



The Jewish Veteran

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

NMAJMH Opens New Exhibit

By Cara Rinkoff, Managing Editor and
Alana Stolnitz, NMAJMH Intern

On May 5, more than 75 people gathered at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) to honor those who served in the Vietnam War with a new exhibit, Jewish Americans in Military Service During Vietnam.

After discussions for at least a decade, museum staff and the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) Vietnam Veterans Committee started working on the exhibit in the fall of 2020.

“We just talked about it and batted it around, but nothing happened until a few years ago when we finally said it’s the time,” said Bob Jacobs, Chairman of the JWV Vietnam Veterans Committee.

This is the first time the museum has worked directly with a JWV committee on an exhibit.

“We’ve done exhibits where I’ve done them all in house and we’ve done exhibits where we’ve worked with exhibit companies. But this one, the Vietnam Veterans Committee kind of curated it,” said Pam Elbe, NMAJMH Director of Collections, Archives, and Exhibitions. “Just figuring out who does what and gathering all the info and letting them tell their own story but still doing it in a professional way.”

“We were raising money for it but then, and then because of the book... which became a serious part of the exhibit, even before there was an exhibit, we had the book,” said Gerald Alperstein.

Alperstein served as the editor for a book on disc that features stories from JWV members who served in Vietnam. In one area of the museum’s exhibit, you can use computers to read those stories. The disc is also available for purchase from both the museum and Amazon.com. “As we gathered items, and we had to come up with a theme for the exhibit, we had to create what ended up being a 56-page outline of the exhibit,” said Jacobs.

There are several other sections of the new exhibit including items brought back from Vietnam by service members, several uniforms, and numerous medals. The items represent individuals who served in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. The



Pam Elbe, NMAJMH Director of Collections, Archives, and Exhibitions watches PNC Michael Berman, NMAJMH President, cut the ribbon opening the museum's new exhibit, Jewish Americans in Military Service During Vietnam.

exhibit highlights more than just those who served in combat in Vietnam, but those who served in supporting roles around the world and back in the U.S.

“The reason I donated is it’s important for people to know, who visited the museum, that Jews served in Vietnam, and by looking at the different items that I have donated, I believe people will be able to say

Continued on page 16

All About VA Whole Health

By Ronald Rutherford, Lead Whole Health Outreach
and Andrea Young, Health System &
Communications Specialist

What matters to you — not, what is the matter with you — is the focus of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) model of Whole Health. Your whole health team will get to know you as a person to develop a personalized health plan based on your values, needs, and goals to best support your full health and well-being.

Why Whole Health?

Health outcomes in our country are poor. The U.S. is now ranked 46th in life expectancy, despite spending far more on health care than any other country. VA recognized it was time to create a health system, rather than a disease care system; one that empowers and equips Veterans to discover a new path to health and well-being. VA is a national leader in Whole Health.

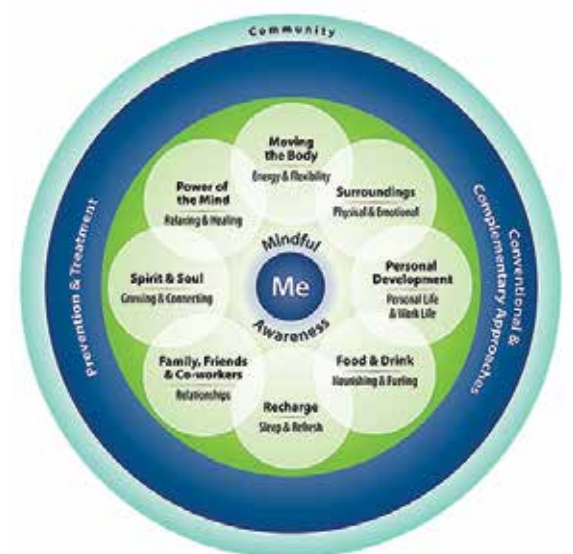
How is this different?

Whole Health puts you in control of your care, focusing on self-care, skill building, and support. These services are not diagnosis or disease-based but support the personal health plan of each veteran. Stress reduction, yoga, tai chi, mindfulness, nutrition, acupuncture, and health coaching are available. You don’t have to wait until something is wrong to improve your well-being. You can set goals based on what is important to you and work toward those goals with your health care team.

Will Whole Health help me?

Studies show veterans who use Whole Health services report being able to manage stress better and note care they receive as more patient centered. Veterans with chronic pain who used Whole Health services had a threefold reduction in opioid use compared to those who did not. Since focusing on the eight self-care areas of the Circle of Health,

veterans report pain management is not the only benefit of using Whole Health services. They are



Continued on page 9

CONTENTS

D'veri HaShomrim	2	JWV in the Community	12
Message From the Commander	3	National Ladies Auxiliary ...	18
On The Hill	4	Museum News.....	20
Membership Corner	6	Taps	22

D'verei HaShomrim

By Rabbi Melinda Zalma

We live in a time of increasing polarization, where people don't talk to friends and family who see the world differently. We seem to be moving farther away from each other, responding with anger, hate, and hurt, when we are hurt ourselves. But even in these times, I have hope, for I see a way, based on our sacred texts, to build bridges of understanding and help heal our communities, one person at a time.

When I see the hatred and intolerance all around, I go back to the beginning, to the creation of humans. Genesis 1:26 states, "Then G-d said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness.'" We are all created in G-d's image, *b'tzelem Elokim*, even those we disagree with, even those whose beliefs seem opposite to our values.

But wouldn't it be easier if we surrounded ourselves with those like us? Isn't that what we're doing? Or trying to make others in our own image? This is not what G-d desires or planned.

Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5 teaches,

And [Adam was created singly] to proclaim the greatness of the Blessed Holy One, for a human being stamps many coins with one die and they are all alike one with the other, but the King of the kings of kings, the Blessed Holy One, has stamped all of humanity with the die of the first person, and yet not one of them is like her fellow.

How is a human being's uniqueness a manifestation of the greatness of G-d? It is not simply because of G-d's ability to create different people from a single model. There is a deeper meaning. We are different from each other—in the way we look, think, and believe—through the design of the Infinite. G-d could have stamped out people who all were the same. But that wasn't what G-d chose to do. G-d chose to create unique individuals. We come from the same stamp, from the first human being, to teach us that despite our differences, we all come from the Divine. When we remember this in our interactions with those we disagree with,



Rabbi Melinda Zalma

then there is the possibility of connecting and building bridges.

In our polarization, we often voluntarily separate ourselves from those we disagree with, and it is difficult to build bridges with those we don't interact with. We need to expose ourselves to people who are different than we are and approach our differences with curiosity, always remembering that they, too, are created *b'tzelem Elokim*.

In our service in the military, we have a unique chance to live this on a daily basis. No matter when or where you served, you interacted and worked with people very different from you. Think of a time when in these interactions you remembered that they were created from the same stamp and strive to understand them and help them understand you. Take that experience and bring it to your civilian life. Seek out those who are different from you, approach them with dignity and curiosity deserving of one created by G-d. Join me in this holy endeavor.

125th Anniversary Dinner and Herb Rosenbleeth's Retirement Celebration

By PNC David Magidson

Our dinner in celebration of JWV's 125th Anniversary and in honor of the retirement of former National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth took place at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. on May 5.

Planning and nurturing the event to fruition, in conjunction with the opening of the Vietnam Exhibit at the NMAJMH, were PNC Ed Goldwasser, PNC Norman Rosenshein, PNC Robert Pickard, and PNC Barry Schneider.

PNC Harvey Weiner led the first part of the celebration dinner, which showcased the distinguished history of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Donald Remy delivered the keynote address.

After dinner, PNC Jeffrey Sacks led the portion of the celebration dedicated to Herb and his many accomplishments. When Herb spoke there were only a few dry eyes among his family, friends, and JWV members. The evening concluded with the reading of the names of the Jewish service



Herb Rosenbleeth

members killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

You know it was a night to remember when those present not only praised the event, but the food as well.

I wish to thank the many Posts and individuals whose generosity allowed all who wished to partake to be present, as well as the JWV staff - without whom none of this could have happened.



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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

National Commander Alan D. Paley
National Executive Director Ken Greenberg
National Editor Larry Jasper
Managing Editor Cara Rinkoff
JWVA Pages Editor Iris Goldwasser
Graphics/Production Editor Christy Turner

EDITORIAL OFFICE

1811 R Street, NW • Washington, D.C. 20009

Telephone (202) 265-6280 x413
Fax (202) 234-5662
E-mail jwv@jwv.org
Web Site www.jwv.org

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

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

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

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

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

Photos and articles submitted to The Jewish Veteran shall be used at the discretion of the organization. The opinions expressed in signed articles and letters in this magazine are not necessarily those of JWV.

Advertising information and rates available from the Editorial Office. JWV assumes no responsibility for products and services advertised in this publication.

© 2022 by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

NPA#112285 • ISSN 047-2019.

Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

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

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

JWV Passes Resolution Supporting Weinstein Family

By Cara Rinkoff, Managing Editor

In January 2022, JWV's National Executive Committee (NEC) passed a resolution in support of Casey Weinstein and his family. The resolution stated, "The Jewish War Veterans of the USA declares its support for Casey and Amanda Weinstein and their family, and unequivocally condemns the anti-Semitic rabble that demonstrated menacingly in front of their Hudson, Ohio, home on January 23, 2022."

Weinstein and his wife Amanda joined JWV after the NEC passed its resolution. His father Mikey was already a member of the organization.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Alan D. Paley

What a year this has been! Time has gone by so quickly. It seems like just yesterday that I was preparing my comments for my first article as your National Commander, and today, I am writing my fourth and final article. It has truly been a great ride, and I have been honored to serve the Jewish War Veterans, an organization I have served in for over 54 years, as its 90th National Commander.

When I began my term, I had three specific goals in mind:

1. The establishment of a training program for those members who would like to serve as a Veterans Service Officer.
2. A complete rewrite of our National Constitution and Bylaws.
3. Revise our standing committees.

As I look back over this past year, I am pleased to report that although I did not complete all three of these goals, we did make a substantial dent! A program to professionally train any member who would like to serve as a Veterans Service Officer is in place. All we are lacking are members to take advantage of it! Raiana Berman in our national office is standing by and will assist any member who wants to take on this very important function. We still have departments who do not have certified Veterans Service Officers. Please contact Raiana at (202) 265-6280 ext. 405 or rberman@jwv.org, if you would like to begin training. Being a certified Veterans Service Officer allows you to help any veteran, regardless of whether they are Jewish or belong to our organization. This is an excellent tool that could generate more members for our organization. Knowing that a Veterans Service Officer from the Jewish War Veterans helped a veteran with his or her VA issue might just entice them to join our organization. Do not forget – a Patron can be anyone who has a desire to support our organization.

Shortly after our National Convention, a committee was formed to work on a complete re-write of the National Constitution and Bylaws. Chaired by National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz, I am pleased to report that we will vote on the revised Constitution and Bylaws at our upcoming National Convention in Savannah. This was a long overdue project, and I am pleased that it was undertaken during my term of office.

The third goal I have set for my term was to revise our standing committees. I proposed to:

1. Establish term limits for all committee chairs.
 - a. We are currently looking at a 4-year term as a Committee Chair
2. Create a Vice Chair position.
 - a. In some cases, this would replace the current

Co-Chair position. The Vice Chair would replace the current chair when their term of office expires. This allows for a succession plan with committee leaders who have been trained in the functions and operations of that specific committee. The Vice Chair would then select a general committee member to succeed him or her as the Vice Chair.

3. Disband committees that are no longer needed or have not functioned for several years.
 - a. We will also be establishing a few new committees that we feel are needed.

I am pleased to report that this process has already begun, and several key committees had new Chairs appointed. This will be an ongoing project, and I am sure that our next National Commander will continue with these changes.

During my term of office, we engaged an outside company to poll our membership to see what they thought about JWV, and gave them an opportunity to provide feedback, whether positive or negative. Our Strategic Planning Committee assembled eight goals, which we asked members to prioritize and comment on. Surveys were sent to every member that had an e-mail address on file, and for those that did not, they were sent the survey through the regular mail.

The top two goals that our membership thinks the organization needs to focus on are recruiting new members and combatting antisemitism. Over 80% of those who responded to the survey rated these two goals as key to the survival of our organization.

Although these two goals confirmed what leadership felt was important to our members, we were already working behind the scenes to get moving in these critical areas.

There is no doubt that we need new, younger members to round out the organization, but where do you find them? We have reached out to the Aleph Institute which trains Orthodox Rabbis who are serving in the military to bring the idea of joining JWV to the Jewish military members they interact with in the daily performance of their Chaplain duties. Service men and women who are on active duty can join JWV for free. Dues are waived while they are in-service. We think having these in-service members as part of our organization today will help us tomorrow when they transition out of the military. We are also working with our Departments and Posts who have military installations close by to do a better job of engaging with them and making JWV's presence known to the servicemembers at those installations. And lastly, we have asked Post leadership to increase their partnerships with local JCC's



and synagogues. We believe that these forms of engagement will help us recruit the new and younger members we need to supplement our organization.

The issue of antisemitism continues to plague all of us, and there are signs that antisemitism will grow and gain traction over the next several years. JWV has always taken a very hard line on antisemitism, and in the past antisemitic issues were addressed by our National Action Committee. Although the Action Committee has done great work over the history of our organization, we currently feel that this is the time to specifically designate a committee to deal with antisemitism. I have asked National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz to look into this matter and decide whether the current Action Committee will continue to oversee antisemitic issues, or if the formation of a new committee is warranted. We will keep you posted on our decision.

Your national leadership listens to the membership and as I stated when I was elected last August, we are open to change. Changing the way we operate, changing the way we interact with our members, and changing the way we are perceived as a National Veteran Service Organization. I hope you will join with us to make these changes possible.

A highlight of my term was serving as the keynote speaker for all Veterans Service Organizations on Veterans Day 2021. JWV's message remains strong that we as veterans must remain vigilant, and continue to ensure that the freedoms, benefits, and services we enjoy today, remain with us for centuries to come. It was a true honor for JWV to speak for all VSOs on the national stage.

I am proud of the accomplishments we have made this past year, but most importantly, I am thrilled that I was given the opportunity to visit many of our departments and talk one-on-one with our members. Each one of you helps to make our organization great, and I personally thank you for your hard work and dedication to JWV, and for the support you have given me this past year.

I look forward to seeing you at our National Convention in Savannah!

JWV Submits SCOTUS Amicus Brief

by PNC Harvey Weiner

JWV has once again submitted an amicus (friend of court) brief in a veteran's case before the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS), *Arellano v. McDonough*, No. 21-432. The case involves a veteran who, because of his PTSD, missed the one-year filing date after discharge, which was necessary to qualify for veterans benefits for his PTSD. The legal issue is whether the rebuttable presump-

tion of equitable tolling the statute of limitations applies in this case, that is, in fairness to the veteran, did he have a really good excuse for missing the strict one-year deadline. Previous case law holds that there can be no excuse for missing the one-year deadline, but, as explained in our brief, Jewish American WWII soldier and novelist Joseph Heller would say that to deny the veteran his benefits for his PTSD because his PTSD caused him to miss

the deadline would be the ultimate Catch-22.

The veteran in this case waited 30 years to submit his application for benefits, but our brief noted that the Jewish American World War II soldier and veteran J.D. Salinger suffered PTSD and that he was unable to submit a claim his entire life. He became a life-long recluse and never wrote another full novel. In the case at hand, we argue that the VA

Continued on page 9

Congressional, Executive Branch, and White House Updates

By Ken Greenberg, National Executive Director

JWV advocacy and outreach to Capitol Hill, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense, and other VSOs continued to be robust during the last few months. JWV has been at the forefront with House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees as staff were engaged on high profile issues including, Electronic Health Records, Toxic Exposure and the PACT Act, Concurrent Receipt (Richard Star Act), Caregivers, and ANC new eligibility rules which will be published shortly. JWV continues to encourage members to contact their Senators and Congressman on these important issues. Updates can be found on JWV's posts on Facebook and Twitter, as well as in JWV's weekly e-newsletter. JWV's strong work with The Military Coalition, and the TEAM and NMVA coalitions continues to improve our relations with VSOs as we successfully negotiate program changes and legislative improvements. JWV continues to hold VA accountable on previous legislation including the MISSION Act requirements (Caregivers, AIR Commission), the Deborah Sampson Act, and Suicide Prevention and mental health.

JWV joins the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans

JWV recently joined the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans (NCHV) and helped sponsor its annual meeting June 1-3, 2022. NC Paley was interviewed and JWV will be featured in an upcoming NCHV newsletter. NCHV is one of the most important organizations in fighting veterans' homelessness, as it brings together all of the resources of VA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other government agencies.



Honoring our PACT ACT Major Win for JWV and Veterans on Toxic Exposure

On June 16, the Senate passed the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022, by a vote of 84-14. This is the largest bill in American history to address service members' exposure to burn pits and other toxic substances. The bill is estimated to cost \$278.5 billion over 10 years.

The bill will provide expanded access to health care and disability benefits for veterans harmed by certain toxic exposures, whether in the jungles of Vietnam or the mountains of Afghanistan. It will also let the Department of Veterans Affairs move more quickly and comprehensively in the future to

determine if illnesses are related to military service, and it will offer critical support to survivors who were harmed by exposures, including from water contamination at Camp LeJeune. Importantly, the bill includes the tools and resources to ensure that the VA can effectively implement it.

JWV is proud to be a leader in supporting veterans as this legislation makes good to care for veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. JWV applauds Chairman Tester and Ranking Member Moran for their hard work to pass the PACT Act. The House is expected to swiftly pass the Senate version so that it can be sent to the President for signature.

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 will:

- Expand VA health care eligibility to Post-9/11 combat veterans, which includes more than 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans;
- Create a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure;
- Add 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA's list of service presumptions, including hypertension;
- Expand presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure;
 - o Includes Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations for Agent Orange exposure;
- Strengthen federal research on toxic exposure;
- Improve VA's resources and training for toxic-exposed veterans; and
- Set VA and veterans up for success by investing in:
 - o VA claims processing;
 - o VA's workforce;
 - o VA health care facilities.

Call to Action Time is Now - Richard Star Act (Concurrent Receipt)

JWV continues to participate in the work of the Richard Star Act Working Group. We need your help to get this legislation passed. As of June 17, we have 58 cosponsors in the Senate and 243 cosponsors in the House. Please contact National Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at (202) 265-6285 or crinkoff@jwv.org if you are interested in writing a letter/calling your member of Congress to ask them to become of a sponsor of the Richard Star Act.

JWV's Hard Work Pays Off – VA Suspends Caregiver Reassessments on June 9, 2022

Veterans Affairs officials will suspend all annual reassessments of families in their caregiver stipend program, citing continued work into revising rules and policies associated with the benefit.

The move comes after months of controversy over the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, which provides monthly financial support to about 33,000 veterans in need of full-time at-home care. JWV was one of nine VSOs to participate in three days of roundtable discussions with Veterans Health Administration, General Counsel and Congressional Affairs staff, that also included a presentation by Deputy Secretary Donald Remy.

VA officials also repeated their promise not to discharge or reduce stipends for any families



Ken Greenberg
National Executive Director

based on earlier reassessments. Currently the program is open only to veterans who served after 2001 or before 1976, but it is scheduled to expand it to all veterans on October 1, 2022. In preparation for that, officials last year began a review of all existing post-9/11 veteran participants to ensure they still qualified for the stipend under amended rules.

In March, in response to complaints from JWV and families about the process, VA leadership acknowledged that roughly 90% of families who underwent the reviews were scheduled to be booted from the program based on decisions by administrators. That would have dropped almost half of all current families from the program.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough responded by suspending plans to remove any families from the program and promising to develop new eligibility criteria that is more flexible and less punitive for families.

The stipends — awarded to veterans with service-connected injuries that limit their ability to live independently — vary based on where veterans live, but generally hover around \$3,000 a month for the most severely wounded individuals and \$1,800 for others in need of around-the-clock care.

Advocates have said that losing the stipend could force infirm veterans and their families into financial distress, since many spouses and parents cannot work full-time and care for their loved ones.

McDonough's announcement in March was met with praise from families, but the reassessments continued in the following weeks, causing confusion among families about whether the promise not to process out participants was still in effect.

In addition, several groups reported families had received notices that they could still be kicked out of the program in coming months. VA's announcement ends those reviews.

VA officials said caregiver support staff will continue to initiate reassessments for veterans and family caregivers for some purposes, such as when they request to be considered for an increase in stipend levels or if there is evidence of an increased need for personal care services.

And staff will continue to conduct wellness visits to ensure that veterans are receiving the care needed to address their medical needs.

In a statement to program participants, officials wrote that they are "listening to concerns

Continued on page 22

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

The Marketing Committee continues its work determining ways to get our name out there. This has included looking into communications methods such as digital marketing, targeted (programmatic) marketing, working with local synagogues and temples, becoming more involved with the Jewish, secular and military press, attending conventions and other events which might draw large numbers of Jews and military and, affiliated advertising with organizations whose audience is also Jews and/or the military. While no decisions have been made, we are discussing what is best for JWV given our human and financial resources. The Jewish War Veterans Branding Guide, instructions, and template files are all available at www.jwv.org. If you aren't aware of these materials, please contact your Department Commander or any member of the Marketing Committee. It is important to have a consistent look and feel for JWV across all echelons.

The Jewish War Veterans Booth has been put to good use around the country. This pop-up display is a tool for national and regional meetings where large numbers of Jews or veterans will be in attendance. The Departments of New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Illinois have all used it at events.

Any echelon can order the booth, but all Post and Department requests must have Department Commander approval. Shipping costs will be split equally between the requestor and the National Marketing Committee. Once a signed form or email request is received, 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 request it at least 30 days in advance.

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 continues to expand and is accessible on our website. There are plans to make it more user friendly and to require a password to encourage more people to put in their works without concerns about non-JWV organizations using our materials. The Resource Center submission form can be found on our website.

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee with ideas, recommendations, or constructive comments.

POST-9/11 COMMITTEE

By Chairman Jeffrey Blonder

The Post 9/11 Veterans Committee continues to sponsor quality and relevant programs for its members. This quarter the committee had three meetings. In April the Post 9/11 Veterans Committee Co-Chair Matt Weinburke spoke on Veterans Health Equity and the Impact of COVID-19 on Veterans Health. In May we were honored by having Chanan Weissman, President Joe Biden's liaison to the Jewish community, speak to our group. This was our best-attended meeting with more than 36 members joining in what was a rather spirited and informative discussion on several topics including current U.S. and Israeli relations, the status of the Iran Nuclear Deal, and antisemitism in

the U.S. and around the world. Weissman agreed to make a return appearance in the fall. In June, we had a speaker from the Community Security Service. This is an organization that provides training to various Jewish groups on security and provides intelligence to the Jewish community on threats to its safety.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Committee will not meet in July or August, but will be back in September. We meet on the second Monday each month and our meetings are open to all JWV members. For more information, please contact the committee at post911committee@jwv.org

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES (VAVS)

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

I recently assumed the role of Chairman of the VAVS committee from Ken Ashworth. I want to thank him for doing an admirable job. One of my first acts as Chairman was to attend the 76th annual CDCE National Advisory Council convention April 27-29 in Denver, Colorado.

The VA established the National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) on May 17, 1947. It became a federally chartered advisory committee on February 5, 1975. The Committee advises the Under Secretary for Health on matters pertaining to the participation of volunteers in VA medical facilities, assists in recruitment and orientation of volunteers, and keeps the officers and members of participating organizations informed of volunteer needs and accomplishments.

The Jewish War Veterans is one of the founding members of the organization and the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary is an honorary member.

Participation in CDCE/VAVS meets two important goals of JWV – helping veterans and increasing our brand awareness.

There were over 250 people at the convention, representing 55 VSOs and VA staff from around the country. The VSOs collectively represented 25,000 volunteers who contributed over 2.5 million hours of time and \$101 million in gifts.

The theme of this three-day session was pivot-remaining flexible to adapt as changes occur in the needs of veterans, the VA, the world in general and the world as an individual.

Much has changed at VAVS over the past year, including a change in the name of the national VAVS office to the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE).

CDCE has three components:

VAVS - focused on all the volunteer work being done by VSOs, and other support operations.

Donations – focused on all monetary and non-monetary donations to the VA and VA hospitals.

Partnerships – focused on managing standard donations and other relationships.

The name change is intended to reflect the scope of work done by the Department of Veterans Affairs at VA hospitals as well as a change in the reporting relationship. VAVS previously fell under the VHA Office of Communications. Now the program will be reporting to the Assistant

Undersecretary for Health Operations. This puts it much closer to the decision makers at the VA.

Some changes in organizational structure will be part of an Asset Infrastructure Review which will show where veterans are going, where more VA resources are needed, and consolidating in places where veterans are leaving.

If you are interested in learning more about VAVS and/or becoming JWV's representative or deputy at your local VHA Office of Communications, please contact your Department Commander.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Bob Jacobs

May 5 was a day of anticipation and satisfaction with the ribbon-cutting of our long-planned exhibit on Jewish Military Service During Vietnam at the NMAJMH in Washington. Thanks again to Pam Elbe, Mike Rugel, and members of the JWV staff for putting it together. NMAJMH President Michael Berman led the ribbon-cutting ceremony wonderfully and about 75 people were in attendance. I later learned that Marc Leepson, VVA's Arts Editor and JWV member visited the exhibit and received a tour. He wrote a very nice review of the exhibit for VVA's Arts web page. It is also possible that Wreaths Across America will be doing a Zoom interview program to highlight our exhibit. To all who contributed items for display and/or financial support, thank you.

On a bit of old business, our disc-book called "Jewish Americans in Military Service During Vietnam" is being sold for \$20 on the NMAJMH website and Amazon. We'd prefer you buy it from the museum, as it makes more money for us that way. We are still accepting stories for a future second edition. Tell us what you feel was important about your service. Include a then and now photo if possible. Send it to my e-mail conrailbob2003@yahoo.com. I will review it and send it off to Jerry Alperstein for editing and future use.

Our National Convention in Savannah (August 7-12) will again include a Vietnam Veterans Night Out. It will be at the Pirate House, which is a great place. Everyone, regardless of when you served, is welcome to join us. But make sure you RSVP soon, because the number of people who can attend is limited.

At convention we will have a committee meeting, where we will discuss our plans for the 50th Anniversary of the end of U.S. involvement in Vietnam (March 29, 2023).

NC Alan Paley and PNC Norman Rosenshein have promised to send me information on what other veterans' organizations will be doing for the 50th Anniversary as soon as possible.

Finally, we have been asked to give advice and guidance to the Women in the Military Committee on the exhibit they are developing. As the first committee to develop an in-house exhibit, we had a lot to learn. We are happy to help them in any way we can.

Stay in touch with JWV!



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our JWV Department and Post members who spent time on Memorial Day to place flags at the gravesites of our departed veterans. This annual tradition keeps with the Preamble of the JWV Constitution which states that one reason for our organization's existence is "...to preserve the memories and records of patriotic service performed by the men and women of our faith; to honor their memory and shield from neglect the graves of our heroic dead..." By placing flags, we continue to honor the names and memories of our veterans. Every deceased veteran deserves a flag on their grave and no veteran's name should be forgotten.

I often hear that several of our JWV

Departments and Posts need help fulfilling their flagging missions. Flagging provides an ideal opportunity for our members to join with local Hebrew Schools, Jewish Community Centers, and Jewish Youth Organizations. By seeking their support, JWV can assist those organizations with achieving their community service requirements. Flagging graves can also provide a JROTC class with a visual history lesson. Many headstones are engraved with information that can provide awareness, as well as an ideal education opportunity for our young adults. An open discussion while flagging the grave sites results in an ideal teaching environment that can lead to future involvement with your JWV Post and the youth organization.

JROTC Military Instructors are always willing to welcome veterans to assist with their cadet training. Please contact your local high school JROTC for their school's requirements.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

From Our Archives...

This article was first published in The Jewish War Veteran, January 1970.

"The Post" – The blood and guts of J.W.V.

By PNC Benjamin H. Chasin, Assistant Executive Director
"What can we do when we only get five (5) men to a meeting?" "How can you keep a Post going if you only have a handful of members coming to meetings?"

These questions and others like them are always thrown at me when I attend leadership clinics or a Post Commanders seminar. Although they do not lend themselves to easy answers, one thing is clear and that is that a Commander must never allow them to keep him from trying to keep going.

First, let us understand one simple and cardinal rule, that is, the five members who attend or the handful of members who show an interest must be cultivated and kept interested and active. All that a Post really needs is an earnest and active nucleus to keep the Post going. We must always remember that the majority of the membership must be shown the way to J.W.V. interest and participation. The way to do this is by utilizing the talents, sincerity and eagerness of the interested minority. The responsibility for this rests upon the Commander.

Sometimes the existence of this situation is a fact of life and must be accepted as such. Most times, however, the situation exists because the Post leadership has lost initiative, heart and ambition or is too wrapped up in its own importance to worry about it. In either case we have a problem which is solvable and must be remedied.

The answer lies in the manner in which leadership operates the Post and in the program of Post activity, planned and executed by the Post leadership.

Quite often, especially in the smaller Posts,

meetings are run in a prosaic fashion, with undue emphasis on parliamentary proceedings. I am sure that everyone has seen examples of this, where the entire meeting is spent on some small matter of procedure which has become a parliamentary football. The suffering membership in attendance can only take this for a little while until eventually they stop coming to meetings altogether. So rule number one, avoid long and protracted debates on matters of small interest to the membership and above all don't let "Roberts Rules" become the bible, let it be what it is intended to be, a guide.

Every Post Commander receives reams of memoranda, releases, pronouncements and requests from Department and National Headquarters dealing with the policy, action and ideology of the organization. Yet, quite often, when the Commander gets to the meeting, he either has left the papers at home, or, heaven forbid, has thrown them away after reading them. Lost is the opportunity to advise the membership on what has been going on in the organization, since the last meeting. Gone is the vehicle by which the membership can become involved in the activity of the organization by debate on and discussion of the various items of information. So, rule number two, pass the information on to your membership, discuss it, debate it and make plans to implement it.

That will eventually bring the members to meetings, but they have to be convinced that this type of meeting will be standard. The Commander, can and must do exactly that.

Display your JWV Membership Proudly!

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



Post Banners
and Flags!



Pins!



Poppies!

Shirts, baseball
caps and jackets!



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

Membership Contest Winners

*Congratulations to
the winners of JWV's
Spring Membership Contest!*

First Place:

Harvey Charter of Post 400 in the
Department of Florida.

Second Place:

Dr. Barry Schneider of Post 755 in the
Department of TALO.

Third Place:

Jules Golombik of Post 631 in the
Department of Florida.

The Membership Committee extends its congratulations to these members for their efforts. A lot of hard work goes into recruiting new members to any organization these days.

We hope to see many of those new members at our National Convention in Savannah in August.

Who Can Help at National Headquarters?

If you have a question about:

- Finding a local post
- Needing a roster
- Dues
- Membership Status

Please contact Membership Director Ben Kane at 202-265-6280 ext.414 or bkane@jwv.org.

If you have a question about:

- Convention
- The Jewish Veteran
- Donations
- PR/Marketing Assistance
- Calendars or Hanukkah Cards

Please contact Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at 202-265-6280 ext. 413 or crinkoff@jwv.org

If you want to donate items, please contact the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and Pam Elbe at 202-265-6280 ext. 201 or pelbe@jwv.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Retired Col. Marc Neerman, U.S. Army

As a Jewish boy from New York, my parents were a bit surprised when I went into the Army in the late 1960s. There was a war going on. I never let my faith affect my work. I did well, retiring for the second time in 2009.

I had several occurrences which I would like to share with you. None spectacular, but interesting.

I served in Vietnam in several capacities. At one point I was an advisor in a remote village. One day a month I could go to the province capital for supplies. Yom Kippur was coming up soon and I was very worried. Even before I turned 13, I fasted for the entire holiday. My grandfather was Orthodox and we would sit and talk during the breaks of the day-long prayers. I never considered the idea of not fasting. However, in Vietnam, I had already lost over 30 pounds and almost exclusively had to eat Vietnamese food. I was not sure what to do. Fortunately, I found the II Corps Rabbi. He explained to me that I did not have to fast as the lack of food and water would endanger my safety and the safety of others. G-d did not want this. I still felt a bit guilty drinking the local water.

I have been awarded two German decorations, the paratrooper badge and a shooting award, as well as Egyptian paratrooper's badge. While the Germans treated me very professionally, my arrival in Egypt was different. When I arrived, my ID card and dog tags were inspected. My religion is marked on my dog tags. While I had the option of obtaining dogs tags with another faith marked on



them, I thought of how many Jewish people were killed for not renouncing their faith. There was no way I would. It was tense for a few days, but the Egyptians wanted my unit in their country to help train them. By the end of the assignment, I had made friends with several members of their army. I think they saw me as a soldier and not an enemy.

In the mid-1990s, I received orders for Korea. My father had just passed away and I arrived a little depressed that I could not stay in the States and help my mother.

Everything that had to be done, had been done,

but I knew she could have used some support. While walking around the headquarters, I saw a senior officer wearing the insignia of a rabbi. I introduced myself and asked about local services. The rabbi asked if I needed anything and I explained my father had just passed and I needed to pray daily. The next day he came by my office and presented me with a small but complete prayer-book. That small book means a lot to me. I still have it as my personal prayer book.

When I was new in the Army, I met a senior officer who was Jewish. He was very impressive, not only because of his contributions to the Army, but staying true to his faith. Decades later I was invited to his funeral at Arlington. I was honored to receive that invitation. Upon arrival, I noticed that the non-denominational chapel had been adorned with Jewish insignia. This made it a shul, and I felt it required me to wear a head covering. All I had was my beret, so I left it on. Other members of the military in the room removed their head gear as required by military rules. I did receive many strange looks from those in attendance for not removing my headgear. I paid honors to the three-star general in the best way I knew how.

You can have a successful career without problems. Just stay true to yourself and your faith.

Neerman is a Life Member of Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755 in Fort Worth, TX

Update from the JWV VSOs

By Raiana Berman, JWV National Service Officer

With the recent withdrawal of American forces ending the 20-year war in Afghanistan, thousands of servicemembers are adjusting to life back home. While many veterans come home and reintegrate without any issues, for combat veterans, this transition can be challenging. There is no specified timeline for the presentation of mental health concerns. Because of their unique experiences, combat veterans are at a greater risk of developing mental health issues than other veterans. Some research has suggested that approximately 14% to 16% of U.S. service members deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq have PTSD or depression. Understanding military service and its relation to a patient's physical and mental health can help providers improve their quality of care and poten-

tially help save a patient's life.

The most common mental health issues veterans face are depression, anxiety, PTSD, suicide, and substance use disorders. Veterans also may struggle with family issues when they return home. Nobody understands what they've experienced. They come home, and everyone's treating them like the person that left home a year ago, but they are not that person anymore. In addition, reintegrating into a family that has been operating without the veteran for the past year or more can be difficult. Many veterans feel torn between guilt and the joy of being home.

What can you do to help? Listen. Create a safe, judgment free zone where a veteran is comfortable talking. Allow the veteran to tell their story on their time. Be an advocate. Every year, Congress

passes an updated National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which is an annual bill that authorizes military funding for the DOD and provides guidance on how the funding is spent. The 2022 NDAA authorizes funding for increased research and improved treatment options for veterans with mental health conditions, military sexual assault reform, improved claims processing, and more.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a variety of mental health resources, information, treatment options which are accessible to veterans, their supporters, and the general public at www.mentalhealth.va.gov. You can use some services even if you are not enrolled in VA healthcare. To access free VA mental health services right away, you can call or walk into any VA medical center or any Vet Center. Remember - you are not alone.

NEW MEMBERS

- DEPARTMENT AT LARGE**
Eisberg, Herbert T. - Post 100
Genderson, Herman - Post 100
Hall, Rick - Post 100
Minick, Abraham - Post 686
Schatten, Philip - Post 100
Schlussel, Neil - Post 100
- DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA**
Davis, Donald D. - Post 65
Evey, Donald B. - Post 65
Mittman, Sheldon - Post 65
Winch, Raymond - Post 65
- DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**
Dien, Jonathan A. - Post 385
- DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**
Anselm, Prosper - Post 400

- James, Corey K. - Post 400
Kilburg, Donn - Post 549
Lobel, Stuart M. - Post 631
Markowitz, Martin D. - Post 400
Webb, Stan L. - Post 400
White, Allen J. - Post 202
- DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS**
Goldberg, Marvin D. - Post 407
- DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST**
Haller, Valiant - Post 605
- DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND**
Berman, Gary O. - Post 167
Lewis, Charles M. - Post 167
Rosenzweig, Harry A. - Post 380
Rubinstein, Mitchell F. - Post 380
Stern, Mitchell I. - Post 567

- DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**
Lebovic, Thomas - Post 135
- DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY**
Boll, Michael D. - Post 740
Tuber, Harry M. - Post 740
- DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK**
Carmel, Ephy - Post 106
Cohen, Stuart H. - Post 652
Cohen, Tobias - Post 652
Davidson, William M. - Post 655
Hunter, Jr., Edward B. - Post 1
Kasin, Allen S. - Post 36
Kraut, Stuart - Post 106
- DEPARTMENT OF OHIO**
Elton, Lewis M. - Post 44
Lapine, Larry - Post 44

- Moskovitz, Rex A. - Post 122
- DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA**
Rifkind, Eugene H. - Post 98
- DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST**
Wagner, Dave H. - Post 619
- DEPARTMENT OF TALO**
Abramowitz, Mark A. - Post 755
Bier, Scott A. - Post 101
Diamond, Yael L. - Post 795
Fleiser, Ryan A. - Post 101
Goldman, David M. - Post 101
Katzenellenbogen, Mark F. - Post 574
Smith, Corinne L. - Post 101
- DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA-NC**
Langley, William T. - Post 299

Memorial Day Recap

JWV National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz served as JWV'S official representative for the Memorial Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Joel Poznansky and Jared Fusia carried the JWV and American Flags in the parade of colors during the ceremony. Mellitz, Poznansky, and Fusia also laid a JWV wreath to honor the fallen.

PNC Norman Rosenshein attended the White House breakfast hosted by President Biden. JWV also had an informational tent on the National Mall near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Sunday



PNC Norman Rosenshein and JWV staff person Iryna Apple manned the JWV informational tent on the National Mall.

during the annual Rolling To Remember event. JWV continues to be leader in VSO participation in significant national events.



From left: Jared Fusia, Joel Poznansky, and NVC Nelson Mellitz placed a wreath from JWV at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.



From left: Joel Poznansky and Jared Fusia carried the JWV and American flags in the Parade of Colors during the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Capital District Council Memorial Day Remembrances

By Richard Goldenberg

Veterans and families of veterans from across the Capital District joined the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America for a variety of events to honor and remember the sacrifice of Jewish service members.

More than two dozen attendees gathered at Congregation Beth Israel in Schenectady on Sunday, May 20 to acknowledge the sacrifice of Jewish veterans in all eras. The service, led by Albany Post 105 Commander Fred Altman, included a reading of all the fallen Jewish service members from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We pay tribute to the many heroes of all races and all creeds, who in their lifetime rendered patriotic service to our country," Altman said. "Let us dedicate our own strength and lives to the ideals of freedom for which they gave their utmost."

The service also included Jim Strosberg of Beth Israel, who read a letter written to him by his father on May 6, 1945 while serving in Europe



JWV Memorial Ceremony 2022: A dozen members of the Jewish War Veterans gather at Congregation Beth Israel in Schenectady to honor and remember fallen Jewish service members of the U.S. military on Sunday, May 29, 2022.

with the 29th Infantry Division as a battalion surgeon.

"The combined ceremony for the council's JWV posts was a great way to bring more veterans together in a common cause," Altman said. "Today's joint service was very good and a continuing positive model for future events."

Following the memorial service, volunteers divided up to place flags in area Jewish cemeteries. JWV coordinates the placement of 1,030 flags in 13 cemeteries in partnership with Temple Israel and Beth Emeth in Albany.

Rich Goldenberg, JWV Post 105 Adjutant and Capital District Council Commander, places a flag at a Jewish veteran headstone in the Congregation Beth Abraham Jacob cemetery in Albany, N.Y., May 29, 2022. JWV helped coordinate the placement of more than 1,000 flags in support of Jewish grave sites.



JWV joined the City of Albany on Memorial Day, May 30, for its returning Memorial Day parade. Eight volunteers joined Altman and Post 106 Commander Gene Altman to march the mile and a half down Central Avenue in Albany with the JWV colors.

The Capital District Council for the Jewish War Veterans of the USA includes Albany Post 105, Schenectady Post 106, Saratoga Springs Post 36, and Amsterdam Post 401.



Schenectady Post 106 member Jason Lefton and Albany Post 105 Adjutant Rich Goldenberg carry the national and JWV colors during the City of Albany Memorial Day parade May 30, 2022.

It is Shabbat; What am I to do?

There are many Rabbis and others who would gladly answer this question according to their own level of observance. However, in JWV, we have our own answer and unfortunately not everyone respects it. We have something called the Manual of Ceremonies and you can find it at <https://www.jwv.org/>.

Part III: POLICIES, DUTIES, ETC., JWV POLICY ON SABBATH AND HOLY DAYS, states

1. All Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America units, echelons and the Officers and members or these units, are directed to refrain, as members of the JWV, on a Jewish Holy Day or on the Sabbath, from participating in or as part of:

a. Any parade, or;

- b. the carrying of any colors in any parade, or;
- c. Demonstrations or counter-demonstrations;
- d. Conducting of fund-raising activities, or;
- e. Allowing of the use of any echelon owned buildings for fund-raising, or;
- f. Attendance at any cemetery function.

There is a provision for some exceptions, however, these have to be requested and approved by JWV National well in advance.

Most members respect these restrictions, but some do not. It is tempting to participate in a parade, sporting event, or fundraising event that may be scheduled for Shabbat or a Holy Day with the intention of getting name recognition and recruiting new members.

But at what cost?

We are a Jewish organization and if we violate the Sabbath or other Holy Days, what are we telling the greater community? Do we really want to say we are Jewish, but it really does not matter?

I would hope the answer is that it does matter, and we all observe and respect our heritage.



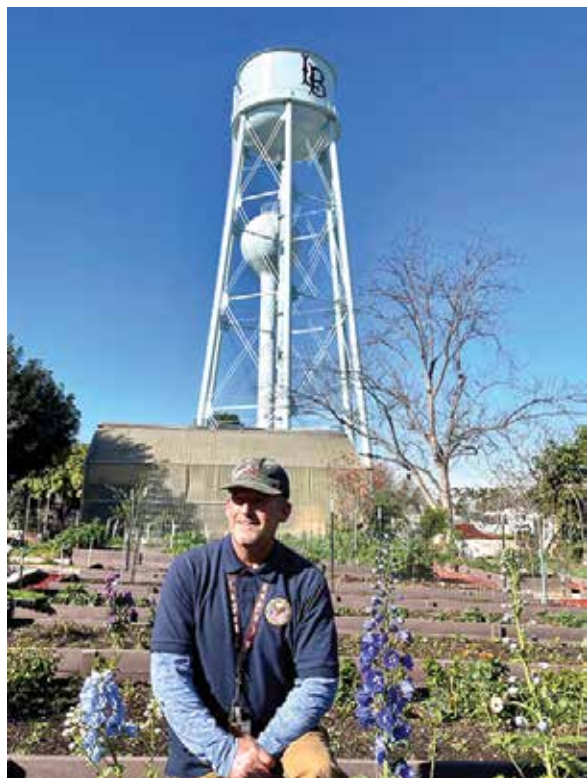
Larry Jasper, National Editor

All About VA Whole Health

Continued from page 1

having success with weight loss, improved mental health as well as improvements in vital signs and diagnostic test results.

Whole Health in Action



Scot Moon

Marine Reservist, Scot Moon struggled with chronic neck pain since High School. Moon, a VA employee in Long Beach California, found a 11-minute acupressure routine on VA's #LiveWholeHealth Blog series instructed by registered nurse LaurieAnne Nabinger with the Seattle VA Medical Center. He practiced it several times a day and within a week his pain was gone. Before that, Moon saw a massage therapist weekly at \$80 per visit. "I didn't look forward to that because it was so intense," he said. "I always had knots in the muscles between my shoulder blades that had to be worked out. They are no longer there." Moon now enjoys swimming, cycling and indoor rock climbing, which he cruises through without any of the pain he lived with for years.

At 77 years old, Marine Corps veteran Richard Fratarelli has made huge strides in his personal fitness and health with help from a Whole Health Coach. Fratarelli lost 70 pounds in less

than a year with the support of his Whole Health Coach Lindsey Higdon at the Port Charlotte VA Outpatient Clinic in Florida. Besides sticking to a healthy diet, exercise was key to meeting his health goals. Fratarelli noted that when he started in June 2021, "I could barely make it across the room." Now he walks four miles most days — even walking a 5K Turkey Trot last November with a walker.

A Vietnam-era combat veteran, Fratelli said health care providers had been telling him for several years he needed to lose weight, and he had put it off. But he decided he couldn't put it off any longer after his A1c level (a three-month average blood sugar level) spiked, forcing him to start taking diabetes medication. His VA primary care provider encouraged him to work with a Whole Health Coach to lose weight.



Richard Fratelli

How can I start?

VA Whole Health information, tools, and resources including the Whole Health App are available and easily accessible through our website www.va.gov/wholehealth. Whole Health services are available through your VA health care facility. Stop in and ask to speak to your VA facility's Whole Health staff.

SCOTUS Amicus Brief

Continued from page 3

should not act as an obstacle to veterans seeking benefits to which they are entitled, but rather act as a catcher in the rye.

This is the fifth appellate case in the past ten years in which JWV has stepped up to the plate and submitted an amicus brief in support of veterans and soldiers. The other cases involved a war memorial cross (SCOTUS), DACA veterans and soldiers (SCOTUS), transgender soldiers (D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals), and the right to counsel for a veteran in a civil case where there was a high risk of incarceration for failing to pay child support (Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court). JWV has received enormous positive publicity for these actions and has a national reputation in the legal and veteran communities for litigating veterans causes in high profile court cases. In this case, co-amicus, Military Veterans Advocacy, Inc., welcomed JWV as a player and commented on JWV's reputation in this regard.

JWV is usually the only major veterans organization to advocate for veterans and soldiers in the courts. I do not know why the other major veterans organizations, with their greater resources, do not do so as well. Perhaps it is because they cannot act fast enough since there is usually very short notice. In this case, we had two weeks to submit a brief and JWV authorized the brief within 48 hours. I have occasionally wondered if, because all the veterans organizations except for JWV do not support a veteran's position in court, a judge might think that they oppose the veteran's position in the case. I believe this reluctance of these other veterans organizations to join in litigation not only does not advance their mission to help veterans but may even hurt veterans.

All briefs in Arellano will be submitted by the end of June and arguments are expected in the 2022-2023 term, which should begin on the first Monday in October. I will let you know the result.

JWV needs to hear from you about VA Stakeholder Meetings

If your local VA medical center or facility is no longer holding regular stakeholder meetings with veterans service organizations, we want to know about it. Please send your comments to NED Ken Greenberg at NED@jwv.org so that we can follow up with VHA's front office.

COLONEL NELSON L. MELLITZ, USAF, RET. ★ CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER

Colonel Nelson Mellitz, USAF, Retired, continues an over 80-year family tradition of serving the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV). Nelson and his wife Debbie's families have been active members of the JWV since the early 1940s. They both have grandfathers, fathers, aunts, uncles, and cousins that have proudly served in the U.S. military during war and peacetime.

Mellitz served 32 years in the United States Air Force. He has been assigned to 13 different locations during five major wars and many smaller combat operations. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1970 as an E-1 and was assigned to a Civil Engineering Unit as a Site Development Specialist. Over the next nine and a half years he was promoted to Master Sergeant (E-7). He was awarded a direct commission to 2nd Lieutenant in 1980 and assigned to the Acquisition Career field with a specialty in Government Contracting. Mellitz was promoted to full Colonel in 1998. During his career he has received more than 25 military awards and decorations, including the U.S. Ambassador to Iraqi Meritorious Citation from the Iraqi Minister



of Defense and the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.

Mellitz has held many leadership positions in JWV: National Vice Commander, National Quartermaster, National Chief of Staff, Department of New Jersey Commander, and Post and Council Commander. He has received numerous JWV awards: National Murray L. Rosen Award, National Edward D. Blatt Award, National Department Commander of the Year, National Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award,

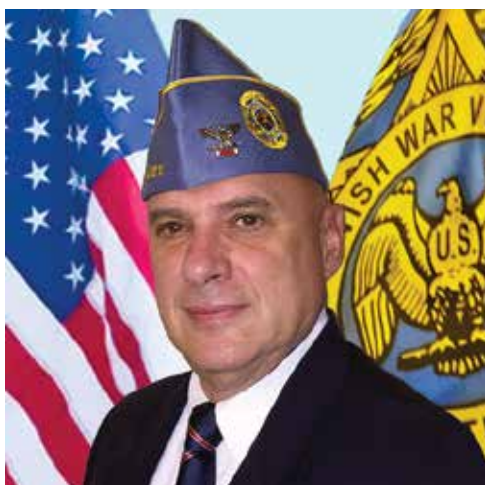
New Jersey Post Commander of the Year, New Jersey Person of the Year, New Jersey Council Commander of the Year, JWV Post 1 – LT COL Epstein Vietnam Veteran Award.

Mellitz was appointed by the New Jersey Governor to the Governors Veterans Services Council and is currently Vice Chairperson of this Council. He is a Director for the Armed Forces Heritage Museum, and the Interfaith Taskforce for America and Israel (ITAI). He is a member of the Camden County Veterans Advisory Council, Cherry Hill Veterans Advisory Council, and seven Veterans Service Organizations (i.e., VFW, American Legion, MOAA). Mellitz is currently Land Sea Air Security, LLC (LSA), Vice President of World-Wide Business Operations. LSA is an international company that markets proven Israeli defensive equipment (i.e., drone catcher, electronic sea and land-based invisible fencing), and advance forest fire detection equipment, etc. He has been a university professor and corporate and government executive. Nelson and Debbie Markowitz Mellitz have been married for 42 years and are the proud parents of two successful daughters.

COLONEL BARRY LISCHINSKY, USA, RET. ★ CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

Colonel Barry Lischinsky began his military career in December 1969 as an enlisted combat field medic. Upon graduation from Massachusetts Military Academy in June 1974, he was appointed as a Second Lieutenant in the Massachusetts Army National Guard, holding both federal and state commissions. In May 2002, he assumed the responsibilities of Commander, 79th Troop Command, Massachusetts Army National Guard. He was responsible for command and control for over 2,000 soldiers assigned to six combat service support career fields. Organizations under his command consisted of Aviation, Finance, Maintenance, Medical, Quartermaster, and Transportation. The colonel relinquished command in July 2004. In November 2004, Lischinsky retired from the military having completed 14 years as a traditional Guardsman and an additional 20 years of active federal service. His military service spans a total of 34 years of continuous service.

In September 2007, Lischinsky served as a



Senior Army Instructor, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) in Boston, Massachusetts. Here he would instill in high school students the core values of citizenship, leadership, service to the community, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. In February 2015, he as-

sumed the duty position of Deputy Superintendent at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea, Massachusetts. On February 1, 2016, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker appointed Lischinsky as Acting Superintendent of the home. Lischinsky retired from state service in March 2017.

Since his retirement from both federal and state service, he has continued to be committed to our military veterans. Lischinsky has held numerous positions at all levels within the Jewish War Veterans to include Commander of North Shore Post 220 (2009 – 2013) and Commander of the Department of Massachusetts (2013-2015). He was appointed National Chief of Staff of JWV (2019-2020). In 2020 he was appointed to the Board of Directors for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH), and currently serves as the National Chairman for Membership for JWV, a position he's held since 2017. Lischinsky is a life member of both JWV and the NMAJMH.

National Convention Site Selection

By Larry Jasper, National Editor

The Convention Committee wants to let you know about some changes coming to how convention locations are chosen. Savannah and Jacksonville are already locked in for 2022 and 2023. Beginning with the 2024 convention, locations will be chosen from proposals submitted to the Convention Committee. Criteria has already been distributed to all Department Commanders and will soon be available on the JWV website.

Part of the reason for the change is to give everyone an opportunity to host a convention. We constantly hear complaints of, "how come we never have a convention in my state/city." Now you have your opportunity. This system also provides for some flexibility in dates and will hopefully bring down the cost of the convention.

Any post or department interested should begin by contacting your Department Commander

and then the Convention Planning Bureau in your city for assistance with hotels and other needs for submitting your proposal.

For 2024, the proposals must be submitted no later than October 31, 2022.

We hope to see many proposals submitted!

**For JWV caps, call Keystone
Uniform Cap Corporation**



P 215-821-3434

F: 215-821-3438

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

Vietnam Veterans Night Out!

**Fun • Food • Friends
at The Pirates' House**

**Wednesday, August 10
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

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

\$55 per person (includes tax and tip) if your check is received by August 4.

\$65/cash per person if you pay at the convention.

Contact Jerry Alperstein at 212-477-3131
or 646-825-1694

or go to jwv.org for more details.

Everyone is Welcome!

National Convention
Schedule

Schedule subject to change
(All times are Eastern)

Sunday, August 7
Constitution & Bylaws
Committee
3:00 pm

Museum Event
8:00 pm-10:00 pm

Monday, Aug. 8
NEC Meeting
9:00 am

JWV/JWVA Joint
Convention Opening
Featuring VA Secretary
Denis McDonough
11:30 am-12:30 pm

Resolutions Committee
2:00 pm

1st Business Session
4:00 pm-6:00 pm

JWVA Pound Auction
8:30 pm

Tuesday, Aug. 9
Resolutions Committee
8:00 am

Membership Committee
10:00 am

Vietnam Veterans
Committee • 11:30 am

Free Time • 12:30 pm

JWVA National President's
Reception & Banquet
6:00 pm

Wednesday, Aug. 10
JWVA Double Chai
Breakfast • 8:00 am

2nd Business Session
Featuring remarks from
Jack Du Teil, President of
The Military Coalition
10:00 am

Holocaust Education
Session
By JWV member
Hannah Deutch
12:30 pm

Free Time • 1:00 pm

Vietnam Veterans
Night Out • 6:00 pm

Thursday, Aug. 11
Ideas Roundtable
9:30 am

Closing Nominations
& Elections • 10:30 am

NMAJMH Board Meeting
1:30 pm

Legislative Advocacy
Session
w/ NED Ken Greenberg
3:30 pm

JWV National
Commander's Banquet
6:00 pm

JWV
127th

Annual National Convention
August 7-12, 2022 • Savannah, GA

JWVA
94th

This year JWV members will also be able to attend the convention online. To register for the online version of the 2022 convention, you must log onto our website, www.jwv.org, and fill out the online form.

This form will NOT be accepted as registration for the virtual convention.

Convention will
be held at
The DeSoto
Savannah
Hotel

15 East Liberty St.
Savannah, GA
31401

Hotel registration
deadline is
Thursday, June 30

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

A 3-night minimum
stay is required.

Hotel reservations must
be made through JWV.

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

Local members
living within a 50 mile
radius are exempt.

Hotel reservations can
be canceled without
penalty prior to
convention.

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

Jewish War Veterans
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Attn: Convention Dept.

JWV Member Name: _____

JWVA Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

Post #: _____

Aux. #: _____

Dept.: _____

Arriving on: _____ / _____

Departing on: _____ / _____

Total nights: _____

Registration for both JWV + JWVA	Cost	QTY.	Amount
<div>Rooms Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds</div> <div><i>Please note that handicap rooms will be assigned on a first come, first served basis</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I need a Handicap room.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Third Person in Room.</div>	\$165.00 per night		
	\$85/per night		
JWV Member Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$175.00 per member		
National Commander's Banquet • Thurs, Aug. 11 _____ London Broil _____ Mahi Mahi _____ Kosher _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$50.00 per person		
National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
Partners Club (\$50 new members /\$25 renewal) • Mon, Aug.8	\$50.00 \$25.00		
National President's Reception and Banquet • Tues, Aug. 9 _____ Petit Filet _____ Salmon _____ Kosher _____ Sugar-free Dessert	\$50.00 per person		
Double Chai Club Breakfast • Wed, Aug 10 _____ This is my first Double Chai Breakfast _____ I already have 15 stones on my pin _____ I am happy with the Double Chai Pin I have now I have _____ on my pin and will need one more (15 stones max)	\$36.00 per person <i>You don't need to belong to the Ladies Auxiliary to attend our Double Chai Breakfast. Everyone is welcome! You will have a great time!</i>		
Raffle Tickets \$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00	JWVA JWV		
Total \$			
All events and raffle tickets must be pre-paid in full. Amount paying now: \$			
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No. _____		Exp. _____ / _____	
Signature _____			

Procedure For Submitting A Proposed Resolution

1. All proposed resolutions must be submitted to the respective Department for approval before being sent to the committee.

2. Once approved by the Department, all proposed resolutions will be sent via email to: Resolutions@JWV.org or to the attention of Christy Turner at JWV National, 1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

3. All proposed resolutions will contain the name and post number of the requestor and the dated approval signature of the Department Commander.

4. All proposed resolutions must be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the National Convention.

5. Proposed resolutions of an emergent nature may be accept-

ed at the start of the Resolutions Committee session with the approval of the Chairperson.

6. Proposed resolutions will be formatted as follows:

A. At the top of the page state the title of the proposed resolution.

B. Whereas – this will explain what action is being requested and why. There may be as many “Whereas” as necessary.

C. Proposed resolutions will conclude with “Therefore” – this will state: “The Jewish War Veterans of the USA requests” (Secretary of Defense, Congress, etc.) to take the action requested.

7. Any questions should be directed as indicated in #2 above.

www.jwv.org

Volume 76 • Number 2 • 2022

The Jewish Veteran

11

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On Sunday, February 27, **Albany, New York Post 105** and the First Reformed Church of Schenectady honored two Army veterans with the Four Chaplains' Brotherhood Award. The Four Chaplains' Brotherhood Award exists to further the cause of "unity without uniformity" by encouraging goodwill and cooperation among all people." It honors people whose deeds symbolize the legacy of the Four Chaplains. From left: Emil Baker, Fred Altman, Patrick Piccirilli, and Richard Goldenberg.



JWV helped World War II Veteran Arthur Feltheimer celebrate his 100th birthday during a ceremony on March 13. Feltheimer joined JWV 62 years ago. He is a member of **Post 717 in Rockville Centre, New York**. Back row from left: Carlos Variety, Phil Robbins, Dawn Samuels, Jack Holzman, Kevin Teamon, unidentified gentleman, and Gary Glick. Front row: Harriet and Arthur Feltheimer and Rabbi Bruce Ginsburg.



JWV Post 1 hosted its annual reception for Sailors and Marines as part of New York City Fleet Week on May 29 at Town and Village Synagogue in Manhattan. 20 Navy and Marine Corps personnel and approximately 15 JWV members, patrons, and their families attended the event. Joshua and Reuben Lubarsky with one of the Marine Corps officers.



Members of the **Department of Florida** visited officers of 11 Congressional Representatives while in Washington D.C. on May 5. From left: Larry Jasper, NC Alan Paley, and Georgi Jasper.



Allan H. Katz Post 118 in Santa Monica, California held its annual scholarship luncheon on May 22. From left: Mat Millen, Jatzin Morales, Chantal Galeano, Allyson Rocas, Teresa Xiao, Vinny Li, Murray Kalis, and Felipe Bulmaro.



Maryland Free State Post 167 members Charles Sandler and Rabbi Chesky Tenenbaum attended the Community Block Party at the Owings Mills JCC on May 22.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



JWV Post 1 participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in New York City on May 30. Pictured with the wreath are members Joshua Lubarsky and Peter Shay.



On April 12, **Manhattan Post 1** held a ceremony to celebrate the 126th anniversary of the founding of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association (HUVA), which later became the JWV. National Commander Alan Paley spoke at the annual observance at the hotel which is located on the site of the former Lexington Avenue Opera House. That location is where the first meeting of the HUVA took place in 1896. Standing by the plaque honoring the founding which is in the hotel lobby are (from left) Peter Shay, Jerry Alperstein, Gary Glick, Manny Vider, NC Alan Paley, Robert Farkas, Gary Ginsburg, and Morton Weinstein.



On April 27, Mat Millen of **Post 118** in **Santa Monica, California** presented a JROTC medal to Yingyin Tan of Abraham Lincoln High School in Los Angeles.

On April 22 **Post 755** presented awards to JROTC Cadets from the Fort Worth Independent School District. From left: Cadet Colonel Joe Sanchez, Cadet Colonel Cein Leon, Cadet Colonel Roy Castellanous, and PNC Barry Schneider.



Volunteers from **North Shore Post 220** and its Auxiliary collected more than \$2,600 during its annual Memorial Day fundraiser. The funds are used to help veterans in need, purchase personal items for them, and support local veteran programming efforts. Pictured here are Mel and Ethel Babner.



Members of the **Department of Maryland Post 692** from **Rockville** joined **Post 380** in **Annapolis** to march in the Annapolis Memorial Day Parade on May 30. Top row from left: Paul Becker, Ronald Secunda, and Tamyla Abraham. Front row from left: J.D. (Jody) Goldsmith, Andy Wolkstein, Charley Jay, Arnold Abraham, Michael Glick, Rabbi Jonathan Panitz, Gilbert Gonzalez, Mitchell Rubenstein, Art Mensch, and Sheldon Goldberg.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On May 30, members of **Newton-Brookline Post 211** participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Newton Cemetery along with other veterans organizations. From left: Mike Mazzola from the American Legion, Sidney Davis Jr., and Gary Du Moulin.



On May 10, **JWV Post 126** in **Cherry Hill, New Jersey** set up a table at an Our Community Salutes event in South Jersey recognizing High School seniors who are going directly into the military. From left: May Brill, NVC Nelson Mellitz, Bernie Epworth, Selina Kanowitz, Bill Roth, Steve Sunshine, and Sterling Lightstone.



Members of the **Department of Illinois** participated in a Memorial Day parade in Wheaton, Illinois. From left: Howard Goldstein, Bruce Mayor, Larry Malis, Steve Fixler, and Leslie Turner.

Department of New Jersey Senior Vice Commander Selina Kanowitz read the POW/MIA poem “Remembrance” as part of the Memorial Day ceremony in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.



Members of **Post 1** in **Manhattan** attended the NYC Fleet Week Welcome Reception on May 25 aboard the USS Bataan. From left: Joshua Lubarsky, Katie Hass, and Evan Lexo.



Major Joseph Lief Post 488 in **Suffolk County, New York** donated \$1,000 to the Long Island State Home for Veterans. The post raised the money by selling poppies on Veterans Day 2021. From left: Manual Myrovitch, Harry Arlin, and LISHV Executive Director Jonathan Spier.



Department of New York Junior Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg served as the keynote speaker for West Point's Passover Seder. 110 cadets, alumni, staff, family, friends, and JWV members attended the event on April 15.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Department of Maryland members attended an event for Our Community Salutes on May 19 at the Baltimore B&O Museum. The event featured an OCS Enlistment Recognition Ceremony for more than 35 local high school graduates who are entering the service. From left: Erwin Burtnick, Mike Zippert, and Charles Jay.



Members of **Rochester Post 41** were recognized by the students and staff at French Road Elementary School in Brighton, New York on May 27 as part of a Memorial Day program. From left: PNC Lawrence Schulman, Stuart Blume, Mort Stein, Edward Kazdan, Gary Ginsburg, Saul Rasnick, and First Sgt. Contreras.

Six members of **Post 41** in **Rochester, New York** participated in that town's Memorial Day parade. From left: Sydney Cohen and Saul Rasnick.



On April 1, Al and Carol Adler from **Ocean County, New Jersey's Post and Auxiliary 178** attended a barbecue lunch held by the Guy Fieri Foundation for veterans and their families.



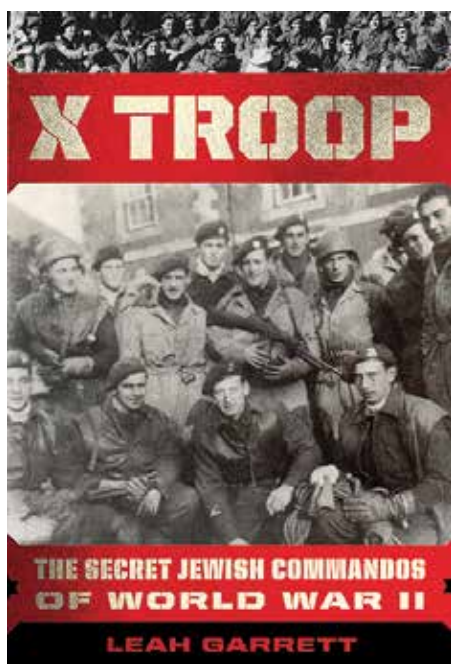
The **Department of Maryland** and the Jewish Uniformed Service Association of Maryland-Chabad (JUSA) hosted a Kaddish Memorial Day Service in the Jewish Section of the Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery. More than 60 people attended the service.



Members of **St. Louis Post 644** held their annual Memorial Day Program at the Jewish Federation in St. Louis, Missouri on May 29. Post Commander Ellis Frohman gave the opening remarks, and St. Charles County Jewish Center Rabbi Chaim Landa served as the keynote speaker.



Members of **Mo-Kan Post 605** attended the annual State of Kansas Holocaust Commemoration at the Capitol on April 28. Post members are picture here with Governor Laura Kelly.



By Sheldon Goldberg, PhD

“X Troop” is an eye-opening war story about young Jewish refugees from Germany, Austria, and Hungary who came to England with one desire - to return to the continent to fight and kill Nazis and save their families. “X Troop” is the result of the author Leah Garrett’s extensive research at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Imperial War Museum in London, and the British National Archives in Kew, England. It is also a biography of a small number of X Troop members, personal interviews with those still alive, and a narrative of the author’s own personal insights.

Unlike the Jewish refugees in America’s Ritchie Boys who enlisted or were drafted into the U.S. Army, and who were trained in intelligence, counterintelligence and interrogation methods, the initial group of 87 X Troopers followed a different path. Initially arriving in England on many of the Kindertransports that brought young Jews to England, they lived and worked like everyone else until the war broke out in 1939. Once this occurred, they were considered enemy aliens, arrested, and sent to internment camps in England and the Isle of Man. Others were sent to Canada and 1,450 of them were sent on a traumatic two-month

X Troop: The Secret Jewish commandos of World War II

By Leah Garrett

voyage to Australia, stuffed below decks in a filthy hold and treated horribly by the anti-Semitic officer in charge of the internees and the guards he commanded.

In early 1940, some of the internees in England were able to enlist in the Royal Pioneer Corps. In uniform but unarmed, they built bridges, dug trenches, and cleared bomb damage, but longed to be able to fight. The internees were finally released in 1942 after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and those in Australia were offered immediate transport back to England if they joined the Pioneer Corps. That same year, following a suggestion from Lord Mountbatten to Prime Minister Winston Churchill, a special unit composed of displaced nationals was created as part of No. 10 (inter-Allied) Commando. Among the separate national units, all of whom would be highly trained, Unit 3, originally called the British troop, would be composed of German-speaking refugees. This unit, Garrett writes, would become “Britain’s secret shock troop in the war against Germany.” Like the Ritchie Boys, they were trained in intelligence, counterintelligence, and interrogation, but unlike them, they also became highly trained commandos, trained to kill or capture Nazis on the battlefield. Because of the dangers these Jewish commandos would face and the missions they would undertake, should they be captured, Churchill named them, saying: “Because they will be unknown warriors...they must be considered an unknown quantity. Since the algebraic symbol for the unknown is X, let us call them X Troops.”

Having provided biographies of a few of the Jewish refugees who became X Troopers, Garrett turns to a brief biography of Brian Hilton-Jones, the Welsh officer who became X Troop’s commander and father figure who won their undying loyalty. She also highlights a key turning point in the lives of the X Troopers when, after being interviewed by Hilton-Jones, each was given five

minutes to select an English name that many kept for the remainder of their lives, and a background story. Claus Asher, whose father was murdered in Dachau, became Colin Anson, Peter Arany became Peter Masters, Manfred Gans became Fred Gray, and Hans Ludwig Hajos became Ian Harris, an X Troop sergeant who single handedly convinced the entire German garrison of Osnabrück to surrender.

Using personal interviews and her own in-depth research, Garrett follows the X Troop into the war from a landing on Sword Beach in Normandy through the Netherlands and into Germany as Field Marshall Montgomery led the 21st Army Group into battles across northwest Europe. She follows individuals and small groups of X Troopers into the disaster at Dieppe, the capture of the Pegasus Bridge, the fight for Walcheren Island that opened the Scheldt Estuary allowing the Allies to be resupplied, and short diversions to Sicily and Italy before returning to Germany.

Following the Allied victory in May 1945, some of the X Troop’s mission turned to capturing Nazis and gathering intelligence and documentation that was used at the Nuremberg trials. Among other individual post-war stories, she describes the arduous journey made by Manfred Gans through a devastated Germany to finally find his parents, still alive in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

The book’s 18 very readable chapters closes with Afterword: The Legacy of X Troop, and following some acknowledgements, an appendix that details the principal figures in the book and briefly describes their war service and what they did after the war.

“X Troop” is a must read for anyone interested in World War II history and/or the key roles played by German-speaking Jews who were able to escape Nazi Europe and return to help liberate the continent.

Join Post 256’s Virtual Jewish Military History Book Club

At 5:30 p.m. EDT, on the third Wednesday of every month, Post 256 holds a book club focusing on Jewish military history. JWV members Bob Epstein and Marc Lieberman started the book club in August of 2020.

You don’t have to be a member of JWV or even Jewish to join these Zoom discussions.

The tentative dates and books for the next two meetings are:

- July 20, 2022 – “The Jews Should Be Told to Be Quiet” by Rafael Medoff
- August 17, 2022 – “The Watchmakers” by Harry and Scott Lenga

You can find more information about these meetings on the events calendar on JWV’s website, www.jwv.org.

NMAJMH Opens New Exhibit

Continued from page 1

that not only did Jews serve, they served in Vietnam, and they served in combat situations,” said JWV Past National Commander Harvey Weiner.

Some of the items donated by Weiner are related to his work in Operation Phoenix. He served as an intelligence advisor to the Vietnamese.

“The Vietnam vets are getting quite old, so we

need to get their stories before they’re gone,” said Elbe. “And we have this museum and we have so much of their stuff and they’re willing to loan us some of their stuff that maybe they don’t want to part with, so it was a great opportunity to do that.”

Jacobs added, “When we’re gone, who’s going to say that Jews served in Vietnam?”



Gerald Alperstein peers into the new exhibit before it's official opening.

The Fight JWV Must Lead

By Marc Liebman

Make no mistake about it, our freedom to practice Judaism without fear is again under attack. Antisemitism is on the rise in the United States as well as in most of the free world. Traditionally, antisemitism in the U.S. came from members of the far right who wanted the country free of the diversity that makes our society unique and successful. Members of the KKK and Neo-Nazis have been discredited and few take them seriously. Attacks are also coming from the left, and we have members of Congress making antisemitic remarks.

Every member of the Jewish War Veterans has held up his or her right hand and said, I < fill in your name > do solemnly swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic... While most of us don't think about the implications of those words which end with, so help me G-d, Jewish members of the U.S. Armed Forces are also affirming that the First Amendment of the Constitution begins with the words, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

The oath we take ties us morally and professionally to the Constitution. As American Jews who have served this wonderful country, we have the right to practice our religion without fear.

Synagogues and temples are being attacked. There were five in 2019, and one each in 2020, 2021, and 2022 (which is half over). This doesn't include graffiti spray painted on walls and the defacing of graves in Jewish cemeteries.

Google antisemitism and you'll easily find the four traditional tropes. One, Jews don't fight

for their country. Two, Jews are only interested in money. Three, Jews are only interested in Israel. Four, Jews want to control the world.

The sad part is none of these concepts are new. They were already in the minds of the immigrants who came to the 13 colonies before the American Revolution. Those individuals were raised in a world where Jews could not own land, were limited in which professions they could pursue, and were unable fight for their duke or king.

Sadly, we, as veterans, have possibly faced antisemitism in our military careers and in civilian life. So, the question is what do we do about it?

One, we must educate our own community about the significant contributions Jews, especially our members, have made on the battlefield. Few American Jews know that the founder of the Green Berets was Aaron Bank or that the man responsible for the design and building of the infrastructure that enabled the United States to fight effectively in Europe and in the Pacific was Ben Moreell. He is also considered to be the founder of the SeaBees. The man George Washington entrusted to bring the signed copy of the Treaty of Paris that ended the American Revolution and brought us independence from England was David Franks. The director of strategy for the U.S. Navy during World War II was Ed Taussig. Thirteen of the more than 140 U.S. astronauts, both mission specialists and pilots, are Jewish.

Second, we have a different perspective than the Anti-Defamation League and others who denounce antisemitism. Jewish veterans have taken the sacred oath to support and defend the Constitution and must be more vocal and share their perspective

about antisemitism.

Many of us have risked our lives in defense of the United States. The experience has forever changed us and our perspective as defenders of the Constitution needs to be shared.

Third, we must share this view and our legacy throughout JWV and the larger Jewish community. Press releases, tweets, and emails help, but will not get the job done. We must speak with state and local representatives when antisemitism rears its ugly head.

In February of this year, there was an attack on a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas. Immediately, the two representatives whose districts comprised the areas where most of the members lived, condemned the attack. A month later, religious leaders, along with the mayors of Colleyville and neighboring cities, and these members of Congress, gathered to discuss ways to deal with such attacks as well as antisemitism. The event made the local TV news on all the major Dallas/Forth Worth networks.

Sadly, we, Jewish veterans, who have expressed our willingness to defend the Constitution were not invited. Why? Because few in the Jewish community, much less the rest of American society, know who we are or what we stand for.

Fighting antisemitism is in the JWV mission statement which makes actively combating antisemitism our fight. Our National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz has taken on this task. We, both individually and as an organization, need to find ways to make sure our voice and message that antisemitism cannot be tolerated is heard loud and clear.

Our Community Salutes 2022 Update

By Larry Jasper, National Editor

Our Community Salutes-USA (OCS), recently completed two major initiatives to honor our nation's Class of 2022 high school enlistees and their parents/guardians. It held High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremonies across the country, as well as America Salutes 2022.

OCS is a national nonprofit organization that honors and supports high school seniors enlisting in the U.S. Armed Services following graduation. JWV member Dr. Kenneth Hartman founded the organization.

OCS Ceremonies were conducted across the country this year in more than 40 locations, including Atlanta, Dallas, Fort Worth, Pittsburgh, Orlando, Philadelphia, San Antonio, Detroit, Boston, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

OCS ceremonies were attended by tens of thousands of supporters, including college/university admissions recruiters, senior military leaders, local and national elected officials, and veterans organizations, including JWV.

I had the privilege of attending the ceremony on May 23 in Orlando at the House of Blues. More than 140 graduates/enlistees were honored and presented with a challenge coin as well as other gifts. There were over 350 people in attendance, including several dignitaries.

One of the guest speakers at the event was Representative Bryan Mast, who is not only a veteran, but a double amputee as a result of an IED. Others who spoke included Hartman, US Army



Signal School Commandant Col. James Turinetti, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Michelle Jones of the Army National Guard.

OCS also held its third annual America Salutes 2022, which is a star-studded tribute to the high school enlistees of the Class of 2022. Actor Gary Sinise hosted the event, and it also featured journalists, actors, professional athletes, musicians, and senior military leaders. The American Forces Network broadcasts the tribute to more than 160 different countries. You can watch a recording of the tribute at <https://bit.ly/3PUQ2OE>

Finally, to honor all 150,000 of our nation's Class of 2022 high school enlistees, OCS has created a virtual Thank You card. Everyone is invited to sign it by the fourth of July. The goal is to get one million Americans to sign the card so that the nation's newest and youngest service members know their country stands behind their decision

to serve. You can find the card at <https://www.ourcommunitysalutes.org/thank-you-card>

For more information on OCS programs and events, please contact Dr. Ken Hartman at Ken@ocsusa.org.

Project Maggid Storyteller Program



Interested in sharing the story of your military service with students and other groups? Join the JWV Project Maggid Storyteller program today and help fight the myth that Jews don't serve in the American armed forces.

For information on how to be part of the program, please contact Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at 202-265-6280 ext. 413.

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDRA CANTOR

Dear Sisters,

As this is the last article of my Presidency, I would like to thank you once again for the opportunity to serve the JWVA Ladies Auxiliary this year. Although the pandemic has impacted some of my plans, I am preparing and looking forward to attending Award Presentations to deserving Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy as well as the Coast Guard, Air Force and Naval Academies. Due to COVID I was unable to attend these unique events last year and am happy to be able to fulfill this duty this year and present these awards on your behalf.

Just recently I returned from Washington, D.C., having joined JWV in the celebration of their 125th Anniversary, the opening of the new NMAJMH Vietnam exhibit and the honoring of Herbert Rosenbleeth as the retiring National Executive Director. I was honored to represent all of my sisters, speak at the Museum's ribbon cutting and reception, lead the Motzi at the Gala Dinner and present Herb with a donation to the Museum in his name from the Ladies Auxiliary in honor of his thirty plus years as Executive Director for JWV. The Gala program included many VIP speakers and also showed old newsreel footage of JWV when it organized a large march against Hitler and the Nazi regime in NYC. The evening ended with a video tribute showing faces and names of Jewish

service members who were lost in Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. It was very moving!

I am so grateful to so many people for their support during my second term, especially PNP

Petra C. Kaatz and PNP Elaine Bernstein as well as PNP Iris Goldwasser. I also must thank all the PNPs for their guidance as well. Special thanks to my Line Officers and staff and you, our membership. Many thanks to my JWV counterpart, NC Alan Paley – it was really special traveling with you. I must thank the Dept. of TALO, especially PNC Barry Schneider and PDCs Art Kaplan and Scott Stevens. Last but not least, a zillion thanks to my husband, National Officer of the Day Allan Cantor, who was my IT helper and official “shlepper.” I could not have done this job without him.

Lastly, many good wishes to incoming President Natalie Blank and her staff. May you enjoy a fruitful and successful year.

Loyally, Sandra Cantor



JUST REMINISCING

PNP Iris Goldwasser

As a schoolgirl we were required to attend both music and history classes as you probably were – they instilled in us a love of music and gave us the historical backgrounds of the patriotic songs we learned – both important to our expanding education.

Of course, among others, we learned about “The Star-Spangled Banner” and its historical importance as our National Anthem. We also discovered other songs of historical and patriotic significance, but the one hymn I enjoyed singing the most was “America, the Beautiful” – I found the melody easier to sing and the words poetic.

Although the music was created in 1882 by Samuel Augustus Howe, the poem was not written until 1893 by Katherine Lee Bates – it wasn't until 1904 that both music and words were put together to create this powerful hymn. Katherine Bates claimed that while on a visit to Pike's Peak in Colorado in 1893 that as she looked out at the “sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far” the opening lines of the hymn “America the Beautiful” came to her mind instantly.

Most of us know the first verse “with amber waves of grain” and “purple mountain majesties,” but how many people can recall the entire song. It hails our pioneering ancestors and pays tribute to the nation's defenders in war, the brave “heroes who more than self their country loved.”

The song has always stirred up emotion and claims to look forward to a day when America's “alabaster cities” finally will “gleam undimmed by human tears.” Crowds solemnly sang this hymn outside the White House in 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor and six decades later at Ground Zero after 9/11.

In 1979 Pope John Paul II recited the memorable line of this hymn, “America, America, G-d shed his grace on thee,” as he descended from his plane on his first trip to this country.

The many memorable renditions of this poetic hymn were recorded by some of the most famous artists of our time such as Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Willie Nelson, Mariah Carey and, of course, the one and only Kate Smith, and all shared a moving simplicity in their artistry. The poetry and words of “America the Beautiful” reverberate in my mind when I hear this song and should echo in all of us the patriotism and Americanism we must all remember.

The months of June and July will be upon us shortly and we will be celebrating Flag Day in June and Independence Day in July. Let's remember to appreciate this magnificent tribute to America and all that this country represents not only on these holidays but every day.

in collaboration with our JWVA Sisters, JWV and the veteran community.

ARMED FORCES/USO

By AP Debra Mellitz, Chairman

The USO (United Service Organization) is a non-profit organization which was founded in 1941 in response to a request from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide services for the men and women in the U.S. military, and their families, throughout their time in uniform. The USO has more than 250 centers around the world to assist military personnel with food and humanitarian services at airports and other points of departure transitioning to and from assignments. It is operated by thousands of staff and volunteers to help provide the best service to those who sacrifice for America.

The local USO is Liberty USO, located in the Philadelphia National Airport. They provide comfort services for the families and loved ones of those going to meet the remains of their uniformed service members killed in action (at Dover Air Force Base Moratorium Services). In addition, some Post and Auxiliaries in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware work with USO Liberty to provide comfort to family members of those killed in action.

Since 1941 the Jewish War Veterans and the National Ladies Auxiliary have supported the USO. This organization relies heavily on donations from the community and needs your support. If you are interested in donating please go to: <http://www.uso.org>. JWV has approved the USO as a veterans support organization.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By Leslie Emack, Chairman

It seemed so abrupt, the world seemed to stop in March 2020. Communicating is key with family and community during this pandemic; reaching out to your Auxiliary Sisters is vital; checking on each other and asking “how are you?” and “how is your family?” is very important and keeps your membership aware of each other. Hosting meetings on Zoom or telephone is a great way to keep the lines of communication open!

Joint plans with your Post can be helpful – some possible activities might include flagging Jewish Veterans headstones on appropriate holidays; participating in Memorial Services when necessary; fundraising at your local retail establishments is important too not only because funds help your Auxiliary and Post, but also because it brings JWV/JWVA to the public eye. Remember to keep everyone safe at this time by keeping activities outside and wearing masks.

If you volunteer at veterans homes and/or Medical Centers but were unable to during COVID-19 to contact their Volunteer Office and perhaps their staff can run a program for you with your donation to them.

Although COVID did not alter the way we engage with one another, personally the pandemic has also allowed us to reach out to our greater community in a much more personal way. The best part is that we were able to maintain outreach

National President's Banquet
honoring
National President
Sandra Cantor

Tuesday, August 9
Reception 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.

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

You will have a FESTIVE evening!
\$50 per person



Rita Panitz Memorial
Teddy Bear Program

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

Bears bring big smiles and happy faces!

The children of our country are our most important asset and we need to provide for them. We live in a world that is constantly changing and it is sometimes difficult for them to cope. Each day children may be subjected to violent or emotional situations through no fault of their own. The Rita Panitz Teddy Bear Program was established to help children deal with these unfortunate events.

Our donations of Teddy Bears or Stuffed Animals during our National Convention to the local Fire Department, Police Department, Children's Hospital, and Ronald McDonald House has made a difference in these communities. Providing a new friend for a child to hug can put a smile on their face and is a true mitzvah.

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

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



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



DOUBLE CHAI CLUB
Join Us For Breakfast!

Wednesday, August 10 at 8:00 am

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



Become a member of
our "Double Chai."



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

Partners Club

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

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

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

Let's do it again!

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



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

Start looking now!

Examples are candy, erasers, popcorn, etc.

Use your imagination. As long as it weighs a pound.

You won't know what you are bidding on. Follow the clues of the auctioneer.

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

Admission is \$2.00

It will be an evening of fun and laughter!



Rhea Sahl
Memorial Baby Shower
For Pregnant Military Women
Monday, August 8

We're holding a baby shower for pregnant military women during our National Convention in Savannah on Monday, August 8. It is one way that we can say "Thank You" to these women for serving our country.

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

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

Please send your items and donations for the Baby Shower and/or the Teddy Bear Program directly to the hotel, between August 3 and August 5.

Address packages to: The DeSoto Hotel
15 E. Liberty Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Attention: PNP Elaine Bernstein,
Convention Chairman JWVA.

Convention Boosters 2022 • Listings Are \$2.00 For Each Name

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please make checks payable to: National Ladies Auxiliary, JWV

Mail this form and payment to: National Ladies Auxiliary, JWV

1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

In Memoriam • Our Remembrance Book • \$3.00 Per Name

- Kindly list the names of the loved ones you would like printed in our Remembrance Book •

In Memory of _____ Relationship _____

In Memory of _____ Relationship _____

In Memory of _____ Relationship _____



Please make checks payable to: National Ladies Auxiliary, JWV

Mail this form and payment to: National Ladies Auxiliary, JWV

1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

L'DOR V'DOR ★ HONORING OUR PAST & PROMOTING OUR FUTURE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We were so proud to open the newest exhibit at our museum. The Jewish Experience during Vietnam opened in marvelous fashion. We had close to 100 friends gathering as Pam Elbe, Mike Rugel, and I cut the ribbon. We heard remarks from our National Commander Alan Paley and the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary President Sandra Cantor.

I want to thank Bob Jacobs and Jerry Alperstein for their hard work putting together the exhibit, as well as securing items and funds for it. Everyone in attendance was truly awed by the level of professionalism demonstrated and the thoroughness of the coverage. Prior to the ribbon-cutting we observed a moment of silence for the men and wom-

en who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and defend our nation and those who are still suffering the wounds of war, both physically and mentally. We remembered Roger Gove who was the Chair of the Vietnam Veterans Committee for many years and who conceived of the exhibit many years ago.

We are now beginning to plan for our next exhibit, Jewish Women in the Military. Rochel Hayman will be the driving force behind this new exhibit. We need the funds to get this off the ground and artifacts and documents to place in the exhibit. If you have items to donate or lend to the Museum, please contact Pam Elbe.

We are exploring other possible exhibits for

our museum. If you have an idea that you would like considered, do not sit silently and hope someone else will place it in the hopper. You need to call and let us decide whether the idea is viable.



PNC Michael B. Berman

Updates By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

Since opening on May 5, it's been a pleasure to tour our new exhibit, Jewish Americans in Military Service During Vietnam, with several Jewish Vietnam veterans. Each has their own unique experiences and stories to tell. Seeing the exhibit has generated a consistent attitude of gratitude from Vietnam vets at the recognition of their service. It's always great when visitors have a meaningful experience at the museum. This new exhibit is providing that.



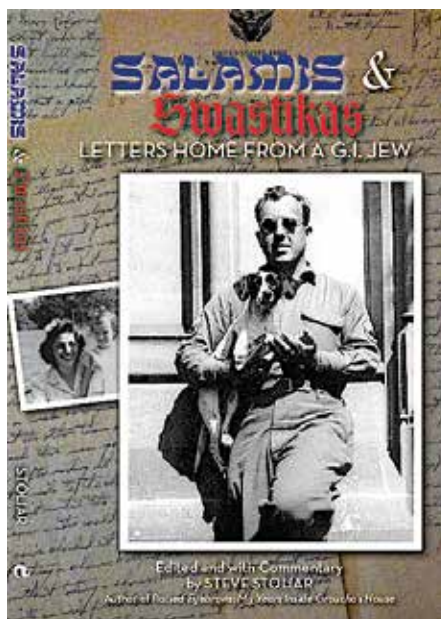
Robert Jacobs and Gerald Alperstein holding certificates from the museum acknowledging their work on the new exhibit.

We had two great speakers on World War II topics in April. Robert K. Sutton, author of "Nazis on the Potomac: The Top-Secret Intelligence Operation that Helped Win World War II," joined us in person to discuss the work done at Fort Hunt in Alexandria, Virginia. German prisoners who were judged to have crucial intelligence were brought to Fort Hunt. The POW interrogators and Intelligence analysts trained at the Military Intelligence Center at Camp Ritchie, Maryland before being sent to the secret operation known as PO Box 1142. Many of them were Jews who had escaped Nazi Germany as children. Their intelligence work was an important contribution to victory in World War II.

Steve Stoliar joined us for a Zoom webinar. Stoliar compiled the letters of his father, Staff Sgt. David Stoliar in a new book "Salamis & Swastikas: Letters Home from a G.I. Jew." The letters were written home during World War II while Stoliar served in North Africa, Italy, France, Germany, and England. The letters revealed the importance of his Jewish identity as he fought the



Steve Stoliar



German regime intent on destroying the Jewish people.

Video recordings of the talks are available on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg> and books are available in the museum store, <https://nmajmh.org/shop/>.

It was great to be a part of the production of a video for the National Jewish Community Observance of Memorial Day. This was shown on Zoom and Facebook on the evening of Memorial Day. The video was done in partnership with the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, Operation Benjamin, and JWB Jewish Chaplains Council as an official Jewish American Heritage Month event. It showed the history of Jews in the American military going back to the

Revolution including a focus on the Seixas family. Our role was to put the service of that family in the larger context of Jewish service in the military. Gershom Mendes Seixas was the preeminent Jewish religious figure of the Revolutionary War. As leader of Shearith Israel synagogue in New York, he became known for his advocacy of the Patriot cause. His brothers and descendants had a tradition of military service that continued through multiple wars. T/5 Everett Seixas served in World War II. Despite his Jewish identity, he was buried under a cross at Luxembourg American Cemetery. Operation Benjamin recently identified this mistake and initiated a change to place a Star of David headstone on the grave. The Memorial Day video included this ceremony.

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

Directors must maintain a Guardian Level (\$100 annual) or higher membership. Nominations will be closed on July 8th. Directors will be elected at the August 11th meeting of the Board of Directors.



With your support, our museum will continue to fulfill its mission of preserving and commemorating American Jewish military service. If you are not yet a member, please join today. Become a member by going to: <https://nmajmh.org/product/membership/>

Your membership counts!

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

Abigail Minis: A Founding Mother and Patriot

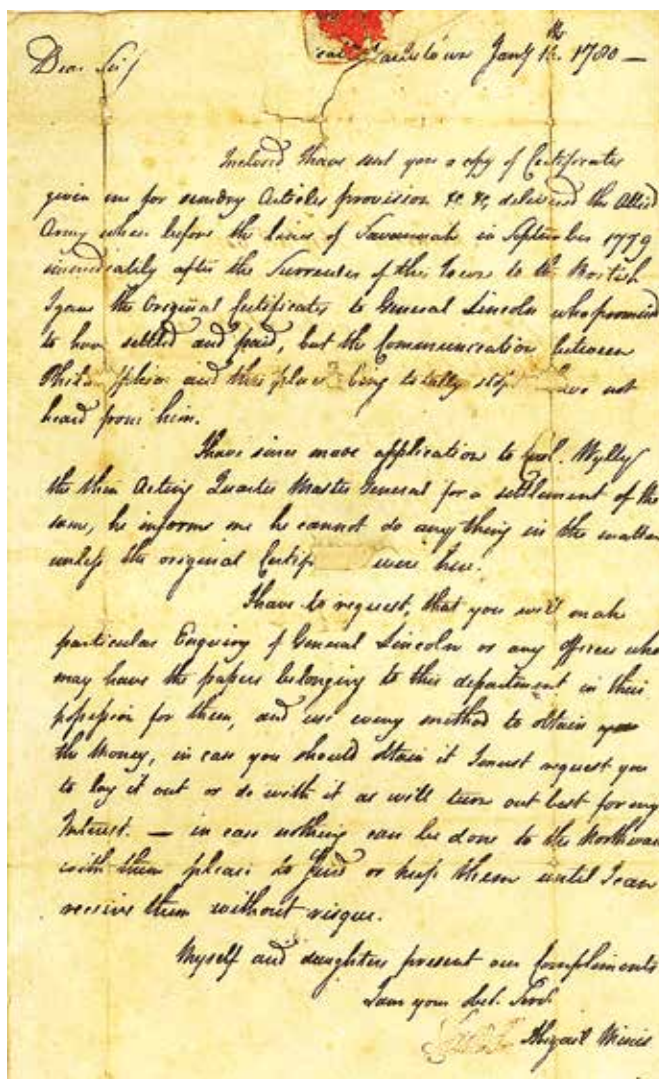
Many people are familiar with the name Haym Salomon, the Polish-born Jew who was one of the primary financiers of the American Revolution. Significantly less well-known is the name Abigail Minis, one of the first Jewish settlers in the colony of Georgia, and an ardent patriot who supplied provisions to the American and French militaries during the Revolutionary War.

Born on August 11, 1701, Abigail Minis was a businesswoman and landowner known for her support of the Revolutionary cause. It is not entirely clear where Minis was born, but it appears that she married Abraham Minis in England. With her husband and two young daughters, she was among the first group of Jews who arrived in Savannah on July 11, 1733, about six months after the founding of the colony of Georgia by James Oglethorpe.

In 1732, England established Georgia, the last of its colonies in North America. Twenty trustees received funding from Parliament and a charter from the King in June 1732. The charter granted the trustees the powers of a corporation; they could elect their own governing body, make land grants, and enact their own laws and taxes. Jews in England formed a commission in support of the colony, though the trustees let it be known that Jews would not be accepted as settlers in the new colony. Despite this, Bevis Marks Congregation in London sent approximately 40 Jews to the colony aboard the ship *William and Sarah* - the largest group of Jews to land in North America during the Colonial period. Abraham Minis and his wife Abigail, along with their young daughters Leah and Esther, were among the mostly Sephardic Jews who arrived in Georgia in July of 1733. The Minis' were one of only two Ashkenazi families aboard the *William and Sarah*.

Oglethorpe told these new arrivals their presence went against the wishes and orders of the Trustees, but he allowed them to stay. It seems once this issue was tabled it was never revisited, and Oglethorpe treated the new Jewish settlers the same as the Christian colonists. The Jewish settlers were granted land rights and positions in the military and became active participants in the affairs of the colony. Abraham Minis became a landowner in the new colony, being assigned Lot #94 in Savannah, Georgia. He worked as a farmer (as was required by the grant), and as a businessman operating a merchant and shipping company under the name of Abraham Minis and Company and later Minis and Solomons.

A year after their arrival in Georgia, Abigail gave birth to a son named Philip. He was the first white male child born in the new colony. Following Philip, Abigail would give birth to an additional six children. In 1757, when their youngest child was just eight years old, Abigail's husband died. Abigail was left to oversee and manage the family's farm and mercantile firm, along with their eight children. Abigail was the executrix of Abraham's estate and he distributed it to "...enable [Abigail] to



Letter from Abigail Minis to Mordecai Sheftall regarding compensation for aid during the Revolution. Image courtesy of the Georgia Historical Society.

maintain, educate, and bring up our children." The horses and mares went to his surviving sons, and the cattle to his daughters. All other possessions went to Abigail including their house, all the contents, and the farm lot.

Although she never learned to speak English well and could barely sign her name, Minis possessed a sharp business acumen. Most Colonial-era women lived and worked within the domestic sphere, and widows usually required assistance from male family members or friends to earn an income. It would have been common, if not outright expected, to remarry after being widowed to secure her family's future.

While widowhood granted 18th century women a degree of autonomy and freedom that was unavailable to single or married women, it also came with burdens unknown to a married woman. Knowing these challenges, Minis believed land ownership and smart decisions could provide her with the means to survive. She began to purchase land throughout coastal Georgia and South Carolina, continuing to do so into her eighties. She owned property in four counties, substantial sheep and cattle, and enslaved individuals to run her large plantation.

In 1763, she applied for a license to operate a tavern. The tavern business was a popular enterprise for widows to take on because it allowed them to use their skills from running a household

while also allowing them time to take care of their family. The tavern served a multitude of purposes in colonial towns; they were means of direction for travelers, as well as settings where they could eat, drink, find entertainment, and spend the night. The Minis tavern became the site of "elegant entertainments" for members of the colony's elite, including members of the Georgia assembly, judges, the governor's council, wealthy merchants, and other distinguished citizens. George Washington even made a stop there.

Abigail was also an important fixture in the Jewish community. She was also a founding member of what is now the historic Congregation Mickve Israel. The synagogue is the third oldest in the United States. After the war, Governor Edward Telfair, the first Governor of the new state of Georgia, granted the charter for Congregation Mickve Israel. Minis descendants have been connected with the Savannah Jewish community and Mickve Israel for over 260 years.

During the American Revolution, Abigail and her family were loyal to the patriot cause. Abigail's son Philip and friend Mordecai Sheftall (the Sheftalls were the other Ashkenazi family aboard the *William and Sarah*) were ardent supporters of the cause of independence. Philip served as paymaster to the Continental Army in Georgia and Sheftall was the highest-ranking Jewish officer on the colonial side during the Revolutionary War. In 1779, French and American troops laid siege to Savannah, which was under British control. During the siege, Minis supplied provisions for the Continental line, Georgia militia, and stationed French forces. Following the fall of Savannah to the British, loyalists acted to seize her property. Minis and her daughters successfully petitioned the governor for passage to Charleston, which he granted. Minis and the governor also ensured the safekeeping of her property through the end of the war. Before she left Savannah, she brought Sheftall food in prison where he was a prisoner of the British.

On January 14, 1780, Abigail Minis wrote to Sheftall, who was then in Philadelphia, requesting his help in gaining reimbursement for the assistance she provided the Continental Army during the Siege of Savannah a few months earlier. It is unclear if Abigail was able to recoup her expenses from the Americans, though if the stories of Haym Salomon and Mordecai Sheftall are any indication it is unlikely that she was ever repaid.

In 1783, Abigail Minis returned to Savannah and resumed her business activities. Minis bought more land, owning several garden lots in town, at least seven farm plots outside the city, and 500 acres of pine land on Sapelo Island. At the time of her death in 1794, her estate included over 2,000 acres. She was buried in Savannah in the Sheftall Cemetery which was once found at Oglethorpe and Bull Streets. Though her grave is long gone, there is a plaque recognizing her important contributions to the Revolutionary cause.

Upcoming Changes to Burial Eligibility at Arlington National Cemetery

By Ken Greenberg, National Executive Director
JWV continues to advocate for a long-term legislative solution to preserve burial with full military honors for countless elderly and women veterans who could lose that earned benefit – but only if JWV members and other VSOs encourage their lawmakers to act.

The Expanding America’s National Cemetery Act of 2022 has yet to be introduced in either chamber. A draft version of the law doesn’t specifically address the planned reduction of eligibility at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), but it takes significant steps toward a long-term solution. The bill would:

- Authorize the transformation of a VA-run national cemetery “to continue provision of full military honors” prior to Arlington reaching capacity. This would remove the space restrictions at Arlington which led to the ill-conceived eligibility changes now working their way through the federal rulemaking process;
- Ensure all eligibility criteria used for full military honors at the proposed cemetery are the same as those in effect for ANC as of March 31, 2022. This would make Congress’ intent clear

regarding eligibility changes beyond that date, increasing the likelihood of the current process staying in place;

- Require a joint DoD/VA report covering both cemetery expansion and any new eligibility criteria, paying special attention to women veterans and to those whose military careers did not include service in combat. This further clarifies Congress’ intent to better account for these groups in the eligibility process;

Original co-sponsors of this legislation will be key to its success, either as a standalone bill or included in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). That’s why JWV is asking its members to rally support behind this critical measure now.

Why it Matters

Despite its Southern Expansion and eligibility restrictions designed to extend the life of the cemetery, ANC eventually will run out of room. Changing the rules is a cost-cutting measure that comes on the backs of military retirees and others whose final plans included burial at a national cemetery. It’s also shortsighted, because a long-term solution involving the transformation of an existing VA national cemetery is cost-sensitive and

establishes efficiencies by relying on existing VA expertise. Additionally, it’s discriminatory: As the Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN) put it in a February letter to congressional leadership, “Suddenly, most living veterans eligible for burial at ANC, many of whom served in critical operations at sea or in the air and all but a few women – who were barred by law from service in combat occupations and units until recently – will be denied interment at ANC despite their dedication, gallant, and often dangerous service to their Country.”

What’s Next?

The House and Senate Armed Services Committees will begin marking up the NDAA in the coming weeks. The House Armed Services Committee included report language in last year’s NDAA for a joint DoD and VA report on the ANC issue, with unanimous consent, only to have it removed by the Senate. Outreach to your elected officials, especially your two senators, will help improve the chances for the Expanding America’s National Cemetery Act to be included in the FY 2023 NDAA. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is the lead sponsor.

On The Hill

Continued from page 4

and working diligently to address them as we continue to ensure veterans and their caregivers get the support they need and deserve.”

JWV Strongly Supports Congressional Action Ordering VA to Report Performance of Troubled Electroinc Health Records System to Congress

Under new legislation, the VA will need to provide regular reports to Congress on the performance of the Electronic Health Medical Records (EHMR)
a. Are you a JWV member in Washington State or Columbus, Ohio that is impacted by VA’s issues in deploying the new records system? We want to hear from you. Please contact us with any feedback you may have.

JWV Commends VA Launch of \$20 Million Mission Daybreak Grants to Reduce Veteran Suicide

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has launched Mission Daybreak, a \$20 million challenge to reduce veteran suicides. VA calls on innovators to develop suicide prevention solutions that meet the diverse needs of veterans. Mission

Daybreak is part of VA’s 10-year strategy to prevent veteran suicide through a comprehensive, public health approach.

Eligible solvers — including veterans, researchers, technologists, advocates, clinicians, and health innovators — should submit detailed concept papers that address one or more of the challenge focus areas by 4:59 p.m. EDT on July 8, 2022. Multidisciplinary panels of reviewers and judges will assess submissions according to Phase one evaluation criteria. Judges will recommend 30 finalists to each receive \$250,000 and advance to Phase two, where they will join an eight-week virtual accelerator. An additional 10 teams will each receive a Promise Award of \$100,000.

JWV Completes Audit

I am pleased to report that Clifton, Larsen and Allen LLP completed the audit for JWV, the Foundation, and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History for the period ending June 30, 2021. National also filed all 990 forms due to the IRS before the May 16, 2022, deadline. Copies are available by request, by sending an email to jlasher@jwv.org.

Anniversary Dinner and NED Retirement

I enjoyed working with many of you on the 125th Anniversary Dinner which also honored the retirement of former National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth on May 5. Congratulations to Herb on his 31 years of service to JWV. On a personal note, thank you for your 20 plus years of friendship, leadership in TMC and in the VSO community. I will do my best to carry on your advocacy and legacy of support for veterans and service members.

I am also pleased to report that the JWV office renovation began in April. Special thanks to Director of Operations Greg Byrne, Melody Jackson, and Janet Greenberg for all their hard work in coordinating new carpet, ceiling tiles, and furniture to renovate the fourth-floor office space. It looks outstanding!

As NED I want to hear about the issues you care about. Are you having difficulty getting VA or DoD to address your benefits or health care concerns? Don’t be silent. Let JWV help by using our contacts to work for you. I am just an email away – so write to me at kgreenberg@jwv.org.

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Berman, Howard M. - Post 100
Talmud, Stanley J. - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Rosenzweig, Abraham - Post 603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Feinland, Raymond - Post 142
Rochow, Walter - Post 45
Rosenfeld, Harry A. - Post 45
Wolfson, Lawrence S. - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Coop, Joseph - Post 352
Eisner, Harold - Post 606
Glassman, Shirley - Post 321
Greenberg, Leonard - Post 246
Kirschner, Mark - Post 352
Simon, Marvin - Post 606
Zeichick, Herbert H. - Post 639

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Warren, Sherwyn E. - Post 800

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Cohen, Jerome A. - Post 644
Hellman, Lloyd S. - Post 605
Katleman, Robert - Post 260

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Bass, Daniel - Post 567

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hartstone, Norman - Post 211
Leeds, Melvin E. - Post 74
Mandell, Stuart L. - Post 220
Parker, Gerard - Post 32
Sack, Morris - Post 220

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Stone, Arthur M. - Post 162

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Pachter, Bernard - Post 65
Weintroub, Irving J. - Post 21

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Aiscowitz, Joseph - Post 39
Hechter, Harvard - Post 651
Katz, Sidney - Post 178
Kovnat, Arthur S. - Post 39
Linder, Jack (Avron) - Post 972
Shapiro, Stanley - Post 125

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Abramson, Elbert S. - Post 425
Bedell, Irwin - Post 336
Berzon, Herman - Post 425
Getz, Orrin J. - Post 720
Haber, Donald H. - Post 648
Feltman, Stanley M. - Post 336
Rosenblum, Sol - Post 1
Rossin, Samuel - Post 764

Weitz, Aaron - Post 1

Zucker, Maynard - Post 756

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Blumenfeld, Theodore - Post 122
Davis, Robert A. - Post 44
Garman, Julius - Post 62

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Kamens, Morris - Post 697

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Blank, Alfred E. - Post 406

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Birnbrey, Henry - Post 112
Gilner, Donald M. - Post 112

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Leventhal, Jay - Post 210

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Glauben, Max - Post 256



USAA AUTO INSURANCE

DEDICATED COVERAGE FOR THE ONES WHO NEVER QUIT

Don't stop now. Start getting the service you deserve. Members switched and saved an average of \$707* per year on USAA Auto Insurance.

Visit [USAA.COM/JWV](https://www.usaa.com/jwv)
or call 800-292-8JWV (8598)



**WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF
WE'RE MADE FOR™**



Paid ad. No federal endorsement of advertiser is intended. MCCS Sponsor. No federal or DoD endorsement implied. The Department of the Navy does not endorse any company, sponsor or their products or services. Neither the Coast Guard nor any other part of the federal government officially endorses any company, sponsor or their products or services. *Average annual savings based on countrywide survey of new customers who switched to USAA and saved from Jan. 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2018. Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. Automobile Insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, based in San Antonio, TX; USAA Limited (UK) and USAA S.A. (Europe), and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Jewish War Veterans of the United States receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2021 USAA. 275125-0121-JWV



**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

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

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

In loving memory of son Frank Pincus Collins
NYC Detective & SSGT. Army Reserve

Victor & Sandy Dizengoff - Post 609
In Loving Memory of Allen Silkes

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

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

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

In Loving Memory of My Husband, Code
Jerry Gomberg & Daughters

In Memory of Philip Dorf, Post 6
In Honor of Dick Golden • Post 202
By Marty Rubin

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!

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

PDC Atty Stanley R. Light
In memory of David Westerman

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

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

Best Wishes & Good Health to My Dear Friend
Dr. Robert Pickard - Col. US Army - PNC

In memory of Raya - Dr. Jack Porter
PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

In Memory of Don Rothman, PC Post 44
By Bernice Rothman, PAP Aux. 44

Stephen & Helen Sax
In honor of my wife Helen

Love Harley Gabrielle Shelbee
Maxine Dad Irv USMC USNR USA

Good Health - To Life!

From generation to generation
PNC Barry & PAP 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

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

PNC Harvey & Linda Weiner
Shalom to our Landsmen-In-Arms

In Memory of Louise & Joan Weinstein
Shirley Zak NJVP
In Loving Memory of Jon Zak DC

In memory of Adele Zucker, PNP
In loving memory of PNC Robert Zweiman
David S. Zwerin
In memory of my beloved Miriam

Good Health & Happiness to All!
Mazel Tov Army Staff Sgt. Robert Maran
97 years young•JWV Post 112 is proud of you!

Congratulations JWV for 127 Years!

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount of payment: _____ ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Amex

Card #: _____ Exp: ____/____

1st line: _____

2nd line: _____
(no more than 30 characters per line)

Only \$30.00 per 1 line, or \$50.00 for 2 lines, you can purchase a one year subscription which includes greetings for 4 issues! Names and greetings can be submitted anytime. Please fill out the form and send it along with your payment to:

Jewish War Veterans
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC-20009