



# The Jewish Veteran

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

## Congratulations to incoming JWV & JWVA Officers



**National Commander  
Alan D. Paley**



**National President  
Sandra Cantor**

**Global War  
on Terrorism  
Memorial**  
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**Book Review**  
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## VA Deputy Secretary Addresses JWV National Convention

By Cara Rinkoff, Managing Editor  
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Deputy Secretary Donald Remy delivered the keynote address during the opening ceremony of JWV's 126th Annual National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Just one week before the convention, the VA decided it would not allow Remy or any other department official to travel because of COVID-19 concerns. Remy still wanted to deliver the keynote speech, so he recorded it for members to see at convention.

Remy discussed the priorities that the Biden administration set for the VA. He said the department wants to "deliver more care, more benefits, and more services to more veterans and future veterans than ever before with advocacy, access, outcomes, and excellence as our guiding principles."

When it comes to access, Remy told JWV that veterans need to have the opportunity to access VA benefits whether it is at a VA facility or at another location in their community. However, he stressed that the current administration will not privatize the VA. "Privatizing the VA is not the answer," Remy said. "And that's not going to happen on our watch." He said the ultimate goal is to make sure that VA's direct care system is sustainable for future generations of veterans.



**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Deputy Secretary Donald Remy.**

When it comes to treatment in VA facilities, all veterans should feel "safe, free of harassment, and free of discrimination," Remy said. He added that "we owe world-class healthcare benefits and services to all veterans, including women, veterans of color, survivors of military sexual trauma, and LGBTQ+ veterans."

Remy also talked about the importance of mental health and said one of the most urgent priorities is preventing veteran suicide. He hopes Congress will approve a budget request for more than half a billion dollars for outreach programs that address suicide risk. He said a new pro-

gram is being developed to help mentally ill veterans in rural areas. The goal is to create a training program that will attract "top-shelf clinicians to those communities, to keep them in rural areas, and to care for the vets living in those areas."

Another priority for Remy is making sure all veterans have a home. He said the Biden administration will do whatever it takes to keep veterans in their homes through various means, including the emergency rental assistance program and the extension of the foreclosure and eviction moratorium in place due to the coronavirus.

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## Suicide Prevention Awareness

By Jeffrey Blonder  
September is National Suicide Prevention Month. During the JWV Annual National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana last month, members had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Daniel DeBrule, a clinical psychologist, professor, and educator with expertise in anxiety and depression with a concentration in suicide prevention in the veteran community. DeBrule

treats many patients in VA clinics.

DeBrule said suicide is unique among the other top ten causes of death in the United States. "We could argue that while there's a lot of different preventative measures we could take to offset things like cardiovascular disease and diabetes, suicide remains one of the most heavily preventable causes of death in the United States." He said in the past few years, the suicide rate

nationally has decreased – even during the pandemic.

The rate of suicide among both the civilian population and veterans varies based on their location. Those living in the western mountain area of the U.S. are twice as likely to commit suicide as individuals in the Northeast. DeBrule also said men are three and a half times more likely to commit suicide than

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# D'verei HaShomrim

The following message was delivered at the recent JWV Convention in New Orleans by Rabbi Sanford Dresin.

Ribono Shel Olam, Master of the Universe.

As we deliberate this morning and plan for the future of the Jewish War Veterans of America, let us pause and reflect on both the coming year as well as the year past. The coming Rosh Hashanah conveys a powerful and meaningful message for all attending this important JWV event.

The words Rosh Hashanah mean more than only a New Year. The wisdom of the Hebrew language conveys that Shanah has additional and more subtle meanings. The word Shanah can also mean to repeat or to change.

As we reflect on the events of the past year as well as on our own behavior, we are called upon to engage in introspection and to ask ourselves what is worth repeating and continuing into the coming year and what must be changed for the coming year. This message calling for the contemplation of the need for change or repetition applies not only to individuals, but to organizations as well.

The Shofar that was sounded here this morning at the opening of this session will again be sounded on Rosh Hashanah. The Shofar must



**Rabbi Sanford Dresin blows the Shofar at the JWV Convention. (Photo by Lou Michaels)**

serve, recalling the words of Maimonides, Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, as a wakeup call to all who hear its penetrating sounds.

The Shofar provides a resonating message from the Ribono Shel Olam, the Commander of the Universe to the U.S. "Commander in Chief" and to all who command and aspire to command.

Ksiva V'Chasima Tovah

May you and all you hold dear be inscribed in the coming year for a sweet, happy and healthy New Year.



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## JWV 2022 Calendars Have Arrived!



If you have not already received one, please contact the Programs Department at 202-265-6280. For a suggested donation of \$18, we will send you a calendar while supplies last.

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

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

Correction: In the previous issue of The Jewish Veteran, a caption incorrectly identified an individual presenting a quilt to a member of Post 605. That presenter should have been identified as Scott Bronston. We regret this error.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Alan D. Paley

I would like to begin my first column by thanking you for allowing me to serve as your National Commander in this, our 126th year. As I stated in my short acceptance speech during the National Commander's Banquet on the last night of our convention, I hope to make this year a year of change. I believe that we must look at everything that we do as an organization and evaluate it -from the way we handle your requests and concerns at our national headquarters, to the way we handle committees and manage the functions of our organization.

I also want to take a moment to thank our Convention Chairman Edwin Goldwasser and his committee for their hard work and dedication in putting together this year's convention in New Orleans. Although the attendance was smaller than we have had in the past, I believe everyone that attended had a great time, and came away with some valuable information to take back to their local Posts and Departments. Thank you, Ed!

I have three specific goals for my year as your National Commander. First and foremost, I want to establish a training program for those members who would like to serve as a Veteran Service Officer (VSO). This requires attending an annual certification class, passing a test, and then having those credentials acknowledged by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Once accepted, the VSO would be able to assist other veterans within their own Post, County, or Department with issues they are having with the VA. There is a cost for this training, but with the help of our Department Commanders,

we were able to get our national office to help offset the cost of your training. Here is how it works: You get the approval of your Post Commander to attend the training. Your Post Commander seeks the approval of your Department Commander. Once approved, you arrange to attend the training class. Following completion, with your VA certification in hand, you document the cost of the training (this includes the cost of the class, your travel, hotel, and meals). Your Department Commander will review your expenses and if approved, will reimburse you. Your Department Commander then forwards your list of expenses to the national office and they will reimburse the Department for 50% of the total cost. There is a limit on the overall cost of the training, and we estimate no more than \$500.00. Your Department would pay \$250.00 and the national office would pay \$250.00. You would then be certified to act as a VSO for any issue within your Post or Department (if needed). This certification also enables you to help other veterans, whether they are members of JWV or not. They do not have to be Jewish. You can assist any veteran regardless of religion or membership in any veteran's organization. My goal is to have at least one certified VSO in each Department at the end of my term. If you are interested, please reach out to Raiana Berman at our national office for further information and guidance.

The next goal that I want to pursue is a complete rewrite of our Constitution and Bylaws. This has been talked about for many years. A motion passed at the first business session during our convention in New Orleans authorized the rewriting of our Constitution and Bylaws. A draft will be presented for discussion at the NEC meeting this coming January in Orlando, Florida. This will allow a Constitutional Committee four months to document the changes they propose. A draft will be sent to the general membership in advance of the NEC meeting, which is required under our current Constitution and Bylaws. Hopefully, the draft will be accepted, or amended, and then voted upon. This would certainly be a step forward for our organization.



The third goal I have set for my term is to revise our standing committees. By revising, I mean the following:

1. Establish term limits for all committee chairs.
  - a. We are currently looking at a four-year term for Committee Chairs.
2. Create a Vice Chair position.
  - a. In some cases, this would replace the current Co-Chair position. The Vice Chair would replace the current Chair when their term of office expires. This allows for a succession plan with committee leaders who have been trained in the functions and operations of that specific committee. The Vice Chair would then select a general committee member to succeed him or her as the Vice Chair.
3. Disband committees that are no longer needed or have not functioned for several years.
  - a. We will also be establishing a few new committees that we feel are needed.

Past National Commanders who currently serve as committee chairs would be asked to step aside and assume an advisory position within that same committee.

If you have a desire to serve as the Chair or a member of a committee, please reach out to either me or our National Vice Commander, Nelson Mellitz. We will do our best to place you within a committee that you have a desire to either serve on or lead.

I also want to continue with the recognition of Department Commanders that PNC Jeff Sacks started during his term. This will begin in the next issue of The Jewish Veteran. If you are a Department Commander and have not yet been

*Continued on page 16*



PNC Norman Rosenshein, Paley, Mellitz, and Sacks.  
(Photo by Lou Michaels)

## Strategic Plan Proposed for JWV's Future

By Cara Rinkoff, Managing Editor

The Strategic Planning Committee has put together a proposed strategic plan to take JWV into the future. The committee is made up of veterans from all eras, and generations. Now, the group is looking to have your input on their final draft. Here is the proposed strategic plan, which includes goals and objectives for the organization. These goals are not in any particular order.

### Recruit new members to join JWV

- Recruit individuals based on their unique characteristics, interests, and individualism
- Increase outreach to military bases
- Introduce potential members to JWV at all points of entry (Academies, OCS, boot camp, ROTC, etc)

### Provide and create events and programs which promote involvement

- Retain members by meeting their specific needs
- Develop a range of networking groups
- Plan more social events
- Create a JWV location, benefits, and services App

### Enhance legislative agenda and outreach

- Add legislative column/page to The Jewish Veteran
- Educate members on legislative advocacy
- Capitol Hill Action Day

### Improve internal and external communications

- Strengthen communication within each Department and Post through regular updates
- Hold virtual Department and Post meetings
- Create Committee Liaison position in each

### National Committee

#### Improve JWV to be a leading and influential Veteran Service Organization

- Cultivate Leadership
- Recognize those who contribute
- Strengthen leadership mentoring programs
- Develop leadership training programs

#### Provide service and support to active-duty members and their families

- Advocate for equality for all uniformed services members
- Create military family support programs
- Create an "Adopt a Jewish military family" program
- Create a National Uniformed Services Committee

*Continued on page 16*

## JWV's 2021 Legislative Priorities

By Larry Jasper, National Editor and  
Cara Rinkoff, Managing Editor

At JWV's National Convention in New Orleans last month, the Resolutions Committee approved 12 resolutions which will inform our organization's legislative priorities moving forward. One of the resolutions called on Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to reinstate the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. Since he did that on August 14th, we have removed that from our resolutions, leaving just 11 you should talk to your members of Congress about.

The Department of Defense has ordered a review of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) concerning extremist activities. JWV supports both the review and possible amendments to the UCMJ as appropriate to address extremism in the military.

JWV wants to immediately stop the deportation of veterans and servicemembers who committed or were found guilty of drug offenses that numerous jurisdictions have already decriminalized. Also, veterans who committed these acts due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or other issues related to their military service should be pardoned and given a path to citizenship. Immigration judges should also be required to consider an individual's honorable military service when they are deciding whether to issue a deportation order.

Congress should immediately pass the Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act (S. 437 and H.R. 2436). This would require the VA to give benefits to all veterans who were in locations where they may have been exposed to toxic substances unless the department can prove they were not. The burden of proof would be on the Department of Veterans Affairs instead of the veteran.

JWV is asking the Secretary of Defense to pay members of the reserve component of an armed force a special bonus or incentive pay in the same monthly amount as what is paid to a member in the regular component of the armed forces performing comparable work requiring comparable skills. Congress should pass the National Guard and Reserve Incentive Pay Parity Act (S.1859 and H.R. 3626).

Our organization wants to make sure non-veteran members of the National Guard and National Reserve have the option of being interred in VA cemeteries without cost and to extend their families the same rights and privileges extended to families of other veterans.

JWV is calling on both the House and Senate to pass the Brandon Act (S. 2088 and H.R. 3942). The goal of the Brandon Act is to expand the current law regulating how service members are referred for mental health evaluations to make sure service members can self-report mental health issues in a confidential manner. This would help service members avoid the stigma associated with seeking mental health services.

The Department of Veterans Affairs should be required to provide reproductive counseling to female veterans to address issues arising from difficulty conceiving and/or the loss of a pregnancy due to their service in uniform.

Another resolution indicates that we support efforts by the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation to have Congress allow the creation of such a memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Congress should therefore pass the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act (S. 535 and H.R. 1115).

Congress should resist any changes to the for-

mula which calculates Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which could mean that over time retired pay for former military service members would not keep pace with rising prices, causing quality-of-life issues for veterans.

JWV supports the passage of the 'Six Triple Eight' Congressional Gold Medal Act (S.321 and H.R. 1012). The African American women who served in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion in Europe during World War II deserve to receive the Congressional Gold Medal for their work setting up a system to handle mail for deceased servicemembers and also clearing a three-year backlog of mail.

Our organization also calls for the removal of cannabis from the list of controlled substances in the case of medical usage.

For assistance with writing letters to your members of Congress about any of these issues, or about how to talk with them in person, you can contact Membership Director Harrison Heller at [hheller@jwv.org](mailto:hheller@jwv.org) or Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at [crinkoff@jwv.org](mailto:crinkoff@jwv.org).

The committee also approved a resolution opposing all forms of extremist behavior within our organization's membership. It states that JWV reaffirms that "our members must not actively advocate supremacist, extremist, antisemitic, or criminal gang doctrine, ideology, or causes, including those that advance, encourage, or advocate illegal discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex, religion, ethnicity, or national origin or those that advance, encourage, or advocate the use of force, violence, or criminal activity or otherwise advance efforts to deprive individuals of their civil rights."

You can find details on all of these resolutions at [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org).

## Ask a Veteran Service Officer

By Steve Fixler, Veteran Service Officer

When you enroll in a VA medical facility, you are not taking away services from another veteran. The federal government gives funding to VA medical facilities partly based on how many veterans are enrolled there.

You can be pre-approved for burial at a VA Cemetery and your spouse can be buried with you.

A VA service-connected disability is different from a VA pension, but you cannot get both at the same time. But, if you have a VA pension, you can apply for VA service-connected disability. If approved, you can take the one that will give you more money.

A surviving spouse can receive a monthly check through the VA's Dependency and Indemnity (DIC) Benefit if the veteran passed away due to a service-connected illness or injury. A surviving spouse who is considered low-income can receive a monthly check through the VA's Survivor's Pension Benefit if the veteran passed away from something not related to a service injury or illness.

There are 17 presumptive illnesses associated with Agent Orange, and Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans may be eligible to file a VA claim based on Agent Orange issues.

I receive many calls from spouses and children of veterans who just passed away because they

need his or her military discharge papers. Make sure your family has a copy of your discharge papers now.

There are some civilian companies that will charge you nearly \$2,000 to help you file for your VA pension. A Veteran Service Office will do the same – for free.

For more information or assistance with VA benefits, contact one of JWV's Veteran Service Officers:

**Raiana Berman** • 202-448-5402  
[rberman@jwv.org](mailto:rberman@jwv.org)

**Steve Fixler** • 630-407-5655  
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**Save the Date for NEC 2022!**

The NEC meeting will take place  
January 27-29, in Orlando, Florida.  
Details coming soon!

## JWV to Hold Constitutional Convention

By Scott Stevens, NJA Peter Nickitas,  
and NC Alan D. Paley

At JWV's 126th Annual National Convention, a motion passed which will convene a constitutional convention. A Constitutional Convention Committee will now work on rewriting the latest version of the JWV Constitution and By-Laws. The committee will also review all the amendments submitted in both 2020 and 2021 as part of the rewrite.

One of the committee's main goals will be to identify and eliminate all discrepancies between the Constitution and the By-Laws. A draft will be provided to all voting members at the January 2022 NEC meeting in Orlando, Florida. The final document will be posted 30 days before the 127th Annual National Convention in Savannah, Georgia.

The members of the JWV Constitutional Convention Committee are PNC Harvey Weiner, Scott Stevens, NJA Peter Nickitas, PNC Jeffrey Sacks, Mathew Millen, Art Kaplan, Kim Queen, and Barry Lischinsky.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## BUDGET COMMITTEE

*By Chairman and National Commander Alan Paley*

At our convention in August, we discussed the unaudited financial results for the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2021. Those results are being compared to the budget, which represents JWV's short term goals based on revenue received from normal operations.

On the revenue side, we came in \$286,093 favorable to the budget. Some of the key items where we came in with substantial dollars that were favorable to the budget include the Hanukkah cards, the spring direct mail program, miscellaneous contributions, contributions from various Federations, bequests, contributions in memory of someone, contributions to the foundation, and contributions to our Veterans Day Fund.

Some of the key revenue lines that were unfavorable to the budget included per capita, the calendar program, the summer direct mail program, list management, our Allied and Leadership Missions to Israel, the annual convention, on-line contributions, and common use charges.

From a revenue perspective we budgeted \$1,267,500 and we came in with \$1,553,593.

On the expense side, we came in \$207,162 favorable to what we said we were going to spend. Some of the expenses that came in less than what we had budgeted included the Allied and Leadership Missions to Israel, Hanukkah cards, the Summer and Spring direct mail programs, general insurance, marketing, miscellaneous expenses, both the National Commander and National Vice Commander expense lines, and security.

The expense items that came in higher than what we budgeted for the year were building maintenance, group insurance, payroll and related payroll taxes, and utilities.

On the expense side, we had a budget of \$1,425,500, but spent only \$1,246,077.

The net result for the year was a gain of \$307,516, which was \$493,255 more than what we had budgeted.

After reviewing these numbers, the Budget Committee felt that no changes should be made to the current budget.

## GULF WAR COMMITTEE

*By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman*

The Gulf War Committee continues to meet online the first Wednesday of every month. One of our main goals is to have regular communication with every JWV member from that era, in essence building a virtual community. At this point, through the diligence of Don Schenk of the Department of Michigan, we have over 20 liaisons in Departments and Posts nationwide. It's a great beginning with big potential for growth. If you served between 1990 and 2001, please reach out at JWVGWC@gmail.com and apply to the closed Facebook group, JWV Vet Network.

Post-9/11 co-chairs Jeffrey Blonder and Matt Weinburke have spearheaded a monthly speaker series the 2nd Monday of every month. The links for these meetings have been publicized through the bi-weekly email from National as well as through a growing invitation list. Contact JWV

Membership Director Harrison Heller at hheller@jwv.org if you want to receive email information about our meetings.

The committee had a lunch meeting at the National Convention in New Orleans, with Kosher food ordered from Kosher Cajun. Big thanks to Committee member and New Orleans local Carol Berman for bringing it to the hotel. Post-9/11 co-chair Jeffrey Blonder has a connection with Congressman Seth Moulton's office and we had a live interactive update from his staff on the current situation in Afghanistan. Kudos to the National staff for working quickly to accommodate the extra equipment to help us make it a successful briefing.

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

*By Chairman Howard Goldstein*

Our committee continues to meet every other week via Zoom. We are still focusing on four different items: a member research survey, an online resource center, reinforcing our brand and expanding brand awareness, and developing targeted marketing programs to attract new members.

Three of these goals are complete, and we have started working on the fourth objective. We are looking at partnering with the Membership Committee on a National Membership campaign, which would include extensive communications materials for National, Departments, and Posts.

We have developed a booth for use at national and large regional events to help recruit new members. Examples of events where you might use the booth include the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) convention and similar events where thousands attend, as well as the Military Officers Association (MOAA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, and similar military-affiliate gatherings. For more information on how to get the booth for an event in your area, please contact JWV Programs Associate Ben Kane.

We gave a comprehensive presentation on the membership survey at the 2020 annual convention. Since then, we have given the presentation to several Departments and Committees. The findings were instrumental in focusing the efforts of our Marketing Committee, as well as the Membership and Strategic Planning Committees. We plan to do a follow up survey sometime in 2022.

The Resource Center is finally complete and we briefly introduced it at convention. If you have something that might be of interest to others, such as presentations, marketing materials, documents, ads, etc., please contact Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org for a copy of the input form.

JWV's new branding guide is also finished. We conducted an audit of our graphics and branding and discovered a wide range of uses and variations of our logo and tag line. The Guide includes templates showing how our logo should be displayed in various communication types, as well as acceptable colors, fonts, and layouts. You should start using these templates after existing materials are used up. No one will be enforcing use of the guide, nor will you need permission to revise certain parts of the templates. However, we hope you do use the guide and templates to help us ensure JWV is presented in a professional and consistent manner.

Our fourth focus, target marketing, will use the

completed membership survey results, especially regarding why people join and stay with or decide to leave JWV. We have identified six target groups, including active-duty military and individuals close to, or recently retired. To reach these groups, we must first determine what motivates them and what media sources they rely on for information.

## POST-9/11 COMMITTEE

*By Chairmen Matthew Weinburke and Jeffrey Blonder*

It has been one year since the Post-9/11 Committee held their inaugural online meeting during the 2020 JWV Virtual National Convention. The committee has met monthly since then, and also participated in some joint meetings with the Gulf War Committee.

The Post-9/11 Committee introduced a speaker series during meetings and formalized this series in March of 2021. On March 8, JWV's National Membership Director Harrison Heller spoke about his experience in Rwanda and briefly discussed the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsis. On April 12, LaShanta Petroski-Ackley talked about preventing suicide among servicemembers and veterans. On June 14, the committee hosted Congressman Seth Moulton (D-MA), who spoke about mental health issues.

During the 2021 JWV Convention in New Orleans, the Post-9/11 Committee held a joint meeting with the Gulf War Committee. Blonder arranged for a briefing on the current situation in Afghanistan from senior aides to Moulton, who sits on the House Armed Services Committee. The Post-9/11 Committee successfully sponsored a resolution endorsing the Brandon Act, which is currently being debated in Congress. This act would allow current military members to seek mental health counseling without the stigma of his/her command knowing.

The Post-9/11 Committee will continue to implement their goals during the 2021-2022 year which includes increasing its social media presence, incorporating social networking, providing support to veterans and active-duty service persons, and delivering presentations on a variety of topics during future meetings with a focus on mental health issues and burn pits.

As of September 1, Blonder has assumed the Chairmanship of the committee. Weinburke is now a Co-Chair. The Post-9/11 Committee meets the second Monday of each month at 8 p.m. EDT.

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

## VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

*By Chairman Bob Jacobs*

We had our annual meeting on August 17, 2021 during the convention in New Orleans. As expected, due to the smaller convention this year, our meeting had fewer attendees than usual. There were still more than 30 people at the meeting, including members of the Post-9/11 and Gulf War eras.

We were finally able to present our disc proj-

*Continued on page 6*

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The Membership Committee would like to take this opportunity and thank our members who attended the J WV Membership Committee meeting during our 126th J WV National Convention. I would also like to thank the Convention Committee, as well as our National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth and the full-time staff for hosting the convention. This year's convention, despite being faced with the challenges of a global pandemic, gave us an opportunity to meet and exchange new ideas. Most of all it allowed us to renew old friendships while expanding our base and introducing our membership to new friends who attended their first J WV convention.

## Lessons Learned

During our Membership Committee meeting we shared several lessons learned as we slowly move toward a new normal. We are reminded of the lessons we have learned over the past 18 months. We must now learn from these lessons and try to adapt them for our organization. Our membership, at all echelons, has made tremendous sacrifices. The first thing we must do is to take the time to recognize all that we have experienced throughout the national pandemic. Second, we should analyze the areas that need improvement. Finally, we need to determine the best course of action to help our organization improve and move forward. There is not one magic formula. Courses of action may vary from one echelon to the next. Please take the time to select the best course of action that works for your membership.

With the help of several J WV Membership Committee members, I have listed several recommendations within the category of membership that need immediate attention.

## The Alpha Roster

Please keep our members' names and addresses current and accurate. This is one of the best tools for keeping our members informed of vital information that affect both our membership and our organization. The Alpha Roster becomes a critical tool because our members' expectations increase as

they compare your communications to those they receive from other sources. We must always keep communication flowing in both directions.

Make sure you update your members' email addresses and phone numbers whenever possible. Set some time aside at each meeting to check and verify each member's contact information. Years ago, I remember attending a Post meeting where an individual checked contact information as members went through the chow line. Also make sure your members know your Post and leadership email address so they can reach out to them if needed. Email is the quickest and most cost-effective method of sending information and documents to your Post members. The same holds true for receiving email from your Post members. However, should you need to confirm that a message of great importance is acknowledged, continue to use the phone. Remember not everyone is computer literate. We must continue to use all communication systems available to us to insure all our members are kept informed.

## Strength Maintenance: Recruiting and Retention

Posts must have the ability to shift our strength maintenance priorities without missing a beat. For example, prior to the pandemic our primary focus was recruiting, recruiting, and more recruiting. Recruiting requires direct contact between a recruiter and an applicant. Because of public health precautions and the safety of our membership we scaled back all direct contact. This drastically affected our recruiting efforts. At the start of the pandemic, all echelons should have shifted our strength maintenance efforts to focus on retention of our existing membership. Wellness checks via telephone and virtual meetings were the primary communication methods all our echelons should have shifted to in the past year and a half. The lesson that we have all learned in the past 18 months is that retention is co-equal to recruiting.

## Virtual Meetings

Virtual meetings have transformed the way we

communicate.

Virtual meetings changed the way our members were able to communicate with one another in a group setting. In the past some of our traditional members were hesitant or did not need to use computers for a variety of

personal reasons. Since the pandemic, it became essential to avoid isolation and loneliness for everyone to be able to navigate the virtual meeting process. As for all of us, the need to see family, friends, and socialize in a group like the Jewish War Veterans became a social event. Each member could attend a meeting from the safety and comfort of their own home and not have to drive to a meeting location.

## Wellness checks

Wellness checks start with a phone call - a personal phone call to let our members know that we care. I cannot stress enough the importance of conducting a wellness check. This call is solely a health and welfare check on our Post membership. A recent J WV marketing survey indicates many of our members belong to multiple Veteran Service Organizations. If we do not take the time to care for our most important asset, another Veteran Service Organization may do so.

As we safely return to our new normal, please take the time to do an assessment/after action review of the past 18 months. Ask your members for their thoughts and listen to their suggestions. The J WV Membership Committee is interested in your findings.

Remember: Members First, J WV Always.  
*Please feel free to send me your thoughts and suggestions to me at [blischinsky7679@gmail.com](mailto:blischinsky7679@gmail.com).*



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky  
Membership Chairman

## J WV Post 1 Launches Website and Membership Program

By Jerry Alperstein

J WV Stuyvesant-Cooper-Lieutenant Colonel Larry Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1, launched a new program with the hope of attracting younger veterans.

The post started by launching a new website, [jwv-post1.org](http://jwv-post1.org), on May 31. They followed this up by launching a new Facebook page on June 7.

Leading the new membership effort is U.S. Army Reserve Colonel Joshua Lubarsky. He is Post 1's Junior Vice Commander and Membership Chair. He worked closely with staff at National headquarters on the website.

Other parts of the membership program include a dedicated post membership telephone number, a post presence on Instagram and networking events.

The post has authorized spending up to \$400 annually to maintain the website and another \$150 for a dedicated telephone number.

## VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

*Continued from page 5*

ect at the NMAJMH program. It was well received and quite a few copies were sold both that night and during the convention. They were sold for \$20 per copy, with all money going to the museum. After many delays with a copyright for the discs, Jerry Alperstein finally received it shortly after the convention. We will soon do whatever paperwork is necessary to formally turn over ownership of the discs to the museum.

Jerry and I gave a report on the progress of our committee's effort to create an exhibit in the museum on Jews in the Vietnam War. All paperwork is done, all items to be displayed were gathered, and Pam Elbe is finalizing the exhibit's layout. We hope to open the exhibit on November 10, 2021 as part of J WV's 125th Anniversary celebration.

We also discussed possible future projects for the committee. Several ideas were presented, but we will hold off on them until after the conclusion of the museum exhibit project.

We were also briefed by National Vice

Commander Nelson Mellitz on changes and progress at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We held our Vietnam Vets Night Out during convention at the Red Fish Grill. We had great food and two fantastic speakers. Vietnam Veterans of America Region 7 Director Dennis Andras updated us on both local and national happenings in their organization.

Marine Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Larry Taylor of J WV's Atlanta Post spoke about his experiences flying in Southeast Asia with Air America.

J WV and the Jewish Welfare Board are collaborating on a virtual Veterans Day ceremony. We are interested in interviewing veterans (or current members of the military) who joined the service because of the events of September 11, 2001. If you or someone you know joined shortly after 9/11, please contact Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at [crinkoff@jwv.org](mailto:crinkoff@jwv.org) or (202) 265-6280.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Isaac Greenberg

By Larry Jasper, National Editor

Meet Major Isaac Adam Greenberg of the Department of Florida. Greenberg grew up in Tucson, Arizona, attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and served ten years of active duty. During that time, he served two tours in Afghanistan. Greenberg is currently a member of the U.S. Army Reserve.

In between all that is a lot more. Greenberg is the very definition of a mensch. Greenberg attended the Tucson Hebrew Academy before going to High School and said that school is where he made life-long friends and found a love for Judaism. “I am very appreciative of my parents for giving me the opportunity to attend a school that provided me with a Judaic education that influenced my personal growth,” Greenberg said.

Greenberg also recalls his time at Sahuaro High School fondly. He served as the Senior Class Vice President and played linebacker for the Cougars. He led the state in tackles in 2000 and committed to play collegiate football in California. A trip to Washington, D.C. changed that path, and Senator John McCain nominated him to attend West Point.

Greenberg arrived at West Point just two months before September 11, 2001 to begin his military career at USMA. Everything changed for him at the Academy on that day 20 years ago. The terrorist attacks shocked the United States and put the military academy on guard. Greenberg said that at the time there were rumors about West Point as a potential target for both strategic and symbolic reasons, potentially targeting 4,000 future Army officers in the Cadet Mess Hall during lunch. The evening of September 11, the Academy had a vigil, which included the entire Corps of Cadets lined up in darkness as the bugle played taps for the fallen. Greenberg said you could hear cadets crying and that moment solidified Greenberg’s feeling that he wanted to serve our country and lead soldiers.

After that day, the plebes were not hazed by the upper classmen, but instead were treated as humans - future officers who will eventually go to war together. The upper classmen were more concerned about what lay ahead and focused on ensuring the freshman class was prepared for what was to come – war. They focused on tactics, leadership, and other combat related topics.

One highlight of Greenberg’s time on campus involved joining the choir. The group would leave campus to visit synagogues and Hillel houses. In 2005, they performed at the White House during Hanukkah.



Major Isaac Adam Greenberg

Greenberg received his commission as a Military Intelligence Officer in 2005. He received his commission from Rabbi Major Carlos Huerta, one of his mentors at the academy. Huerta served 22 years and was instrumental in instilling a sense of Jewish identity and advocating Tikkun Olam. Huerta served as the Jewish chaplain at West Point for nine years and in 2003 volunteered to go to Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division. Huerta is an example of what it means to be a selfless servant and inspired Greenberg and the other Jewish cadets preparing to go to war.

Greenberg deployed to Afghanistan in 2006



From left: Greenberg, Michael Fichman, Roger Bahrman, and Timm Russ.

with the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. He served as the Battalion Intelligence Collection Coordinator supporting a light infantry unit in the mountains of Afghanistan which engaged in daily firefights. A few days into his first deployment, Greenberg realized providing intelligence and strategic battlefield resources to the frontline of an armed conflict had a huge impact. “I learned early in life, and especially in Afghanistan, that life is full of obstacles and there are many ways to approach any situation. Obstacles are opportunities to learn, grow, and teach,” Greenberg said. In 2009, Greenberg deployed to Afghanistan a second time, serving as the Head of Intelligence for his battalion. He played an integral role in counter rocket attacks, combat patrols, and base security.

Greenberg eventually left Fort Drum and moved to Fort McPherson, Georgia. That’s where he met his wife, Felicia. They have two sons, Noah who is six and Asher who is four. In Georgia Greenberg served as an Intelligence Exercise Planner with the U.S. Army Central Command, supporting missions in Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. In 2012 Greenberg took command of the 715th Military Intelligence Battalion at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. He served his final year of active duty with the 25th Infantry Division.

Greenberg says his sister Anna died from a rare form of cancer in 2013, but she taught him a lot about keeping a positive attitude. “My sister Anna taught me a lot about life during her cancer journey – about living life with a positive attitude. Anna also taught me to be kind to all, live for today, and don’t give up... I’ve seen a lot through war and my sister’s battle with cancer that has influenced me to live life with a smile and laugh,” he said.

In August, Greenberg worked behind the scenes trying to help Afghan translators and their families get out of the country safely. He provided the names of dozens of linguists and their family members to the staff of Congressman Bill Keating. As the threat level increased, Greenberg worked with the Congressman’s staff to get letters to those who helped U.S. forces. Some were able to leave the country successfully. Greenberg said he felt it is a Jewish responsibility to help the Afghan people – similar to how some chose to help Jews living under the Nazis in Germany.

On August 23, Greenberg spoke to one of his linguists and gave him specific guidance on how to get out of the country. Unfortunately, that same day a suicide bomb exploded at the gate to the air-

*Continued on page 16*

## NEW MEMBERS

### DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Moore, Jonathan - Post 77  
Munzer, Alfred - Post 100  
Wind, Joel D. - Post 100

### DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Kaplan, David L. - Post 603  
Landsman, Harry - Post 603

### DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Campbell, Joseph - Post 142

### DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Seoane, Guillermo - Post 549  
Shulman, Howard I. - Post 373  
Tuttle, Jerome E. - Post 400

### DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Bell, Martin J. - Post 644  
Riutcel, Terri - Post 644

### DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Gordon, William J. - Post 567  
Gross, Andrew P. - Post 117

### DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hoffman, Stephen B. - Post 157

### DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Jacobs, Sheldon - Post 510  
Kaufman, Barry R. - Post 135

### DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Peters, Andru - Post 354

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Gold, Hillel D. - Post 740  
Himmelstein, Nathan - Post 740  
Mandel, Steven - Post 125

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Dressler, Leonard - Post 652  
Goldberg, Jerome D. - Post 625  
Newman, Jeffrey - Post 652  
Rosen, Michael D. - Post 652

### DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Beckman, Ronald J. - Post 305  
Kligman, Stanley A. - Post 98  
Levicoff, Warren H. - Post 215

### DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Wintman, Lewis H. - Post 406

### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Smith, Kayton - Post 320

### DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Coggan, Jay M. - Post 757  
Mayraz, Noam - Post 755

### DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Lorber, Michael - Post 701  
Stern, James Neil - Post 701



# September 11, 2001 to September 11, 2021 and Beyond

By Nelson L Mellitz, National Vice Commander

I planned to write my first article as your National Vice Commander about the ever-increasing anti-Semitism in the U.S. However, recent events in Afghanistan have grabbed the attention of the world, as well as the Jewish military and veteran's community, so I changed the subject of my article.

This month, we think back to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City, at the Pentagon, and Flight 93 where passengers revolted against the terrorists who intended to crash the plane into the White House or Capitol in Washington, D.C. The plane crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing all 44 people on board.

Where were you on September 11, 2001 when you heard about the terrorist attacks on the United States? I was a few blocks away from the World Trade Center buildings in downtown New York City.

Did you know anyone on those planes or killed during the attacks? Debbie and I had Major LeRoy Homer, Jr., the First Officer of United Airlines Flight 93, over our house for dinner a few weeks before the attacks. LeRoy was an Air Force Academy graduate and my U.S. Air Force Academy Liaison Officer trainee. I also knew three others who worked in the World Trade Towers that took the same 5:45 a.m. bus I did to New York City, who did not survive the attacks.

The events 20 years ago shocked Americans and changed the course of our lives as well as the country's military positioning and the government's world view. In December 2001, the

U.S. became entangled in a 20-year long war in Afghanistan to depose the Taliban-led government which harbored the terrorist groups that attacked us on 9/11. On May 2, 2011, Seal Team 6 killed Osama bin Laden, the planner of the 9/11 attacks, who was hiding in Pakistan.

President Obama declared the end of our combat mission in Afghanistan in 2014, however thousands of U.S. and allied uniform members and U.S. civilian advisors and contractors remained in Afghanistan to train and support Afghan troops. According to the Defense Department, more than 2.7 million U.S. service members served in the Afghanistan and Iraq war zones since 2001.

## Fast Forward – The U.S. military leaves no one behind

The U.S. military services made a sacred commitment to leave no one behind on the battlefield. This ethos is even embedded in the military service creeds. Since World War I this ethos has applied to not only uniformed members but to U.S. citizens, allies, and others in danger.

It's been 20 years since September 11 and President Biden declared that all U.S. troops would be out of Afghanistan by August 31, 2021. We have all seen on the news tens of thousands of people (Americans, Afghans, and others) rushing to the Hamid Karzai Airport to get on U.S. military planes that will carry them to freedom. We have to ask ourselves how many U.S. citizens, green card holders, Afghans that worked the U.S., and women and girls in danger were left behind. Could we have gotten everybody out of Afghanistan – leaving no one behind? What



Nelson L Mellitz, National Vice Commander

should we have left behind – military equipment, supplies, food, shelter, etc.?

The fog of war has raised its ugly head in what we currently hear from politicians and news outlets. There is often different and sometimes conflicting stories of what happened. A bipartisan congressional investigation is needed to determine what went right and wrong in the past 20 years and in the Afghanistan withdrawal.

G-d bless the United States of America and the families of those Killed in Action and Wounded in Action in Afghanistan and Iraq.

## The Global War on Terror Memorial

By Ben Kane, Programs Assistant

At the 2021 JWV National Convention's first business session, attendees heard from Marina Jackman, the President and CEO of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation. The goal of the foundation is to "honor the service and sacrifice of all who served in the Global War on Terrorism." One of the ways this mission will be carried out is through the construction of the Global War on Terrorism memorial. Jackman referred to the proposed memorial as a "functional piece of art adorning the National Mall," and said, "the memorial will be the first for men and women who have died fighting, continue to fight, and who are just joining the fight against terrorism." The memorial will be a testament to the strength of all who fought and continue to fight in the war

that has presently lasted for decades. The memorial will be a permanent "reminder of collective strength and willingness to stand in the face of terrorism and the threats to our very way of life, and a place of healing, reflection, empowerment, unity, and knowledge."

Jackman pointed out that generational responsibility is a large component of Jewish tradition, and the memorial should be appreciated and approved by the Jewish military community, as it is intended to aid with educating future generations about the struggles and sacrifices of the presently ongoing international conflict. Congressman Mike Gallagher, a public supporter of the memorial, was quoted by Jackman as saying, "if we're going to continue passing the torch of democracy from one generation to the next, then we need to build this memorial so that future generations never forget their duty to do the same."

It's rare for monuments to conflicts to be constructed around the same time as the conflict itself. Jackson lamented this, saying most monuments are built "too late to have the kind of impact that they could have, and certainly far too late for most of those who fought to share those experiences with their families." But this memorial, due to it being pursued speedily, would avoid the educational hinderances that come with building monuments too late.

While plans are currently in motion, construction of any kind in D.C. takes a long time. The 24-step process is arduous, and the memorial is, at the time of writing, on steps 9 through 12 which

are the site selection steps. Congress closed the desired spot for the memorial in 2003. The foundation is now asking Congress to pass legislation to make an exception for this memorial. JWV has signed on to letters supporting this effort. Because of the difficulties that come with construction of this kind, the project is not expected to be completed for another four or five years. The Global War on Terrorism Foundation's website (<https://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/>) and social media pages are excellent resources to use to be kept up to date on the development of the memorial, or to donate to the foundation.

## VA Deputy Secretary

Continued from page 8

Remy appeared to understand that some veterans are concerned about the man chosen to lead the VA. He said that while Secretary Denis McDonough may not be a veteran or a doctor, he is a leader and a fighter, and someone who will do the best job possible for all veterans.

The Deputy Secretary also discussed his recent visit to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Remy spent 45 minutes at JWV headquarters and the NMAJMH on August 5, meeting with National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth, and getting a tour of the museum from Mike Rugel.

Remy's entire speech from the convention's opening ceremony is available on the Jewish War Veterans YouTube channel.



PNC Jeff Sacks and Jackman.  
(Photo by Lou Michaels)



We frequently hear complaints from members about how the National Convention is never held in their city or town. If you feel that way, there's now a solution. You will have the chance to host a future National Convention in your city or state.

There are already contracts for the next two National Conventions. We will be in Savannah, Georgia in 2022 and Jacksonville, Florida in 2023. The Jacksonville convention was originally scheduled for 2020 but postponed due to the coronavirus.

We don't have a city yet for 2024. This decision will be made at the next National Convention and is partially up to you.

Every Department Commander will soon receive a list of criteria from National Headquarters. Department Commanders will pass this information to each of their Post Commanders. The criteria will include dates, room requirements, meeting room requirements, etc. Then it will be in your hands.

If interested, your post or department will submit a proposal that includes the city, hotel, cost, parking, airport information, meal availability (including the banquets), area attractions, and what support your post or department will provide in the planning and execution of the convention – including how much participation we can expect from your members.

The Convention Committee will review the proposals and select one of them.

We will also be changing the format of future conventions by holding some of the committee meetings in advance and allowing time to see the sights.

Look for information coming soon! Under this new selection system there should be no complaints about not having a convention in your local area!

On a different topic, have you ever wondered how the 21-gun salute began? Did you know there is also a 50-gun salute? Did you know that not every veteran gets a 21-gun salute?

According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History:

*The tradition of rendering a salute by cannon originated in the 14th century as firearms and cannons came into use. Since these early devices contained only one projectile, discharging them once rendered them ineffective. Originally warships fired seven-gun salutes--the number seven proba-*

*bly selected because of its astrological and Biblical significance. Seven planets had been identified and the phases of the moon changed every seven days. The Bible states that God rested on the seventh day after Creation, that every seventh year was sabbatical and that the seven times seventh year ushered in the Jubilee year.*

*Land batteries, having a greater supply of gunpowder, were able to fire three guns for every shot fired afloat, hence the salute by shore batteries was 21 guns. The multiple of three probably was chosen because of the mystical significance of the number three in many ancient civilizations. Early gunpowder, composed mainly of sodium nitrate, spoiled easily at sea, but could be kept cooler and drier in land magazines. When potassium nitrate improved the quality of gunpowder, ships at sea adopted the salute of 21 guns.*

*The 21-gun salute became the highest honor a nation rendered. Varying customs among the maritime powers led to confusion in saluting and return of salutes. Great Britain, the world's pre-eminent seapower in the 18th and 19th centuries, compelled weaker nations to salute first, and for a time monarchies received more guns than did republics. Eventually, by agreement, the international salute was established at 21 guns, although the United States did not agree on this procedure until August 1875.*

*The gun salute system of the United States has changed considerably over the years. In 1810, the "national salute" was defined by the War Department as equal to the number of states in the Union--at that time 17. This salute was fired by all U.S. military installations at 1:00 p.m. (later at noon) on Independence Day. The President also received a salute equal to the number of states whenever he visited a military installation.*

*In 1842, the Presidential salute was formally established at 21 guns. In 1890, regulations designated the "national salute" as 21 guns and redesignated the traditional Independence Day salute, the "Salute to the Union," equal to the number of states. Fifty guns are also fired on all military installations equipped to do so at the close of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.*

*Today the national salute of 21 guns is fired in honor of a national flag, the sovereign or chief of state of a foreign nation, a member of a reign-*

*ing royal family, and the President, ex-President and President-elect of the United States. It is also fired at noon of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.*

*Gun salutes are also rendered to other military and civilian leaders of this and other nations. The number of guns is based on their protocol rank. These salutes are always in odd numbers.*

Nineteen-gun salutes are reserved for the Vice President of the United States, foreign deputy heads of state, cabinet members, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President pro tempore of the Senate, the Chief Justice of the United States, state Governors, foreign heads of government (such as Prime Ministers), chiefs of staff and general officers in the U.S. military of five-star rank.

For funerals of general officers and flag officers of O-10 (four-star rank), a 17 gun salute is fired; O-9 (three-star rank), a 15 gun salute is fired; O-8 (two-star rank), a 13 gun salute is fired; O-7 (one-star rank), an 11 gun salute is fired.

There is a difference between gun salutes and rifle volleys. In the military, a gun is a large-caliber weapon. Gun salutes are not often available at funerals, so rifle volleys are substituted.

At most military funerals rifles are fired in honor of the deceased veteran. The firing team can consist of any number, but it's usually made up of seven members. Each member fires three times (three volleys). The three volleys come from an old battlefield custom. The warring sides would cease hostilities to clear their dead from the battlefield, and the firing of three volleys meant that the dead had been properly cared for and the side was ready to resume the battle. The honor guard often slips three shell-casings into the folded flag before presenting the flag to the family. Each casing represents one volley.

Honors are outlined in Army Regulation 600-25.



Larry Jasper, National Editor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article about Murray Zolkower in The Jewish Veteran. My army experiences during World War II were similar to his but certainly different regarding classification and assignments. My claim to fame is that I am probably the only GI in WWII classified as a Pharmacist (MOS149) without ever attending college for pharmacy. Not even for a single day. I served as the pharmacist for the 112th and 35th Evacuation Hospitals and the 304th State Hospital, all of them in Germany, after V-E Day. My rank at discharge was T/3.

I had an interesting military career which began when I was drafted in 1943 when I was 18 and a few months old. At the time I had com-

pleted one year of engineering school at Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute.

I was assigned to the Army Air Corp as an Air Cadet and sent to Basic Training Camp No. 10 in Greensboro, North Carolina. I washed out of pilot training due to severe allergies. I was transferred to the AAF base hospital in Alliance, Nebraska as a Medical Laboratory Technician. Later, when we were suffering huge casualties overseas, I was reclassified. I was reassigned as an Infantry replacement and trained at Camp Maxi, Texas. After completing basic training, I was sent to Europe in 1944 as an Infantryman (MOS745) to join up with the 26th Division, 3rd Army. I participated in the Battle of the Bulge earning a Combat Star and the French Legion of Honor with the rank of Chevalier.

As part of the 26th Division, I fought across most of Europe, ending up in Austria and Czechoslovakia.

After the war was over in both Europe and the Pacific, I did not have enough points to be discharged and was reassigned to the Army of Occupation as a Pharmacist (MOS149). In 1945, I reported to the 35th Evacuation and 304th Station Hospitals located in Erlangen and then Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Finally, I was posted to the 112th Evacuation Hospital in Deggendorf and remained there as the Pharmacist-in-Charge until March 1946. During my service in the 112th, General Patton conducted an inspection of the hospital. He had a very bad cold at the time. I was asked to mix up a large batch of Elixer Terpinhydrate (GI Gin)

*Continued on page 22*

# THE RISE OF HATE IN TEXAS AND BEYOND

By Mel Eichelbaum

In the article, “Anti-Semitism Did Not End with the Second World War,” published in the November of 2020 issue of The Jewish Veteran, National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz wrote of his concerns about the increased tide of antisemitism. He cited the American Jewish Committee (AJC) “State of Antisemitism in America” report, which indicated 88% of American Jews felt that anti-Semitism remained a significant problem; whereas there existed a disturbing lack of awareness among the general public about the severity of antisemitism, with 21% stating that they had never heard of the term, nor did they know what it meant. Mellitz continued by stating that anti-Semitism is a present and growing threat. He urged JWV members to take an active role in educating the public about it, to identify incidents of it when it happens, and to take positive steps to stop it.

Clearly, I was aware of the continued existence of this sickening hatred bubbling beneath the surface in Texas, but I honestly thought that things had improved since the early 1950s when my family and I first moved to the Lone Star State. But in 2015 and 2016 it seemed like things began to change. That was the last year when my wife and I taught Religious School at Temple Beth-El. During our lesson covering Yom HaShoah, I asked how many of the students had experienced some form of anti-Semitism. I was surprised when over two-thirds of the class raised their hands. These were second graders who went to good schools, and yet at this young age a significant number had faced this evil experience.

I reached out to my contacts at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). In the Spring of 2015, my wife and I had taken a civil rights trip through the South. This was the 50th anniversary of the march led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery. While in Montgomery, we visited the SPLC Civil Rights Museum and we were treated to a tour of their office headquarters. There we met our Docent, Esther Labovitz, were introduced to Joseph Levin, Jr., Co-Founder of the SPLC, and spoke with many of its dedicated workers. While I knew the organization was involved in fighting hatred and pursuing equal justice, I was pleased to learn that they had a whole section dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism.

Between 2015 and 2020, SPLC reported an

exponential increase of incidents inspired by hate groups. These not only included the Ku Klux Klan and Neo-Nazis, but also a whole host of White Nationalist and White Supremacist groups having a distinct anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, and of course, an anti-Semitic agenda. Texas ranked third in the nation, showing a marked increase in the growth of hate incidents, right behind the states of California and Florida. Add in potent relative newcomers, such as the Boogaloo Bois, Oath Keepers, and Proud Boys, and this resulting mixture of hate groups had become more emboldened and energetic in acting out their hatred. The Anti-Defamation League in their 2020 report confirmed these findings, indicating that the Jewish Community experienced the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents since tracking began back in 1979. The Director of the FBI has characterized these hate groups as a “national threat priority,” and that not only has this become a threat to American democracy, but also, the danger is on-going and unrelenting.

I suppose his words came to fruition, when I along with many others witnessed the storming, invasion, and ransacking of our Capitol by a riotous mob in an attempt to delay or stop the peaceful transition of power as a result of the election. Five people died, 140 were injured, and damages were estimated at \$1.5 million. The mob contained many members from a variety of these hate groups, some of whom came from Texas.

But before this crescendo event, the warning signs were there. Between 2016 and 2020 in San Antonio, Texas, two synagogues, Agudas Achim and Rodfei Shalom were vandalized, Jewish graves at the Ft. Sam Houston cemetery were desecrated, and Neo-Nazi hate and recruitment propaganda was widely distributed in three suburban neighborhoods.

This increase in anti-Semitism was not limited to San Antonio. In August of 2018, at a “Unite the Right” rally in Charlotte, North Carolina, a group carrying torches and weapons marched in front of a synagogue shouting, “Jews will not replace us.” On October 27, 2018, a white supremacist walked into the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania carried out a mass shooting which left 11 dead and others injured. On August 3, 2019, a white supremacist entered a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, killing 23 Mexican-Americans and injuring many others.

He specifically targeted Mexican-Americans because of a belief and fear that immigration was destroying the White Race and culture. What did this event have to do with anti-Semitism? Investigation into his internet communications indicated a common white supremacist radicalization, and it was clear that he was motivated by the Christchurch shooter, who had targeted and slaughtered Muslims. All these killers had been indoctrinated with the same poisonous white supremacist, anti-immigrant insidious mythology, and they all had an intense hatred toward non-whites and non-Christians, be they Muslims or Jews. As pointed out by Mellitz in his article, the connection is that hate and anti-Semitism harms not just the Jewish people but all people everywhere.

What can we do to fight this evil? First, we can support the groups actively involved in fighting anti-Semitism, such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Anti-Defamation League. Second, we can become involved in our city’s Jewish Community Relations Council, Holocaust Museum, or other organizations that can spread the word and help educate the public. Third, we need to speak up politically. Sometimes major advancements can be achieved even against the greatest of odds.

Several years ago, four San Antonio women set out to accomplish what most considered to be impossible in the State of Texas. Lisa Barry was an elementary school teacher who included Holocaust studies in her students’ lessons as a way to counter hate and bullying. She got together with Sharon Scharff Greenwald, Varda Ratner, and Ginny Wind, who are members of the San Antonio Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Woman (NCJW). The four of them lobbied to make Holocaust education mandatory in all Texas public schools. After a lot of hard work and their untiring efforts, SB 1828, which established Holocaust Remembrance Week in Texas public schools became law in 2019. Holocaust museums in Texas are actively working with teachers throughout the state and the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission in helping to create the educational material for this designated week. It is imperative that we teach this history, for as espoused in the epigraph from Santayana quoted in William Shirer’s “The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich,” Those who do not remember the past are condemned to relive it.

## Suicide Prevention Awareness

*Continued from page 1*

women. The method of suicide is also different between men and women. While men are more likely to commit suicide with a firearm, women tend to use firearms, suffocation, or poison – with no apparent preference. DeBrule advised that if there is a loved one of yours that is contemplating suicide it is important that the means to commit suicide be removed. He said the VA now hands out gun locks. “Any veteran who’s going to the VA for care can get gun locks from the VA, but we also have conversations about removing ammunition, giving the firearms to someone else.” DeBrule said locking up or removing guns from the home isn’t about taking away anyone’s second amendment right, it’s about “making sure that if the person is in crisis, or in a window of crisis that we enable them to not have access to those means, to keep them safe, to keep

them sound.”

DeBrule also talked about the SAVE program which anyone can use to help a friend or family member in crisis. “These are the tips for SAVE – recognizing the warning signs and risk factors, asking the question, validating their experience, and expediting and encouraging treatment,” DeBrule said. You can find more information about this program at [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov).

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Power Point used in DeBrule’s presentation, please contact Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at [crinkoff@jwv.org](mailto:crinkoff@jwv.org). You can also watch the presentation on the Jewish War Veterans YouTube channel.

If you or someone you love is in crisis, please call the Veteran Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255.



**PNC Sacks and DeBrule. (Photo by Lou Michaels)**



# Congratulations to All JWV National Award Winners!

## Feureisen-I. T. Rockman Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256-TALO

## Ben Kaufman Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256-TALO

## Wolfson Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256-TALO

## National Commander's Award

Ensign Lawrence D. Solowey Post 652-NY  
Nassau-Suffolk County

## Edward D. Blatt Award

Jeffrey Blonder, Dept. of Massachusetts

## Brenner – Jaffee Memorial Awards

### Best Monthly Publication

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256-TALO

### Best Bi-Monthly Publication

PFC Frederick Hecht Post 425-NY

### Outstanding Email Newsletter Award

Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755-TALO

## Most Improved Online Engagement Award

Dept. of Massachusetts

## Post Growth Award

### Small Posts

Cleveland Post 14, Dept. of Ohio

Col. Irving Heymont Post 299-VA/NC

Morris R. Guten Post 487-WI

Victor B. Freedman Post 613-FL.

### Medium Posts

Marsack-Feldman Post 145-WI

### Large Posts

Austin Post 757-TALO

## Bountiful Posts

S.J. Miller Memorial Post 631-FL



PNC Michael B. Berman was the recipient of the Murray L. Rosen Award.  
(Photo by Lou Michaels)

## Museum Awards

Post w/ greatest number of museum members

South Philadelphia Post 98-PA

Post w/ highest percentage of museum members

Franzblau-Kretchman-Polesuk Post 606-FL

Dept. w/ greatest number of museum members

Dept. of New York

Dept. w/ highest percentage of museum members

Tie: Dept. of Florida

Dept. of Pennsylvania

## National Achievement Awards

Robert M. Zweiman

Memorial Award - \$5,000

Ashley Bianchini

Sidney Lieppe Memorial Grant - \$5,000

Reed Hill

Charles Kosmutza

Memorial Grant - \$2,500

Daniel Joseph

Charles Kosmutza

Memorial Grant - \$1,000

Brian Kirk

Max R. & Irene Rubenstein

Memorial Grant - \$1,500

Erin-Mae Ayres

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant - \$1,000

Carl Chen

## Youth Achievement Awards

Clifford Lee Kristal Education Grant

- \$1,250

Colin Speaker

Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant - \$1,000

Luke Finkelstein

Edith, Louis, and Max S. Millen Memorial

Athletic Grant - \$1,000

Jacob McCarran



DC Richard Fine accepts awards on behalf of the Dept. of PA and South Philadelphia Post 98. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



Wisconsin DC Kim Queen accepts awards on behalf of Morris R. Guten Post 487 and Marsack-Feldman Post 145.  
(Photo by Lou Michaels)



From left: PNC Edwin Goldwasser, NC Jeff Sacks, PNC Warren Dolny, and David Zwerin accept awards on behalf of Ensign Lawrence D. Solowey Post 652, PFC Frederick Hecht Post 425, and the Dept. of New York. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



From left: PNC David Magidson, NC Jeff Sacks, DC Larry Jasper, and Georgi Jasper accept awards on behalf of Victor B. Freedman Post 613, S.J. Miller Memorial Post 631, Franzblau-Kretchman-Polesuk Post 606, and the Dept. of Florida. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



Jeffrey Blonder accepts the Edward D. Blatt Award and the Most Improved Online Engagement Award on behalf of the Dept. of Massachusetts.  
(Photo by Lou Michaels)



From left: NC Jeff Sacks, DC Scott Stevens, Art Kaplan (seated), Allan Cantor, and Phil Kabakoff accept awards on behalf of Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256, Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755 and Austin Post 757 of the Dept. of TALO. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



# JWV 126<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention



Charwynne Schneider, Dr. Barry Schneider, Art Kaplan, Roz Kaplan, Kim Queen, and Ilene Queen. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



Selina Kanowitz, Georgi Jasper, Rochel Hayman, and Carol Berman.



Rochel Hayman.  
(Photo by Lou Michaels)

PNC Norman Rosenshein and  
PNC Jeffrey Sacks. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



Gary Ginsburg, PNC Jerome Blum, and Bob Jacobs. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



Rabbi Sanford Dresin. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



Department of TALO. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



Allan Cantor. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On July 29, California Assembly member Richard Bloom presented a certificate in honor of JWV's 125th anniversary to members of **Post 118 in Santa Monica, California**. From left: Bob Rubin, Mat Millen, Bloom, Joe Halper, and Murray Kalis.



**Heritage Post 644 in St. Louis, Missouri** held its annual post picnic at Stacy Park in Olivette, Missouri on July 11. Members, spouses, and guests gathered for an afternoon of hotdogs, potato salad, coleslaw, and camaraderie. From left: Les Bierenbaum, Steve Keyser, and Larry Chervitz.



**San Fernando Valley Post 603** Patron Roz Benjamin coordinates weekly donations for the West Valley Food Bank and Sova Food Bank. In August, the post restarted its donation of new clothes to the Sepulveda VA Clothes Closet after a hiatus during the pandemic.



Michigan Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin met with members of the **Department of Michigan** and **Post 135** member Dr. Guy Stern, who is one of the Ritchie Boys. They all met at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills on July 8. From left: Steven Haas, Linda Zyla, Ted Gittleman, Vicky Adler, Ed Adler, Stern, Rep. Slotkin, Don Wagner, Art Fishman, Mark Weiss, Don Schenk, and Ed Hirsch.



The **Allan H. Katz Post 118 in Santa Monica, California** awarded two college scholarships to JROTC cadets from Thomas Jefferson High School. From left: Bob Rubin, Kevin Reynaga, Mat Millen, Francisco Michel, JROTC Commander Major A. Arrington, and Murray Kalis.



Commander Stan Shapiro of **Jersey Shore Post 125** thanked local leaders for declaring May 31, 2021 Jersey Shore Post 125 Day. From left: 11th District Assemblywoman Joann Downy, Assemblyman Eric Houghtailing, Councilman Robert Accerra, Deputy Mayor John Napolitani, Mayor Chris Siciliano, and Shapiro.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On August 31, the **Department of New Jersey** dropped off the first shipment of teddy bears which were distributed to newly arrived refugee children from Afghanistan who are housed at Joint Base McGuire, Ft. Dix, Lakehurst, in New Jersey. JWV in New Jersey is working with the American Legion to provide other supplies to the thousands of Afghan refugees spending their first months in the United States. From left: Past South Jersey Men's Club President Mike Perloff and JWV Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz.



**Post 609 in Monroe Township, New Jersey** presented an award and check to Eagle Scout Theo Blume for producing and directing a DVD about military veterans from Monroe Township. From left: Charlie Koppelman, Blue, and Jack Kirschenbaum.



**Department of New York Junior Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg** attended a remembrance ceremony for the Korean conflict at White Haven Cemetery near Rochester, New York on June 25. From left: President of the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 58 Roger Hill and Ginsburg.



Members of JWV's **North Shore Post in Massachusetts** and Congregation Sons of Israel gathered on August 29 to celebrate Harold Blass' 100th birthday. PNC Ira Novoselsky presented Blass with a JWV Centenarian Certificate. From left: Irving Bacherman, Blass, Novoselsky, Morris Sharaf, Barry Lischinsky, and Charlotte Gross.



The Honor Guard for **Post 757 in Austin, Texas** held a flag raising ceremony for Memorial Day on May 30. Spouses representing Gold Star Mothers read the names of the 58 Jewish men and women who were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.



The **Department of Rhode Island** once again participated in the Fourth of July parade in Bristol, Rhode Island. From left: Jeffrey Weissman, Ira Fleisher, Dora Vasquez-Heller, Steve Musen, and Steve Bloch.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Dozens of members of **TALO** attending its Department Convention in Austin, Texas June 26 and 27. Others attended via Zoom. From left: Standing- Ben Luckens, Jack Schlossberg, Steve Krant, Jay Coggan, George Wankmueller, Art Kaplan, Ralph Wilson, Allan Goodman, Allan Cantor, Scott Stevens, Michael London, Ken Sherwin, Ron Sivernell, and Phil Kabakoff. Seated – Arwan Wilson, Floyd Williams, Charles Rosenblum, and Barry Schneider.



Joyce Sherman of **Fegelson-Young-Feinberg Post 697** in **Levittown, Pennsylvania** received her centenarian certificate for her dedication to JWV and her service as an Army nurse during World War II.



Members of the **Department of Michigan** attended a Memorial Day service at Machpelah Cemetery in Ferndale, Michigan.

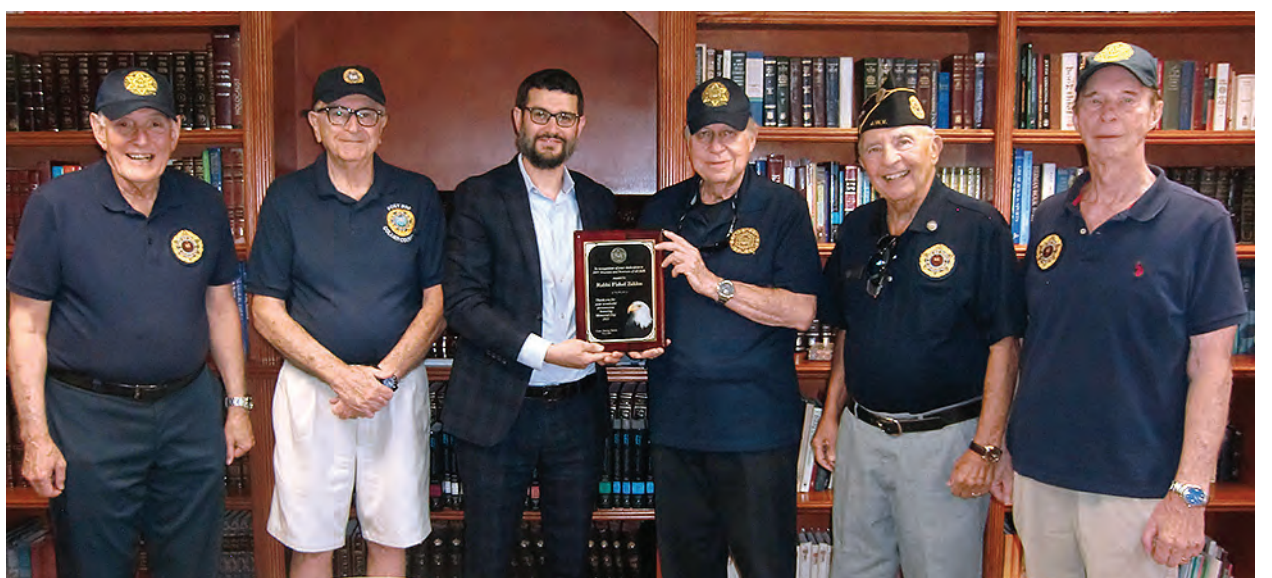


**Agami - Jacobson Post 265** Member Ted Schneider joined buglers across the United States to play Taps at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day. Schneider played at Century Village East in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

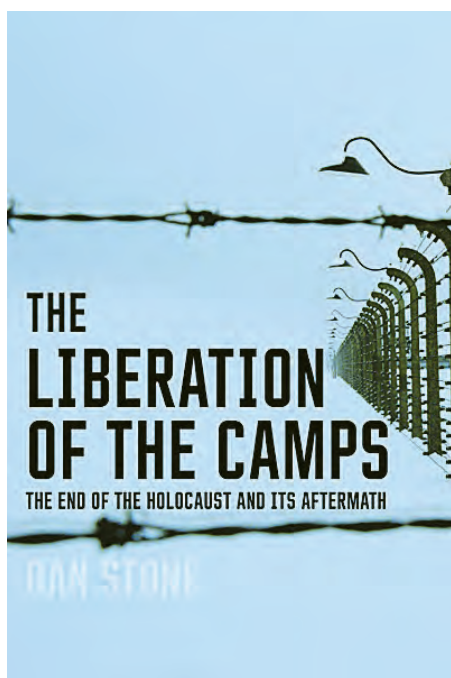


**Maurice Kubby Post 749** in **El Paso, Texas** placed flags on 256 graves at two cemeteries on Memorial Day. Members of the post and the community also attended a speech that day on service and patriotism and recited the Kaddish.

On July 15, members of **Post 202** in **Naples, Florida** presented a plaque to Rabbi Fishel Zaklos for his assistance with the invocation and sermon at the Memorial Day event at Hodges Memorial Garden. From left: Joel Treewater, Marty Rubin, Zaklos, Harvey Sturm, Sam Oshry, and Erle Taube.







By Sheldon Goldberg, Ph.D.

Between 1933 and 1945, the Nazis built more than 20,000 transit, slave labor, and extermination camps throughout Germany and conquered territories. Millions of men, women, and children were imprisoned, and many millions died in them in cruel and inhuman ways. As one American Jewish liberator said, they were stripped “of the dignity of death.”

In “The Liberation of the Camps,” Professor Dan Stone presents a well-documented, but often heart-breaking rendering of what he called the “process of liberation” and the aftermath. Stone presents the reader with five chapters, covering the liberation by the Red Army, by the Western Allies, the chaos that followed the initial liberation, life in the Displaced Persons Camps, and the issues faced by primarily Jewish survivors as they sought to transition into a new life.

One question that has been asked by other reviewers is how does one define liberation? Is it a joyous end to some form of incarceration or occupation? A time for flag waving and parades? Or is it, as in the case of many of those liberated from the concentration camps, a moment of shame for having survived while so many others did not; a moment of loneliness because everyone they knew and loved were murdered; or of wondering where they go now that their life and home no longer exists? For many, the only liberation granted in the days and weeks that followed was death. Being free was not the end of the trauma for many.

## Strategic Plan

*Continued from page 3*

### Combat Anti-Semitism

- Expand education and outreach to all uniformed services and other VSOs on anti-Semitism
- Respond promptly and publicly to all anti-Semitic incidents
- Ensure we are the primary advocate for those dealing with anti-Semitism in the uniformed services and veterans affairs.

If you have any comments or questions about this proposal, please contact the committee at [suggestionbox@jwv.org](mailto:suggestionbox@jwv.org) or you can call Director of Programs and Public Relations Cara Rinkoff at (202) 265-6280.

## The Liberation of the Camps: The End of the Holocaust and Its Aftermath By Dan Stone

Stone writes that liberation was a complex process, and the events that followed were “fundamental to the unfolding of the post-war years in Europe, to the geopolitics of the Cold War” as well as the future of the British Empire as it impacted events in Palestine and the Middle East. These events and subsequent Allied policies also drove many survivors to reject Europe as a home, insisting that only Palestine could provide them a future.

The Red Army was the first to liberate ghettos and death camps in Eastern Europe. However, Stone fails to differentiate between labor camps and extermination camps. Several of the camps, Sobibor, Belzec, and Treblinka were demolished by the SS, even though evidence of what had taken place there remained. The Soviets took care of the survivors for a short time, but primarily used them for propaganda purposes. “Jews were mentioned only in passing” Stone writes, as they had no ideological value. The defeat of the Nazis was simply a victory for international working-class anti-fascism. Several Soviet reporters who attempted to write the truth had their works suppressed and/or destroyed.

While liberation was not an allied goal, their discovery was mostly accidental. French troops were the first of the Western Allies to discover a concentration camp – Natzweiler-Stuthof – in Alsace in November of 1944. It had a small gas chamber but appeared to be an aberration. That perception changed when the Americans found Ordruf in April of 1945. The troops found thousands of corpses everywhere. Despite being surrounded by death since Normandy, the Americans were totally unprepared for what they found. General Eisenhower, who visited the camp a week later, implored London and Washington to take the reports coming out of Germany seriously. As Rafael Medoff, author of “The Jews Should Keep Quiet,” and others have written, London and Washington knew as early as 1942 that Jews were being murdered in the camps.

Within days of discovering Ordruf, many more camps in Germany and Austria were liberated by American, British, and Canadian troops. The liberation of those camps was well documented, but this was primarily due to the much larger numbers of

survivors freed and those who had arrived at these camps following forced death marches from camps in the east as the Nazis fled the Soviet advances. Stone does not hide the fact that many SS officers and camp guards who were captured in the camps were then killed by American forces who were appalled by what they had found. The sights, sounds, smells, and emotions experienced by the liberating soldiers stayed with them for many years afterward.

Stone goes to lengths to describe the misunderstandings that took place between the various liberating militaries, the rescue/relief agencies that came to help, and the liberated. Additionally, he describes the unpreparedness of some agencies to deal with what confronted them after their arrival, and the bureaucracy they had to deal with given the war was still ongoing. He also describes the lack of understanding among the military authorities who looked upon the Jewish survivors as no different than the other displaced persons they were now responsible for. This led to animosity between the Jewish survivors and the Allies who were now viewed as their jailers. Stone describes the efforts of the Jewish survivors to move forward with their lives and organize themselves. Having nowhere else to go, they created sports clubs, theater clubs, orchestras, newspapers, schools for children, celebrated marriages and births, and developed groups designed to be kibbutzniks.

Stone also introduces the role of the burgeoning Cold War which made anti-Communism a higher priority than the needs of Holocaust survivors and prevented liberated Jewish survivors from immigrating to Palestine in order to keep the British relationships with the Arabs intact. The book does not discuss the failure of the then anti-Semitic U.S. State Department and the anti-immigration Congress to fill unused German and Austrian immigration quotas which would have allowed Jews to enter the U.S. during and after the war, possibly saving thousands of lives. That said, “The Liberation of the Camps” puts a different perspective on the current understanding of liberation, what it meant to those who were liberated, and how they fared afterward. It sheds a sliver of light on a time that still affects those who lived through it and their families.

## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

*Continued from page 3*

featured in our newspaper, please forward a short bio and picture directly to me through my email address at [nationalcmdr@jwv.org](mailto:nationalcmdr@jwv.org). We want our members to know more about our local leadership teams.

Before I close my comments for this issue, I would be remiss if I did not wish our National Auxiliary President Sandra Cantor best wishes for a successful year. I am hoping that Sandra and I can travel and meet many of you on your home turf. I also want to wish our new National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz success.

Thank you all again, and I look forward to meeting many of you as I travel around the country to beat Past National Commander Barry Schneider’s 85,000 miles!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 7*

port. That family now needs to find another way to get out Afghanistan. Greenberg said the past few weeks has been an emotional rollercoaster.

Recently Greenberg participated in a discussion, “Saving Lives: A Jewish Voice in the Afghan Refugee Crisis,” with Rabbi Erez Sherman from Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. The conversation included Greenberg’s primary interpreter from 2009. Abdulhai Shirzad fled Afghanistan in 2015 with wife and child and now lives in Germany.

Shirzad is still trying to get himself and his family to the United States.

Greenberg currently works for Lockheed Martin and lives in Orlando, Florida, where he is trying to start a new JWV post.



# Department of Florida 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

By Larry Jasper, National Editor

Due to a drop in the number of cases related to the pandemic, the Department of Florida decided to hold an in-person convention. We limited the number of attendees to 50, practiced social distancing, and required masks except during meals.

The one-day convention took place at the Delray Beach Golf Club in Delray Beach, Florida on Sunday, June 6. National Commander Jeffrey Sacks and National Vice Commander Alan Paley were both in attendance.



**Florida JWVA President Verna Rosenzweig presents a gift to NC Jeffrey Sacks.**

The convention was a joint venture with the Florida JWV Auxiliary, led by State President Verna Rosenzweig.

Also in attendance was Past National Commander Nathan Goldberg who turned 97 a few days later.

In addition to the usual department business and reports, NC Sacks presided over the installation of the Department of Florida Officers and installations for two local Posts.

The convention included a joint memorial service with JWV and JWVA. We also had two presentations via Zoom, with question and answer sessions. Dr. Charles Sand discussed myths associated with the coronavirus and vaccines. Debra Harris talked about suicide prevention and crisis intervention. Sacks also spoke during the JWV/JWVA luncheon.



**JWV/JWVA memorial service.**



**Zoom presentation from Dr. Charles Sands.**

## From Our Archives...

*First published in The Jewish Veteran, Issue September-October 1939*

### “American Jewish Youth” Launched

By Abraham Kraditor, PNC  
National Youth Commander

Emergency situations require emergency measures. All will admit that this is a time of crisis, and in such times excuses and apologies will not hold. What is required is definite action!

Other countries have appreciated the power and strength of youth and have taken full advantage of them. The Nazi movement is practically one of youth. In Soviet Russia and Fascist Italy, youth play an important part. In America, our youth have been somewhat neglected. Of course, the European youth are being trained for war and hate, and that is not the American ideal – our ideal is to train our youth by education and thought to the principles of Democracy and Americanism.

Ever since the advent of Hitler, American Jewry has been seeking unity. For this purpose the General Jewish Council was formed more than a year ago. This was a very fine thought, but striving for and accomplishment are very wide apart. It has been a keen disappointment to the rank and file of Jewry that these four National organizations have achieved unity in name only.

Analysis as to the reasons for this failure will accomplish naught. Possibly the coordination was not on a wide enough scale, in that unity was attempted merely at the top, and not enough confidence placed in those down below who compose the vast majority of our group. One definite omission certainly was our youth – those between 16 and 25 years of age – who are very much interested in the changing kaleidoscope – who are full of vitality and anxious to take definite part in history of their times. Without proper interest they might

easily stray into undesirable channels.

For years the Jewish War Veterans have realized the importance of enlisting our youth in our movement. To this end, we organized several years ago, “sons and Daughters of J.W.V.” Due to the average age of our comrades, the average age limits for these affiliates were between 8 and 18. This left a wide gap – those hundreds of thousands of Jewish youth, between 18 and 35.

In the meantime the importance and prestige of J.W.V. had been growing. Other organizations realized that in these times, J.W.V. could frequently speak for Jewry more effectively than any other group, and in some instances J.W.V. was the only agency that could properly speak for Jewry.

Our leaders patiently awaited the organization of our youth. Meantime anti-Semitism was growing here by leaps and bounds, in spite of the tremendous energy and effort put forth by the Jewish organizations to stem it. In fact, while the alien-inspired and subsidized anti-Semitic organizations of Communism, Fascism and Nazism kept pounding away uninterruptedly, new and even more vicious native-inspired groups came on our scene – those of the Christian Front. From an experiment in New York City, they have developed into more or less of a national movement.

Faced with these conditions, J.W.V. on January 8th, 1939, authorized the formation of an affiliate, to which all Americans of Jewish faith between the ages of 18 and 35 were eligible.

On Flag Day, June 14th, 1939, the Youth Movement had its official birth, with a full-page ad appearing in about 100 newspapers throughout the United States, pledging the movement to a program

of Americanism.

Less than four months later – on September 10th – the movement convened at a Constitutional Convention and By-Laws were adopted. The name “American Jewish Youth” and a beautiful emblem were formally adopted. Four State Departments, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, have been granted charters. Thirty units have already been established, and a National Convention is set for December 24th and 25th, 1939, in Philadelphia.

This growth of the American Jewish Youth is typical of the speed of our age with the enthusiasm of our young men and women to join a wide-awake and militant group, where in addition to cultural and social enlightenment, they can take some active part in what is happening all around them. Our experience has proven that this group is proud of the interest and guidance of the Jewish War Veterans and particularly of the opportunity afforded to them of being a part of J.W.V. activities.

The scope of the A.J.Y. is limitless. About one million men and women are eligible to join its ranks – those of all stratas of training, education and background. The A.J.Y. has set a membership of 100,000 as its goal for the first year.

In addition to the trained and disciplined members of the Jewish War Veterans, an advisory committee of non-veterans is being formed, which will be composed of men who have been active in or are interested in youth training. Under the banner of the Jewish War Veterans and with a program of Americanism carefully planned and expertly executed, Jewry may proudly look ahead to the part

*Continued on page 22*



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



## NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDRA CANTOR

Dear Sisters,

Déjà vu and here I go again . . .

I am honored to be elected your National President this year and elated to represent our JWV Ladies Auxiliary for a second time. As you may remember my initial Presidential term was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused me to miss my official visit to Minnesota as well as my attendance at the Military Academies, all of which had already been scheduled. I hope to be able to fulfill all visits and obligations this year and hope to greet you all in person and break bread together.

I intend to focus on recruitment again this term

and keep my theme as “L’dor V’dor – From Generation to Generation”. We must build on our numbers and increase our membership to ensure future generations of our organization! It is especially important for the Auxiliary to continue assisting JWV, serving Veterans and their families, and the Community at large. It would be a “shanda” – a real shame to have to discontinue our worthwhile programs. Please join me in my efforts by asking everyone you know or meet, if they are related to a Jewish veteran, and if they are, sing our praises and get them in an Auxiliary!

To my incoming staff, especially SRVP Natalie Blank whose position I can relate to like no other sister in our JWVA family, and to all the Officers and Program Chairmen, thank you for accepting your various positions. I look forward to working with you and for the opportunity to serve a second term.

Loyally Yours,  
Sandra Cantor



Photo by Lou Michaels

**National President Sandra Cantor gets pinned by her husband, Allan Cantor.**

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

By Verna Rosenzweig, DP - Consumer Affairs Chairman

### **Officials warn consumers of scam involving fake vaccination surveys**

Throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, scammers have come up with creative ways to exploit the global crisis at consumers' expense. When the virus was raging across the country last year, these schemers pitched fake cures. Now that nearly half the country is vaccinated and fears of the virus are fading, they've come up with something new.

Scammers claiming to be from drug companies are contacting consumers and asking them to take a survey about their vaccination experience. People who have recognized it as a scam report that the surveys are just attempting to gain access to people's personal data, including date of birth and Social Security numbers.

“Please be on the lookout for mysterious emails, text messages, or phone calls claiming to be from Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson asking you to fill out a survey about your vaccine.”, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody said. “Reports of these fake survey scams are beginning to surface and vaccinated people need to make sure they do not fall for this scam.”

It seems fairly innocent, but any potentially sensitive personal information that consumers give away could be used to access bank accounts, set up credit card accounts, and steal identities.

The scammers have also been known to im-

personate the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when they send out these surveys. The request for information may offer money or prizes for filling out the phony survey after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Adding to the danger of this particular scam, the CDC is actually conducting a legitimate survey about vaccinations. Theirs is not a fake survey, and is recommended by the CDC to help provide personalized health check-ins for people after they have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

So how is someone supposed to tell the real survey from a fake one? The fake survey asks for personal information, such as a Social Security number, promises some type of compensation for participating, e-mail or text contain misspellings or poor grammar and asks you to click on a link.

- The survey promises some type of compensation for participating.
- The email or text contains misspellings or poor grammar.
- The email asks you to click on a link.

Moody cautions that you should not trust the number or information displayed on a caller ID, noting that it is very easy to spoof phone numbers. A hacker from across the world can easily make a caller ID display the CDC's number in Atlanta.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

By PNP Iris Goldwasser

Although I have observed many military funerals, heard the 21-gun salute and watched the meticulous folding of the American Flag that is subsequently surrendered to the loving families, I never realized the true meaning of this tradition until I read an article on the computer. I can't help but wonder if you, like me, never realized the symbolism this act represents and the accompanying honors.

I am certain you have noticed, as I have, the special attention the honor guard pays to the exact folding of the American Flag. You probably thought, again as I did, that the 13 folds symbolized the original 13 colonies, but no. Well, we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the Flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and in remembrance of those veterans who served to defend our country and attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents our belief in G-d, since it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as war for his divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, “Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong”.

The 6th fold represents our hearts as we pledge allegiance to our Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under G-d, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is they who protect our country and our Flag against all enemies, whether they are found in or out of our borders.

The 8th fold is a tribute to those who entered the valley of the shadow of death, hoping that they might see the light of day again.

The 9th fold is in honor of womanhood and mothers for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the characters of the men and women, who have made this country great, has been molded.

The 10th fold honors fathers also because they have given their sons and daughters for the defense of our country.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies G-d the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the Flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our Nation's motto, “In G-d We Trust”.

After the Flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, re-

*Continued on next page*



## CONVENTION REPORT

The National Convention of 2021 has been put to bed! It was an exciting mix of meetings and fun, enjoyed by all the Sisters and Comrades who attended. Although attendance was less than usual, those who came were happy to escape the isolation of the last several months and see friends in person rather than Zoom. We would like to thank those who braved the virus but understand why some of our members remained at home. Many had valid health concerns this year but hope to attend next year. Everyone at the convention remained masked and safety was our main concern.

All our meetings were set up with plenty of space between attendees and even banquets honoring our National President Natalie Blank and our

National Commander Jeffrey Sacks were arranged with fewer people at each table.

Our various Ladies Auxiliary programs were executed without a hitch, but there were a few tears, especially at the Grant-A-Wish presentation; the terminally-ill recipient attended with his family and received a new full Army dress uniform for his eventual funeral, as per his request. In addition, there were representatives from the New Orleans Police and Fire Departments and the local Ronald McDonald House who received their teddy bears to be given to children in crisis; the Children's Hospital and Fisher House could not attend due to COVID-19 but we made sure that they received their share of bears as well.

The Director of the New Orleans VA Medical Center attended our presentations, remained throughout the afternoon and saw for himself our beautiful baby baskets that were to be presented to pregnant and new veteran moms in their VA system. He was very impressed with our various programs and addressed our Sisters and thanked us for the Popcorn machine we presented to the hospital as our gift to the patients there. Our Operation New Start program was also a success and we were able to present a home-



**12 full baby baskets with all types of supplies were presented to pregnant veterans .**

less veteran with a \$500 gift card to Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Despite the restrictions of the pandemic our JWV Ladies Auxiliary saw success in all our programs and presentations. In addition, our Memorial Service was a moving experience as it is every year, and we were able to honor all our Sisters who passed during this difficult year.

We look forward to next year when we will meet again, in Savannah, Georgia at the DeSoto Hotel. It is our sincere hope that this pandemic will be behind us; stay safe and healthy. We wish you all a happy and wonderful New Year – La Shana Tovah!

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



**Grant-A-Wish recipient, veteran staff sergeant Kenneth Ellis, SVP Shirley Zak, and PNP Petra Kaatz.**

## OPERATION NEW START

By PNP Joanne Blum, Chairman

Have you ever found yourself at a point when you didn't know when your next meal will be? What about a time when you weren't sure where you would lay your head to sleep?

Many of our Veterans, men and women alike, have been in such situations. In cold winter climates, they might be found under bridges. In warmer climates, they can be found on the street corners with signs looking for money.

Hopefully, they will be in contact with VA Outreach programs, or the VA will be in touch with them.

We are also in contact with VA Outreach. Our Program, "Operation New Start", gives a veteran a NEW START with finding such things as a new place to live or improving what they have.

In the past we have been able to assist with back rent, the purchase of a washer and dryer to name a few ways we have helped. This is just "the tip of the iceberg" regarding this program. Help us help our Veterans.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

*Continued from previous page*

minding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions that are time-hon-

## POW/MIA VETERANS SERVICE

By PDP Gloria Abramson, Chairman

POW/MIA - what do these abbreviations represent? First used in the Korean War these initials refer to veterans who are "Prisoners of War" or "Missing in Action". We remember them as Comrades and are mindful that they may never rejoin their ranks or families again.

In their memory the third Friday in September has been recognized as "Recognition Day" and should be observed each year. Although it is not a national holiday, the veteran community should honor their comrades by displaying the American Flag and the POW/MIA Flag of the National League of Families. Their POW/MIA Flag was designed by Newt Heisley commemorating his own son who was a prisoner of war.

To honor and to remember these heroes plan a special meeting of your Post and Ladies Auxiliary and invite these veterans' families and friends to join you. Perhaps you could arrange a special collation afterwards and include these families. Suggest a special Shabbat service or Kiddish honoring the POW/MIAs. Most important – remember our POW/MIAs in your thoughts and prayers.

ored, venerable and created to be meaningful. Such is this special and precise folding of our American Flag. The significance of this expression of patriotism is so very much an American tradition and deserves to be passed down from generation to generation. Please share this symbolism with all who salute our Flag and enjoy our liberties and freedoms.

## AID TO ISRAEL

By PDP Marcia Jacobs, Chairman

Sheba Medical Center is coming to America!

On March 3, 2021 Illinois Governor Pritzker, Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi and Professor Yitshak Kreiss met to discuss a collaboration between the State of Illinois and Israel with regard to a health innovation hub, the proposal of which would be to develop and advance health equity solutions locally and globally. It would be based on Sheba's innovation model, ARC (accelerate, redesign and collaborate) and would be established on Chicago's south side at the historic site of the Michael Reese Medical Center.

These government leaders disclosed details of their partnership and reaffirmed their commitment to eliminating existing health disparities and negative outcomes from COVID-19 hospitalizations, infant mortality, chronic diseases and early deaths connected to living, learning and working conditions.

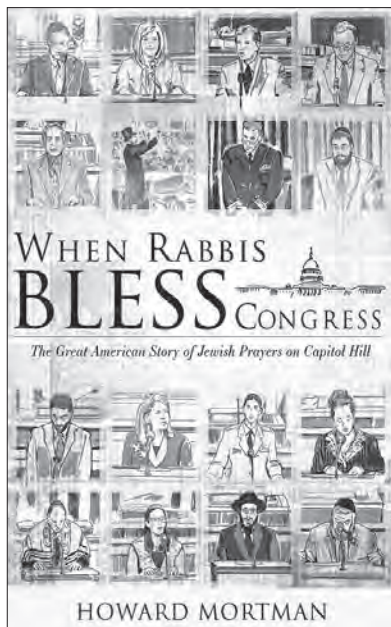
Kudos to Israel as Sheba's model of ARC has allowed them to become a world leader in combating this pandemic by shaping their rapid response to COVID-19 and showcase Israel's use of innovative approaches to achieve health equality.

***Wishing Our Sisters,  
Comrades, JWV, and  
JWVA Ladies Auxiliary  
a Happy and Healthy  
New Year!***



By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

On June 10, author Howard Mortman joined us online to discuss his book, “When Rabbis Bless Congress: The Great American Story of Jewish Prayers on Capitol Hill.” The book is about the rabbis who have offered opening prayers for sessions of Congress dating back to the Civil War.



**Author Howard Mortman discussed his book 'When Rabbis Bless Congress'. Available from the museum store at [NMAJMH.org/shop](https://nmajmh.org/shop).**

Mortman is the Communications Director at C-SPAN. He was able to research these rabbis using the network’s extensive archives from covering Congress for the past 35 years and dig through Congressional records for the older material. The C-SPAN archives included extensive video clips. Mortman was able to show the prayers offered in recent decades. Military chaplains have performed this role frequently. It was great to have Rabbi Irv Elson and Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council as a part of the program to provide some context on the Jewish chaplains who continue in this role today.

Also with us was Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff, a retired Navy chaplain who has offered prayers to Congress more than any other rabbi. It was great to have several of the military chaplains who have filled the role with us. It’s fascinating to see these Jewish prayers offered at the pinnacle of American democracy.

On July 8, Leah Garrett discussed her book “X Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos of World



**Leah Garrett discussed her book “X Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos of World War II.” Available from the museum store at [NMAJMH.org/shop](https://nmajmh.org/shop).**

War II.” The book tells the stories of German-Jewish refugees who eventually became a secret unit of commandos in the British Army. After escaping the Third Reich in Europe and going to England, many of them were initially interred as enemy aliens. They were eventually recruited for an elite unit that conducted raids and gathered intelligence through interrogation of prisoners. No one was more motivated than these commandos to win the war. They knew the enemy as their former neighbors who betrayed them to seek the destruction of the Jewish people. The discussion was filled with incredible stories of Jewish triumph.

At the JWV convention, the museum was pleased to welcome Kimberly Guise as a speaker for the opening night reception. Guise is the Senior Curator & Director for Curatorial Affairs at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.



**Kimberly Guise, Senior Curator & Director for Curatorial Affairs at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans spoke about Jewish POW experiences in WWII. Photo by Lou Michaels.**

She discussed her work there and her expertise on American POWs in Europe. This includes Jewish POWs. One example was Irwin Stovroff who was shot down while serving with the 8th Air Force. Stovroff had thrown away his dog tags so the Germans would not know he was Jewish, but then acknowledged he was Jewish under interrogation from a German soldier who had once been his neighbor in Buffalo, New York.

Yiddish proved an asset for many Jewish prisoners who could understand what the Germans in the camps were discussing. In general, the Germans respected the Geneva conventions and treated American Jews similarly to other prisoners. The most notable exception was the camp at Berga where Americans were slave laborers alongside European civilians. We look to continue this relationship and find ways to work with Guise and the World War II Museum in the future.

It was a pleasure to welcome Donald Remy, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to the museum prior to his recording an address for the JWV convention. He showed a great interest in our subject matter. This included a particular interest in the story of Tibor Rubin, a Holocaust survivor who earned the Medal of Honor in the Korean War. Remy had known Rubin’s name



**Donald Remy, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (right) visited the museum in August. Mike Rugel is showing him Rabbi Morris Gordon's WWII ark. (Photo by Christy Turner)**

because the VA Medical Center in Long Beach, California is named for him, but was excited to learn more details of Rubin’s amazing story.

Thanks to the JWV Vietnam Veterans Committee who released their book on disc, “Jewish Americans in Military Service During Vietnam” at convention. The book contains the experiences and recollections of Jewish Americans who served in the armed forces of the United States during the Vietnam War. All proceeds benefit the museum. The disc is available from the museum store in person and online at <https://nmajmh.org/shop/>.



**• • • Coming Up • • •**

**October 31, 2021 1:00 pm ET  
Richard Stern: A Doorway to Heroism**

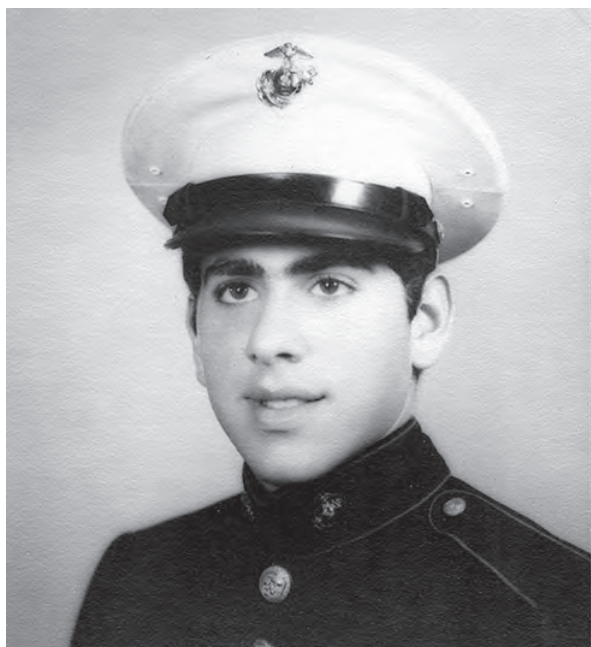
Rabbi W. Jack Romberg joins us to discuss his new book "A Doorway to Heroism: A decorated German-Jewish Soldier who became an American Hero" about his great uncle Richard Stern. Stern was a German Jew, a decorated German soldier in World War I, a resister in Cologne at the start of Hitler's reign of terror, and a Silver Star decorated U.S. Army soldier in World War II.



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

## Stories of Jews on the Wall

I am busy working on the Vietnam exhibit, which is scheduled to open on Veterans Day. My days are filled with the stories of Jews who served in the Vietnam combat zone, though these stories are mostly of the men who were fortunate enough to make it home. Every morning when I pass the names of Harold and Irma Sitkoff on the museum's Honorial Wall, I am reminded of one young man who was not so fortunate. Irma Briskin Sitkoff was the mother of Roger Briskin, a Jewish Marine killed in Vietnam. His story and the stories of a few other Jewish men who have their names etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are below.



**Cpl. Roger S. Briskin**

The Purple Heart medal posthumously awarded to Corporal Roger Briskin is on display in the core exhibit at the NMAJMH. Briskin enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from Lower Merion High School in a suburb of Philadelphia. He served in the Dominican Republic before being sent to Vietnam. In a letter home he wrote that he felt that the people-to-people program was the "greatest means of winning [the] war, although it is a hard program to carry out. Love is stronger than hate, friendships and fellowship stronger than bullets and bombs." Briskin's patrol came under fire from Viet Cong forces on March 31, 1967 in Quảng Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam. When another Marine was wounded, Briskin rushed to his aid. While bringing his comrade to safety, a bullet hit him in the head. He died instantly at age 19.

Another young Marine met a similar fate. Pfc. Louis Barash of Sayville, New York, had only been in Vietnam for four weeks when he was shot in the head and killed while on patrol in Quảng Nam Province. He died on December 27, 1968, just eight months after enlisting in the Marine Corps. His father recalled that "he never complained" in his letters home, and that he "wanted to be there." He was posthumously awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross by the state of New York.

Captain Joseph Berkson of Skokie, Illinois, knew from the time he was 13 that he wanted a career in the military. He joined the JROTC while in high school and continued at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle campus, receiving a number

of awards. When he graduated from the University of Illinois with honors, the Army offered him a commission in the regular army. He served with distinction with a tank outfit in Germany before being sent to Vietnam in December of 1971.

In a letter to his family sent during the height of the North Vietnamese offensive into Quảng Trị province, he wrote that, "The newspapers probably paint a dim picture of what is going on, but I'll take care of myself.... My helmet and flak vest are my best friends, and the Major keeps a close eye on me." Two days after that letter, Berkson died when a shoulder-fired heat-seeking missile hit his helicopter. He had been serving as an advisor to the South Vietnamese Army near Quảng Trị. Because enemy troops controlled the area where the helicopter crashed, the Army explained to his family that it was impossible to search for him and eventually changed his initial missing status to killed in action. Berkson was just 25 and survived by his widow, Joan, and a daughter, Lauren.

Specialist Paul D. Savanuck of Baltimore, Maryland, served as a correspondent for the Pacific edition of Stars and Stripes and had only been on the job for two weeks when he died in Vietnam. He was killed in action when North Vietnamese troops penetrated an American army position.

Raised in Baltimore, Savanuck enlisted in the Army during his senior year at the University of Maryland where he was studying journalism. After intensive training in military journalism at Fort Benjamin Harrison Defense Information School, he requested duty in Vietnam thinking it would be good training as a journalist but was instead sent to Germany. After repeated requests to transfer, he finally went to Vietnam in June 1968. He served as an information officer for the 23rd Artillery Group, turning out stories that appeared in major newspapers before catching the eye of Stars and Stripes. The newspaper offered him a position in Saigon, which he began on April 4, 1969. During his first week with the paper, he turned out enough stories and photographs to fill three pages, but because of the delay between submission and publication, he did not live to see his work printed. Just two weeks later, on the night of April 18, 1969, Savanuck was camped with an armored cavalry unit that was attacked by North Vietnamese Army forces. Unarmed and aiding other wounded soldiers, Savanuck was killed along with 11 others that night. He was 23. Savanuck was posthumously promoted to Staff Sergeant and awarded a Bronze Star Medal for valor and a Purple Heart.

In 1971, Jewish War Veterans of the USA formed the Paul D. Savanuck Post 888 in Baltimore, in honor of Savanuck. The United States Army created the Paul D. Savanuck Journalist of the Year Award in 1975 and renamed the Defense Information School Library in his honor in 2003.

Another JWV post bears the name of a Vietnam War casualty, Cpt. Ellis David Greene Post 344 of Denver, Colorado. Ellis David Greene was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Lt. Col. Monty and Helen Greene, and attended high school in Denver. He entered the United States Military Academy at



**Ellis Greene graduating from West Point, 1967.**

West Point as one of the youngest members of the Class of 1967. At West Point he was a member of the Jewish Chapel Choir and taught Sunday School. Following graduation, he completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course and shipped off to Germany, where he served as a platoon leader in Company B/2-36 Infantry, 3rd Armored Division. When he returned from Europe, he completed helicopter training at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia in December 1969. Shortly after graduating, he received orders for Southeast Asia.

In March of 1970, he arrived in Vietnam and went to Company C, 227th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter), 1st Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile). On May 1, 1970, two months after joining his unit, Ellis distinguished himself on a combat assault mission into the Republic of Cambodia, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross. The citation reads, "Flying his aircraft through intense anti-aircraft weapons fire, Captain Greene inserted the initial elements of the ground troops into the landing zone. He personally assisted in the leading of two assaults and accompanied three other missions." Greene also earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. On May 23, 1970, as co-pilot for another combat assault mission into Cambodia, Ellis again distinguished himself by his heroic actions. Inserting ground troops in an area of Cambodia known as Parrot's Beak, approximately 30 miles from Sông Bé, Vietnam, he observed the troops were immediately engaged by a numerically superior enemy force. He volunteered to insert reinforcements into the contact area. He expertly directed the mission until all the troops landed, but before he could clear the area, a rocket-propelled grenade hit his aircraft. Greene and the other pilot were mortally wounded. Greene left behind a wife and 7-month-old son.

These are just a few of the nearly 300 Jewish names on the memorial. JWV and the museum continue to work to make certain none of those servicemembers are forgotten. Hopefully the upcoming Vietnam exhibit will help us with this mission.



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 any 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 val-

ued 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.

From Our Archives

Continued from page 17

to be played by the American Jewish Youth. They will be sure that the A.J.Y. will be properly inculcated with the principles of Americanism and the faith of their fathers, and that they will militantly fight, if necessary to uphold both.

Every post of J.W.V. has been instructed to immediately form a unit of American Jewish Youth. To those interested in youth work, such a unit will prove interesting and constructive....

...The time for academic debate as to the necessity of such an organization has long passed. Quick action is now imperative. The A.J.Y. does not compete with any existing youth organization. We solicit the cooperation of all of American Jewry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 9

for him. It must have worked well since I received a commendation from our Executive Officer and a promotion from T/3 to T/4.

When I had enough points to go home in 1946, I was offered the rank of Senior Warrant Officer if I would join the regular Army. I would have also received 90 days of leave in the U.S. and then re-assignment back to the 112th in Germany. It was a very tempting offer for a 20-year-old. It was a prestigious rank, and the pay was equivalent to a Captain's pay. Also, I enjoyed being a pharmacist. As I look back now, I know, I must have been thinking, like all good Jewish boys, what would my mother say. I was sure she would have been unhappy with my decision, so I decided not to join the regular Army. My brother, who was discharged as a Captain in the Transportation Corps after having served over five years, was already home. By not signing up she and my father would now have both

their sons home after having suffered through several stress induced years.

I came home with the 17th Field Artillery, Company B on the Chanute Victory in April 1946.

Later, I completed my engineering education under the GI Bill at CCNY earning a BME. I had a successful career as an aerospace engineer, being the co-founder and president of Ogden Technology Laboratories, Inc. I also have two patents including the After Burner Switch used on military jet airplanes. The company I helped found was the largest non-governmental environmental testing laboratory in the U.S. with seven locations and a 1,000-acre remote explosives site in Jack Rabbit Flats, California. I have also earned an M.S. in Project Management from LIU, and MBA from Baruch College, CUNY, and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Center, CUNY in Management Science. Later in life, after leaving industry, I became an academic. I spent 25 happy years at Baruch College

and the CUNY Research Center as a Full Professor, Chairman of the Management Department and Academic Director of the Center for Management Research.

To this day, I often wonder who and how the Army, in their strange ways, decided to classify me as a Graduate Pharmacist and assign me to run the pharmacies in large, overseas military hospitals. I guess it worked out well since they wanted me to stay on by joining the regular army as a pharmacist. However, after all these years I know I am more of an engineering person than a pharmacy person. Life has many twists and turns.

\*Note: The above dates and places are to the best of my recollections correct. However, I am now 96, so I believe I am entitled to a few errors due to lapses in memory, especially for events that took place over 75 years ago.

Sincerely,  
Harris Shapiro, Post 265

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

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Danovitz, Sanford C. - Post 100  
Friedlander, James M. - Post 99  
Klein, Lawrence A. - Post 100

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Dipperstein, Malcolm - Post 603  
Goldberg, Morton H. - Post 760  
Kesten, David - Post 786

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Elman, Marshall - Post 45  
Kitavitz, Jack - Post 45  
Morgenthaler, Harold - Post 142

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Azia, Mark S. - Post 352  
Chemerow, Ben J. - Post 172  
Gallin, Jerry B. - Post 352  
Lurye, Bernard J. - Post 400  
Rosenblum, Steven N. - Post 352  
Schulman, Herbert L. - Post 606  
Stern, Boris A. - Post 373  
Weisberg, Howard - Post 400  
Young, Harold J. - Post 698

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Shrago, Jack - Post 260

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

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Cohen, Elliot S. - Post 567  
Collier, Manuel I. - Post 567  
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Kiewe, Bernhard - Post 167  
Krupka, Max - Post 567  
Levine, Marvin - Post 567  
Marcus, Charles H. - Post 567  
Roberts, Leonard - Post 117  
Ross, K. Neil - Post 567  
Stutman, David - Post 567  
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Adelman, Maxwell H. - Post 161  
Bailin, Bernard - Post 32  
Calichman, Harvey L. - Post 161  
Diamond, David L. - Post 735  
Elkins, George - Post 735  
Schnaper, Bernard - Post 193  
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DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Fink, Jack - Post 510  
Orley, Graham - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Fursetzer, Leslie B. - Post 65  
Nissan, Shlomo - Post 65

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Avayou, Norman - Post 126  
Barris, Jerome I. - Post 609  
Beilin, Benjamin - Post 47  
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Cohen, Benjamin - Post 126  
Dansky, Bernard H. - Post 178  
Danton, Daniel - Post 76  
Engel, Stuart G. - Post 609

Goldsmith, Herbert - Post 609  
Heyman, Rudy - Post 178  
Jacobs, Herman E. - Post 609  
Jacobson, Herbert - Post 126  
Kerzner, Harold S. - Post 76  
Kissler, Gerald - Post 498  
Krassenstein, Jerome D. - Post 39  
Krawitz, Leonard - Post 740  
Levine, Jack L. - Post 609  
Morse, Donald R. - Post 126  
Natelson, Larry - Post 126  
Posner, Hyman - Post 76  
Presslaff, Arthur D. - Post 76  
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Wendroff, Albert - Post 18

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Belsky, Bernard William - Post 717  
Bernstein, Stanford - Post 68  
Bialek, Jacob H. - Post 488  
Braun, Leslie - Post 1  
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Goldman, Sidney - Post 3  
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Lungen, David - Post 206  
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Math, Melvin Harold - Post 425  
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Friedman, Fred - Post 608

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DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Chalfin, Albert - Post 753  
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Silverman, Lloyd J. - Post 256

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Paley, Norton - Post 299





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# Happy Thanksgiving

**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*

**Greetings to All • Dr. Gerald H. Elkan**

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

**In loving memory of Dr. Richard Glueth**  
*My husband and WWII veteran*

**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*

**In memory of Dick Golden • Post 202**  
*By Marty Rubin*

**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 memory of my wonderful husband, Walter**  
*Dorothy D. Greenwald, PDP 204*

**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*

**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*

**Col. (R) Matt + Ms. Meg Segal**  
*In memory of our parents*

**Morris Shapiro 40<sup>th</sup> Fusiliers**  
*Jewish Legion WWI in honor of son Sam*

**In Memory of Norman Smith-Post 129**

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

**Shalom & Mazel Tov to all Veterans**  
*Greta & Jerry Stoliar • 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 Louise & Joan Weinstein**  
*Philip & Julia 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!**  
**Mazel Tov Army Staff Sgt. Robert Maran**  
*97 years young•JWV Post 112 is prouf of you!*

**Congratulations JWV for 125 Years!**  
*Now let's get some new members!*

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