



The Jewish Veteran

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

JWV Co-Hosts National Veterans Day Ceremony

By Cara Rinkoff, Managing Editor

The Jewish War Veterans successfully hosted this year's Veterans Day commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery. Last year veteran service organizations (VSO) were only allowed to have one representative apiece due to the COVID pandemic. This year there were still restrictions, but the annual ceremony had a greater sense of normalcy to it.

JWV National Commander Alan Paley sat on the dais in the cemetery's amphitheater next to the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough. In a special section for members of the co-hosting organization, JWV had multiple representatives, including National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz and his wife Debbie, Art and Roz Kaplan, and National Executive Director Ken Greenberg and his wife Janet. Department of Wisconsin Commander Kim Queen and his wife Ilene also attended the ceremony.

In addition to delivering remarks at the event, Paley led the Pledge of Allegiance, and both he and Mellitz placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown.

In the introduction to Paley's remarks, the speaker recognized that 2021 marked the 125th anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans and noted that we are the oldest, continuously active veterans' organization in the United States.

Paley then delivered the following remarks.

"President Biden, Secretary McDonough, Director Aguilera, distinguished guests, my fellow veterans, ladies, and gentlemen.

On Veterans Day, at the 11th hour on the



Paley delivers remarks at Arlington National Cemetery. Photo credit: Christy Turner.

11th day of the 11th month, we pause for a few brief moments to both honor and pay tribute to the men and women who served in the defense of our country and then returned home. We owe you our thanks, our respect, and our freedom.

George Washington spoke about the country's obligation to care for its veterans and their families, he said: "The willingness with which

our young people are likely to serve in any way, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

Let us remember, "Treated and appreciated."

Engraved on the granite wall of the Korean War Memorial a short distance from here is the

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Closing My Chapter on Afghanistan

By Maj. Sarah Schechter, U.S. Air Force

Operation Allies Refuge is the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in the history of the United States, and I am fortunate to say, "I was there."

The operation included 22 Religious Support Teams who provided 24/7 religious accommodation to our 35,000 guests and was nothing short of miraculous. It was a collaboration between the military, German Police, Embassies, the State Department, USAID, the USO, interpreters, volunteers, and big hearts of all kinds.

I am an Air Force Chaplain/Rabbi and be-



Major Sarah Schechter, U.S. Air Force

longed to this once in a lifetime team. At the close of daily leadership meetings, the officer in charge called on me for final thoughts. "And Chaplain, what do you have for us today?" The turn of events had impacted my perspective on our presence in Afghanistan over the last twenty years. I experienced a range of emotions and prayed to G-d for insight. It then occurred to me that this operation was our country adopting another people as its own. That realization defined the rest of the operation for me and thus at the camp meeting I said, "Our Afghan guests are about to be adopted by our

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INTERFAITH FOXHOLES

By Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff

Two recent statements by former and current military leaders made news when they revealed vastly different visions for our nation.

We should take pride in the fact that the United States is unusual precisely because we are a nation that was not founded based on a shared faith, race, or ethnicity, but rather on shared support of ideas: self-evident truths such as equality, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Asserting that diversity is one of our strengths, current Commandant of the Marine Corps General David Berger announced a plan called Talent Management 2030, to make the Marine Corps more diverse “to reflect America, to reflect the society we come from.”

Berger has shared his view that America’s strength lies in its diversity, and the same is true for our military. He understands that “we don’t all think alike” but we are stronger because of that truth, not weaker. We have learned different lessons because as he said, “we didn’t come from the same backgrounds.”

Jewish teaching affirms this idea. We’re taught that G-d’s word is like a hammer striking an anvil, creating many sparks. Depending on our backgrounds and experiences, we understand the light and the brilliance of sparks that others will miss. The challenge is to share the insights we glean as individuals, so that we all might benefit as a community, a people, and a world.

Religious diversity is a particularly strong value for me because my life has been touched and enriched by the values and visions of so many separate religious traditions. Judaism has much wisdom to share with others, often based on our past experience as slaves and tied to that, our eternal belief in freedom, but also lessons from our history in the wilderness and search for a promised land.

Many of my non-Jewish friends have been struck by Jewish insights, including those gleaned from the way Jewish tradition finds wisdom in the connections between words and events. The time of the Omer, for example, linking Passover and the exodus from Egypt to Shavuot and receiving the commandments at Sinai, can help us understand the tension between rights and responsibilities.

From Passover we learn we are not slaves, but from Shavuot we learn we are not gods; from Passover we learn what to stand against, but from Shavuot, what to stand for; from Passover we learn about our rights, but from Shavuot we learn about our responsibilities.

I started my Navy career in Vietnam, on a ship that became the first commissioned vessel to enter the waters of Cambodia. As I faced fear and wrestled with issues of life and death, I often struggled with the war within that would define me as a human being - the battle between the better and lesser angels within me. During that time, a Christian chaplain, Father Les Westling, ultimately inspired me to make the decision to become a rabbi. When I reentered the Navy as a chaplain, his footsteps were the ones I tried to follow.

From him and other non-Jewish chaplains, I learned lessons that have guided me ever since. I learned the lesson of Francis of Assisi, “Preach the gospel everywhere. Use words when absolutely nec-



essary.” That teaching, that we share our lessons of hope and faith primarily through our presence and through our kindness, more than through our words alone, has been a guiding principle of my life.

When serving as a chaplain for the 6th Fleet, I was stationed onboard the USS Puget Sound, with the responsibility to visit all ships in the Mediterranean, as well as U.S. military personnel assigned to the peace-keeping force in Beirut. During my many visits to Beirut I saw a landscape filled with foxholes and bunkers representing the multi-national force personnel, along with those of Israelis and Lebanese.

What struck me about this experience was that in midst of foxholes filled with people representing one group or another, from the warring Lebanese Christians and Muslims to the predominantly Jewish forces of Israel’s IDF, we Americans had what I called interfaith foxholes. Thinking back on that time, amid religious wars around the world, I have said that if the world had more interfaith foxholes, perhaps we’d have less need for foxholes and have more room for faith.

On October 23, 1983 at 6:22 a.m., a suicide bomber in a van full of explosives attacked the American component of the multi-national force. The blast demolished a building 75 yards from where I was staying. Father George Pucciarelli, the Catholic chaplain assigned to the Marine Amphibious Unit, grabbed his purple uniform stole, and put it around his neck, preparing for the certainty that he would be administering last rights in the face of so many wounded and dying.

We lost 241 Americans that day. I remember how desperately we needed the medical assistance that would eventually arrive, a need made worse because many of the sailors who died were corpsmen. We all did what we could until more help arrived. I tore my t-shirt apart to use pieces to wipe dirt and blood from the faces and bodies of the wounded and then I used my kippa, until I lost it in the rubble.

When we had a moment to breathe, Pucciarelli saw my head was uncovered, and he came over to me, ripping a piece of his camouflage uniform off so that I could use it as a temporary, makeshift kippa. I remember what he said to me - that in Lebanon, where every religion was fighting every other religion, he wanted our personnel to remember not only that American chaplains reached out to everyone, regardless of religion, regardless of whether anyone wounded even had a religion, but through the symbolism of the stole around his neck and the kippa on my head, he wanted our men to



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remember that we represented different faiths but worked together, side-by-side.

At that point in America, a debate had been raging about whether Jewish personnel could wear kippot with their uniforms. Normally Jewish chaplains were allowed to wear them, but it was unclear when it came to others, and often the default assumption was that they could not. For two years, the religious apparel amendment that would officially allow head-coverings for religious reasons had failed to pass Congress. After the story of Pucciarelli’s creation of the “camouflage kippa” was told in both the House and the Senate, and printed in the Congressional Record for both chambers, the amendment passed.

What I think happened was that many civilian and military leaders had been opposed to the idea because it conflicted with military uniformity. The story changed their minds. They saw uniformity as only a means to an end, and the end was unity, a unified effort to defend our freedoms, including freedom of religion. Cherishing our diversity could protect us from becoming one more nation torn apart by differences.

The religious apparel amendment laid the foundation for a series of instructions and directives outlining policies for religious accommodation within the military services. Some branches of the military still use that title, but as of September 1, 2020, the latest Department of Defense instruction chose a new title, religious liberty in the military services. For me, that instruction recognized our policies were not simply accommodating needs.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Alan D. Paley

I want to begin my article for this issue with a funny story about what happened to me on my way to Arlington National Cemetery.

As many of you know, the Jewish War Veterans co-hosted this year's Veterans Day Program at Arlington, and as National Commander, I had the honor to deliver remarks at the event.

With less than a week to go before November 11, I received a formal invitation from President Biden to attend a reception at the White House, beginning at 9:00 am, Veterans Day. The other leaders of the Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) who were also invited to the White House first had to stop at Fort Myer to take a rapid COVID-19 test. We had to arrive at Fort Myer by 7:00 a.m. at the latest.

The Department of Veterans Affairs made the travel arrangements for me, since I had to speak at the Arlington ceremony, and provided a government car to take me from VA headquarters to Fort Myer, which is located just over the bridge in Virginia. I had the test, and the results were negative, so I boarded a bus with the other VSO leaders and was driven to the White House.

After going through security, we were escorted to the East Room of the White House. A small group of Marine musicians played soft music, and coffee and small cakes were served. President Biden entered the room unannounced and began speaking with some of us. A few minutes later, we were told to line up for our official photo with the President. We were also handed a piece of paper with our name, the organization we represented, and our branch of service. We were asked to verify the information on the paper, which would be used to announce us to President Biden, and then we were told that when our name was called, we were to quickly go to the center of the room and greet the President. We were also told not to engage in any long conversations or give anything to the President. He would greet us, we would turn to the row of photographers who were present, have our picture taken, and then exit the room.

So, my name was called, I entered the room, and greeted the President. He acknowledged me by name. I then told the President that I had something for him. His face lit up and he appeared anxious to know what I had in store for him. I reached into my pocket and handed him the National Commander's Challenge Coin, explaining that this coin was made to celebrate our 125th anniversary, and that I wanted him to have one. He thanked me, quickly placed the coin in his pocket and then said he had something for me. He handed me the Presidential Challenge Coin and shook my hand. We both turned and faced the photographers and had our photo taken. Everyone in the room seemed surprised at the President's reaction to my small gift but seemed to get a kick out of it. I then left the area and boarded the bus for the trip to Arlington. The Presidential Challenge Coin will have a place of honor in the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, where everyone can see it. I was honored to represent the Jewish War Veterans on this special Veterans Day.

We are all getting ready for the NEC meeting which will be held in Orlando from January 27 to

January 30. You can't beat the weather in Florida in January, so I hope you will consider attending this year. I look forward to seeing you in person.

I also want to continue featuring our Department Commanders, as my predecessor Jeff Sacks did during his term of office. I think it is important for our membership to get to know our Department leadership, and to reach out to them if needed.



Larry Rosenthal

Department of New Jersey Commander Larry Rosenthal graduated from Saint Peter's University with a BA in Management. He worked mostly in the government arena and joined the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1983. Before retiring in 2009, he was activated during hurricanes, snowstorms, and other similar events. On September 11, 2001, he served as a Chaplain Assistant at Ground Zero and Operation Respect (the Staten Island recovery site). In January 2006, he volunteered to deploy for duty at Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan. During his time in service, he was in Supply and Food Service.

Rosenthal joined the Jewish War Veterans Post 156 in 1985. He is now part of Post 444, which merged with his original post. He served as Post Commander, Legislative Committee Chairman, and started the National Iraq and Afghanistan Committee which became the Gulf War and Post-9/11 Committees.

While Department Commander from 2014 to 2016, Rosenthal reestablished an office in Trenton, and developed a strong relationship with the Representatives from the New Jersey legislature, the state's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Veteran Hospital in East Orange, and veterans' homes throughout the state.

He returned to the role of Department Commander in 2020. Under his leadership, New Jersey has set up an email list for Department communication. Rosenthal says communicating directly with members is a key part of membership retention. He also revamped the Department's website and started holding Department meetings via zoom. He is also one of JWV's certified Veteran Service Officers.

He has two adult children and two granddaughters and has the support of his partner Carol and her three adult children.

Bruce Mayor is the new Department Commander of Illinois. Mayor joined the U.S.



Bruce Mayor

Marine Corps after graduating high school in 1966 and served until 1970. After electronics schooling at NAS Memphis, Tennessee and Forward-Looking radar training at MCA's El Toro, California, he was assigned to Photo Reconnaissance squadron at Cherry Point, North Carolina. While there, he repaired the forward-looking radar on the RF4B Phantoms.

He received orders for Vietnam, where he worked on electronics repairs and flew as an aerial gunner from May 1966 thru May 1970. He was awarded Marine Corps Combat Air Crew Wings with three Battle Stars, five Air Medals, the Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three Battle Stars, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal with Palm, Vietnam Civic Action Medal with Palm, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Marine Corps Unit Commendation Medal.

Mayor worked as a Firefighter EMT for 17 years after leaving the Marine Corps. He also spent ten years as a Plant Safety Officer for International Harvester and 17 years as the owner of a retail store for women's mastectomy items.

Mayor is the President of the Board of the Veterans Assistance Commission of DuPage County, Illinois, and volunteers every Thursday at the Food Pantry of the Hines VA Hospital.

Department of Nevada Commander Jerry Roth was drafted into the Army in 1969. After basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, he trained in Stock Control and Accounting at Fort Lee, Virginia. He went to Vietnam, where he spent time at Ben Hoa, Cam Rahn Bay, and Da Nang. After returning to the U.S., he served the rest of his time at Fort Dix, New Jersey. After leaving the Army, he started his own home remodeling and

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Since Ken Greenberg came onboard as JWV's new National Executive Director on September 30, our organization has stepped up its legislative activities and advocacy.

JWV has joined multiple coalitions, including the Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Coalition, the National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA), the Clear2Connect Coalition, and the Zero Prostate Cancer Working Group. Greenberg worked with The Military Coalition (TMC) on behalf of the veteran service organizations (VSO) he worked for before JWV and continues his commitment to that group on our behalf. Greenberg is the Co-Chair of TMC's Retired Affairs Committee and was recently elected to Co-Chair of the Veterans Committee. JWV's Director of Programs and Public Relations Cara Rinkoff and National Veteran Service Officer Raiana Berman are now also working with TMC and sit on several committees.

JWV has signed on to multiple letters sent by these coalition and other groups to lawmakers in the past few months, including a letter expressing concerns about VA caregivers rulemaking, letters of support for the Veterans Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act, and a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee asking them to quickly fill the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.

Under Greenberg's leadership, JWV continues to monitor House and Senate actions on veterans and servicemembers as well as appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense.

The week before Thanksgiving, the House of Representatives passed multiple pieces of legislation that would improve services and benefits for veterans.

- The "Electronic Health Record Transparency Act" (H.R.4591) would require the VA to submit quarterly reports to Congress evaluating the performance of Electronic Health Records (EHR)
- Legislation (H.R.5671) authorizing VA to furnish seasonal flu shots to veterans
- The "VITAL Assessment Act" (H.R.5516) would require the VA to report on the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program and establish uniform best practices across VA medical centers for a support program for student veterans who struggle to adjust
- The "Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act" (H.R.4233) would require the VA to provide counseling services to veterans and service members who receive VA education benefits
- The "Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act" (H.R.2433) would require the VA to ensure it can record the cause of death for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who may have been exposed to toxic chemicals from open-air burn pits
- The "VA AIM Act" (H.R.4626) would require the VA to contract with one or more private sector entities at least once every decade to conduct independent assessments of the VA's healthcare services
- The "Protections for Student Veterans Act"



Ken Greenberg
National Executive Director

(H.R.5603) would prohibit Academic institutions from penalizing service members who take a leave of absence or withdraw from a program due to military service and modify flight training benefits for veterans

- The "BRAVE Act" (H.R.147) would require the Labor Department to provide information on registered apprenticeship programs to members of the armed services separating from active duty and their spouses. The bill also would direct the department to coordinate with the VA to establish or update an existing public website with information on registered apprenticeship programs that are eligible for VA education benefits
- Legislation (H.R.3730) requiring the VA to establish an Advisory Committee on U.S. Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States to counsel the VA on serving veterans from U.S. territories and other insular areas. The committee would submit an annual report to the VA and Congress on recommendations for changes
- The "VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act" (H.R.5721) provides that the Veterans Health Administration's Office of Research and Development would be codified. The measure would also expand the VA's ability to contract for research and development and retain and recruit researchers

Four of the items passed by the House were also passed by the Senate and signed into law by President Biden.

- The "Hire Veteran Health Hero's Act" (S.894) that requires VA to ask DoD to refer military healthcare workers to work at VA
- Legislation (S.1031) requiring the Government Accountability Office to study disparities for VA benefits based on race
- The "Protecting Moms Who Served Act" (S.796) requires a Government Accountability Office report on maternal mortality and health conditions among veterans.
- The "Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act" (S.1095) provides that under Post-9/11 GI Bill, public institutions of higher learning charge survivors the in-State tuition rate

Your weekly email newsletter from JWV headquarters will contain the latest information on this legislation and other work JWV is doing in Washington, D.C. If you are not receiving the e-newsletter, please contact Programs and Public

Relations Coordinator Cara Rinkoff at (202) 265-6280 ext. 413 or at crinkoff@jwv.org.

On October 26, Greenberg testified at a public hearing held by the U.S. Department of Education on the 90/10 loophole. Here is his testimony.

"Thank you to the officials and staff of the Department of Education. My name is Ken Greenberg and I am the National Executive Director of the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) of the United States, a Congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization (VSO).

I speak today as the voice for thousands of veterans, service members, survivors, and their families from across the US who have served in the uniformed services and sought the education they were promised and deserve.

I, and JWV call on the Education Department to ensure strong implementation of the new law to close the 90/10 loophole. We all know that the 90/10 loophole resulted in the unfair targeting of the veteran community by aggressive and deceptive for-profit college salesmen.

Countless servicemembers, veterans, family members and survivors were viewed as "nothing more than dollar signs in uniform" and many had their lives ruined because of this loophole. JWV thanks the bipartisan list of Members of Congress for acting and closing the 90/10 loophole.

JWV remains concerned that veterans, service members, their families and survivors will still be targeted for another two years, as the final closure of this loophole was statutorily delayed to provide schools time to adjust to the new requirements.

Because of the delay, there is absolutely no reason to regulatorily weaken the law. VSOs would view any attempt to undermine closure of the loophole as troubling--there's a built-in mechanism already included, giving schools plenty of time to meet the requirements. We trust veterans to use their earned GI Bill benefits where they want. What we don't trust are the schools who have lied to veterans repeatedly, as a pattern of fraud, failing to deliver what they promise. It is because of this kind of behavior that the 90/10 rule exists at all.

Today's economy demands veterans in the workforce. Industries all across the country need strong leaders. As veterans answered their nation's call once before, they will do it again. This is why the quality and value of their education is such an imperative.

At Jewish War Veterans, we have not come to these positions lightly, and we stand unwavering in our commitment to seeing this through. We appreciate the time to present our views here today."

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GULF WAR COMMITTEE

By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman

The Gulf War Committee continues to meet online the first Wednesday of every month. Many interesting discussions come out of our meetings and we're looking forward to making many of the ideas come to fruition. We encourage more of you to join us, so we can tap into more members experiences and ideas.

One of our main goals is to have regular communication with every JWV member from this era, in essence building a virtual networking community. At this point, through the diligence of Don Schenk from 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 your in-service dates include the timeframe of 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 second Monday of every month. The links for these meetings have been publicized through the weekly email from National as well as a growing invitation list. To make sure your name is added to the invitation list, contact Membership Director Ben Kane at bkane@jwv.org.

IT COMMITTEE

By Chairman Leslie Turner

The newly formed Information Technology Committee of the Jewish War Veterans is getting started on its work. Our goal is to create an IT system that serves members, donors, and staff efficiently and effectively within cost constraints. Working with Executive Director Ken Greenberg, Director of Operations Greg Byrne, and other staff members, the committee will recommend changes to various systems.

Some of the items we are hoping to work on include whether all the hardware and software systems are up to date and maintained when it comes to security, whether staff is using all features of software and hardware to make sure their work is more efficient and less prone to error. We also want to look at possible changes we can make to the JWV website so it can be more engaging for members and a greater help to Commanders, Quartermasters, and other Department and Post officers. The committee also wants to know if JWV needs to purchase or lease any new systems to accomplish the above goals. The committee's work will not be accomplished overnight. We are going to spend time at National in DC to understand how to use our member and donor management systems and the computer hardware used to run them.

Members can share any suggestions for improvements or changes with the committee by emailing us at leslie@jwvpost54.org.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

We hope by now you have all seen the Jewish War Veterans Branding Guide along with the instructions booklet and template files. If you aren't aware of these materials, please ask your Department

Commander or any member of the Marketing Committee for copies. It is important to have a consistent look and feel for JWV across all echelons. This facilitates our desire to show one face to the public.

A successful awareness campaign requires a consistent brand identity. Based on the audit conducted prior to the development of the brand guide, we found a wide range of uses and variations of our logo and tag line, some of which did not appear to be from the same organization. To support our efforts, the guide includes templates showing how the JWV logo should be displayed in various communication types: flyers, tri-folds, webpages, ads, and the like, along with acceptable colors, fonts, and layouts.

All future publications, tri-folds, brochure, advertisements, chotchkes, etc., which include JWV's logo should comply with the branding guide. Going forward, please do not use local logos or formats that are not consistent with the branding guide.

Before you ask, there will be no brand police to enforce the use of the guide, nor will you have to get permission from the Marketing Committee or headquarters staff to revise those parts of the templates that do not involve the look and feel of the brand. Changes to wording and pictures are okay. However, by using the guide and templates you help ensure JWV is presented in a professional and consistent manner.

Those who attended the most recent National Convention were introduced to our new booth. This pop-up display is a tool for use at national and regional meetings where large numbers of Jews or veterans will be in attendance. For example, Reform Judaism's URJ Convention or Aleph Institute events. There are also many regional events held throughout the country. Other large national and regional veterans' events include MOAA, VFW, American Legion, and similar military-affiliate organization gatherings.

Any echelon can order the booth, but all Post and Department requests must have Department Commander approval. Shipping costs will be shared 50/50 between the requestor and the Marketing Committee. Once a Department Commander's signed order form or email request is received by Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff, the committee will review it prior to authorizing the booth's use. Since it needs both approvals and will be shipped from either Washington D.C. or wherever it was last used, please allow at least 30 days prior to any event when requesting the booth.

Once approved, the requestor will receive a contract for signature, guaranteeing the safe return of the booth prior to it being released for shipment.

The Resource Center is up and running after numerous delays, but with limited capabilities. If there is something you think might be of interest to others, such as presentations, marketing materials, documents, ads, etc., use the Resource Center submission form, which can be found on our website or by contacting Christy Turner or any of the Committee members. Access to materials is currently limited to Department Commanders and Committee Chairs.

The committee has started discussing on how

to best get our name out. We are planning to create materials for use at the national, regional and/or local level. This will include templates and best practices for social media, along with how to use digital advertising.

The Marketing Committee plans to maintain our every second week meeting schedule to keep things moving. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee with ideas, recommendations, or constructive comments.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Bob Jacobs

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and a joyous Hannukah.

Now that our two major projects are done, it's time to take a little break. The disc project on Jewish Military Personnel during Vietnam is now being sold by the museum (NMAJMH) and on Amazon, but if you buy it from Amazon, the museum doesn't get as much money. Jerry Alperstein, the co-editor of the disc, and I, will still accept your story if it didn't make it into the publication. We have a few already and there may be a second edition in the future.

Everything for the Vietnam exhibit in the museum has been turned over to Pam Elbe and she is working hard to make it professional and meaningful. The original plan was to have it ready by Veterans Day. She is now shooting for a soft open sometime in December with a more official exhibit opening this Spring.

We are making plans for our annual Night Out during the National Convention in Savannah next summer. Jerry Alperstein has already contacted the Pirate's House, which we used the last time we were in the city. Information will be sent out as it gets closer. The local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter will be asked to provide a speaker for the dinner to update us on local veteran activities.

POST-9/11 COMMITTEE REPORT

By Chairman Jeffrey Blonder

The Post-9/11 Veterans Committee remains one of the most active committees in JWV. We continue to hold monthly virtual meetings with guest speakers on topics that interest our members.

In September we heard from TM Garret, who is a German American Human Rights and Interfaith Activist. As a former Neo-Nazi and KKK leader who left hate groups and extremist ideology behind in 2002, he now is a motivational speaker against hatred and anti-Semitism. In October we had a discussion on how to file a disability claim with JWV's National Service Officer Raiana Berman.

In November we had the privilege to welcome our new executive director, Ken Greenberg, who updated us on his goals and plans for the future of the JWV.

On December 13 we had a discussion about PTSD and veterans' mental and physical health with a representative from Home Base. Home Base is dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for veterans of all eras, servicemembers, military families, and families of the fallen through

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MEMBERSHIP CORNER

On behalf of the JWV Membership Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ken Greenberg as our JWV National Executive Director. Congratulations to Ben Kane in his recent promotion to the position of JWV Membership Director. Finally, we would also like to recognize Department of Wisconsin Commander Kim Queen as the Vice Chairman of the JWV Membership Committee.

Throughout the years, many of our echelon commanders have successfully partnered with their local Jewish media outlets. It is not uncommon prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day to hear from our local Jewish media outlets, requesting stories of local Jewish Veterans. We must be ready to fulfill their request and recognize both our members and our post achievements during the year. However, we should not be limited to only Memorial Day and Veterans Day. There are several other calendar events that can support both our membership and our continued lineage. The following are some examples to consider:

Women's History Month: (March) - Women have helped defend our nation dating back to the Revolutionary War. This is an ideal opportunity to partner with your local Jewish media outlets and recognize the women veterans in our ranks. Their stories and contributions should be documented and published as part of our long-standing lineage. Once you have partnered with your local Jewish media outlet, please submit your published articles to our National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH). NMAJMH is currently in the process of formulating an exhibit on the experiences of Jewish women in the U.S. military. The museum is looking for stories, photographs, and memorabilia to show that Jewish women have served and continue to serve in our military.

JWV's Anniversary: (March 15, 2022) - We have just completed our 125th anniversary and as we continue to march forward. We should remind

our local media partners that our JWV lineage extends back to 1896, making JWV the oldest active chartered veterans service organization in the nation. Our mission statement is, "The Jewish War Veterans (JWV) is the premier voice for Jewish uniformed service members and veterans in the United States. The JWV affirms that Jewish men and women serve honorably and heroically in the military forces of the United States of America during peacetime and war. The JWV defends the rights and benefits of all service members and veterans, fights anti-Semitism, and supports the State of Israel." Take this opportunity and publish the contributions your JWV Post has made on your local community.

National Medal of Honor Day: (March 25, 2022) - National Medal of Honor Day, a special day set aside to honor all recipients of the Medal of Honor. Our Jewish media partners would be delighted to know that we have 17 members of our faith that are recipients of the Medal of Honor. Our National Museum of American Jewish Military History has the list of all the known Jewish recipients and the information from their documented citation.

Yom HaShoah: (April) - Yom HaShoah is Holocaust Remembrance Day. As we observe Yom HaShoah, we are reminded of the many members of our faith that served in the United States Armed Forces and participated as liberators of concentration camps during World War II. Many of our JWV echelons, still have liberators within our ranks. It is important that we recognize and continue to document their stories. Our National Museum of American Jewish Military History has produced a video, "Honoring Liberators of the Concentration Camps."

Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM): (May) - JAHM is a month to celebrate the contributions Jewish Americans have made to America since they first arrived in New Amsterdam in 1654. JAHM had its origins in 1980 when Congress

passed Pub. L. 96-237 which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating a week in April or May as Jewish Heritage Week. In 2006, President George Bush declared May as JAHM. JWV posts

should plan to be an active partner and participate in their local JAHM events. This is an ideal opportunity for name recognition and recruiting potential new members.

In summary, let the calendar work for you. Let it serve to recognize our JWV members and our organization. Let it serve as an open invitation for Jewish veterans to join our ranks and attend our meetings. However, we must let the reader know how and where to reach us. With each submission to your local Jewish media outlet, I would recommend closing each submission with an open invitation for Jewish veterans to attend your next meeting. For example: Jewish Veterans are always welcome to attend Jewish War Veterans Local Post # meetings. Our meeting is on the third Sunday of the month at 10:00 A.M at Chabad/Congregation/Jewish Community Center/Temple/Shul (meeting location). For additional information, please contact JWV Post Commander (or their designee) at phone number: 123-456-7890 or visit our website at ABCD. If you need help contacting your local media outlets to bring attention to your post or its events, please contact our National Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at 202-260-6280 ext. 413 or crinkoff@jwv.org.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

Update from the JWV VSO's

By Larry S. Rosenthal

As one of the many Veteran Service Officers in the United States, and one specifically accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., I take pride in helping all veterans and their families. The one thing that rings true with all the correspondence and calls is that only a veteran understands another veteran. If you have been to any VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic, Medical Facility, or to a Regional Office, you understand that. However, our families and loved ones may think the VA knows everything. That is why you need to educate your family.

Make sure you have several copies of your DD214 and/or separation papers. Put one in a safe place in the house and give one to someone you can depend on to step forward if the need arises. If you have a history in the military, put it down on paper, especially when and where any injuries occurred. Identify as many facilities and dates as you can. If you had surgery, write it down. You should not assume that the VA has this information.

Put your military and VA medical records in one place even if you don't have plans to move

and expect to continue using the same hospital. If you are planning to move, request your medical records 60 days before leaving because your VA records may not follow you and if you need care before they show up, you'll want them in your possession.

Any of JWV's Veteran Service Officers can handle federal VA claims, but each state may also have its own benefits or rules. For example, if you live in New Jersey and file for divorce under the 20/20/20 rule, VA disability cannot be touched, however, it is taken into consideration. In Pennsylvania, the VA compensation is not considered at all. That is why you should contact a VSO in your home state.

If you live in a large state or one where there is no JWV Veteran Service Officer, you can contact our National Service Officer Raiana Berman at rberman@jwv.org to learn how to become a service officer.

Nothing is more gratifying then to get a call from a veteran or the veteran's family, thanking you for your service.

If you currently receive VA disability, present your award letter to a National Park Service office

to get a free Lifetime Pass. Always carry your Military ID with you and ask places if they give military discounts. You might be surprised. If you have any questions, you can contact me at LSR1950@hotmail.com or 609-954-8075.

New JWV Membership Director

Ben Kane, formerly the Programs Assistant, is now the Membership Director of the Jewish War Veterans. Originally from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Kane has been a staff member of JWV for nearly four years. He looks forward to continuing to serve those who served this country.

The contact information to reach the Membership Department is unchanged and is still membership@jwv.org and 202-448-5411. Kane can also be reached at bkane@jwv.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Aaron Sears

Many people, when they hear about someone who served in a non-combat role, think those individuals are less important. Think for a moment. If you were in combat service overseas and you or your family members were not getting paid. How about if there was no food available, no ammunition, or no medical personnel?

Meet Aaron Sears. Sears is a quiet, unassuming person who did not think his story was important enough to write about. He was born in Poughkeepsie, New York but has lived most of his life in New Jersey, currently in Monroe Township.

He has an accounting degree from Rider University and worked in accounting during his military and civilian life.

Sears joined the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1986 to help pay off his college debt. He went on to serve for 30 years, during which time he was activated for Bosnia (Operation Joint Forge) and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During his eight months in Bosnia, he was a Captain and was responsible for ensuring both the troops and the civilian contractors were paid.

During his 18 months in Iraq, he was also responsible for making sure the troops and contractors



were paid. His unit, located at LSA Anaconda, came under missile, rocket, and small arms fire. He also had to deal with IEDs – same as any combat soldier.

Sears retired from the Army in 2016 with the

rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He has two older brothers who served in Navy. One served for four years and the other for 20 years. He lost his father about ten years ago. His mother currently lives in Boca Raton, Florida and one of his brothers now lives in Israel.

Sears is proud of his Jewish heritage. His three sons were all yeshiva educated. His two oldest sons are married, and he has six grandchildren. One of his sons is a Rabbi in Skokie, Illinois.

Sears joined JWV in 2002 when a friend from his Shul, a Vietnam Veteran and JWV Post treasurer, suggested he join. Sears is a life member of Post 444. His post, like many others, is dealing with declining membership which has Sears concerned about the future of JWV.

Sears said, “non joiners are missing out on a great opportunity.” Among the many benefits of membership in JWV, he feels it provides an opportunity to socialize, talk, and stay current on military and world events with fellow Jews. He said JWV provides a safe place to be a Jew, where you are not judged or made to feel an outsider because of your religion.

Sounds like a relevant story to me.

Gulf War Commemoration Project Still Open

By Steven Fixler

The Gulf War Committee (GWC) initiated an on-line history project commemorating the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm with not only the timeline of the conflict but an entire separate section showcasing the contributions of our own JWV members. The project is currently highlighted on both the JWV main website as well as the website for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH), receiving rave reviews from both inside as well as outside our organization.

The GWC is acutely aware there are many

more stories out there to be included. Every story is important because every story is part of our American history and JWV's piece in it. We are reaching out to members of JWV who served in any capacity, in any component, in any service, in any area of operation, regardless of duration, between August 2, 1990 and September 10, 2001. We want to hear from you, and just as important, we want to hear from spouses and other family members who provided essential services at home while you were deployed. Send your story to NMAJMH Director of Programs and Content Mike Rugel at mrugel@jwv.org for inclusion in this exciting project.

JWV Constitution and Bylaws

By National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz

At the direction of National Commander Alan Paley, JWV has formed a Constitutional Convention Committee to update and modernize the Jewish War Veterans Constitution and Bylaws. JWV passed dozens of Constitution and Bylaws amendments over the years which need to be incorporated into these documents. In addition, these guiding documents were not modernized to address the continuously changing military and veterans' environment.

The Constitutional Convention Committee members request your input on our update and modernization process. Please review the Constitution and Bylaws documents and proposed amendments posted on the JWV website and submit any recommended updates or changes to Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org. The committee members are looking forward receiving your recommendations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continued from page 5

world-class clinical care, wellness, education, and research. As a National Center of Excellence, Home Base operates the first and largest private-sector clinic in the nation devoted to providing lifesaving clinical care and support for the treatment of the invisible wounds including post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, anxiety, depression, co-oc-

curing substance use disorder, family relationship challenges, and other issues associated with military service.

If you are interested in getting involved with this committee, contact us at post911committee@jwv.org.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Goldberg, Arthur L. - Post 100
Gehr, D. - Post 344

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Feistman, Charles - Post 603

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Belkin, Michael - Post 352
Feingold, Henry - Post 352
Glaser, Gunther G. - Post 352
Riefs, Martin L. - Post 352
Sheldon, Stuart - Post 243

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Lewis, Sheldon J. - Post 54

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Goldstick, David - Post 644

Grussgott, Moshe Y. - Post 605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Berkovitz, Dan - Post 167

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Gartner, Arnold H. - Post 510

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Ahlness, Eric D. - Post 354
Ahlness, Lori A. - Post 354
Hall, Rick - Post 354
Joseph, Ale Ben - Post 354
Mielke, Eric - Post 162
Stillman, Martin - Post 331

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Lecce, Anthony R. - Post 065

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Brier, Kenneth L. - Post 126
Cohen, Lester R. - Post 178
Saltzman, Allen D. - Post 178
Sussman, Barry - Post 740
Wolfskehl, Alan H. - Post 740

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Abramson, Elbert S. - Post 425
Blassberg, Ira M. - Post 425
Blumer, Irving - Post 652
Goldblatt, Leonard - Post 731
Gottlieb, Fred - Post 425
Hendler, Leo H. - Post 425
Hirsch, Avi - Post 425
Hirsch, Joseph - Post 425
Schwartz, Jerome L. - Post 652
Sloan, James H. - Post 41

Spokony, David - Post 720

Tilsner, Daniel M. - Post 106
Trost, Barry - Post 652

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Fabert, Owen L. - Post 619
Glazer, Richard I. - Post 201
Goldstein, Alex H. - Post 619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Lujan, William - Post 749
Sudbury, Benjamin Butler - Post 755
Widman, Jacob Lewis - Post 753

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Kinnear, Joshua C. - Post 158

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Habeck, Paul A. - Post 145

JWV Co-Hosts National Veterans Day Ceremony

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simple but powerful phrase “Freedom Is Not Free.” The freedoms we enjoy today, were made possible by the more than 19 million living veterans, and countless others who served in the defense of our country.

The symbols of America and freedom are interlocked, and they are present here today. The flags flying, the white grave markers, and ALL OF US – the veterans and servicemembers who protected our nation.

It is you that we celebrate and honor today.

Our work continues as citizens in supporting America’s veterans and servicemembers. JWV and VSO’s must continue to fight for adequate funding for VA services and assure that issues facing veterans from all eras remain at the forefront. I call on each of you to take action and make your voice heard on issues we continue to face, including ending homelessness, increasing access to healthcare, delivering mental health care, reducing claims processing times, deploying integrated electronic health re-



Paley and Mellitz place wreath at Tomb of the Unknown. Photo credit: Christy Turner.

cords and addressing toxic exposure concerns in a comprehensive way.

Seated throughout the amphitheater this morning are the leaders of many Veteran’s Service Organizations.

Every VSO was created with the purpose to advocate for the unique needs of the Veteran community. VSOs understand and work tirelessly to maintain and improve the benefits we earned. There is strength in numbers, and veterans must continue to be strong advocates and have our voices heard.

When the Jewish War Veterans celebrated its 100th anniversary, our National Commander, Robert Zweiman also addressed this gathering.

His closing remarks that day are just as powerful today, as they were in 1996.

He said, “Never should our government presume that by setting aside but one day they have met their obligation to the survivors of yesterday’s wars and today’s or tomorrow’s conflicts. We welcome your thoughts that this is not merely a singular day of honor, but indeed a public recognition of obligation to service. And we welcome your concerns that such obligation must be answered with compassion and with resolve.”

I stand before you as a Veteran myself. As we honor, celebrate, and share thanks, we must remain vigilant, and continue to ensure that the freedoms, benefits, and services we enjoy today, remain with us for centuries to come.

May God bless those who have earned the title of veteran, and may God bless the United States of America. Thank You.”

You can watch the entire ceremony and hear Paley’s remarks on Arlington National Cemetery’s official Facebook page.

After the ceremony, JWV hosted the traditional Veterans Day luncheon for VSOs at the Military Women’s Memorial, which is near the entrance of the cemetery.

USS Olympia: Centennial of Unknown Soldier’s Voyage Home

By National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz

On October 25, I represented JWV on the USS Olympia at Independence Seaport Museum (ISM) in Philadelphia for the 100 Years Later recognition ceremony. This event commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Unknown Soldier’s journey home aboard the USS Olympia. On October 25, 1921 the United States World War I Unknown Soldier returned from France on that ship.

The USS Olympia’s journey home with the Unknown Soldier started at Le Havre, France and after a 16-day voyage concluded at the Washington Navy Yard. En route to the nation’s capital, the Olympia ran into two hurricanes which generated waves that were 20 to 30 feet high. I stood on the Olympia’s upper deck, where 100 years ago, the Unknown Soldier’s casket was tied down and only two deck plates helped to anchor it in place. During the journey, Marine guards stood watch over the casket on the ship’s upper deck. Several times they physically held down the casket so it would not float overboard. The Olympia arrived at the Washington Navy Yard on November 9, 1921 six days later than expected.

During the ceremony on October 25, the USS Olympia bells were rung to mark the exact mo-

ment the Unknown Soldier was brought aboard on October 25, 1921. Later in the ceremony, a gun volley took place between the Olympia on the Philadelphia side and the Battleship New Jersey on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River to mark the moment Olympia got underway from Le Havre, France.

2021 marks the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

It was my great honor to participate in the USS Olympia commemoration event.



Pictured are Frank Brodsky and Mellitz

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Continued from page 3

restoration business until he retired in 2005 after 35 years in the business. He moved to Las Vegas the same year. In 2016 he joined JWV Post 65 and by 2018, started serving as the Department’s Commander.

Mel Cohen is the current Commander of the Department of New York. He served as a Security Policeman in the U.S. Air Force from 1966 to 1970. Cohen worked as a police officer for the city of Rochester, Amityville Village, and Suffolk County. He worked as a detective for Suffolk County from 1972 until 2003 when he became a senior investigator for the New York State Insurance Fund. Cohen started his current job as an investigator for the Town of Smithtown’s Public Safety Department in 2014.

In addition to JWV, Cohen is also a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency. He volunteers at the Long Island State Veterans Home. He is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #53.

Closing My Chapter

Continued from page 1

country to be our fellow American citizens. Our role at Ramstein is much like that of a foster family. What does a foster family do? It provides love, care, stability, safety, nurturing, and shelter. We are the foster family, and our guests are on their way to becoming family. Our family! And our fellow Americans.”

Operation Allies Refuge, one of the most challenging and powerful experiences of our life, was a giant foster family. Months later, as the operation came to a close and last flights departed Ramstein with passengers smiling ear to ear, many a heart ached. Hearts ached at having to say farewell to children whose little feet they clothed in socks and shoes. Children with whom they played ball, taught English, and snuck candy into hands, just to bring a smile and make their difficult life more pleasant. Hearts were aching because in the bittersweet moment, they were now all gone off, we hope, to a brighter future. The once teeming tent cities that sprang up overnight are now empty, silently echoing the non-stop, problem-solving, rhythm of their life here. Now a ghost town. The Islamic call to prayer we played over loudspeaker to thousands of people, five times a day, for two months, is no longer needed.

I escorted the last Afghans leaving Ramstein and realized that I was there due to a decision



Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

There is a new sheriff in town. His name is Ken Greenberg, and he is the new National Executive Director (NED) for JWV. In his first few months with JWV he has made significant changes with many more to come. Greenberg has brought JWV into a number of service-related coalitions that we have never been a part of before.

Greenberg had a distinguished 33-year career at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Prior to joining JWV, he served one year as Policy Director for VetsFirst, and two years as Director of Veterans and Military Policy at The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA).

Greenberg has a proven history of achievements and strategic communications expertise. He received the Secretary's Distinguished Career Award in January 2013 for significant and outstanding contributions during his VA career. His eight plus years of experience as Director of Operations, Executive Secretariat, Office of the Secretary (OSVA) at the Department, and as a Director for five years in VA's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA) and ten years in the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) under-

scores his exhaustive knowledge of Congress, the legislative process, regulations, and the intersection of public and private constituencies.

Additional responsibilities included serving on the Veterans Health and Veterans Benefits Administrations SES Performance Review Boards and serving as a Keynote Speaker at Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonial events. Ken's tenure also included positions in VHA's Office of Facilities and Office of General Counsel.

Greenberg has said, "I am excited to be the new National Executive Director of JWV. I want to hear from you about how we at National can help you and be your voice advocating for VA and Department of Defense benefits and services. JWV is your advocate to both the VA, DoD, and Congress. Send any comments and concerns about using VA or DOD benefits or how you want to see benefits and services improved to me at NED@jwv.org."

JWV is changing the way we do business. National Commander (NC) Alan Paley and National Vice Commander (NVC) Nelson Mellitz are implementing a number of changes, includ-

ing a re-write of the National Constitution and By-Laws aimed at bringing JWV into the 21st Century. While respecting the significant contributions of our long-time members, room will be made for younger members to move up and serve at higher level positions. There are changes underway about how the location is selected for our National Convention. JWV is also implementing new ways of recruiting members and emphasis is being placed on retaining our existing members. You can expect to see many changes for the better in the coming months and years.

Our new NED, coupled with our NC and NVC, make a powerful leadership team! Congratulations to all and thanks for your dedicated service to JWV and the veteran community.



Larry Jasper, National Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I read the latest issue of The Jewish Veteran with quite a bit of frustration and disappointment. While I noted that new NC Alan Paley wants to make this a year of change, which is admirable, nothing really has changed; it's business as usual. The rabbi featured was from Chabad – I'm sure JWV has plenty of rabbis who are not from Chabad besides myself – maybe you could highlight some of us for a change? There are a tremendous number of people in the military who actually do not appreciate the massive influx of Chabad rabbis, so hearing from other rabbis here would be very beneficial.

There were no articles about women veterans! This is a huge hot-button issue in the veteran's community right now, yet you offered no coverage about

it. And there was very little about veterans of the current wars. It was mostly old men, just like always.

For JWV to survive, the organization has to feel safe and welcoming to women and all younger veterans, and if this publication is a reflection of the organization, this is anything but true. I hope that the publication and the organization overall change priorities quickly and adapt to the 21st century.

*Kol Tuv and Happy Hanukkah,
Rabbi Rona Matlow, Post 100*

Dear Editor,

My name is Ed Nagler, a JWV lifetime member. I recently read the Museum News article by Pam Elbe titled "Stories of Jews on the Wall." I appreciated hearing of our Jewish brothers in arms that served in Vietnam and whose names are on the

memorial in Washington DC. This led me to my next thought. I am a 1985 graduate of the US Air Force Academy and in the Cadet Area is our own memorial wall. It recognizes graduates of USAFA that have given their lives in service to our country.

One name, in particular, comes to mind when I recently viewed this wall. The name is 1Lt Roslyn Schulte. Lt Schulte was killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb in 2009. She was the first US Air Force Academy female graduate killed by enemy fire. I am sure there were other Jewish names on that wall, as there are at USMA and USNA. Perhaps in the future, Ms. Elbe may be interested in an article or series that focuses on those names. It is merely a suggestion. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Nagler, Lt Col, USAF Retired

D'verei HaShomrim

Continued from page 2

Instead, we were strengthening our freedoms, our rights, and ultimately, protecting the liberty we in the military defend.

Religions often have different ultimate visions, and those visions are mutually exclusive from those of other faiths. Therefore, our lesson must be that when it comes to interfaith cooperation, the more we focus on the end of days, the more we'll disagree. But the more we focus on the end of today, to make today a better day for the sick, the hungry, for those suffering from pain or fear, the more we'll agree. Then, we can all roll up our sleeves and work together. For me, that's the secret behind the success of the military chaplaincy. We take strength from our diversity, then unite to help others, and do some good for our world.

At a time when religious tension, hostility, and even conflict are far too evident throughout our world, we must share the vision of interfaith foxholes, and the knowledge that our differing back-

grounds, experiences, teachings, and faiths can strengthen and enrich us all.

I am inspired by the wisdom of Berger's new vision. Perhaps the story of the camouflage kippa will become a part of that vision. In the meantime, I pray that the men and women of the U.S. Marine Corps grow stronger through their renewed respect for diversity as a strength. May they be ever faithful to that vision. May that vision and that strength be a blessing for our military, our nation, and our world.

Rabbi Resnicoff is a life member of JWV who began his Naval career as a line officer in Vietnam and with Naval Intelligence in Europe before rabbinical school and ordination. As a rabbi he served in chaplain assignments around the world, culminating in the position of Command Chaplain, U.S. European Command. Following retirement, he served as National Director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee and

Special Advisor for Values and Vision to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.

2023 JWV Calendar Submissions

The theme of next year's calendar will be "Families of Service." We are interested in acquiring stories and photos from you if multiple generations in your family have served in the U.S. military. You can send these items to Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at crinkoff@jwv.org or contact her with any questions.

Veterans History Project -Preserving Stories of Service

By Kerry Ward, Veterans History Project
Liaison Specialist

Jacob Weinstein. Melvin Cohen. Bonnie Koppell. These names may not be etched into popular memory, but they fought unrelenting bigotry in two World Wars, battled communist forces within the jungles of Vietnam, and operated peacekeeping missions in some of the most difficult environments in the world. With their brothers and sisters in arms, they followed a long tradition of Jewish Americans who have heeded the call to serve and, in doing so, helped form the fabric of our military, history, culture, and society. They faced barrages of artillery in the trenches of France during The Great War, flew bombing missions over Germany during World War II and counseled the men and women on the front lines during the most recent conflicts. By sharing their diverse experiences, we as a nation can begin to understand their immeasurable contributions.

Created by Congress in 2000, the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) includes those treasured stories of service and over 112,000 other first-person narratives of U.S. veterans and Gold Star family members. As a grassroots effort, volunteers around the nation help the veterans in their lives and communities gather and submit audio and video oral history interviews, original photographs, letters, diaries, and other documents chronicling their time in the military. These collections create a lasting record of service, while simultaneously providing an invaluable cultural resource that informs the historical record and illuminates the times in which our nation's veterans lived. Our repository is full of information that focuses solely on veterans' personal experiences – memories of what they did, saw and felt– no matter their branch, rank or religious affiliation.

Those of Jewish heritage have served our nation since before the Revolutionary War and have continued to serve through every U.S. conflict. More than half a million Jewish Americans served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.

Fighting Nazi Germany took on special significance for this group of U.S. servicemen in the European Theater. Even those Jewish soldiers, airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines, and sailors who were serving elsewhere in World War II understood that defeating the Axis would be a defeat for blind hatred of any ethnic group or nationality. First-person accounts of 10 veterans of the Second World War are spotlighted in one of VHP's Experiencing War online exhibits, titled Jewish Veterans of World War II.

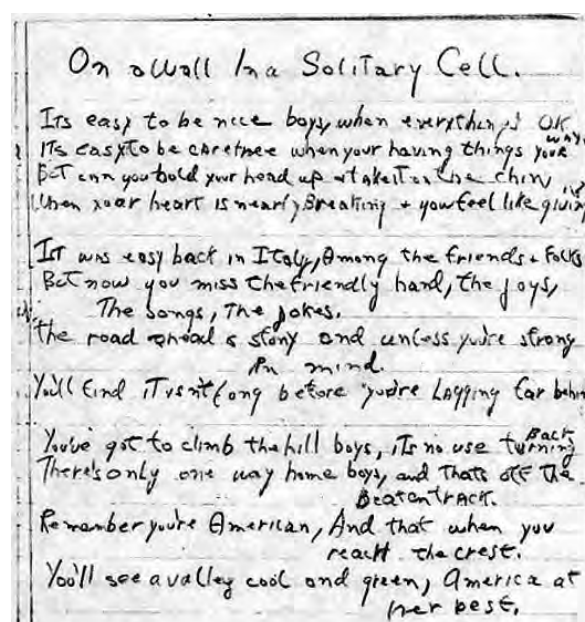
One veteran included in the exhibit is Milton Stern, who enlisted in the Army Air Force in October 1941, six weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Fresh out of high school in Rochester,

New York, he was working in a defense-related job which might have exempted him from service, but he was determined to serve in uniform. By March 1944, he was flying as a navigator in a B-17 in bombing missions over Germany.



Screenshot of VHP Experiencing War online exhibit titled "Jewish Veterans of World War II."

The enemy shot down his plane over Holland and after 10 months of being sheltered by Dutch partisans, he was captured and sent to a prisoner of war camp. Being captured relatively late in the war had its advantages. Stern's captors knew he was Jewish, but they were too distracted by the advancing Allied forces to transfer him to a death camp. He kept a secret diary, which detailed his dwindling rations, as well as wish lists. By May 1, 1945, the German guards had fled the camp and the prisoners' Russian liberators had arrived.



Page from "Krieggie Memoirs of 1944-1945," POW journal. Milton W. Stern collection, Veterans History Project, AFC2001/001/01348/MS01.P.50.

Not included in the exhibit, but available in the online database is the oral history of Dr. Henry Heimlich, who accepted an assignment as a U.S. Navy chief medical officer at Camp Four of the Sino-American Special Technical Cooperative

Organization (SACO) located in northern China. Following the war, Heimlich continued to think of a Chinese soldier he saw die from a bullet wound to the chest. This experience led to the creation of the Heimlich Chest Drain valve, which helps save individuals with a collapsed lung. This valve would go on to save countless lives during the Vietnam War. His innovations continued and he is credited with creating the first aid procedure popularized in 1974 called the Heimlich maneuver.

Jewish veterans continued to make impacts throughout the U.S., whether during a conflict or peacetime, through traditional military occupational specialties and those not as common. Rabbi Israel Drazin served during the Cold War and was the first person of the Jewish faith to serve as the Army's Assistant Chief of Chaplains. As a lawyer, the Army called on him to defend the constitutionality of military chaplaincies. When he won that case, he helped to open the door for chaplains to serve people of all faiths, as well as atheists.

Regardless of whether Jewish American service members ventured onto foreign soil or supported efforts stateside, the ones who chose to tell their stories are contributing to the record of human understanding and the evolution of American society. If you are a veteran, share your story with VHP so we can add it to the national repository for future generations. If you have a veteran in your life, even if they are deceased, VHP welcomes you to submit their personal narrative and/or original materials as soon as you can.

You can download a VHP How-to Field Kit at www.loc.gov/vets, check out the adapted training materials and guidance for library users engaged in VHP collecting activity in person or via remote interviews.



Video still from oral history interview with veteran viewing photos of her performing Havdalah at Fort Huachuca, Arizona in 1990. Bonnie J. Koppell collection, Veterans History Project, AFC2001/001/84260.

Closing My Chapter

Continued from page 8

I had made 20 years ago. I joined the military because of September 11, going to a recruiter on September 12, 2001. By some uncanny coincidence, I was the last military member to say goodbye, on one of the last flights to the United States. For me, this closed that chapter of September 11.

Former Chief Rabbi of England, Rabbi Sacks

once said, "We are as great as the challenges we have the courage to undertake."

This operation, and its various challenges, has been a courageous undertaking. We are providing the homeless with a home, the nationless with a nation. People who had no future, now have a future.

How is greatness achieved? To again quote

Rabbi Sacks, "When we hand our values to the next generation and empower them to build a future." Our newest American citizens are our family and our next generation. May God bless them, and may God bless America, through them.

Trees for Troops

Four Jewish veterans marked the first day of Chanukah in 2021 by performing a mitzvah, volunteering to help fellow veterans and service members of the New York National Guard to load donated Christmas Trees at Ellms Tree Farm in Ballston Spa, New York on November 29.

The JWV members from Albany Post 105 helped load 110 donated Christmas trees onto a truck for delivery to military bases around the country to support military families this holiday



Post Commander Altman

season as part of the Trees for Troops program.

The program has been ongoing for 17 years, said Richard Goldenberg, the JWV Capital District Council Commander.

Goldenberg began volunteering in 2006 following his return from a combat deployment to Iraq with the Army National Guard.

"The holiday season, when deployed far from home, can be especially difficult for military families," Goldenberg said, "whether it is lighting candles for Hanukkah or gathering around a Christmas tree."

The donated trees are a reminder of home, no matter your faith, he said. The trees provide a sight and smell of life back at home and remind troops that they are not forgotten when so far away.

"It amazes me, each and every year to see the support of our local tree farmers and the turnout to help load these trees," said Garth Ellms, the third-generation owner of Ellms Family Farm, the collection site for regional tree farms.



Members of the Capital District Council in New York helped other veterans and National Guard members load a truck with Christmas trees for military families.

Trees for Troops was launched in 2005, and with the help of FedEx Corp., has delivered more than a quarter million Christmas Trees to U.S. military bases at home and overseas.

The local effort is a reflection of JWV supporting veterans of all faiths, explained Gene Altman, the JWV Schenectady Post 106 Commander. He said it is a way of showing our support to all military families.

Supporting the mitzvah effort at Ellms Family Farm were Altman, Goldenberg, Gary Hoffmann, and Dan Tilsner.

Post 1 Honors National Vice Commander Mellitz



By Jerry Alperstein

JWV Post 1 in Manhattan, New York honored National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz with the 2020 Colonel Larry Epstein Award during a luncheon on November 14. Post 1 has handed out the award since 2009 to honor the memory of Post Commander Larry Epstein.

Before his death, Epstein asked that the award go to a member of JWV for their support of the organization or their support of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Post 1 selected Mellitz as the recipient because of his support of the organization as the coordinator/advisor of both the Gulf War and Post-9/11 Committees, the liaison to the VA for the Vietnam Veterans Committee, being the first JWV National Representative to AIPAC, and his work as JWV's representative to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Board of Trustees.

Post 1 presented Mellitz with a framed certificate from the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and a custom-made JWV kippah from Avi the Kippah Man of Ben Yehudah Street in Jerusalem.

Department of Minnesota Celebrates 76th Anniversary

By DC Lou Michaels

The Department of Minnesota celebrated its 76th anniversary with a dinner at Mancini's Steakhouse in St. Paul, Minnesota on October 13. The Department has held its annual dinner at this location since 1946.

This year more than 115 people attended the event, including National Commander Alan Paley and National President of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary Sandra Cantor.

The annual dinner is always connected to the city of St. Paul's Winter Carnival and its Senior Royalty were once again in attendance. Senior Royalty knighted NC Paley and NP Cantor along with a few others. This is the fourth year in a row that JWV National Commanders have attended the dinner and were knighted in connection with the Winter Carnival.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum of the state's 4th District sent a certificate of congratulations to



Paley and Cantor with members of the Senior Royalty of the St. Paul Winter Carnival.

JWV Posts 152, 331, and 354 on their work for both JWV and their community. The certificate also recognized Department Commander Lou Michaels on his work, including his induction into the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

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JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



The **Department of Wisconsin** generously sponsored an appreciation lunch on October 28 for the JWV staff at National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The lunch also served as a way to recognize new National Executive Director Ken Greenberg, and the promotion of Ben Kane to Membership Director. From left: Iryna Apple, Greg Byrne, and Cara Rinkoff.



JWV Department of Maryland Posts 167, 380, and 692 participated in a Kaddish Service on Veterans Day in the Jewish section of the Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery in Owings Mills, Maryland. From left, Chaplain Charley Jay, Michael Glick, Michael Zippert, Jerome Rubin, Erwin Burtnick, Charles Sandler, Rabbi Chesky Tenenbaum, Andrew Wolkstein, Arthur Mensch, and Baltimore County 2nd District Councilman Izzy Patoka.



On October 11, members of **San Antonio Post 753** presented a check for \$4,000 to representatives of Fisher House, Inc. The money will support four Fisher Houses in the San Antonio area. From left: Fisher House CES/Executive Director Dwayne Hopkins, Fisher House Program Manager Erik Zielinski, Ken Ashworth, David Marne, and Garland Scott.



Post Commander Jeffrey Fishkin received the Veteran of the Year Award from his post, the **Walter I. Berlin Post 639 in Cocoa Beach, Florida**. From left: Fishkin and Howard Gans.



On October 10, Senior Vice Commander of **San Antonio Post 753** Mel Eichelbaum donated clothes at one of the community collection sites for Afghan refugees. From left: San Antonio Jewish Community Relations Council Chairperson Mina Lopez and Eichelbaum.



Members of JWV's **Department of Massachusetts** and its Auxiliary participated in a Veterans Day of Remembrance at Temple Emmanuel in Chelsea, Massachusetts on November 14. Several veterans shared their military experiences and their childhood memories about growing up in Chelsea. The event concluded with a salute to all veterans, their families, and active duty servicemembers. From left: Barry Lischinsky, Harold Blass, PNC Ira Novoselsky, Mark Tolpin, Mr. Novack, and Edward Gustat.



JWV's Department of New Jersey and its Auxiliary attended the state of New Jersey's Veterans Day Program at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, New Jersey. From left: Al Adler, Governor Phil Murphy, Carol Adler, Tracey Adler, and Susan Karsh.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of the **Department of Michigan** were recognized and honored at the annual Holocaust Fund Dinner in Novi, Michigan on November 14. From left: Steve Feldman, Art Fishman, Mark Weiss, Bill Glogower, Donald Davis, and George Blum. Photo credit: Brett Mountain.



Houston-Levy Post 574 sponsored and participated in the “Wings Over Houston” Airshow and fundraiser at Ellington Airport on October 9 and 10. Post members sold poppies and told visitors about JWV. All donations received during the event will be used to purchase items for patients at the VA hospital in Houston. From left: Richard Schimmel, Ivor Segall, Jack Schlossberg, and Dave LaVine.



The congregation of Temple Mount Sinai in El Paso, Texas invited members of the **Maurice Kubby Post 749** to a service in observance of Veterans Day. Post Commander Scott Stevens delivered a speech, Franklin High School USAF JROTC Cadet Jonathan Stevens read a memorial prayer for servicemembers, and other post members read the names of the 56 Jewish servicemembers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. The post also put up a display from the National Museum of American Jewish Military History at the synagogue entitled “GIs Remember,” which featured stories and photos from those who liberated Nazi concentration camps. One of the liberators in the exhibit was Past President of Temple Mount Sinai, Albert Schwartz. From left: Scott Stevens, Rabbi Benjamin Zeidman, and Jonathan Stevens.



On September 17, State Representative Terra Costa Howard presented Past **Department of Illinois** Commander Howard Goldstein with a proclamation that declared March 15, 2021 Jewish War Veterans of the USA Day. The proclamation honors those of the Jewish faith who served in the wars of the United States and risked their lives to protect us all.



Junior Vice Commander of the **Department of New York** Gary Ginsburg attended a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony in Rochester, New York on Friday, September 10, where he met Monroe County Executive Adam Bello.



On September 12, the **Department of New Jersey** held its 39th annual Legislative Breakfast. This year the breakfast honored U.S. Congressman Donald Norcross, as well as the Aleph Institute. From left: NP Sandra Cantor, LTC (Chaplain) Menashe Miller of the Aleph Institute, NVC Nelson Mellitz, and Larry Rosenthal.



Jersey Shore Post 125 resumed its poppy drive fundraiser over Labor Day weekend for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Post members sold poppies at the Shoprite of West Long Branch, New Jersey. From left: Sid Marshall, Gerry Levine, Warren Epstein, and Arthur Tauber.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



In October, members of **Post 652 in Merrick, New York** visited the North Shore Hebrew Academy to speak with students alongside members of the Israeli Defense Force. From left: Gary Glick, Eric Spinner, Raz Shreber, Mike Felix, and Elad Meirav.



This year **Scottsdale, Arizona Post 210** and members of its Cub Pack and Scout Troop rode on their own float in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade.



On October 31, **Allen H. Katz Post 118 in Santa Monica, California** presented Murray Kalis with a Vietnam Recognition Award. The award was part of a program by the Department of Veterans Affairs to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. From left: Ron Hecker and Kalis.



On October 24, members of **St. Louis Heritage Post 644** and their families were treated to a private tour of the St. Charles County Veterans Museum in O'Fallon, Missouri. From left: Nancy Gold, Steve Keyser, Kathryn Shaw, Elliot Katz, Tom McHugh, Arlene Fox, Monroe Ginsburg, Brandy Fox, Museum Docents Lori Stock and Stevie Riley, Ellis Frohman, Jack Lite, and Les Birenbaum.

Commander Jeffrey Weitzenkorn of **Sharon, Massachusetts Post 735** saw a piece on the evening news about someone making Christmas decorations from old pallets. He decided to do the same thing – but for Hanukkah. He displayed his creation outside his home for the first time in 2020, and the menorahs are back out on his lawn this year.



PNC Norman Rosenshein, National Commander Alan Paley, Art Kaplan, and PNC Dr. Barry Schneider spent two days at JWV's National Headquarters in Washington, DC in September as part of the interview process for our new National Executive Director.



On November 7, members of **JWV Post 210 in Phoenix, Arizona** and its Cub Scout and Scout BSA Troop 210 placed American flags on the graves of veterans at Beth El Cemetery and Green Acres Cemeteries.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Several members of **David J. Kauffman Post 41** attended the Veterans Day ceremony in Brighton, New York. From left: PNC Larry Schulman, Lou Babin, Monroe County Executive Adam Bello, and Gary Ginsburg.



On October 17, **Department of New Jersey Senior Vice Commander Selina Kanowitz** attended the New Jersey Military Review at Sea Girt National Guard Facility. From left: Kanowitz and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy.



On November 15, **Scottsdale, Arizona Post 210** presented \$1,000 grants to members of the Arizona State University ROTC. The recipients were Midshipman Christopher Turcott, a future Naval officer, and Midshipman Kameron Coffey, a future Marine officer. From left: Michael Chambers, Coffey, Turcott, and Fred Lipovitch.



National Commander Alan Paley and National Executive Director Ken Greenberg met with two visitors from NATAL, the Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center. NATAL's Head of Programming Idit Michael and Director Ophir Peleg talked with JWV about potential collaborations to assist American and Israeli veterans with treatment and programs for PTSD and other trauma. They discussed sharing information and applying practices used by both country's governments. The two also toured the National Museum of American Jewish Military History during their visit. From left: Peleg, Michael, NC Paley, and NED Greenberg.



The **Walter I. Berlin Post 639 in Brevard County, Florida** donated \$1,000 to the Viera Florida VA Clinic. From left: Volunteer Coordinator Marizza Moreno-Benton and Post Commander Jeff Fishkin.



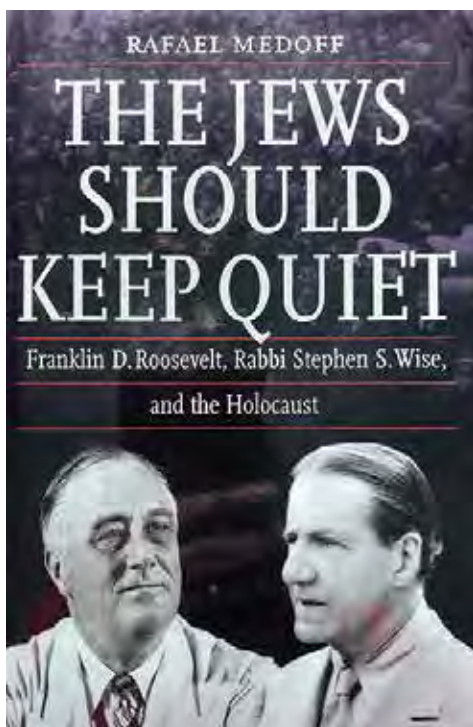
Members of **Post 549** participated in the Veterans Day Parade for the city of Stuart, Florida. From left: Steve Dublin, Gary Krauschaar, Bernie Koenig, Ralph Milliken, and Ivan Brower.



On October 3, Martin Hochhauser and Rob Rubin of **Herman Siegel Post 625** participated in the United Against Hate march in Poughkeepsie, New York.



Post 1 in Manhattan sponsored the Oneg following Friday night services at the West Point Jewish Chapel on October 22 for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 75 people attended the service and Oneg – including JWV members, Cadets, and their families. From left: West Point Cadets along with David Goldstein, Gary Ginsburg, Robert Farkas, and Jerry Alperstein.



By Sheldon A. Goldberg, Ph.D.

For those of us old enough to remember the esteem with which American Jews held President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the U.S. effort against Nazi Germany in World War II, this book may change your mind. Similarly, if you or someone close to you lost relatives or friends in the Holocaust, the contents of this book may disgust you. To cite just two quotes in this book, this is what the editors of *The New Republic*, published following the Bermuda Conference of April 1943, “If the AngloSaxon nations continue on their present course, we shall have connived with Hitler in one of the most terrible episodes of history.” A letter to Under Secretary of State Sumner Wells from the Joint Emergency Committee on European Affairs from June 1, 1943 said, “To relegate the rescue of the Jews of Europe, the only people marked for total extermination, to the day of victory is...virtually to doom them to the fate Hitler has marked out for them.”

This excellently written and researched book deals with the relationship between Rabbi Stephen Wise and his personal relationship with and devotion to President Roosevelt. Wise was a Reform rabbi, outspoken Zionist, founder of the American Jewish Congress (AJC), and one of the most prominent leaders of the American Jewish community at the time. Roosevelt used his relationship with Wise to stifle “potential Jewish criticism of his refugee policy.” The book’s eight chapters begin with the indifference of Roosevelt to the situation in Germany, the isolationist and anti-immigration policy of the Congress, and the failure of the United States government to undertake measures that might have saved thousands of Jews from the Nazis. It also includes a discussion of the issue of bombing the railroads leading to the extermination camps and closes with a discussion of anti-Semitism in the White House. This book makes a valuable contribution which may fundamentally change our understanding.

Throughout the book, Medoff tells us that Wise agonized over the fate of the Jews of Europe, but that his misplaced devotion to the president would not allow him to go against the government’s policies. On the other hand, he discouraged any active efforts by Jewish organizations he did not control to publicly raise the issue of the wholesale murder of

The Jews Should Keep Quiet: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, and the Holocaust

By Rafael Medoff

Jews in Europe, lest it place the Jews in a position of appearing to fail to support the president in wartime and lead to acts of anti-Semitism at home. The October 1943 march on Washington by 400 rabbis, was anathema to Wise. Marshals for that march were provided by the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV). At the same time, Wise’s large ego often led to conflict with other Jewish organizations, such as the Bergson Group, and Jewish organizational leaders whom he felt were attempting to usurp his leadership role.

Wise continued to use every opportunity he could to meet with the president, thinking that his access equaled influence, but he was wrong. Yet despite Roosevelt’s failure to do anything, Wise remained a staunch supporter. Wise’s turning point came with the arrival of two telegrams. The first, on August 8, 1942, from AJC’s representative in Switzerland Gerhard Rieger, who reported on German plans to exterminate all the Jews in Europe. This telegram, which the State Department had marked as “unreliable,” also went to the British Foreign Office. Wise only received a copy on August 25.

The second, received in September 1942 came from Racha and Yitzchak Steinbuck, who were AJC orthodox activists. It went to the President of Agudath Israel, who relayed it to President Roosevelt and Rabbi Wise. It reported that the Germans had “bestially” murdered 100,000 Jews. Nonetheless, the U.S. position was nothing could be done to aid the Jews except to swiftly defeat the Nazis. The continued reporting of German atrocities by the Jewish Telegraph Agency, *The New York Times*, and others, combined with pressure from the British Foreign Office, led the U.S. State Department to publicly acknowledge in December 1942 that hundreds of thousands of Jews had been slaughtered by the Nazis as part of the “Final Solution.”

Medoff also describes the issue of Jews and Palestine and the U.S. failure to oppose its wartime ally, Great Britain, which subverted the Balfour Declaration making Palestine a homeland for the Jews and restricted Jewish immigration to Palestine to a trickle. In the same vein, he discusses the anti-Semitism of Breckenridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, who rejected more than 190,000 visas for Jews attempting to escape Europe and the anti-immigration Congress which refused to change and even disregarded 1924 immigration quotas limiting immigration of foreigners, especially Jews.

Other actions the U.S. government was asked to take that might have helped are discussed in the book, including the bombing of railroads leading to Auschwitz. In this particular case, the government argued they could not divert airplanes from their mission to destroy German industry despite the fact several targets were within 20 miles of Auschwitz. In fact, both the U.S. and the British diverted aircraft that flew over Auschwitz to aid a losing battle fought by the Polish Home Army. Medoff writes that of 1,200 cannisters of weapons

and supplies dropped, less than 300 were retrieved by the Poles. The Germans recovered the rest. The above notwithstanding, the U.S. saw efforts against Auschwitz as a Soviet issue. Medoff indicates this decision was political, made in the shadow of the 1944 election and designed to retain the Polish American vote.

An essay written by Jeffrey Herf concludes there is no real answer to the question of whether the Russians could have slowed the “Final Solution” as the needed research has not been done. More than half of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust were already dead by November 1943, most in extermination camps that no longer functioned or were destroyed by the Germans. Auschwitz was the only exception. In addition, while the Soviet Air Force gained air superiority over the Eastern Front except for Poland in mid-1943, and their aircraft had the range and capability, Soviet strategy focused on combined arms operations. Russians fought in World War II to save themselves, not the Jews.

It should be noted however that the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem and others in the U.S. opposed the bombing idea. They thought it will kill Jews and that German propaganda would claim that Americans were also killing Jews.

Medoff covers much more, such as lies and dissembling by the U.S. government to placate Wise and make him believe that things were being done to rescue the Jews when, in fact, nothing was being done. He also discusses the issues surrounding the president’s Executive Order leading up to the creation of the War Refugee Board on January 22, 1944 and the subsequent attack on the Bergson Group that sponsored the Congressional Rescue Resolution, of which Wise disapproved.

The last chapter of the book questions whether Roosevelt was an anti-Semite. Medoff gives no answer but describes the environment that FDR was bought up in, including his parents attitude toward Jews and race in general. Medoff writes of the family’s interest in bloodlines, “at least a dozen lines of Mayflower descent converged in Franklin...” And that “his pride in his family’s racial pedigree melded easily with the common early twentieth century perception in America that the Caucasian, or Aryan, race was locked in an ages-old struggle with inferior races.”

For those students of the Holocaust, of American policy during World War II, and German-Jewish/American-Jewish history in general, “*The Jews Should Keep Quiet*” describes a little known but important period in American history that needs to be told.

Stay in touch with JWV!



From Our Archives...

The following article was first published in the November 1957 edition of The Jewish Veteran.

Why JWV is Opposed to Pay TV

By Warren Adler

At the National Convention of JWV in Boston last August, a resolution was passed which offered a basic opposition to the institution of Pay TV. The resolution, which urged an immediate Congressional investigation into the desirability [sic] of limiting FCC to grant Pay TV channels, passed unanimously without a dissenting voice entering the discussion.

JWV was the first major National Organization to put into National Policy an expression of opposition to a proposal that would have dire consequences to the American public. Since that time, other National organizations have jumped into the fray, including Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, and the Reserve Officers Association. Among others expected to join in such opposition are the AFL-CIO and the Catholic War Veterans.

Still other groups can be expected to align themselves in this fight and there is a possibility that an over-all coordinating group will be formed to direct and guide the actions of all the organizations in this matter.

Some have asked: Why have the veterans groups taken such an active role in this fight?

There are many answers to this question. Those who remember the excruciatingly difficult time the Defense Department had in selling its Reserve Program to the American public will need no answer. The television airwaves were literally opened up to do this selling job with spot announcements around the clock, special programs and events which were obtained without charge . . .

. for free, as a public service.

Those of us who give to the United Jewish Appeal, Cerebral Palsy, and other favorite charities such as local hospitals, and civic memorials or institutions know the value of utilizing TV as a public service. The ultimate result of Pay-TV can only be the elimination of free-TV as we know it today and therefore, the abolition of Public Service time.

Arguments of this type can be extended ad infinitum, but the underlying point to remember is that the Federal Communications Commission was originally established to protect us, we the people, Joe Citizen. Pay TV, utilizing the free airwaves of America, which belong to all the people, threatens this protection. It is almost inconceivable that the FCC would consider such a proposal, but considering it they are, with test tries set for March.

But there are other arguments far more interesting, that are of vital interest to the veteran. When the veteran came out of service after World War II, he invested in the purchase of a TV set for the enjoyment of himself and his family. He brought it into his living room. In actual dollars and cents the big television investment, 85%, in fact, was made by the American public, with the veteran and his young growing family paying the big chunk.

The ultimate result of Pay TV is that he will have to pay an outside source for the privilege of watching on Television what he now gets for nothing. Such items as baseball, football and basketball, the World Series, and top entertainment stars will be, dazzled by the lure of greater profits, signed up by Pay TV.

Lets [sic] face it. If the producers of Sgt. Bilko,

Ed Sullivan, Steve Allen or the like, or sports club owners are offered a larger return by Pay TV, off free TV they go. And the networks watching their revenue fade will then be forced to jump into Pay TV. Extend it one step further. What of the advertisers? Faced with the loss of mass audience, where does anyone thing they're going to go . . . Pay TV, of course.

Thus, if we want home entertainment via TV, and we do want it, we're going to have to pay for it, if Pay TV is approved. The cost might even match the monthly milk bill. Think of those folks barely scraping along, on Veterans Pensions and social security. Think of the V.A. Hospitals, private institutions for children, the disabled. Television, free Television, is a great morale builder for them. That's why we're always presenting them with TV sets. Making them Pay [sic] would be more than inconvenient, it would be sinful.

As for the "superior entertainment" bit, promulgated by Pay TV advocates, that becomes nonsense when one realizes that to survive, mass tastes will still have to be satisfied if profits are to be realized. And remember, there's only one "My Fair Lady," and don't be surprised if you don't get that free in the near future.

There is a way out of this dilemma. Congress must pass legislation limited the power of the FCC to grant channels for Pay TV. If Congress is to be truly representative of the people, it must take this action. It's up to us, all of us, to urge our Congressmen to take this action or the American public will be bamboozled into the greatest giveaway in its history. . . .

What is Sigd?

By Larry Jasper, National Editor

Sigd is an Ethiopian Jewish holiday held 50 days after Yom Kippur. It is about accepting the Torah and yearning for Israel and the Temple. It is thought to be the date on which G-d first revealed himself to Moses. For centuries Ethiopian Jews have used this holiday to plead to return to Zion.

It is also a tradition for the community to hold communal introspection in addition to the self-examination during Yom Kippur because in order to be worthy of returning to Jerusalem from exile, you must engage in communal introspection and repentance. Sins of community members are forgiven during Yom Kippur and the subsequent 50 days. On the 50th day, following communal introspection, the community returns to the Yom Kippur experience with prayers and a fast.

The Ethiopian Jews are also known as Beta Israel. They are one of the oldest Diaspora communities. The Torah refers to the land of Cush. The prophet Isaiah spoke of the return of the Jews who were exiled to a variety of lands, including Cush, which is now part of Ethiopia and the Sudan.

In the ninth century, the story of Eldad ha-Dani became well-known. He maintained that the tribe of Dan chose to leave the holy land rather than join the fight between Rehoboam and Jeroboam when the Kingdom of David split. The tribe went to the land of Cush. It is probably from this account that the idea arose that the Ethiopian Jews were descendants of the tribe of Dan.

The Ethiopian Jews have continued to practice Judaism for centuries despite persecution and isolation. Because of isolation their type of Judaism differs from that practiced elsewhere. The most significant difference is that Ethiopian Jews base their beliefs on the Torah and some oral traditions passed from generation to generation. The rest of the Jewish world bases its practices on both written law (the Torah) and oral law. Oral law is the rabbinical interpretation of the Torah which was largely codified by the year 400 in the Talmud.

Since the Ethiopian Jews were unaware of the oral law, they were not familiar with any of the practices, rituals, and interpretations developed over the centuries by the rabbis. The Ethiopian Jews also had their own interpretations of the Torah and did not fulfill many of the biblical commandments, including the wearing of prayer shawls (tzitzit), posting of mezuzot on doorposts, or sounding the shofar on Rosh Hashanah.

The Ethiopian Jews also did not speak or write Hebrew, but speak Amharic, the official language of Ethiopia. Jews living in the region of Tigre speak Tigrinya. Their holy books are written in Geez, a language considered holy and used also by Ethiopian Christians. Their Torah is handwritten on parchment as a book, rather than as a scroll.

The first modern contact with the Beta Israel occurred in 1769, when Scottish explorer James Bruce stumbled upon them while searching for the source of the Nile River. He found them impoverished, heavily taxed, and oppressed. His estimates at the time placed their population at 100,000.

The Ethiopian Jewish community lived in complete isolation from other Jewish communities for many centuries. For this reason, the Ethiopian Jewish community developed many holidays and celebrations that do not exist in other Jewish communities. In the mid-20th century, during civil war and famine in Ethiopia, many Beta Israel were air-lifted to Israel.

The Knesset passed the Sigd Law in 2008, declaring the 29th of Cheshvan as a national holiday.

In Israel, it is celebrated for an entire month leading up to the 29th of Cheshvan and is an opportunity to raise Ethiopian Jewish visibility and educate Israeli Jews about the Beta Israel.

Today, since most members of the Ethiopian Jewish community have made Aliyah to the State of Israel and learned to speak Hebrew, during the holiday members of the community travel to Jerusalem and visit the Wailing Wall and the promenade in the city's Armon Hanatziv neighborhood. The holiday serves as an annual gathering of the entire Ethiopian community and its members view it as an opportunity to strengthen the connection with their roots and culture.

The Kessim (Ethiopian Jewish religious leaders), dressed in their traditional robes, carry the Torah scrolls while holding multi-colored umbrellas. They stand on an elevated stage, read excerpts from the Bible, and recite prayers before members of the community. Public officials attend the celebration and greet the audience, and many of the community members continue to fast until late in the afternoon.

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDRA CANTOR

As I contemplate writing this article we have just celebrated Veterans Day and looking ahead, next week is Thanksgiving and then Chanukah (which is very early on the calendar this year). Some striking comparisons arise with these holidays so close together that I would like to share with you.

Of course, we all are aware of the significance of Veterans Day and how important it is to remember our veteran heroes. Well, this year JWV celebrated 125 years of existence and “hosted” the Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day Program. If you did not see it live, you can watch NC Alan Paley’s speech on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/jcVTJSEUgq0>. It was outstanding!

Next, we have Thanksgiving, and we all know the historical context of the early days of this country, the difficulties the settlers had to endure with the bitter weather, not knowing how to grow crops in this unusual soil and harsh conditions all around. If not for our Native American friends and by the grace of G-D, our forefathers might not have made this “New Land” a success and there might not be an America at all! This recognition of Thanksgiving (a holiday inspired by our Jewish holiday of Sukkot) is of great importance in our country.

And then, there is Chanukah when we celebrate the Maccabees, a Jewish fighting force trying to uphold the Jewish way of life against the Greek

overlords and Greek culture that had invaded our land of Israel. As children we all learned the significance of Chanukah, the “Festival of Lights”.

So why and where is there a connection? It has occurred to me that these three holidays are not just close in proximity on the calendar, but close in an existential way too. The Maccabees dispelled the notion that Jews were weak and only studied Torah. I realized that Judah and his followers fought for their way of life just as JWV and other veterans in America did to uphold and protect the liberties our Country holds dear. So, commemorating the Maccabees victory on Chanukah, Veterans Day and the settlers’ success in their new land are more similar than at first glance.

So, for all of the above reasons, I feel it is appropriate to give thanks at this time of year. I extend my best wishes to you all for a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Chanukah and soon thereafter a Happy New Year.



A HISTORY LESSON – WHO KNEW?

By PNP Iris Goldwasser, Editor

Although we lived in Rockland County, NY for thirty-two years we never had the opportunity to learn much about the southern area of our country-work and life kept us too busy. We have now returned to be closer to family and retirement has offered us more time to investigate and discover! One Sunday recently, accompanying our Post and Auxiliary, we agreed to be docents for a day in a tiny museum at the site of Camp Shanks in Orangeburg, NY and found a treasure trove of history commemorating WWII. Who knew that two small rooms in an old quonset hut could contain so much memorabilia, exhibits and personal stories that we found there?

In the fall of 1942 the town of Orangeburg, at the southern end of the county, was a sleepy little farming town growing corn and tomatoes. Only the radio told of a world-wide war elsewhere. In September the Army Corps of Engineers arrived to survey the area and found main roads leading to the Hudson River, two railroads already built and closeby shipping docks in New Jersey, all facilities needed to develop a new military encampment. The area would become the new U.S. Army New York Port of Embarkation Center through which already trained troops would be processed to North Africa and England. The camp would be named after Major General David Shanks, commander of the NY Port of Embarkation during WWI.

Camp Shanks was officially opened in January 1943 after the old farmhouses (purchased from families under the War Powers Act) were converted into a city for 50,000 people with 1500 barracks, mess halls, theaters, service clubs, etc. A permanent staff of 5,000 officers and 400 WACs were housed there to operate the Post and were supported by 1500 civilians. Troops from across the nation arrived by train to be processed onto ships that would carry them overseas.

During their 3-4 day stay at Camp Shanks the troops could relax and enjoy being entertained by some of America’s top talent from Broadway and Hollywood; names to be remembered like Judy Garland, Pearl Bailey, Jack Benny, Jimmy Durante, Frank Sinatra and many others. USO dances were also held with the live music of Harry James, Benny Goodman and Lionel Hampton and with girls visiting from nearby counties.

Camp Shanks together with Camp Kilmer in New Jersey became the largest port of embarkation on the east coast and became known as “Last Stop USA”. Between them they sent three million troops overseas; Shanks alone handled over 1.3 million from 1943 to the spring of 1945.

Beginning in 1945 some buildings in the area were converted into medical wards to accommodate the wounded from the Battle of the Bulge.

Continued on next page

MENTAL HEALTH

By Dr. Charwynne Schneider, Chairman

The Dreadful Dementia

There are many definitions of dementia depending on the organizational source. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), dementia is a syndrome in which there is deterioration of memory, thinking, behavior and the ability to perform everyday activities. Dementia impacts the physical, psychological and economic well-being of caregivers and families of the person who is afflicted and is one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people.

Dementia is the umbrella of mental decline which may have many causes. The five most commonly diagnosed causes, according to the Alzheimer’s Association, are: Alzheimer’s disease, Lewy bodies dementia, vascular dementia, frontotemporal dementia and mixed dementia. All are causes of changes in the brain that may result in memory loss, confusion, behavioral abnormalities, strokes, impaired judgment, and/or difficulty performing familiar tasks. We must remember that any type of dementia affects each person differently and depends on their chemical make-up and personality prior to becoming ill. According to WHO, an estimated 6.2 million people in the U.S., aged 65 and older, are living with dementia caused by Alzheimer’s disease. It has been determined that dementia kills more seniors than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

With Alzheimer’s disease being the greatest cause of dementia, many questions arise. What are the symptoms? How do I get diagnosed? What are the treatment options? Is there a cure? How do I get help?

Dementia is diagnosed using various medical tests: physical exam, neurological exam, mental status tests and laboratory tests to rule out other causes of the symptoms.

Most types of dementia cannot be cured. Treatments aim at reducing the symptoms and progression of the condition and include medication, therapy, self-care and nutrition. In June 2021, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved aducanumab, the first Alzheimer’s medication that could slow progress of the disease. The drug will go by the brand name Aduhelm and will cost \$56,000 a year. Medicare and private insurances may cover the cost of the drug.

There are many avenues for obtaining help with dementia. The Alzheimer’s Association (<https://www.alz.org>) offers a plethora of information, including websites, self-help groups, hotline phone numbers, caregiver training, virtual libraries and more. According to the Bureau for Veteran Affairs, veterans will be provided a full range of services depending on individual needs.

Help is available. Be proactive and make a difference.

Continued from page 19

After the war Shanks was converted into a huge veterans' low cost housing complex where former GIs could afford to live and attend classes at Columbia University under the GI Bill of Rights. Thus was born "Shanks Village" with the nicknames "PhD Pad" and "Baby Factory". Most of the villagers were young couples struggling to make a life for themselves with little or no modern-day appliances or luxuries. Despite the many hardships the Village endured it grew into a spirited community with a council form of government, a weekly newspaper, theater group and even athletic teams. They learned to overcome adversity by relying on themselves and pulling together. Many became politicians, judges, lawyers, doctors, college presidents, writers, professors and artists.

To be sure, Shanks Village left an indelible mark on Rockland County. No matter where they live today, many former residents would undoubtedly agree with Gen. Eisenhower's prediction that someday they would look back on the time spent there "as the best years of their lives".

As a visitor I was impressed to learn of the extent of this county's participation in WWII and regret that it took us so long to discover this local history that I found fascinating. I cannot help but wonder if other areas of our country have similar treasures to be uncovered. Who knew small museums like this one could make such a big impact on our US history!

By PDP Barbara Steiner, Chairman

Why do they prey on the elderly? Seniors have had many years to accumulate savings, so they are more likely to have a “tidy nest egg” and perhaps own their homes outright.

Some scams target seniors who have memory and cognitive problems. An example involves calling up seniors to request donations to real charities. These people call several times over the course of

This red, white and blue **"Volunteers Are Heroes Every Day"** ribbon is available now and will accommodate your JWVA pins. For only \$10 you can purchase this ribbon and proudly display them on your lapel. Order now!



Name and Auxiliary number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Ribbons _____ at \$10.00 each Total: _____

Make your checks payable to: National Ladies Auxiliary JWV and mail to the address above.

By AP Jo Reingold, Chairman

During the week of July 18-22, several events occurred that are worth noting. On Sunday, July 18, Polish protesters against coronavirus restrictions chanted that Jews are responsible for the pandemic. Hundreds of Poles in Glogow, Poland staged a demonstration against government overreach and the violation of civil liberties. They announced that Jews were the driving force behind the restrictions.

A man asked, “We know who is behind this and who rules the world, right”? The answer was shouted “Of course it’s the Jews”. They chanted in unison, “Every Pole can see that behind the pandemic are the Jews”.

On Thursday, July 22, one day before the Opening Ceremonies of the Tokyo Olympics (which organizers and health officials felt should be CANCELLED), the Opening Ceremony Director, Kataro Kobayashi, was fired for making Holocaust jokes during his comedy routine back in 1998, including the phrase “Let’s Play Holocaust”. This came to the attention of the organizing committee right before the games were to begin.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in L.A., a human rights group, said, “Any association of this person to the Tokyo Olympics would insult the memory of 6 million Jews and make a mockery of the Paralympics”.

Finally, at the end of July, the chiropractor for the American women's wrestling team at the Olympics, Rosie Gallego-Main, apologized after comparing Olympic COVID-19 protocols to Nazi Germany in a social media post, but she was allowed to finish her role with the team. It seems like we are in a never-ending worldwide battle to fight anti-semitism wherever it arises.

the day, counting on the victim to forget about the earlier calls. Only 10% of the collected money is passed to the charity and scammers pocket the rest.

Beware of these scams!

By PNP Linda Singer, Chairman

As Sadie and Mollie walked back to the car after their Auxiliary meeting ended they discussed the great program that was presented and the terrific ideas that were developed as a result.

"I'm going to invite my friends and my next-door neighbor to come to our meeting next month," said Sadie.

“I really enjoyed this meeting; I found it so interesting that I know at least four women who would love to come next month and perhaps even join our Auxiliary”, said Mollie.

Isn't this exactly what you want to hear after an interesting Auxiliary meeting?

Here are several ideas that might entice your members to look forward to your next meeting and perhaps even bring prospective members:

- 1) Arrange a visit to your local VA hospital and explain our program to entertain our veterans there.
- 2) Sponsor a bingo game after your meeting and provide refreshments afterwards.
- 3) Describe your Community Services locally, especially for underprivileged children and explain how you assist them, possibly even volunteering at their school.
- 4) Prepare a program describing the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, its purpose to house the history of the military service of Jewish veterans for future generations; show some Museum films.
- 5) Invite convention attendees to describe and detail some of the interesting happenings at the meetings so that they can feel that they are participants as well.
- 6) Encourage a speaker or initiate a discussion regarding a subject of interest to your members.
- 7) Always of interest are card parties or mahjong tournaments with refreshments.

Above all, make your meetings meaningful so that the Sisters will look forward to getting together and they will sustain their membership for years to come.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are moving quickly toward the opening of our new exhibit, “The Jewish Experience during the Vietnam period.” This exhibit will open before Memorial Day. This exhibit should be a draw to our museum. Pam Elbe has led the way on this exhibit, assisted by the Vietnam Veterans Committee Chair Bob Jacobs as well as Jerry Alperstein.

Our next new exhibit will be a reprise of “Women in the Military.” This exhibit should be in place in about one year. It is in dire need of items to display and funds to make it happen. If

you have items you would like to share, please contact Pam Elbe.

We continue to hold lectures online and have many in the works. You can get the schedule of these events on the museum’s website. We are starting to put together a panel discussion on the Jewish experience post-9/11. Did Jewish members of the military (active, Reserve and National Guard) find any overt or subtle prejudice towards them? If you are interest in participating in this panel, please contact Mike Rugel at mrugel@jwv.org.

org. We held our quarterly meeting in November and look forward to meeting again at NEC in Orlando. We hope to see everyone there.



PNC Michael B. Berman

Updates By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

Though still not quite back to normal, we’ve reached a point where we can safely welcome groups and have programs in the building. It was great to have a Moishe House group visit in October. Moishe House is an international organization with group homes for Jews in their 20s. The organization aims to create meaningful Jewish communities and shared Jewish experiences. They organize programs both for the residents of the houses and other young Jews in the community. This group was from the Bethesda, Maryland house. It’s always great to have interested young adults tour the museum and learn the history. In November, our largest group to visit since the pandemic began came on a tour organized by the sisterhood at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation. The group included several veterans and many more, eager to learn about this aspect of Jewish American history.

We held our first in-person public program on October 31 and simultaneously broadcast it as a Zoom webinar. Rabbi Richard Romberg spoke about his book “A Doorway to Heroism: A decorated German-Jewish soldier who became an American hero.” The book tells the remarkable story of Richard Stern, Romberg’s great uncle. Stern served in the German Army in World War I where he was recognized for valor with an Iron Cross. Stern was a successful businessman in Cologne, Germany through the 1920s. When the Nazi party came to power, Stern’s status as a decorated vet-

eran afforded him the opportunity to publicly protest Nazi policies. He created leaflets decrying a Nazi-sponsored boycott of Jewish businesses. The leaflet stated the boycott was an insult to 12,000 German Jewish soldiers killed in World War I. A photograph from 1933 shows Stern standing in the doorway of his store wearing his Iron Cross. He is confronting a young SA soldier about the boycott. The photograph is remarkable. It shows the confident Jewish veteran and the nervous-looking young Nazi. Decades after it was taken, the photograph has been displayed in museums and institutions across Germany.

After Kristallnacht made it clear he had to leave Germany, Stern came to America in 1939. At age 43, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. In 1944, he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action against his former countrymen in combat on the slopes of Mt. Porchio, Italy. He spoke in German to the enemy, convincing them to surrender.

Romberg spoke about his book-writing journey, discovering his family history, and learning how important the photo of Stern had become as a symbol of Jewish defiance in Nazi Germany. The book is available in our museum bookstore and the recording of the talk available on our YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg>.

On November 18, we welcomed Beverly Eddy for a webinar about her new book, “Ritchie Boy Secrets: How a Force of Immigrants and Refugees Helped Win World War II.” This is the first book to take a more comprehensive look at the Military Intelligence Training Center at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. Since the documentary film “The Ritchie Boys” was released in 2004, the Ritchie Boys have been one of the most asked about topics from museum visitors. It’s usually presented as the story of German-Jewish refugees who joined the Army, were trained as POW interrogators, and returned to Europe to gather intelligence from their former neighbors. That’s an important part of the story, but only a part of it. The men and women who trained at Camp Ritchie also spoke Arabic, Japanese, Dutch, Greek, Norwegian, Russian, Turkish, and other languages. There were approximately 200 Native Americans and 200 WACs at the camp. Many of the WACs had the same language skills as the men. They trained in a variety of intelligence specialties in addition to POW interrogation including photo analysis and order of battle expertise. In addition to Europe, they were sent to the



Beverly Eddy

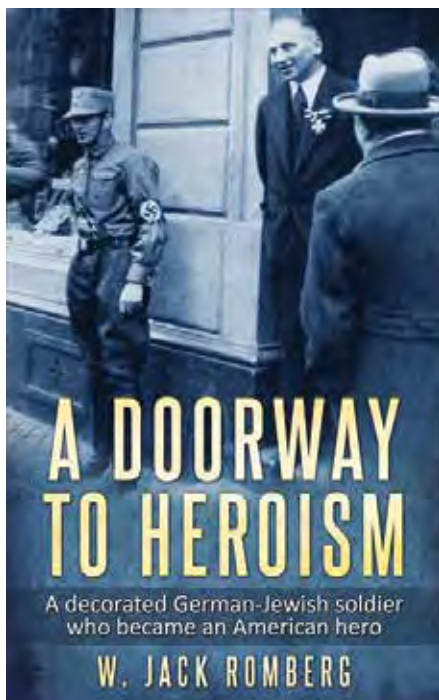
Pacific, North Africa, and other parts of the world.

For our program, Eddy focused on experiences connected to internment. Some of the Ritchie Boys had been interred in German concentration camps before arriving in America. Ernst Cramer was imprisoned in Buchenwald. He was able to give his comrades at Camp Ritchie first-hand knowledge of the camps. Cramer arrived at Buchenwald after Kristallnacht. He was released after six weeks when he received a preferential visa to come to the U.S. as an agricultural worker. Here, he enlisted in the Army and trained at Camp Ritchie. Eventually, Cramer returned to Buchenwald as an American liberator. He reported conditions were much worse than when he had been imprisoned there six years earlier. It was great to learn that Ernst Cramer’s daughter was viewing the webinar.

The recording of Eddy’s talk is also available on YouTube and “Ritchie Boys Secrets” is available in our store.

Jewish Americans in Military Service During Vietnam is available in the museum store and for Amazon Kindle. Compiled by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA National Vietnam Veterans Committee, the pages contain some of the experiences and recollections of Jewish Americans who served in the armed forces of the United States from 1961 to 1975.

Look for it and more at nmajmh.org/shop.



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

While the museum had hoped to open the Vietnam exhibition on Veterans Day, delays in product availability have pushed the opening date to late winter or early spring of 2022. An announcement will be made when a date is set for opening festivities. Keep an eye on our website for more information!

While we complete one exhibit, we also begin to plan for our next exhibit. The NMAJMH is planning a revamped version of our previous exhibit on Jewish women in the U.S. military. While the original Women in the Military exhibit was heavily focused on participation in World War II, we

would like the updated version to include stories of more recent service. To that end, we are soliciting information from Jewish women who served during Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, or peacetime. You do not need to be a member of JWV to be included (though we would love to have you as a member). You can send in the form below or visit the museum’s website to complete it online. At this time, we are only gathering information, so please hold on to any artifacts you may be interested in contributing until requested. For more information, please contact me at pelbe@nmajmh.org.

Name: _____

First NameMiddle NameLast NameMaiden Name

Address: _____

StreetCityStateZip Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____ May we contact you for more info? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date of Birth: _____ Place of birth: _____

CityState

Occupation (if retired, list former occupation): _____ Education: (Circle highest level of education) HS college master’s doctorate other

Schools attended (certificate or degree, school name, year awarded) _____

Marriage(s): Married _____ on _____ at _____

First NameMiddle NameLast NameDatePlace

Death of spouse or divorced (circle which) on _____ at _____

DatePlace

Children: *(Indicate in birth order—son/daughter, name, date of birth, place of birth)* _____

Inclusive dates of military service: _____ Branch of service _____ Highest rank _____

Battalion, Regiment, Division, etc. _____

Stationed at the following locations: _____

Did you sustain any service-related injuries? ☐ Yes ☐ No Did you experience any anti-Semitism while in the service? ☐ Yes ☐ No Sexism? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why did you join the military? How did your family react? _____


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

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


Awards and certifications _____

Are you a member of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA? ☐ Yes ☐ No Post # _____ Highest position held in the JWV _____

I hereby declare that this information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this information could be provided to researchers or used in projects at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Current addresses and phone numbers will NOT be released to the public without express permission. I further understand that photographs and/or documents submitted with this form become the sole property of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and may be used to further the educational mission of the institution. I affirm I do own the submitted photographs and/or documents and to the best of my knowledge I have good and complete right, title, and interest to give.



Signature: _____
Print name: _____ Date: _____
Please send this completed form to Pamela Elbe, NMAMH, 1811 R Street NW, Washington DC 20009 or pelbe@jwv.org



www.nmajmh.org

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National Museum of American Jewish Military History

21

Preserving the Legacy of Jewish American Veterans

by James LaPaglia, Digital Services Chief, National Cemetery Administration

Julien Saks (Dachau Liberator), Arnold Ascher (Berga Prisoner of War), Edwin Cornell (Bad Orb Prisoner of War), Leonard Domb (Berga Prisoner of War), Julius Bernstein (Landsberg Liberator), Meyer Lemberg (Berga Prisoner of War) – these are just a handful of thousands of Jewish Veterans interred in VA National Cemeteries and in VA-funded state, tribal, and territory Veteran cemeteries. All of them have stories -- stories of their lives and their service to country, family, friends, and battle buddies.

More than 42,000 Jewish Veterans have interactive profile pages in the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) (www.va.gov/remember) where family, friends, and others can see their military service and internment information, and upload tributes (comments), images, biographical information, career milestones, historical documents, and a word cloud.

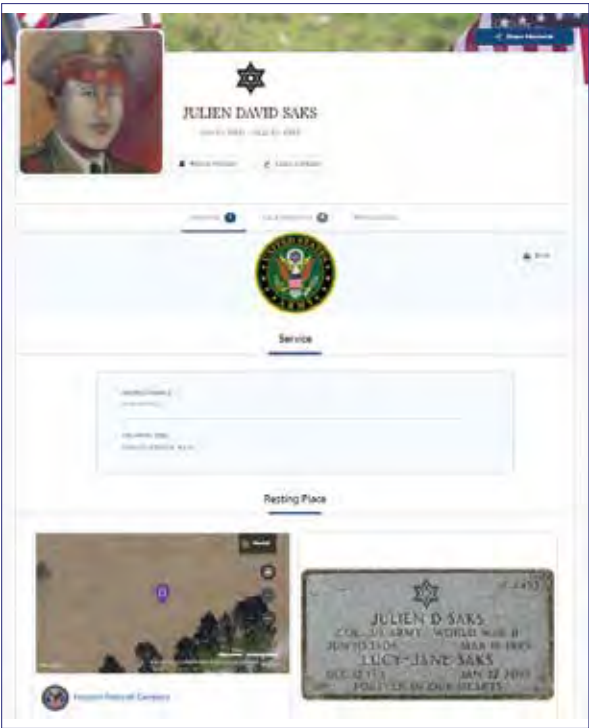
Launched in 2019 by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), individual veteran profile pages are populated with military service and cemetery information. This publicly available information is gathered from Department of Veterans Affairs records and includes service branch with logo, dates of birth and death, rank, war period, decorations, emblem of belief, and cemetery information. Currently more than 4.3 million veterans have VLM profile pages.

Colonel Julien David Saks was an attorney and realtor from Anniston, Alabama, who was commissioned as an Army reserve officer in December 1933 and entered active duty in September 1940. He attended Chemical Warfare School and the Command and General Staff College. When his 12th Armored Division arrived in France in November 1944, it quickly joined the final offensive push against German forces. His division crossed the Rhine River on March 28, 1945, and on April 27 captured the city of Landsberg in Bavaria.



Julien Saks

They liberated the Kaufering camp, the largest of eleven subcamps in the region comprising the Dachau concentration camp system. Here, thousands of prisoners, predominately Jewish, were used as slave labor to construct underground facilities to produce German fighter planes. Conditions at the camps were deplorable and mortality rates very high. As American forces approached, SS guards evacuated the inmates who could walk, sending them on forced death marches toward Dachau. Many who were unable to travel were brutally murdered and the bodies burned. Upon their arrival, the 12th Armored discovered some 500 dead prisoners. Saks, assigned to division HQ, visited two camps within hours of their discovery. He described the scene after. Fixated with shock upon seeing a building filled with burned corpses, he recalled, “I didn’t see a pile of naked women about three feet high behind me. I was told about it later. We were combat troops used to death and destruction, but this was so shocking that we were speechless.” Saks was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in Europe and returned to Alabama after the war. He died in Houston, Texas, in 1993 and is interred in Houston National Cemetery – his VLM page is available at [https://www.vlm.cem](https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/JULIENDAVIDSAKS/1780C94).



Saks’ VLM page

[va.gov/JULIENDAVIDSAKS/1780C94](https://www.va.gov/JULIENDAVIDSAKS/1780C94).

NCA plans to continue adding additional cemeteries to VLM in the coming years, including military and other government-run cemeteries and private cemeteries. Eventually NCA hopes to have a page for all deceased veterans, including those buried at sea or who are otherwise not interred in a cemetery.

You can search for a veteran by entering their first and last names, plus any additional identifying information such as cemetery location, service branch, war period, date of birth, date of death, or decoration. To submit items to a veteran’s page, users provide a name and email address, and then upload the content. All content is reviewed by moderators before posting to ensure VLM remains a respectful digital cemetery experience. To date more than 26,000 items have been posted to veteran pages.

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Alter, David F. - Post 100
Moses, Ronald Elliot - Post 100
Schwartz, Daniel O. - Post 344

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Boren, Jack - Post 603
Galey, Leon - Post 385
Holtz,-Albert - Post 603
Zukor, Marvin - Post 688

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Bershtein, Herman - Post 45
Faiman, Samuel - Post 45
Fried, Milton - Post 45
Hurwitz, Franklin J. - Post 45
Teitelman,-Samuel - Post 45
Werchadlo, Jack - Post 142

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Becker, George - Post 243
Cohn, Martin A. - Post 202
Greenberg, Irwin J. - Post 321
Grossman, Frank H. - Post 698
Halpern, John R. - Post 440
Klotz, Irving - Post 506
Pinchuk, George - Post 321
Rosenblum, Steven N. - Post 352

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Nathanson, Stan - Post 29
Picker, Morris - Post 800
Sternfeld, Paul - Post 800

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Pinskey, Howard - Post 380
Stern, Michael A. - Post 567
Tanhoff, Marshall - Post 167

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hanock, Haskell - Post 161
Markowitz, Robert T. - Post 140
Rhodes,-Robert J. - Post 140
Shonfield, David M. - Post 211

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Goldring, Joseph P. - Post 135
Klein, Milton - Post 135
Weinmann, Hans - Post 135

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Kvasnik, Edward - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Mischel, Lawrence - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Arm, Norman - Post 125
Beer, Irving H. - Post 651

Blonder, Isaac S. - Post 972
Bramson, Robert L. - Post 311
Brousell, Earl C. - Post 125
Cohen, Ray - Post 125
Fox, Bernard - Post 609
Heiden, Leo H. - Post 125
Kass, Mayer - Post 695
Krengel, Floyd - Post 125
Lewis, Bernard P. - Post 126
Stern, Saul - Post 125
Wegbreit, Seymour - Post 609

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Arnold, Sherwin - Post 717
Beck,-Irwin - Post 169
Brown, Alvin R. - Post 105
Butterman, Stuart - Post 717
Dorf, Philip - Post 6
Gorkin, David - Post 652
Lewis, Daniel - Post 652
Linden, Morris - Post 68
Marlin, Stanley - Post 3
Reifer, Arnold S. - Post 648
Slatnick, Elias - Post 415

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Epstein, Robert D. - Post 44
Lax, Milton - Post 44
Libster, Neal N. - Post 73

Miller, Bernard - Post 44
Walter, Aaron - Post 44

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Brandes, Ed - Post 165
Dembert, Donald - Post 165
Sherman, Joyce A. - Post 697
Sherman, Martin - Post 98
Spiegel, Lawrence - Post 575

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Bazar, Banice C. - Post 23
Kahn,-Melvin - Post 533
Lipsey, Howard I. - Post 23

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Magedman, Nelson - Post 210

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Cooper, Robert A. - Post 256
Marcus, Irwin M. - Post 580
Mash, Shawn W. - Post 256
Samuelson, Daniel R. - Post 757
Sepp, George D. - Post 755
Steinberg, Irving J. - Post 256
Weston, Les - Post 618

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Plotkin, Marvin S. - Post 155

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Wishing You a Very Happy, Healthy, New Year!

**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

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

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

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 Loving Memory of My Husband, Code
Jerry Gomberg & Daughters

Past State Commander 1970-1972
Herbert Gopman

In Honor of Dick Golden • Post 202
By Marty Rubin

In the last issue of The Jewish Veteran, a
greeting for Dick Golden should have read
"In Honor of", and not "In Memory of". We are
delighted to affirm that Mr. Golden is alive and
well. We regret the error.

Best Wishes for a Good Year!
In Memory of the Veterans of Korea

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

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

In Memory of our Parents
The Paley Family
In loving memory of Jayne Wasserman

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

IMO Bella, Allen, and my wife Rayisa
PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

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

To Life!

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

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

Morris Shapiro 40th 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

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