named after Goldman.

To all those who serve in uniform, especially the officers and crew of the USCGC Robert Goldman, thank you for all you do in protecting our way of life. Your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. I was told that the crew of the Robert Goldman is the finest and most experienced crew, on the most technologically advanced cutter ever built, and I believe it. We will be forever grateful to the Coast Guard for the honor given to my father.



Vice Admiral Scott Buschman presents a commemorative plaque to the ship's sponsor, Eleanor Goldman

New Highway Markers

By Barry Lischinsky

In the 1950s, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was planning to build Interstate 95 (I-95) to help alleviate the projected increase of vehicle traffic on U.S. Route 1. The Massachusetts Department of Public Works tasked the Highway Section to develop a plan. JWV member Edward Elfman was one of the designers on the team responsible for a five mile stretch of I-95 through Peabody and Danvers, Massachusetts.

When construction finished on the section of highway, George Levine and Ira Novoselsky petitioned the Massachusetts legislature to name that section the Jewish War Veterans Highway. In 1990, markers were placed in that area in recognition of the contribution Jewish veterans made to the nation and the commonwealth. Over the years, the markers were destroyed and eventually removed. However, thanks to efforts by Novoselsky, the Department of Transportation has now replaced those markers.

Top photo: Levine and Novoselsky at the 1990 dedication of original highway markers and the new JWV marker along I-95.



I would like to talk about the future of our great organization. Actually, to be blunt, whether or not we have a future.

If you look at the declining membership numbers, we have maybe three more years before we no longer exist. What do I mean? In the past year and a half, we have lost approximately 2,500 members. Some were due to their passing, but most were due to loss of interest. Simply put, they stopped paying dues. Although we carry people on the rolls for three years without having paid, a significant number get dropped each year.

Do the math. At the last NEC, our membership level was around 8,500. How long can we sustain those losses?

I don't mean to sound all doom and gloom. There is an answer. That answer is YOU.

We have a Marketing Committee and a Membership Committee (as well as others) that are doing things to bring in new members, but they cannot do it alone. Every member is part of the Membership Committee whether you know it or not.

Every member needs to get involved. You need to reach out to your local community – the Federations, Synagogues, JCCs, Hadassah, and any other Jewish organization you can think of. Also, other Veteran Organizations like the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Association of the United States Army (AUSA), and so on. Many of our members have member-

ship in more than one organization and there is no reason you cannot reach out to Jewish members of those other veteran organizations and ask them to also join JWV. That is not poaching – that is asking for dual membership.

And do not forget the Gulf War Veterans and Post-9/11 Veterans in your area.

Along with the Committees I already mentioned, our National Leadership is addressing this issue. We are also reaching out to organizations like the Jewish Welfare Board and the Aleph Institute. These are organizations who train and work with Jewish Chaplains and lay leaders throughout the military. The active-duty members of today are the future of JWV.

In addition to membership comes retention. Remember that nasty word from your active-duty days when someone would ask you to re-up? That is what we need to do with our current members. How do we do it? By engaging them. There are many Posts and Departments that have not held meetings, in person or virtual, for the past year or so due to Covid-19. Guess what happens to members when no one contacts them for a year? They lose interest.

If you are holding meetings, you have my gratitude. If you are not, you need to start. Post and Department Commanders need to reach out to their members and do welfare checks. See how your members are doing – even if you do not have meetings. Let them know you care. If your Post or

Department is not functioning, step up and step in. We all know how to take charge, even if by brute force.

And let us not forget our patrons. Technically, for legal reasons, they are not members. But for all practical purposes they are members of our Posts and need to be engaged,

checked on, and utilized. Remember, they may not have served on active duty, but they are committed to serving those who did serve. Value them!

Someone recently asked, “What’s in it for me?” when asked to be a part of JWV. The best answer is the one given 125 years ago – so that people will know we (Jews) serve. We continue to serve. Without JWV, the nation, and the world, will forget what we do.

What’s in it for you is the knowledge that you are preserving our Jewish heritage while having a place to mingle with like-minded people, without fear of discrimination because you are Jewish.

With your help JWV will be here for the 250th Anniversary!



Larry Jasper, National Editor

National Recreation and Rehabilitation Stamp Program

By Chairman Michael Corbett

Our National Recreation and Rehabilitation Stamp Program was designed to give hospitalized veterans an opportunity for leisure activities as well as dexterity therapy. Also, those disabled veterans interested in stamp collecting would have an opportunity to select stamps of interest to do with as they please.

This program was operating at an acceptable level, given the flow of stamps into our program and the need for stamps by VA facilities. In fact, we had a sufficient supply of donated stamps to expand the program this past year to Fisher Houses around the country where dependent children of hospitalized veterans would be given a Beginner's stamp album, magnifying glass, information pamphlet on collecting stamps, and a supply of stamps and hinges to attach those stamps to the album.

The isolation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic brought this program to a screeching halt. As stamps continued to be donated and stacked-up in my den, none were going out because the VA advised they would no longer be accepting such items from outside their facilities. As a result, we have about 30 boxes of stamps with no place to go.

In a recent article in The Jewish Veteran, I implored our organizational leaders to designate points of contact to open discussions with VA hospitals around the country and ask that they allow us to send these boxes to increase the opportunities for hospitalized veterans to get an interesting and entertaining form of therapy with



these stamps. To date, we've had zero responses to this call to action. What is to become of the JWV stamp program?

As for the Fisher House part of this program, it will be back up and running soon, but so far only four or five of them have agreed to accept the beginner stamp kits. Most have said it's because they don't have or rarely have any young people staying there. We've been told that it would not be feasible for them to keep a handful of the kits for the rare instances when kids stay at their facility.

As a result, I am asking Department and Post Commanders to consider assigning one or more liaisons to each VA and Fisher House facility in your area to open discussions with facilities about the stamp program. This is a great opportunity for your echelon to support the VA and their associated Fisher Houses. It is an equally important opportunity for your Auxiliary, should they decide to sponsor this program, to add to the numerous community activities in which they already participate.

There is absolutely no cost to your Post or Department, because the Department of Florida

fully supports this program by incurring expenses for postage and purchase of the stamp collecting starter kits provided to the Fisher House.

When your echelon has designated the liaison and reported their name and address to me, I will start sending boxes of stamps so your liaison can personally deliver them to the VA and Fisher House.

Please contact me at OCUSMC@hotmail.com with the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of your stamp liaison for this important program.

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

You can find more information about guidelines for article and photo submissions on www.jwv.org. The deadline for the next issue of The Jewish Veteran is September 2.

Alan Paley Announces his Candidacy for National Commander

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

Following his honorable discharge in 1970 he became active in JWV and rose through the ranks of his post becoming one of the youngest Post Commanders in JWV. In 1979 he was elected Bergen County, New Jersey Council Commander. He relocated to Florida in the early 1980s and later transferred to Florida Post 606, serving as Post Commander from 1996 to 2016. While serving as Post Commander, he was elected Commander of Broward, Palm Beach County Council in 1999. In 2015 he was elected the Commander of the Department of Florida and served in that capacity until 2019. Since 2016 he has been the National Budget Chairman and in 2019 was also appointed as the National Adjutant. In 2020, Alan was elected to the newly created position of National Vice Commander. He is a life member of both JWV and NMAJMH and has over 51 years of continuous service to JWV.

In civilian life, Alan is the Chief Financial Officer of Overseas Cargo, Inc., a third-party logistics and warehouse service provider spe-



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

Nelson Mellitz Announces his Candidacy for National Vice-Commander

Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAF, Retired, continues an over 80-year family legacy of serving in the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. Nelson and his wife Debbie's families have been active members of JWV since the late 1930s or early 1940s in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. They both have grandfathers, fathers, aunts, uncles, and cousins that have proudly served in the U.S. military during war and peace, and later in JWV.

Nelson served 32 years in the United States Air Force. He has been based at more than 13 different locations within the U.S. and overseas during five major wars and other combat operations. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1970 as an E-1 and was assigned to a Civil Engineering Unit as a Site Development Specialist. Over the next nine and half years he was promoted to Master Sergeant (E-7). He was awarded a direct commission to 2nd Lieutenant in 1980 and assigned to the Acquisition Career field with a specialty in U.S. Government Contracting. Nelson was promoted to full Colonel in 1998. He has received over 20 military awards and decorations including the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Meritorious Citation.

Nelson has held many leadership positions in



JWV including National Quartermaster, National Chief of Staff, Commander of Post 126, Council Commander, and Department of NJ Commander, among others.

Nelson is Vice President of World Wide Business Operations for Land Sea Air Security, LLC. LSA Security markets proven military defensive equipment. He has been married to Debbie Markowitz Mellitz for 41 years and they have two daughters.

For JWV caps, call Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation

Phone: 215-821-3434 • Fax: 215-821-3438

www.keystoneuniformcap.com/Jewish-War-Veteran-Caps.html



High Holiday Cards

Once again this year, JWV will send out Hanukkah cards instead of High Holiday cards. If you would like to receive a selection of High Holiday cards from past years, you can purchase them at National Convention in New Orleans or contact Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at crinkoff@jwv.org.

Cards by artist
Smadar Livne



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

JWV is celebrating its 125th anniversary!



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

The pins are \$5 each, with a minimum purchase of 5. If you just want to order a single pin, please contact your post or department commander, who will bundle your order with others. You can also contact National Headquarters directly by emailing Programs Assistant Ben Kane at bkane@jwv.org.



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 7**

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
Rooms 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		
JWV Member Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$175.00 per member		
National Commander's Banquet • Thurs, Aug. 19 _____ Beef _____ Fish _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$50.00 per person		
National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
Partners' Club (\$50 new members / \$25 renewal) • Mon, Aug. 16	\$50.00 \$25.00		
National President's Reception and Banquet • Tues, Aug. 17 _____ Beef _____ Fish _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$50.00 per person		
Double Chai Club Breakfast • Wed, Aug 18 _____ 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>		
Raffle Tickets \$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00	JWVA		
Raffle Tickets \$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00	JWV		
Total			
All events must be pre-paid in full		Amount paying now:	
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!

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



The town of Hull, Massachusetts dedicated a new placard to the Jewish War Veterans on Hadassah Way. Event organizer Steven Greenberg recited the names of the town's Jewish residents who served during the wars of the United States. People from several nearby synagogues attended the event, including **Morochnick-Rotman Post 171** Commander Richard Albert.



Members of the **Department of Maryland** held an in person and virtual ceremony on Memorial Day in Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery in Owings Mills.



Maryland Post 692's Officer of the Day Leonard Gross received JWV's Centenarian Certificate in honor of his 100th birthday on May 15 from Post Commander Sheldon Goldberg.

Department of Michigan Commander Ed Hirsch presented Linda Zyla with a Medal of Merit for the significant and sustained contributions she has made since 2012, when she joined JWV to honor her father, who was also a member of the organization.



National Commander Jeff Sacks attended the Illinois Institute of Technology's Air Force ROTC commissioning ceremony on May 16 as a guest of his son, Captain Jonathan Sacks, who is a member of **Post 800**. Jonathan Sacks, a former Assistant Professor of Air Science at the school, administered the oath of office for the ceremony participants.



Commander George Wankmueller of **Fort Hood Post 795** set up "The White Table" at a Barnes and Noble in Harker Heights, Texas to honor those who were killed in action, missing in action, or held captive.



Senior Vice Commander Ed Kazdan (pictured) and Commander Gary Ginsburg of **Post 41** in **Rochester, New York** placed flags along the walkway of Riverside Cemetery on Memorial Day.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of **Post 639 in Florida** guarded the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall in Melbourne, Florida on Sunday, April 18. From Left: Jeffrey Fishkin, Jerry Baggish, PNP Joanne Blum, and PNC Jerry Blum.



PNC Michael Berman, PNP Elaine Bernstein, and PNC Norman Rosenshein manned a tent with information about JWV near the Vietnam Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. during Rolling to Remember 2021.



Drizin-Weiss Post 215 and Kelkey-Blatt Post 575 in Philadelphia built this JWV memorial in the 1970s with support from veterans who fought in World War I, World War II, and Korea. Post 215 Commander M.B. Kanis put up flags at this 75-foot-long memorial in Roosevelt Cemetery ahead of Memorial Day.



Members of **Worcester Post 32** along with some volunteers placed more than 650 flags on the graves of Jewish Veterans at three different cemeteries ahead of Memorial Day.



Kansas City Post 605 Adjutant Greg Quinn presented a quilt of honor to member Marvin Denton. Women from Beth Shalom Synagogue donated this quilt for use by the Post.



Members of **Post 41 in Rochester, New York** attended a Memorial Day ceremony in the Town of Brighton. From Left: Saul Rasnick, Robert Israel, Louis Babin, Town Supervisor William Moehle, Gary Ginsburg, Morey Goldman, and PNC Lawrence Schulman.



Post 256 in Dallas, Texas delivered thermometers, snacks, trash cans, and other donations to the Fisher House in April. From Left: Fisher House Director Lydia Henderson, Rosalind Kaplan, Art Kaplan, Jo Reingold, Allan Cantor, and PNP Sandra Cantor (seated).

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of **West Suburban Post 54** and **Buffalo Grove Post 89** gathered for a Memorial Day ceremony and put flags on the graves of veterans at Oakridge Cemetery in Hillside, Illinois. From Left: Larry Malis, Mike Sawyer, Morrie Rossman, Herb Eiseman, Irwin Magad, Mel Wolf, Bruce Mayor, NC Jeff Sacks, Steve Fixler, John Wilkerson, and Leslie Turner.



Members of **Post 625 in Poughkeepsie, New York** attended the annual Memorial Day Ceremony in Dutchess County on Monday, May 31. The Post's Chief of Staff Martin Hochhauser placed a stone on the county's war memorial in honor of the Jewish veterans.

Post 210 in Phoenix, Arizona installed its new officers on Sunday, May 16. From left: Junior Vice-Commander Brad Seidel, Senior-Vice Commander Fred Lipovitch, Adjutant Steven Troy, Commander Michael Chambers, and Quartermaster Howard Farkash.



On Sunday March 21, **Department of Wisconsin** member Judy O'Hara helped assemble 432 Passover meals for delivery at the Milwaukee Jewish Food Pantry.



PNP Elaine Bernstein and PNC Michael Berman laid a wreath at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. on behalf of JWV and JWVA.



The Fort Bliss Jewish Community/Chapel 3 (active-duty and retired) enjoyed a delicious and traditional community Pesach Seder complete with hand-baked Matzah on March 27, 2021 at the 1st Armored Division Chapel. The Passover Seder was conducted by Jewish Lay Leader, Scott Klein of **Highland Park, Illinois Post 29** and his wife Eli. In attendance was Col. Duane Burk, Garrison Community Chaplain William Beaver, **El Paso Post 749** Commander Scott P. Stevens, several Post members, and Jewish Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve soldiers.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of **Merrick New York Post 652** attended a Memorial Day parade in Eastmeadow on May 31. From Left: Murray Steinberg, Avi Hercz, Elliot Fox, Jack Holzman, and Gary Glick.



Department of New Jersey Commander Larry Rosenthal, Auxiliary co-President Carol Adler, and Department Junior Vice-Commander Al Adler laid a wreath at Doyle Cemetery in Arneytown, New Jersey on May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.



Department of Michigan Commander Ed Hirsch shows the two proclamations his department received in honor of JWV's 125th anniversary.

Post 755 in Fort Worth, Texas presented the Jewish War Veterans Americanism Medal to ROTC Cadet Tristen MacGowan at the University of Texas at Arlington. From Left: Phil Kabakoff, MacGowan, and Nachshom Atkins.



Members of **Post 755** attended a rally to support Israel held by the Jewish Federation of Tarrant County on May 25. Pictured is the post's Commander Phil Kabakoff who spoke at the rally.



A member of **Post 98** in Philadelphia joined Boy Scouts to put flags on the graves of Jewish veterans ahead of Memorial Day at Mount Jacob Cemetery.



Prince-Strauss/Groman Post 161 participated in a Memorial Day ceremony for the city of Revere. PNC Ira Novoselsky and Post Commander Joseph Cole joined other allied veterans in reciting the names of local military personnel from the Revolutionary War through the Afghanistan conflict who were killed in action.



By Ben Kane

“Final Account” begins with a quote from Holocaust survivor Primo Levi. The quote does an exceptional job of summarizing the message of the film. “Monsters exist, but they are too few in number to be truly dangerous. More dangerous are the common men, the functionaries ready to believe and to act without asking questions.”

The movie explores the formative years and then the wartime positions held by those interviewed throughout the movie. Many of them were members of the Waffen SS, the military wing of the SS, an organization consisting of the most ardent Nazi fanatics. According to historical records, the military wing of the SS, unsurprisingly, had vast numbers of perpetrators within their ranks. It would be difficult for any member of the Waffen SS to consider themselves innocent, but that does not

stop several interviewees from trying.

As the film unfolds, several former Nazi military personnel explain how they do not consider themselves perpetrators. The individuals claim they were “swept up” in a movement and “forced to obey orders.” They said not doing so would put them at risk. It is important to note that there are virtually no instances of a Nazi servicemember being punished for choosing not to partake in genocidal acts. Take the story of the Polish Reserve Police Battalion 101. The individuals in this group were given the chance to opt out of carrying out an act of genocide. Few refused, but those who did were not punished. One former member of the Waffen SS also corroborated the idea of a slim risk of punishment for those who refused, saying that during his time in the SS, as far as he could tell, “nobody walked away.”

There is certainly truth in their arguments of being swept up in the movement. “Final Account” does an excellent job exploring the myriad of ways citizens were brainwashed to hate. The brainwashing started at a very young age and continued ceaselessly through the years. Interviewees explained how as children, they learned the alphabet with horrific caricatures of Jews drawn beside each letter. Anti-Semitic films were shown at even the most remote villages. Marching songs, flashy outfits and rituals, and summer camps, further solidified the Nazi party as the party to join in the eyes of the impressionable youth. They were taught from birth there were those unworthy of life, and by the time a Nazi youth wielded the power of life and death as a soldier, few hesitated in using force to remove from society those they were taught were poisoning it.

Some interviewees claimed that not only did they not partake in genocidal acts, but they didn’t even know they were going on. Others admitted they did not agree with the murders but would have carried them out if asked. Conveniently, and rather miraculously, very few of the interviewed Waffen

SS members seemed to be involved firsthand with any genocidal actions. Some interviewees, mostly those working office jobs or who were young members of the women’s organizations, likely didn’t carry out acts of genocide themselves, but they knew about it, and didn’t hesitate to tell that to the filmmakers.

It would be easy to direct attention to the interviewee who said Hitler was not in the wrong. That he still honors Hitler. He is shown, and it is good that he was. He serves as a warning to the viewer that some of those involved in the Holocaust were, up until their dying day, proud of their role in it. That hatred is still within the hearts of many.

But the time was instead better spent with one particularly regretful member of the Waffen SS. The film shows his conversation with a class of students, held where the Wannsee Conference took place. That 1942 conference officially determined the unfortunate fate of European Jewry. Their faces are blurred, and the comments of one young man in particular are hostile and biting. The student says he was surprised that the former SS member was “ashamed to be standing up for the fatherland” and that he “makes it seem like I should be ashamed to be German.” He also says the man “should be more afraid of some Albanian stabbing you than your fellow Germans.”

Following these remarks and others that downplayed the severity of the Holocaust, the interviewee gets emotional. He condemns the student for not showing his face and says “I belonged to a murderous organization. What else was it? We carried out murder to perfection, planned at a table like this over coffee, we decided how women and children would be killed. We cannot be proud of that... do not let yourself be blinded.”

The room fell silent. Silent just long enough for the viewer to find hope. To find hope that those led astray by even the darkest hatred can someday fight for humanity instead of against it.

Desert Storm War Memorial

By Steve Fixler

This year we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, January 17, 1991 to February 28, 1991, in which the U.S.-led U.N. Coalition removed Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Operation Desert Storm ended successfully after a mission that took just one month, one week, and four days. Despite the success, nearly 400 U.S. military members made the ultimate sacrifice.

Those Desert Storm Veterans are not forgotten. Many towns, cities, and states across our country honor them during Memorial and Veterans Day Ceremonies and local memorials.

What this country does not have is a National Desert Storm War Memorial (NDSWM). The National Desert Storm War Memorial Committee in Washington, D.C., was created over seven years ago and in 2017, President Trump signed a law authorizing the committee to build a Desert Storm War Memorial. The memorial will be located at the southwest corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street, behind the Vietnam Wall and north of the Lincoln Memorial.

The cost of the memorial will be \$40 million.



So far, the committee has raised \$9.6 million, which does not include a \$10 million pledge from the country of Kuwait and a \$200,000 pledge from a private donor.

I am a Desert Storm Veteran and the NDSWM State Lead for Illinois. I am also the Adjutant for JWV Post #54. I am proud to announce that the Department of Illinois has donated to the memorial and I am asking everyone to see if your post or department would be able to provide a donation to the memorial.

Our country has a World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorial in our nation’s capital. The citizens of our country deserve a National Desert Storm War Memorial there as well, and so do the families of those killed in Desert Storm.

For more information you can go to www.ndswm.org or contact me at steven.fixler@ndswm.org.



Courtesy of The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association

Stay in touch with JWV!



Honoring First Jewish Medal of Honor Recipient

Continued from page 1

their lives in the service of our country.”

A color guard from the New York Army National Guard’s 107th Military Police Company also volunteered to take part in the ceremony.

Levy’s actions were significant because during the Civil War a regimental flag, or colors, had tactical as well as ceremonial significance. The flag marked the regiment’s line in battle. Soldiers looked for the colors to see where they should be. The most senior sergeant had the job of protecting the flag. The enemy concentrated its fire on the sergeant holding the flag. If he went down and the colors fell, it could cause troops to retreat.

Levy picked up the flag that day, after 15 members of the color guard were killed or wounded.

Levy, born in 1845 in New York City, enlisted in the Union Army in October 1861. Only 16 at the time, Levy and his younger brother, Robert, volunteered to serve as drummers, Benjamin with the 1st New York Volunteer Infantry and Robert with the 7th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

“Levy was the child of immigrants,” Goldenberg said, “and like so many New Yorkers of his time and now ours, he volunteered to serve his family’s adopted country in a time of crisis.”

“It’s fitting that today we honor Levy with a color guard, the symbol of service that he selflessly braved Confederate fire to save from capture and use to rally his regiment,” Goldenberg said.

In June of 1862, Levy’s regiment arrived to



Elson and Goldenberg

reinforce the Army of the Potomac just after the Battle of Fair Oaks, which was fought May 31 to June 1, 1862. On the morning of June 30, while the regiment formed for muster, the Confederates attacked. The 1st New York ran to the action. Levy, whose drum was broken, grabbed the musket of his ill tent mate, Jacob Turnbull, and joined the fight.

Passing through dense woods, the regiment moved to ambush the flank of approaching Confederate forces. However, the enemy moved on the New York Volunteers from another direction and the Battle of Glendale began around 3 p.m.

In less than ten minutes, four color sergeants and eleven corporals comprising the color guard all fell to intense fire. Only one escaped, the remainder killed or wounded in less than ten minutes.

Levy saw his color bearer, Charley Mahorn, fall from a bullet wound. Levy charged ahead and

picked up the unit colors to rally his regiment in defense until relieved by other Union forces.

At the end of the fight, 230 1st New York Soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing; a quarter of the men who went into action.

The citation says Levy exhibited “extraordinary heroism and when the Color Bearers were shot down, carried the colors and saved them from capture.”

After his initial two-year service, Levy reenlisted in January 1864 and was severely wounded in the thigh during the Battle of the Wilderness, receiving a discharge due to disability in May 1865.

Rabbi Amar provided traditional Hebrew memorial prayers and the group then placed stones on the gravesite.

“We thought the stones, as a more traditional act in the Jewish faith, were more appropriate than a wreath,” Elson said.

Sgt. Letty Luiz, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the color guard, then provided a rendition of taps.

“It was really fun participating in this,” Luiz said. “Our company just held a uniform inspection this past weekend for drill, so we were able to come up with the volunteers and I’m glad we did.”

To end the ceremony, Krakow intoned the traditional Hebrew message for mourners: “Baruch Dayan Emet” which means “Blessed is the True Judge” and acknowledges “God’s plan for all.”

Then, he added, “And God Bless America.”

Don’t Forget, Jews Fought And Died For America

By Josh Glancy, The Jewish Chronicle

It is easy to fall into the trap of assuming that all diaspora Jews are bookish

A few blocks from my home in Washington DC, nestled discreetly on a leafy side street, is the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. I’ve walked past this museum 100 times and always promised myself that I’d stop by for a proper look. This being my last week in Washington — I’m moving home to London after five years — I decided on a recent stroll that it was now or never.

Jewish diasporic military history has always intrigued me, I think because to many people it appears like a paradox: that bookish Jews somehow don’t belong on the battlefield. Of course, in reality, that’s nonsense: some half a million Jews served in the American military in the Second World War alone. Eleven thousand died.

The museum itself is small but intriguing, telling the story of Jews in the American military from the earliest days of the nation. It starts in 1654 with Asser Levy, one of the first Jews to settle in the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam. As the fledgling colony battled with nearby New Sweden on the Delaware River, Levy was keen to join the New Amsterdam militia and do his bit. But governor Peter Stuyvesant wouldn’t let Jews serve, demanding that they pay an extra exemption tax instead. Levy appealed to the colony’s government in Holland, who allowed him to do his duty.

So began the long story of Jewish military life in America. “From the day of the founding of the republic, we have had no struggle in which there have not been citizens of Jewish faith who played an eminent part,” said President Teddy Roosevelt, in words splayed across the wall of the museum.

Dotted around this exhibition are mementos from that story. Eugene Cohn has donated sketchings of Japanese kamikaze attacks at Okinawa; Herbert Stone a firing pin removed from a German mine on Omaha beach. This being a Jewish museum, there’s also a section devoted to detailing “A Mother’s Grief”.

I found myself much affected by this history of Jewish sacrifice. Not so much because of the stereotypes it dispels, but because of what it says about Jews and America. How they loved this country and died for its ideals and its mistakes. How much the liberty that America has sought to advance meant to a people denied freedom for so long.

Because it’s an American institution and this country loves a founding text, the museum also has a constitution, the founding principles of Jewish American War Veterans. The second line of the constitution encourages its adherents to “foster and perpetuate true Americanism”. This is another Teddy Roosevelt reference. True Americanism, he wrote in his eponymous 1894 essay, is the belief that “our nation is that one among all the nations of the earth which holds in its hands the fate of the coming years. We enjoy exceptional advantages, and are menaced by exceptional dangers; and all signs indicate that we shall either fail greatly or succeed greatly.”

How eerily true those words still ring today. But is Americanism fading? Could this fractured, angry, introverted nation still sustain the mighty endeavours that won those two world wars? Does America still have the muscle? The heart?

As I leave this extraordinary country after five years, I must admit I’m feeling uncertain. In many ways, the Trump era was a testament to America’s

resilience: its unique system of government was stress tested in the extreme. The system bent but it did not break. Walking around the National Museum of American Jewish Military History is also a reminder of how much worse things have been. That there was once a time when brother fought against brother, Jew against fellow Jew, as the Union and the Confederacy slaughtered each other by the hundred thousand.

Yet putting civil strife aside, the ability to fight a foreign war — even a misguided one — demonstrates a solidarity and a unified sense of national purpose that is sorely lacking in the America of 2021. This is a profound problem, for a house divided against itself cannot stand indefinitely. “Above all we must stand shoulder to shoulder, not asking as to the ancestry or creed of our comrades, but only demanding that they be in very truth Americans,” wrote Roosevelt in 1894.

For nearly 400 years, American Jews have lived those words. Many live it still. In front of the museum are stones inscribed with the names of those Jews who fell in the ill-conceived and ill-fated US wars of the 21st century: Robert Secher, of Germantown, Tennessee, a marine who was shot during combat in the Anbar province of Iraq in 2006. Daniel Agami of Coconut Creek, Florida, who was killed in 2007 when a bomb exploded near his vehicle in Baghdad.

There are many more. For all our sakes, as Jews, and as citizens of a world that is better off with a strong and united America leading it, I dearly hope their sacrifice was not in vain.

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT NATALIE BLANK

Dear Sisters,

As I sit here contemplating my last message as your National President for The Jewish Veteran I am at a loss. What a year! Who could have anticipated a pandemic lasting over a year; a year of COVID-19 and its restrictions that shut down the world and is not over yet! As much as I had hoped to meet and greet my Sisters on their own Auxiliary turfs, it was not to be.

However, despite this virus, I am happy to report that I have been able to participate virtually in many of your activities. My first virtual NEC this past winter was attended by a large number of Sisters and I was especially delighted by the many new Sisters who joined us. I do hope that when we can meet in person once more they will consider joining us at that time also.

During this past year I was invited by various Auxiliaries to attend virtual official visits and/or installations. These opportunities kept me apprised of your activities and enabled me to meet many Sisters who do not normally attend National meetings and for that I am grateful.

In March JWV sponsored a celebration of the 125th anniversary of its founding with an excellent video presentation. For those who are not aware, JWV is the oldest veterans organization and was born in 1896 in New York City in what was the Opera House at that time but is now the site of the Double Tree Hotel. On some special occasions the hotel participates in some of these celebrations, but this year that was not possible. The hotel itself has a large plaque in its lobby designating it as the historical site of the birth of JWV. As the first post organized in JWV, Post #1 celebrated this impressive event with a virtual commemoration of its own.

This year brought us all, people, businesses and organizations to a "stand-still". Isolation was the name of the game! For JWVA it meant we had to step back and away from our usual in-person ac-

tivities on behalf of our veterans, seniors and children. Sometimes seeing each other virtually alleviated the "alone-ness" but there was nothing that could replace in-person services. I am sure that the facilities we serviced missed us as well, but, for everyone's sake, we had to consider safety first. Many facilities put in place virtual volunteering whereby a volunteer could speak with residents or have a staff member run a program that we sponsored. Our Auxiliaries provided as many services as possible under these curtailed circumstances. I have heard wonderful stories regarding their efforts on behalf of the needy and I applaud all of you for carrying on our activities to the best of your ability.

Now that most of us have been vaccinated, I am looking forward to the easing of restrictions and am anticipating my first in-person activity as your National President. I will be attending the awards ceremonies at the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut, the only military academy to hold in-person activities this year.

I am also anticipating our first in-person convention since August 2019 and celebrating the closing days of my presidency. I hope to see my Sisters, Comrades and friends once again, this year in New Orleans so I can thank everyone who helped make this year so memorable for me.

G-d bless our Sisters, Comrades and the servicemen and women who keep us safe and whose efforts permit us to enjoy all our freedoms.

Loyally,
Natalie Blank



IN HONOR OF FRIENDSHIP

BY PNP Iris Goldwasser, Editor

Dabbling on the computer during this pandemic I came upon an old story that bears repeating.

His name is Fleming and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's cottage. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. The nobleman said, "I want to repay you for saving my son's life." The farmer replied "no, I can't accept payment for what I did" and waved off the offer.

At that moment the farmer's son came to the door of the family hovel and Fleming proudly introduced him. The nobleman was impressed and said "I'll make you a deal. Allow me to provide him with the same level of education my own son will enjoy. If this lad is anything like his father, no doubt he'll grow up to be a man we both will be proud of".

And so he did! Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London. He went on to become famous and well-known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Some years later the same nobleman's son, who had been saved from the bog, was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin! The name of the nobleman was Lord Randolph Churchill – his son's name was Sir Winston Churchill!

The moral of this story is "What goes around comes around". We do not live in a vacuum and cannot read the future as this past year has shown us. Our helping hands today could be our saving grace tomorrow.

ARMED FORCES/USO

By DP Sandra Fritts, Chairman

The United Service Organization (USO) is an American non-profit charitable corporation that provides live entertainment, such as comedians, actors, musicians, social facilities and other programs to members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

Founded by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 it has been here as a source of entertainment and a means of familial contact for our military and their families. The utilization of the USO begins with enlistment and the journey continues as the servicemen and women transition back to their communities and families.

Today the USO operates 230 locations on seven continents, manned by more than 30,000 volunteers. Centers are at or near military installations across the United States and around the world,

including combat zones. The USO continuously adapts to the needs of our men and women in uniform and their families, so they can focus on their very important missions.

The men and women who sign up for our Armed Forces are a group of dedicated and selfless people. Through their military assignments, deployment and transitions, their active service can be dangerous and at times very lonely. Their continued connection with family and social relaxation is important for a strong mind and body.

The USO delivers support to our military both here and abroad remembering that many are in remote and isolated parts of the world.

These men and women signed up for a very dangerous and rewarding job.

They need our support and thanks.

In Memoriam

In memory of all who
left us too soon.

We remember you in the
morning, in the night, when we
look at the stars, hear a song,
remember a place or a smell.

You are always with us—
We miss you.

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

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!

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.

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.

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

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please make checks payable to: National Ladies Auxiliary, JWV

Mail this form and payment to: Ladies Auxiliary of the JWV

1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009



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HELPING HANDS ACROSS JWVA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since the last edition of The Jewish Veteran, we have enjoyed many activities in the museum. We had two panel sessions with members of the museum discussing their experiences in Vietnam. I thank Mike Rugel for assembling the panels and the men who participated. I also want to thank the two men who kept things moving along as panel chairs, Bob Jacobs and Sheldon Goldberg. We had two teleconferences, one with Bernard Lubran about the Ritchie Boys, and the second, with Bryan Mark Rigg, on his book, "Flamethrower: Iwo Jima Medal of Honor Recipient and U.S. Marine Woody Williams and His Controversial Award, Japan's Holocaust and the Pacific War." Both lectures were absolutely fascinating. There are more sessions coming up and I suggest that you regularly check the museum's website and social media pages to see what is next.

We continue to work on two exhibits, The Jewish Experience during Vietnam, and Women in the Military. Obviously, Jews served throughout the world during the Vietnam Era. In most cases, members of the military served wherever they were

told to serve. Some volunteered to go to Vietnam. Most did not. However, wherever they served, they served with honor. This exhibit is designed to showcase where they were and what they did regardless of whether it was in Vietnam, Korea, Germany or stateside. Thanks to Bob Jacobs and Jerry Alperstein who have taken this exhibit as a personal obligation to put together and complete. We hope to have the grand opening of this exhibit on November 10, 2021, the day before Veterans Day.

The other exhibit, Women in the Military, is a reprise of an older exhibit. It will be completely redone and updated. It is being chaired by Carol Berman with the help of many women who wish to share their experiences as women and as Jews. Some of their stories will be unpleasant, to say the least. Others will tell of some pleasant experiences. Many female members will be contacted to share their stories, to seek some funding, and for any artifacts they may still have. Many of these artifacts will be lost if not given to the museum. Please send them to the museum so that they can be preserved. There is a form on the museum website about how

to send items to the museum.

We are in the planning stages of creating a Memorial Garden in front of the museum. We look forward to beautifying the building with this new addition. You will have an opportunity to make donations to this garden in memory of friends, family, and comrades in the near future. We have reviewed some preliminary renderings and have posed several questions to the contractor. This has only moved forward with the invaluable support of Ed and Iris Goldwasser.

Finally, thanks go out to staff, Mike Rugel and Pam Elbe. They perform a yeoman's job each and every day.



PNC Michael B. Berman

Updates By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

In March, in addition to helping put together JWV's 125th Anniversary video, we welcomed back our friends from the research team of Shapell Manuscript Foundation Roster of Jewish Service in the American Civil War for a webinar about the founders and early members of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association. They provided some fascinating information about the men who formed the country's first Jewish veteran's organization in 1896 including Chairman Joseph Stiner.

The Shapell team originally joined us in June of last year for the first part of the program. It's a pleasure to see how their research has continued to progress over the years. Their research on Jews in the Civil War will be an invaluable resource when published.

In April, we held two sessions of panel discussions on American Jewish service in Vietnam. The panelists shared their experiences as Americans and as Jews serving in Vietnam. Their stories illustrated how each underwent their own war with unique experiences that shaped them for life. Thanks to Robert Jacobs and Sheldon Goldberg for participating and their role in putting the program together. Thanks also to the panelists. Michael Corbett, Joseph Goldstein, Stan Goldstein, and Jacob Romo participated in part one. Jerry Alperstein, Dave Brog, and Allen Falk participated in part two along with Goldberg and Jacobs. As we work towards creating a new Vietnam exhibit in the building, we hope to have more Vietnam programming.

Author Bryan Mark Rigg joined us on May 6 to discuss American Jews on Iwo Jima, including Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn, in the context of his book "Flamethrower: Iwo Jima Medal of Honor Recipient and U.S. Marine Woody Williams and His Controversial Award, Japan's Holocaust and the Pacific War." Flamethrower documents Hershel "Woody" Williams' actions on Iwo Jima and the Medal of Honor process. Among the other Jews



Bryan Mark Rigg discusses American Jews on Iwo Jima and his book Flamethrower.

who were on Iwo Jima that Rigg discussed, it was a pleasure to hear him recall his meeting with Army Air Corps pilot Jerry Yellin. Yellin gave one of his final public talks at the museum in October of 2017 before passing away two months later. Rigg described the brutality of the combat on Iwo Jima and how it affected different individuals in different ways. He also answered questions about his earlier book "Hitler's Jewish Soldiers" which examines those with Jewish ancestry who served in the



Benjamin Krasna, Deputy Chief of Mission, the Embassy of Israel, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Michael Rugel for recognizing Jewish American Heritage month.

Wehrmacht during World War II.

Recordings of these talks are available on our YouTube channel.

We were excited to welcome Benjamin Krasna, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Israel to the United States, back to the museum. The New York-born Krasna was sporting a Giants mask as he spoke of his father and uncle who served in the American military. The embassy shared a video of the visit on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and thanked American Jewish veterans for their service. We hope to have additional visits from the embassy staff.

Our friends at the Fort Ritchie Museum have started the process of forming a non-profit and developing a museum. In World War II, Camp Ritchie was home to the Military Intelligence Training Center. Known as Ritchie Boys, the men who trained there were foreign language experts learning POW interrogation and other intelligence skills. Many of them were European Jewish refugees. If you, or a family member, were connected to Camp/Fort Ritchie, let us know and we will connect you to the new museum. Contact Michael Rugel at mrugel@nmajmh.org or 202-265-6280.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History Board of Directors Nominating Committee requests nominations for the 12 at-large members of the Board of Directors. If you'd like to volunteer or put another name forward, please send to the Nominating Committee via Michael Rugel at mrugel@nmajmh.org.

Directors must maintain a Guardian Level (\$100 annual) or higher membership. Nominations will be closed on July 19th. Directors will be elected at the August 19th meeting of the Board of Directors.

By Pam Elbe • Director of Collections, Archives, and Exhibitions

How Many Jews Have Received the Medal of Honor?

The Medal of Honor is America's highest award for military valor, presented to those who performed an act of such conspicuous gallantry as to rise above and beyond the call of duty. The recipients of this distinction include only 3,400 of the tens of millions who have served their country since the Civil War, when President Abraham Lincoln signed the law creating the Medal of Honor. The recipients include soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen, both officers and enlisted. Among these heroes are men of the Jewish faith, though the number of American Jews who have received this honor is a matter of some debate.

The number of Jewish recipients of the Medal of Honor varies depending on which source you consult. The NMAJMH recognizes 17 Jews as having received our nation's highest honor: Abraham Cohn, Leopold Karpeles, Benjamin Levy, David Urbansky (Orbansky), Simon Suhler (served as Charles Gardner), Samuel Marguiles (served as Samuel Gross), Sydney Gumpertz, Benjamin Kaufman, William Sawelson, William Shemin, Isadore Jachman, Ben Salomon, Raymond Zussman, Leonard Kravitz, Tibor Rubin, Jack Jacobs, and John Levitow. A search of the internet for Jewish Medal of Honor recipients will bring back the names of those 17 men and a few others. I'd like to focus on those others, and why they are not included in the museum's count of the recipients.

Isaac Gause, Abraham Greenwalt (also known as Abraham Grunwalt), and Henry Heller are included in many lists of Jews who received the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. They were first identified as Jewish at the 1894 annual meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society. A speaker reported on his research on Jewish enlistment in the military during the American Civil War and listed them as Jews. Unfortunately, there is no primary source documentation available to support that assertion. Those names appear again in Sydney Gumpertz's "Jewish Legion of Valor," published in 1934, but it looks like this is a recitation of the previous assumption rather than based on primary documentation as Gumpertz does not cite sources.

While I have not located any primary sources indicating those three men were Jewish, I have found documents to indicate that they were likely Christian. In his book "Four Years with Five Armies: Army of the Frontier, Army of the Potomac, Army of the Missouri, Army of the Ohio, Army of the Shenandoah," Gause describes his upbringing in a Christian home and says the uncle who raised him was a Quaker. This is backed up by genealogical research. In a biography of Abraham's son Emor in "A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans, 1919," Abraham is referred to as "a member of the Methodist Church." Henry Heller is buried in a Baptist cemetery. Genealogical research into these individuals did not locate any Jewish ancestry.

These assumptions about religious background are not limited to Civil War servicemen. A name that came on my radar recently is Tony Stein. Stein received the MoH posthumously for



Sgt. John L. Levitow was awarded the Medal of Honor on May 14, 1970.

his actions during World War II. It was suggested that he should be included in the NMAJMH's list, based on a Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) serviceman card. While at first glance the JWB card indicates Stein might be Jewish, the JWB War Records Bureau gathered information from newspapers and the War Department, among other places, attempting to compile information on all the Jews serving in WWII. During this effort they occasionally came across non-Jews who may have had a Jewish sounding name. This is likely the case with Stein. It is worth noting that Stein is not listed in "American Jews in World War II," the book based on the work by the War Records Bureau. That indicates to me that after additional research, the JWB determined Stein was not Jewish.

As more and more resources are digitized, it becomes a bit easier to gather information on individuals and try to ascertain their background. Stein's mother submitted the application for his grave marker. The form shows she selected a cross as the religious symbol for the grave. I also found a news article detailing services when Stein's body was repatriated. There was a service at Our Lady of the Rosary Church and then he was buried at Calvary Cemetery. I corresponded with the historian at the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and she provided me with copies of both Stein's baptismal certificate and a letter from a chaplain to his parents wherein the chaplain says Stein attended to his Catholic faith whenever he could. When looking into his family to see if he had possibly converted from Judaism, I found that his mother, Theresa Rose Brandalek Stein Parks, had her funeral at Our Lady of the Rosary and was also buried at Cavalry Cemetery when she died in 1971. Stein's father, Steve Stein, died in 1986 and had graveside services at Springfield Church Cemetery in Ohio. Stein's sister is also buried at Cavalry Cemetery. As both of Stein's parents were immigrants, I was not able to find any information on

previous generations.

There are many possible options regarding the family's religious background, including that Stein's family was Jewish and hid that fact due to anti-Semitism, that Stein's family was Jewish at some point but freely converted to Christianity and embraced it, or that the Stein family was never Jewish and just happened to have a common Jewish surname. Given the available information it is impossible to say if Stein's family was Jewish prior to his birth, but it does appear that they were practicing Catholics during and after his life. The fact that he was a practicing Catholic leads to a potentially difficult and divisive question should resources later become available to indicate that previous generations were Jewish; namely, who is a Jew? I think that if you were to ask ten people you would likely get ten different opinions. For that reason, we have limited our list to those individuals who have identified themselves as Jewish.

The best example of this is the case of John Levitow, an Air Force veteran who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam. It would be easy to overlook Levitow when compiling a list of Jewish MoH recipients, since he is buried under a cross and his marriage was officiated by a Catholic priest. However, the NMAJMH includes him because he identified as Jewish and was a member of the Jewish War Veterans. His membership application is on display in the museum's Hall of Heroes exhibit. Unfortunately, we seldom have the chance to ask the recipient if they were Jewish. Uncovering someone's religious preference or background is not any easy task, and often the lack of information plays as much a part as anything else in making a determination. Hearsay seems to play a major role in internet lists, leading to the inclusion of individuals not from primary source documentation but because some other list included them. At the NMAJMH we err on the side of caution, choosing not to include someone unless research has uncovered evidence that they were in fact Jewish.

• • • Attention • • •

All Posts, Councils, and Departments

Have you recently made changes to your echelon's constitution and by-laws? Unsure if National has a copy?

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. 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 Samuel Greenberg



The JWV community is sad to report that Past National Commander Samuel Greenberg passed away on May 8 at the age of 93. Greenberg served as the National Commander from 1984-1985.

Greenberg was a member of Post #212 in Kingston, Pennsylvania. In addition to his service as National Commander, he served as Department Commander of Pennsylvania, Central District Commander, National Public Affairs Officer, and on the Board of Directors for the museum.

Greenberg served in the Navy as a Pharmacist Mate, 2nd class during World War II.

He is survived by his three children and ten grandchildren.

PNC Louis Abramson



The JWV community is sad to report that Past National Commander Louis Abramson passed away on April 19 at the age of 90. Abramson served as the National Commander from 2004-2005.

Abramson was a member of South Philadelphia Post #98. In addition to his service as National Commander, he served as Department Commander of Pennsylvania, National Adjutant, the National Finance Board, Commander of the Philadelphia County Council, and a member of the Board of Directors for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

Abramson enlisted in the National Guard in 1948 and served in the Korean War.

He is survived by two of his children, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Brandwein, Milton - Post 344
Engel, Howard - Post 100
Glick, Harold - Post 100
Gomberg, Clarence - Post 100
Klein, Lawrence A. - Post 100
Novick, Joseph - Post 100
Snyder, Charles - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Forman, Louis M. - Post 603
Levin, Victor P. - Post 603
Littlestone, Richard A. - Post 118
Mann, Norman E. - Post 185
Salmore, Stanley - Post 603
Schwartz, Donald L. - Post 118

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Sosin, Gershon J. - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Harris, Sidney L. - Post 400
Kampf, Irving - Post 705
Marks, Herbert - Post 400
Melamut, Sheldon J. - Post 409
Sackerman, Andrew H. - Post 631

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Esserman, Norman S. - Post 800

Firestone, Nathan U. - Post 29
Fleischman, Edward - Post 800
Miller, Howard B. - Post 89

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Isserman, Philip A. - Post 644
Jacobson, Bernard A. - Post 605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Schwartz, Lester - Post 692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Barash, Donald - Post 735
Botsian, Melvin B. - Post 157
Geisler, William - Post 735
Lerner, Isidor - Post 735
Levine, Nathan - Post 157
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Schnaper, Bernard - Post 193
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Salk, Udo L. - Post 135

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Usem, Arnold L. - Post 162

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Barnett, George - Post 65
Gordon, Seymour - Post 21
Hess, Stuart Allan - Post 21

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Albalah, Jack - Post 651
Belitsky, Irwin S. - Post 39
Fass, Maurice - Post 609
Jacobs, Herman E. - Post 609
Lemberg, Arthur - Post 126
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Rabinowitz, Melvin - Post 609
Snyder, Edwin D. - Post 39
Weiss, Morton J. - Post 47
Yankow, Jerry - Post 125

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Baehr, Malcolm H. - Post 191
Birnbaum, Martin J. - Post 652
Darvick, Murray B. - Post 1
Markowitz, Albert - Post 80
Rockwood, William P. - Post 105
Zuckerman, Gerald E. - Post 106

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Abramson, Louis I. - Post 697
Glatzer, Marshall M. - Post 697

Greenberg, Samuel - Post 212
Herman, Ellis - Post 697
Katz, Herbert - Post 706
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Pardys, Aaron - Post 98
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Slutsky, Leonard - Post 697
Weiss, Earle W. - Post 215
Wiener, Norman N. - Post 305

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Resnick, Leon A. - Post 23

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Finstein, Donald B. - Post 210
Lichter, Mildred - Post 210
Little, Jr., Malcolm L. - Post 375
Rochelle, Marvin - Post 210

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Blum, Ted - Post 256
Eisenberg, Jack - Post 749
Jacobs, Rudy - Post 753
Kasten, Jerome - Post 256
Lustig, Marshall - Post 256
Pulner, Warren M. - Post 749



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Happy Independence Day!

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

Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

PDP Gloria Abramson
In memory of PNC Lou & SVP Brenda

PDC Edward & PDP Louise Baraw
In Memory of Eugene Baraw

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

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

Greetings to All • Dr. Gerald H. Elkan

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

Nathan Goldberg-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

Past State Commander 1970-1972
Herbert Gopman

Best Wishes for a Good Year!

Alan J. Gould Post 105
In memory of Sam Gould, Post CMDR

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

In loving Memory of my husband, Walter
Dorothy D. Greenwald, P.D.P.

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Our Museum Needs Your Support!
Who else will tell our stories?

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

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

IMO Bella, Allen, and 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 Don Rothman, PC Post 44
By Bernice Rothman, PAP Aux. 44

In Memory of Tibor Rubin MOH #786
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

In Memory of Norman Smith-Post 129

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

South Phila-Ladies Auxiliary 98
Good Health + Happiness to All

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

NC Harvey & Linda Weiner
Be Well

In Memory of Julia & Joan Weinstein
Julia & Philip 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

Good Health & Happiness to All!

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